

JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
State of Georgia
Minutes of July 19, 2019 Meeting

This meeting of the Investigative Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission of the State of Georgia was held at the State Bar Center in Atlanta. Mr. Richard Hyde, Vice Chairman chaired the meeting and Ms. Phyllis Motes served as Recording Secretary.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Richard Hyde, Mr. Pope Langdale, Mr. James Balli, Mr. Bob Barr, Judge Stacey Hydrick, Judge Verda Colvin, Mr. Warren Selby

Others Present: Mr. Ben Easterlin – Director, Mr. Will Lasker - Staff Attorney, Ms. Phyllis Motes - Case Manager, Lance Alford – Investigator, and Justice Michael Boggs

Agenda/Minutes: Upon Motion and Second, the Minutes of the June 14, 2019 Meeting were approved.

Reports: Mr. Hyde called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present. Mr. Hyde suggested that the agenda of the Investigative Panel meetings be changed slightly to present all public information first.

Mr. Hyde then introduced Justice Michael Boggs. Two new members, Judge Verda Colvin and Bob Barr, were then sworn into office by Justice Boggs.

Following the swearing-in of new members, Mr. Hyde proceeded to the annual election of officers. Mr. Balli moved to elect Pope Langdale as Chairman; Mr. Selby seconded the motion. Mr. Langdale was elected by unanimous vote, and he then chaired the remainder of the meeting. Mr. Hyde then moved to elect Judge Stacey Hydrick as Vice Chair, and Mr. Balli seconded the motion. Judge Hydrick was elected by unanimous vote.

Mr. Langdale thanked everyone for their support and pledged his dedication to the office. He also suggested that the Investigative Panel work to make the Judicial Qualification Committee more transparent in the coming year. Mr. Langdale agreed with Mr.

Hyde's suggestion that the Panel's agenda be reconfigured to place all public business at the beginning of all future meetings. He also discussed a revised template for the docket which he will provide to the Panel for review and approval.

The Panel then moved to the action items section of the agenda. The first order of business was to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the rental of office space and support services provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Drew Townsend and Maleia Wilson of the Administrative Office of the Courts made a presentation to the Panel regarding additional services that will be provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts in conjunction with the increase in their fee. A lengthy discussion among the Panel members followed with questions to Mr. Townsend and Ms. Wilson. It was decided that Judge Colvin would collect all questions from Panel members for discussion in the next meeting. Mr. Hyde moved to table the discussion until the next meeting. James Balli seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Next, the Panel discussed the proposed meeting schedule for 2019-2020. Warren Selby suggested that the Panel meet in Macon prior to the end of the year. All members were in favor of holding a meeting in Macon in the near future. With that suggestion, the meeting schedule was adopted by unanimous vote.

Next, Mr. Easterlin brought the Panel's attention to the upcoming National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics event to be held in Chicago on October 23 through October 25, 2019. He encouraged all Panel members to consider attendance.

The Panel then went into closed session.

These minutes were approved by the Judicial Qualifications Commission on August 23, 2019.

Pope Langdale, Chairman

Ben F. Easterlin, IV, Director