

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

OPEN SESSION

March 4, 2009

Minutes

A meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission was held on March 4, 2009 at 5:15. p.m., in open session 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, Valentino Lombardi, Mirlen Martinez Mal, William Rampone, D. Faye Sanders, Solomon A. Solomon and C. June Tow.

Commissioner(s) absent: Dennis M. Coleman.

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

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

Mr. Carlotti first invited Ann Grant, Coordinator of the Parenting Project, to speak to the Commission. Ms. Grant suggested that the application include a question about specific improvements that the applicants feel is necessary in the court system. She believes that this information will give the public more insight and appreciation of the system and the law. She explained that this should especially apply to Family Court vacancies.

Mr. Carlotti informed Ms. Grant that the applications are confidential and not released to the public. He further explained that the candidates are usually asked by the Commission to describe changes that he or she feel should be made to improve the courts. Mr. Carlotti stated that the Commission may consider adding such a question to the application.

The Commission interviewed the first round of applicants for the vacancy on the Rhode Island Family Court created by the death of Associate Justice Howard I. Lipsey.

Mr. Carlotti explained the interviewing process to each applicant and that each Commissioner would be asking one or more questions. He then invited each applicant to make a brief statement as to why they were applying for the judgeship.

The following individuals were interviewed: Joseph A. Abate, Lori Jean Giarrusso, Rossi Lee Harris, Jr. and Angela Bucci Paulhas.

There being no further business in open session, upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L. Correia
Legal Assistant