



JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

State of Georgia

Open Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 18, 2021

9:00am

Atlanta, GA

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Investigative Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission of the State of Georgia was held at Taylor English Duma LLP in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Bob Barr chaired the meeting and Ms. Kristen Bertsch served as Recording Secretary.

**Investigative Panel
Members Present:**

Mr. Bob Barr
Judge Stacey Hydrick
Mr. Pope Langdale
Judge Verda Colvin
Mr. James Balli
Mr. Warren Selby

**JQC Staff
Members Present:**

Mr. Chuck Boring, Director
Ms. Courtney Veal, Deputy Director
Mr. John Gosart, Chief Investigator
Ms. Kristen Bertsch, Executive Administrator

Chairman's Comments:

Chairman Barr called the meeting to order, and Director Boring determined that a quorum is present. Judge Hydrick's motion to adopt the open meeting minutes from the regular May 21, 2021 meeting passed unanimously.

Chairman Barr updated the Panel on his visit to the JQC Staff's office. Director Boring informed the Panel that JQC Staff will be moving to a larger office space in the same building which will potentially have the space needed for monthly IP meetings. The move will hopefully take place in September 2021.

Chairman Barr expressed his gratitude and thanks to Mr. Langdale and Judge Hydrick for their work as Chair and Vice-Chair over the last year. Chairman Barr believes the JQC is currently in a great position, mostly due to their hard work.

Chairman Barr asked Chief Investigator John Gosart to introduce himself once more to the Panel, for those members that were not present at the May IP meeting. Investigator Gosart introduced himself and explained his background in banking, law enforcement and prosecution.

Director's Report:

Director Boring began by informing the Panel that the Statewide Judicial Emergency is set to expire at the end of June. Director Boring explained that individual jurisdictions still have the ability to enact their own local policies regarding the courts reopening, however, there will no longer be a Statewide Order in place. Overall, courts seem to be running smoothly with jury trials and in-person court proceedings occurring more frequently.

Director Boring informed the Panel that the JQC budget is still on track as the 2021 fiscal year ends next month. Some of the funds that are left over for FY21 will be used to pay for costs associated with the next fiscal year.

Deputy Director Veal updated the Panel on the JQC website project. The Administrative Office of the Courts has been working on a new website for the JQC that will be a much improved, more modern site where complainants will have the ability to complete and submit complaint forms online and lawyers/judges will be able to search the JQC's Formal Advisory Opinions more easily. Deputy Director Veal asked of the Panel if they would have any issue with adding photos of themselves to the new website, with a short description of their current positions. The Panel has no objection to that. Director Boring will be arranging for a professional photographer to attend an upcoming meeting to get the photographs taken.

Director Boring notified the Panel that JQC Staff received the first public comment regarding the recently posted proposed Formal Advisory Opinion. The deadline for public comments to be submitted is July 6, 2021.

Director Boring advised the Panel that Staff Attorney Yosra Khalifa has accepted the job offer recently extended to her and will begin on July 1, 2021. Deputy Director Veal informed the Panel that legal intern Kacey Baine may be returning in the Fall.

Mr. Selby reminded the Panel that he will be unavailable for the July 16, 2021 IP meeting. Chairman Barr will contact Sherriff Kirby to confirm he is available to attend to ensure there will be a quorum.

Mr. Langdale brought up a topic that he has been discussing with Hearing Panel members, Mr. Richard Hyde and Judge Robert McBurney, about the recusal process for judges that are aware they are under JQC investigation and have a case in front of them involving a IP or HP member as the attorney of record, or involving a law firm where an IP or HP member is employed. Mr. Langdale recommended adding mention of applicable recusal statute to our 17.C Notification Letters.

There being no further old or new business for discussion, the Open Meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.

These minutes were approved by the Judicial Qualifications Commission.