

**Judicial Merit Commission – Regular Quarterly Meeting
Tang Conference Room, Law Library, Third Floor
101 West Jefferson, East Court Building
Wednesday, June 28, 2017**

General Session Meeting Minutes

The Judicial Merit System Commission met on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, for its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. The meeting was conducted in the Tang Conference Room located at 101 W. Jefferson Street, East Court Building, Law Library, 3rd Floor.

I. Meeting Convened

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. with the following Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Craig Waugh (Chair), Lauren Eiler, and Roger Geddes.

Also in attendance were Danna Quinn, Secretary to the Commission, Jennifer Fish, Human Resources Manager, Jamie Ahler, Human Resources Attorney, and Billie Berry, Human Resources Associate.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Waugh called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 24 March 2017 Quarterly General Session and the 24 March 2017 Executive Session.

Motion: Commissioner Geddes moved to approve the minutes of the 24 March 2017 Quarterly General Session, and the 24 March 2017 Executive Session.

Commissioner Eiler seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

III. Merit Commission Member Appointment/Recruitment

Secretary Danna Quinn reported that Commissioner Anna Baca advised Presiding Judge Janet Barton that she would not seek re-appointment at the expiration of her term on the Commission on June 30, 2017. As a result, Judge Barton has had discussions with several individuals who are interested in serving on the Commission and has selected retired Judge Kristin Hoffman. Judge Hoffman is expected to be officially appointed within the next week.

IV. Appeals for Notification of Status

No appeals for notification of status for this meeting.

V. Appeals Pending Hearing/Decision

Secretary Quinn reported the Court received three requests for appeals with the first being *Kurt Allen v. Judicial Branch Court Technology Services*. Mr. Allen was terminated on June 2, 2017, and a

hearing has been tentatively scheduled to convene on July 19, 2017, before Hearing Officer Douglas Erickson.

The second appeal is *Joey Daigle v. Judicial Branch Court Technology Services*. Mr. Daigle was also terminated on June 2, 2017, and a hearing has been tentatively scheduled to convene July 24, 2017, before Hearing Officer Harold Merkow.

The third appeal received is *Montserrat Vejar v. Judicial Branch Family Court Department*. Ms. Vejar was terminated on June 13, 2017. The appeal has been assigned to Hearing Officer Amy Lieberman and the parties are in the processes of selecting a hearing date.

VI. Number of Employees Covered under Classified Personnel Rules

In response to the Commission's inquiry at the March 24, 2017 General Session regarding the number of employees covered under the Classified Personnel Rules, Secretary Quinn reported there are 269 employees covered under the Classified Personnel Rules, and 311 employees still covered under the Judicial Merit System Rules. She stated the Court has also had a significant increase in unclassified staff up to 432 employees. Secretary Quinn also reported that the Classified Personnel Rules cover Superior Court employees only, and are not being used in either the Adult or Juvenile Probation Departments. All Probation Department personnel are still covered under the Judicial Merit System Rules with the exception of a handful of unclassified personnel.

Secretary Quinn also responded affirmatively to Commissioner Waugh's inquiry as to whether most of the appeal activity in the previous years to the Commission were centered in the Probation Departments. However, she advised the three current pending appeals are in the Superior Court.

VII. Proposed Changes to Judicial Merit System Rules and Conformity to Hearing Officer's Handbook

Commissioner Waugh stated he will review prior Executive Session minutes to identify recommended changes to the Judicial Merit System Resolution and Rules by the Commission's counsel, and make a first cut of the proposed changes. Commissioner Waugh stated he would circulate a redlined copy of the proposed changes to Commission members for their input and recommendations prior to the Commission's next meeting. Commissioner Waugh requested this item continue on the future agenda for discussion. All members in attendance agreed.

Secretary Quinn suggested the Commission may also want to consider a change to the language in Section 8.C of the Resolution which states "at least one meeting shall be held in each quarter", to "typically meet quarterly", or something along those lines. She stated that if a quarterly meeting was scheduled in which there were no substantive items on the agenda for discussion, the Commission may want to have the option to cancel the meeting and not have to meet in any particular quarter.

Commissioner Geddes asked whether the Commission is required to meet in person, or if a member may appear telephonically in order to establish a quorum.

Commissioner Waugh stated that the Commission is required to meet in person, however, was not certain if telephonic participation is covered or prohibited in any way. He will follow up with counsel Scot Claus for his recommendation.

VIII. Executive Session

No Executive Session was held at this meeting.

IX. Call to the Public

A call to the public was made by Commissioner Waugh, and no response to the call was made.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

1. Proposed Changes to the Judicial Merit System Rules and Conformity to Hearing Officer's Handbook.

IX. Meeting Adjournment

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Commissioner Geddes moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Eiler seconded the motion, and the Commission approved it unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie J. Berry
Staff to the Commission

For

Danna M. Quinn
Secretary to the Commission

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m. in the Tang Conference Room