

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

Open Session

January 27, 2009

Minutes

A meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission was held on January 27, 2009, in open session at 5:15 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Second Floor Conference Room, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the notice of the meeting to all Commissioners and to the public, as required by **RIGL §42-46-6**.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present and participated throughout the meeting: Stephen J. Carlotti, Chairperson, Herbert J. Brennan, Dennis M. Coleman, Valentino Lombardi, Mirlen Martinez Mal, William Rampone, D. Faye Sanders, Solomon A. Solomon and C. June Tow.

Commissioners absent: None.

Also present: Heather Correia, Legal Assistant to the Commission.

Mr. Carlotti presided over the meeting and Ms. Correia acted as recording secretary.

Mr. Carlotti reminded the members of the letter that he had received on September 20, 2008 from Ann Grant, Coordinator for the Parenting Project, requesting that the Commission adopt additional procedures in connection with judicial vacancies to include requiring the candidate's professional history as an officer of the court and the candidate's ideas about specific improvements the practices that the candidate believes may enable the court to serve the public more effectively. Ms. Saunders observed that in its interviews, the Commission generally asks candidates about both their professional history and about improvements to the court and wondered whether or not any rule change is necessary. Mr. Carlotti asked the Commission members to give some thought to the request and that the Commission will discuss it at its meeting on February 10, 2009.

Ms. Saunders observed that the Commission's offices are not being regularly cleaned and that the Commission needed to adopt some rules with respect to its records, most particularly relating to candidate applications since the applications contain confidential information. Mr. Carlotti stated that he would prepare a proposed records destruction policy for the Commission observing that under the Public Records Act, this would have to be approved by the Public Records Officer of the State. He stated that he would provide the Commission members with a proposed policy in advance of the next meeting.

A motion to go into executive session was made and seconded by the Commission at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the qualifications of the applicants for the Family Court vacancy (Lipseý's seat).

This portion of the meeting shall be closed to the public in accordance with RIGL §42-46-4 in order to discuss matters allowed to be exempted from discussion at open meetings under subdivision (1) of §42-46-5(a), namely, "the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons."

The Commission returned to open session at 6:07 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to seal the proceeding executive session minutes.

Pursuant to RIGL §§42-46-4 and 42-46-5, as permitted under §42-46-7(c) the minutes of the preceding Executive Session shall be kept closed and sealed.

The Commission selected the following nine individuals to be interviewed for the Family Court vacancy:

Joseph A. Abbate
Patricia K. Asquith
David N. Bazar
Karen Lynch Bernard
Lori Jean Giarrusso
Rossi Lee Harris, Jr.
John E. McCann
Angela M. Bucci Paulhas
Alton W. Wiley

There being no further business in open session, upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Correia
Legal Assistant