



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

**Krystle Tadesse
Chairperson**

**Department of Administration
3rd Floor – Conference Room 2
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5890**

February 10, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

His Excellency Daniel J. McKee
Governor of the State of Rhode Island
State House, Room 119
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi
82 Smith Street
State House, Room 323
Providence, RI 02903

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero
82 Smith Street
State House, Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

This is the report of the Judicial Nominating Commission (“JNC”) made in accordance with *Rhode Island General Laws* § 8-16.1-4(b). Please note that pursuant to the aforementioned statute, applicants for judicial vacancies are not required to provide demographic information concerning their race, ethnicity and/or gender. In addition, the JNC is required to collect demographic information with respect to race, ethnicity and gender anonymously from applicants.

Because there is no requirement that applicants provide the requested information and because the data must be collected anonymously, very few applicants provide the requested information through the JNC’s Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire. Thus, the information below reflects demographic information received from a small sample of the applicants for any given judicial vacancy, and it is biased in favor of those who voluntarily participated.

His Excellency Daniel J. McKee
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi
The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero
February 10, 2023
Page 2

Providing demographic information should be voluntary on the part of applicants. However, the JNC would be able to provide more accurate demographic information about applicants for judicial vacancies if it were not required to collect the data anonymously.

Between the filing of its last annual report on November 2, 2020 and December 31, 2021, the JNC reports as follows:

1. The JNC made recommendations with respect to the following judicial vacancies:
 - **A Supreme Court vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Francis X. Flaherty (December 2020)**
 - The JNC received no responses to the Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire from the twelve (12) applicants, and is thus unable to report the number of applicants who identified as women and/or racially/ethnically diverse.
 - **A Superior Court vacancy created by the appointment of Melissa A. Long to the Rhode Island Supreme Court (June 2021)**
 - The JNC received a response to the Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire from one (1) of twenty-six (26) applicants, indicating that at least one (1) of the applicants identify as a woman and at least one (1) of the applicants identify as racially/ethnically diverse.
 - **A District Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Judge Madeline Quirk (June 2021)**
 - The JNC received a response to the Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire from one (1) of thirty-six (36) applicants, indicating that at least one (1) of the applicants identify as a woman and at least one (1) of the applicants identify as racially/ethnically diverse.
 - **A Family Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Judge Rossie Lee Harris, Jr. (June 2021)**
 - The JNC received a response to the Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire from one (1) of nineteen (19) applicants, indicating that at least one (1) of the applicants identify as a woman and at least one (1) of the applicants identify as racially/ethnically diverse.

His Excellency Daniel J. McKee
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi
The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero
February 10, 2023
Page 3

- **A Family Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Justice Stephen J. Capineri (June 2021)**
 - The JNC received a response to the Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire from one (1) of nineteen (19) applicants, indicating that at least one (1) of the applicants identify as a woman and at least one (1) of the applicants identify as racially/ethnically diverse.
- **A Workers' Compensation Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Judge Dianne M. Connor (Recommendations May 2021)**
 - The JNC received a response to the Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire from one (1) of eight (8) applicants, indicating that at least one (1) of the applicants identify as a woman.
- **A Workers' Compensation Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Judge George T. Salem, Jr. (Recommendations December 2021)**
 - The JNC received a response to the Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire from one (1) of twelve (12) applicants, indicating that at least one (1) of the applicants identify as a woman.

2. Efforts made by the JNC to encourage racial ethnic and gender diversity.

The JNC made efforts to encourage racial, ethnic and gender diversity during the period of this report. Specifically, I reached out as Chair to the Thurgood Marshall Law Society, the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association, and the Rhode Island Hispanic Bar Association to encourage applications by having Notices of Judicial Vacancies circulated to their members, in addition to having the notices posted in The Providence Journal, Rhode Island Lawyer's Weekly, the Rhode Island Bar Association, on Providence En Español's website and on the JNC's website.

Sincerely,

/s/ Krystle Tadesse

Krystle Tadesse
Chairperson

KT/ljv