



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

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Good evening. Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron, Senator Slossberg, Representative Porter, and Members of the Appropriations Committee: I am Ann Gimmartino, Manager of the Judicial Selection Commission, and I am here tonight to testify on behalf of Ndidi Moses, Chairperson of the Judicial Selection Commission, who could not be here tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this evening.

The Commission consists of twelve members who are each appointed to a 3-year term. The Judicial Selection Commission's purpose and mission is to evaluate, investigate, and recommend qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for nomination as judges for our three courts, the Superior Court, the Appellate Court, and the Supreme Court. The Commission also evaluates incumbent judges who seek reappointment to the same court and elevation to a higher court.

We have received the Governor's budget. The Commission cannot predict its volume of applicants, but the trend is upward as is reflected in the numbers reported in the Commission's annual reports. There are approximately 30,000 licensed attorneys in Connecticut who are eligible to apply for judicial appointment, and there are over 100 judges who may apply for reappointment or elevation during their tenure. Day to day, there is a fluidity to the volume of applications that the Commission receives, and it has been increasing over the years. However, the level of funding can decrease as we know, and the level of staffing has not kept pace with this increase in volume, but has remained the same.

The Commission members have full-time jobs aside from their Commission duties. As such, there is an unpredictability day to day in the number of members who are available to attend meetings.

The increase in work volume, combined with the unpredictability of the schedules of members, judges, and applicants make it of the utmost importance to have staff available every day to deal with these variables. The Commission currently has one staff member. The Commission needs additional staffing to better respond, and in a timely way, to these daily changes. Having an additional staff member would help the Judicial Selection Commission to ensure a continuity in services for its constituency. At this time, there is no back-up for the Commission's one staff member.

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION
Position: Manager of Operations
Number of Positions: 1
Salary: \$ 72,958 Annual
Description of Job Duties:
Plans and directs administrative operations on behalf of the Judicial Selection Commission; serves as the primary liaison regarding all judicial selection and office administration issues; assigns due diligence work to Commissioners; implements reappointment process for judges, and application process for attorneys; maintains documentation regarding investigations and decisions; maintains a high level of confidentiality throughout all operations,

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Appropriation Committee Budget Hearings

Eight Standard Accountability Questions for All Programs

1. What is the quality of life result to which the program makes the most important contribution?

Not applicable.

2. How does the program contribute to the result?

Through the Judicial Selection Commission's process, the Commission is able to filter out those applicants who are unqualified, and to recommend the most qualified applicants for nomination by the Governor. The Commission also recruits applicants and provides technical assistance by conducting outreach programs at local and regional Bar Associations events.

3. Who are the program's major customers?

The Judicial Selection Commission's constituency is comprised of judges, and attorneys who are seeking judicial appointment.

4. What measures do you use to tell if the program is delivering its services well? How are you doing on the most important of those measures?

The Commission measures its effectiveness by the number of applications that we process and the number of qualified candidates that we recommend to the Governor. The Commission also strives to ensure diversity of practice in geography, race, gender, religion, etc. We are doing great on those measures.

5. What measures do you use to tell if the program's customers are better off? How are you doing on the most important of those measures?

Not applicable.

6. Who are the partners with a major role to play in doing better?

Legal and medical professionals in the community. When they respond to the Commission in a timely fashion, it helps the Judicial Selection Commission to expedite its investigation and evaluation of each applicant.

7. What works, what could work, to do better, or to do the least harm in a difficult financial climate?

The Judicial Selection Commission plans to explore and expand the use of technology to increase efficiencies in the agency's operations.

8. What specific actions do you propose to take over the next two years? Focus on 1) no-cost and low-cost actions; 2) actions to reduce the harm of budget reductions, and 3) reallocation of existing resources to obtain best results.

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The transition from paper records to digitized records will reduce our reliance on paper and will cut the Commission's cost of both paper and postage thereby saving dollars and increasing efficiency.