



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 30, 2024

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. Ruggerio
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, 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.

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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 January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, the JNC reports as follows:

1. The JNC made recommendations with respect to the following judicial vacancies:
 - **A Rhode Island District Court vacancy created by the elevation of Associate Judge Christopher K. Smith to the Rhode Island Superior Court (Recommendation October 2023)**
 - The JNC received responses from sixteen (16) of twenty-two (22) applicants, indicating that at least six (6) of the applicants identify as women and at least four (4) of the applicants identify as racially/ethnically diverse.

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.

In addition, I implemented 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. To wit, an e-mail was sent to each applicant that provided the following options to submit their information: a link to an anonymous Google form voluntary supplement or a fillable PDF form voluntarily supplement that could be submitted to the JNC by mail or through a box link that retained the anonymity of the sender.

Sincerely,

/s/ Krystle Tadesse

Krystle Tadesse
Chairperson
KT/ljv