

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
FAMILY COURT PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

MINUTES

Mrs. Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in Conference Room A on the 2nd floor of the Department of Administration Building. 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. Landroche, Mr. Rabideau, Ms. Shekarchi and Mr. Watchorn. Mrs. Dowling declared there was a quorum. Mr. McAuliffe arrived at 5:41 p.m. and Ms. Haynes arrived at 6:01 p.m.

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

On a motion by Mr. Flanagan and seconded by Ms. Shekarchi, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the March 23, 2016 meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission.

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

Bruce Katz spoke in favor of Magistrate Rossie Lee Harris, Jr.; Robert Hamel spoke in favor of Jane F. Howlett; The Honorable Karen Bernard and Tracy Boothman spoke in favor of Magistrate Paul T. Jones; Kelly DeVecchio spoke in favor of Richard A. Merola; The Honorable Stephen Capineri, Stephen Iacoi and Girard Visconti spoke in favor of Magistrate Edward H. Newman, Anthony Paolo and Dr. Mary Archibald spoke in favor of Magistrate Angela Paulhus; and Robert Barge and Debbie Souza spoke in favor of Lia Stuhlsatz.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Flanagan and seconded by Ms. Haynes, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel M. DiNezza, Legal Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

An open meeting to: (1) approve the Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Commission on March 23, 2016; (2) receive public comment about the applicants under consideration to fill the vacancy of Associate Justice on the Rhode Island Family Court; and (3) discuss potential revisions to the Commission's Regulations has been scheduled for **Wednesday, May 4, 2016, beginning at 5:30 p.m.** at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Second Floor Conference Room A, Providence, Rhode Island.

The applicants under consideration are as follows:

Magistrate Rossie Lee Harris, Jr.
Jane F. Howlett
Magistrate Paul T. Jones
Richard A. Merola
Magistrate Edward H. Newman
Magistrate Angela B. Paulhus
Lia Stuhlsatz

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, April 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