

Judicial Merit System Commission
Tuesday, June 2, 2026
General Session Meeting Minutes

The Judicial Merit System Commission met on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, for its regularly scheduled quarterly open meeting. The meeting was conducted out of the Cordova room and via Microsoft Teams video conference with Commissioners Lauren Eiler and Casey Newcomb joining in-person, and Commissioners Roger Geddes and Stephen Burg joining virtually.

I. Meeting Convened

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. with the following Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Lauren Eiler Chair, Stephen Burg, Roger Geddes, and Casey Newcomb. Commissioner Yvonne Hunter sent her regrets. Also, in attendance were: Jennifer Fish, Secretary to the Commission; Nichole Fleshman, HR Manager; and Maria Washburn, Human Resources Associate.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of the March 3, 2026 General Session meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Newcomb moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026 General Session Meeting, as presented.

Commissioner Geddes seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor. The motion passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

III. Review Administrative Procedure draft

The Commission reviewed the draft Judicial Merit System Commission administrative process to support the Commission's appeal decision-making meetings. The following revisions were made to the draft:

- Increased the time allotted for the parties to speak from two minutes to 10 minutes.

- Include a section that states the Commission may ask questions of either party during the hearing.
- Clarify language to align with current practices, such as discussing the Hearing Officer's recommendation in either an executive session or public session and voting during the public session.

IV. Follow up on discussion and review of burden of proof topic

Motion: Commissioner Geddes moved to suspend the Regular Session and enter an Executive Session.

Chair Eiler seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor. The motion passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

The Commission entered an Executive Session at 2:31 p.m.

The Regular Session reconvened at 2:57 p.m. following the Executive Session.

Decision on this item was tabled for a future meeting, pending receipt of additional information from legal counsel.

V. Review of Hearing Officer's Handbook, Report Template, and Appellant Guide

This item was also tabled for a future meeting.

VI. Appeals Pending Decision

Secretary Fish reported there were no appeals pending decision.

VII. Appeals For Notification of Status

Secretary Fish advised the Commission that there was one appeal pending, Marci Boyles v Maricopa County Justice Courts. The hearing occurred last month. The hearing officer was provided with the transcripts from the hearing in the last several business days and has 10 business days to finalize the report and recommendation.

Given the appeal relates to a termination, the Commission was amenable to calling a special session rather than waiting until the regular meeting in September. Secretary

Fish committed to poll for special session dates once the report from the hearing officer has been received.

VIII. Executive Session

There was no motion to enter into an Executive Session.

IX. Future Agenda Items

The Commission was advised that Commissioner Hunter's term of appointment will expire on June 30, 2026 and that Commissioner Hunter would not be seeking a reappointment following the expiration of her term. The Presiding Judge was expected to make a new appointment, and the new commissioner would join the next session, either the special session or the regular session in September.

The Committee discussed Commissioner Hunter's contributions and requested that Secretary Fish explore recognition for her service.

X. Call to the Public

No response was received from the Call to the Public.

XI. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Burg moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Newcomb seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor. The motion passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.