THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

FAMILY COURT CHIEF VACANCY
PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING/INTERVIEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016

MINUTES

Mrs. Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. at the Department of Administration Building, Second Floor Conference Room B. Rachel DiNezza, Legal Assistant to the Commission, kept the Minutes. Ms. DiNezza called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Duffy, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. McAuliffe, Mr. Rabideau and Mr. Watchorn. Mrs. Dowling declared that a quorum was present. Mr. Landroche arrived at 5:38 p.m. and Ms. Haynes arrived at 5:43 p.m.

Mrs. Dowling pointed out that the Notice of the Meeting had been properly posted on January 28, 2016 in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A copy of that Notice is annexed to these Minutes.

On a motion by Mr. McAuliffe and seconded by Mr. Flanagan, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2016 meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Mrs. Dowling announced with regret the resignation of Lorraine Lalli as a Commissioner.

Mrs. Dowling welcomed the audience and gave a brief explanation of the public comment process. She then opened the floor for public comment and reminded everyone to keep their remarks to five (5) minutes. The following persons were recognized and heard:

The Honorable Rossie Lee Harris and Tom Finn spoke in favor of The Honorable Laureen D'Ambra, Barbara Grady and Jorge Garcia spoke in favor of The Honorable Michael B. Forte. Also speaking on behalf of The Honorable Laureen D'Ambra was Colonel Rene Ramillard and Jen and Jessie Huber.

The following individuals also spoke: Tonya McConnell, LICSW, Darlene Allen, Adoption RI and Anne Grant, Parenting Project.

The following individuals were interviewed for the Family Court Chief Judge vacancy: The Honorable Laureen D'Ambra and The Honorable Michael B. Forte.

The Commission Members conducted the voting for the position of Chief Judge on written ballots. After one round of voting, two (2) individuals received the required number of votes. Accordingly, the following names will be forwarded to Governor Gina Raimondo, in alphabetical order, for her consideration, along with copies of their applications, financial information, background investigative reports and letters of recommendation:

The Honorable Laureen D'Ambra	eight (8) votes
The Honorable Michael B. Forte	eight (8) votes

A copy of the voting chart is attached hereto.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. McAuliffe and seconded by Mr. Flanagan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rachel M. DiNezza, Legal Assistant

DRAFT

PUBLIC COMMENT AND INTERVIEW NOTICE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

An open meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission will be held at the Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Second Floor Conference Room B, Providence, Rhode Island on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016 beginning at 5:30 p.m.** for the following purposes:

(1) To approve the Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Commission on January 20, 2016;

(2) Receive public comment about the applicants under consideration to fill the vacancy as Chief Judge of the Rhode Island Family Court. The applicants under consideration are as follows:

The Honorable Laureen D'Ambra
The Honorable Michael B. Forte

(3) To interview applicants for the current vacancy on the Rhode Island Family Court to fill the seat of retired Chief Judge Haiganush R. Bedrosian. Those applicants being interviewed are as follows:

The Honorable Laureen D'Ambra
The Honorable Michael B. Forte

(4) To vote to select those candidates whose names will be sent to the Governor for her consideration.

Commission Members may elect to go into Executive Session to consider and act upon such matters as may be considered at a meeting closed pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5(a)(1)… discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons who have been notified in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in open meeting.

The public is welcome to attend.

Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-(c) and (f) this notice will be posted on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at the Office of the Department of Administration, the State House Library and electronically with the Secretary of State. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting who may have special needs for access or services such as an interpreter, please contact Rachel DiNezza at (401) 427-6155 twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Sarah T. Dowling
Chairperson

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ROUND 1

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION VOTING TALLY

FAMILY COURT – CHIEF JUDGE VACANCY

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Name	D'Ambra	Forte					
Dowling	X	X					
Duffy	X	X					
Flanagan	X	X					
Haynes	X	X					
Landroche	X	X					
McAuliffe	X	X					
Rabideau	X	X					
Watchorn	X	X					
TOTAL	8	8					