

# Judicial Selection Commission

## *At a Glance*

**LEANDER DOLPHIN, Chairperson**

***Established - 1986***

***Statutory authority – Connecticut General Statute Sec. 51-44(a)***

***Office address – 165 Capitol Ave, Suite 1080, Hartford, CT 06106***

***Number of employees – 1 full time***

***Recurring operating expenses – Personnel, \$87,444.45; Other Expenses, \$18,871.55***

**Organizational structure** – The Commission is comprised of twelve Commissioners appointed by the following appointing authorities: Six Commissioners are appointed by the Governor; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the Senate Majority Leader; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the Speaker of the House; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the House Majority Leader; and 1 Commissioner is appointed by the House Minority Leader. 6 Commissioner positions are for attorneys; and 6 Commissioner positions are for public members. No more than 6 Commissioners may be from a single political party. No Commissioner can be an elected or appointed State official or hold a statewide political party office.

## **Mission**

***The Judicial Selection Commission’s mission is to evaluate, investigate and recommend qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for nomination as judges of the Superior Court, the Appellate Court, and the Supreme Court.***

## **Statutory Responsibility**

The Commission’s statutory responsibility is to administer and enforce the provisions of Connecticut General Statute Section 51-44(a). Under that section, the Commission has the responsibility of seeking qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for nomination as judges for the Superior Court, Appellate Court, and Supreme Court. All candidates seeking consideration for appointment to judicial office, including incumbent judges seeking reappointment, or appointment to a different court, are required to complete the appropriate application forms which are promulgated by the Commission. The Commission conducts an investigation and evaluation of each candidate for judicial office, including judges seeking reappointment, or appointment to a different court. The Commission contacts the Statewide Grievance Panel, judges, and attorneys concerning candidates for judicial appointment in order to conduct its investigation and evaluation. For judges, the Commission contacts The Judicial Review Council, the Governor’s Office, the Office of Chief Court Administrator, the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, and the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyer’s Association. In addition, the Commission posts notices in the courts of Connecticut to encourage public comment before conducting its interviews of judges seeking reappointment.

## **Public Service**

The Commission to date for 2023 has received 33 applications from candidates for judicial office; 7 applications from judges seeking reappointment to the same court; and 4 applications from judges seeking appointment to a different court. The Commission held 6 meetings. Of the 33 candidates who applied to the Commission for judicial office, 16 candidates were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 7 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment to the same court, 7 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 4 judges who applied to the Commission for elevation to a different court, 4 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor.

## **Improvements/Achievements FY 2022-2023**

### ***New Appointees***

Governor Ned Lamont appointed four new Commissioners: Melissa E. Ozols, Aza G. Mosley, Rowena Track, and Daniel DeBarba. House Majority Leader Jason Rojas appointed a new Commissioner, Ashley Foreman. Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney appointed a new Commissioner, Marjorie Shansky.

### ***Updating Application Forms***

The Commission's Application for Judicial Appointment, Financial Affidavit, Voluntary Information Form, Application for Sitting Judges Seeking Reappointment, and Application for Elevation were updated. These updated applications went live on the Judicial Selection Commission website on August 1, 2023.

## **Information Reported as Required by State Statute**

The Commission operates, and will continue to operate, in conformance with Sec. 51-44(a) inclusive of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

**Membership** – Leander Dolphin, Chairperson; Steven Greenspan, Vice Chairperson; Thea Montanez; Kenneth Saccente; Gary DeFilippo; Lawrence Sgrinari; Ashley Foreman; Aza G. Mosley; Melissa E. Ozols; Marjorie Shansky; Daniel DeBarba; and Rowena Track.