



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**

May 28, 2025

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 Valarie J. Lawson
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. Further, 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, historically few applicants provide the requested information through the JNC’s Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire. 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.

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After implementing a new system to encourage candidates to voluntarily submit demographic data concerning their race, ethnicity, and/or gender to assist the JNC with its diversity reporting obligation, the JNC has significantly increased the number of respondents to its Voluntary Supplement to the Personal Data Questionnaire.

Between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024, the JNC did not screen any applicants for any judicial vacancies. Notwithstanding the lack of judicial vacancies, the JNC made the below efforts 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 to the Rhode Island Black Women Lawyers 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, the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association, the Thurgood Marshall Law Society, the Rhode Island Hispanic Bar Association, on Providence En Español's website, on the JNC's website and on the JNC's LinkedIn page.

In addition, I along with the JNC's Legal Assistant, Laura Jeanne Verdecchia, spoke about the JNC process at a Rhode Island Bar Association Continuing Legal Education seminar, From Attorney to Judge: A Roadmap to the Bench, in September 2024.

Sincerely,

/s/ Krystle Tadesse

Krystle Tadesse
Chairperson
KT/ljv