

**State of New Hampshire  
Judicial Branch  
Judicial Performance Evaluation (JPE) Advisory Committee  
November 16, 2015  
3:00pm**

***Attendees***

Supreme Court Associate Justice Carol Ann Conboy, Superior Court Chief Justice Tina Nadeau, Circuit Court Deputy Administrative Judge David King, Deputy Attorney General Ann Rice, Attorney Daniel Will (NH Bar Association), Attorney Randy Hawkes (Office of the Public Defender), Supreme Court Clerk Eileen Fox and Carole Alfano, Judicial Branch Public Information Officer.

***Absent due to scheduling conflicts***

Sen. Sharon Carson, Rep. Robert Rowe, Attorney Christopher Keating (Judicial Council), and Dr. Andrew Smith (UNH).

***Minutes of the Meeting***

On Monday, November 16, 2015 the JPE Advisory Committee met at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Concord. The minutes of the January 12, 2015 meeting were approved without any corrections. The meeting scheduled for May 11, 2015 was cancelled due to a lack of need for the group to convene.

Justice Conboy began the meeting by reviewing the 2014 JPE Annual Report to the governor and legislature. She noted how the report has been improved in several areas, including descriptions of the extensive training of all trial court judges. Justice Conboy noted that the committee had received no feedback on the report.

Clerk Eileen Fox reviewed the results of the Supreme Court evaluations. She told the committee that the 2014 evaluations were based upon forms revised by the committee in 2014, and that, overall, they yielded helpful and constructive comments. Clerk Fox reported that the response rate was 42%, which is considered high. Respondents gave high marks to the clerk's office, oral arguments, and the judicial branch web page. After considering some of the comments, the justices made certain procedural changes such as posting all orders on the merits. It is hoped that in the future all orders will be searchable on the web page.

Judge Nadeau told the committee that six superior court judges were evaluated in 2014. She reported an increase in responses from 25% to 37%. She credited changing the point system of the evaluation from 5 to 4 and shortening the length of the evaluation form. She stated that the new, opened-ended questions were very helpful because they generated specific feedback.

Judge King told the committee he felt that, the revised evaluation forms yielded valuable feedback. As a result, he considered the form to be a more valid instrument. He noted that the return rate for circuit court evaluations increased from 36 per judge in 2013 to 42 per judge in 2014. Judge King said that respondents provided more detailed written comments than previously regarding judges' strengths and weaknesses, which he found to be very helpful.

Justice Conboy suggested, and all members agreed, that going forward, the committee would need to meet only once a year, unless an issue arose that required the committee's attention.

It was agreed that the deadline for the superior and circuit court to turn in their evaluation results for the 2015 Annual Report would be May 1, 2015. Following that, the first draft of the report would be sent out to committee members on June 3 for review and comment, with a final report issued on June 30.

The next meeting of the full JPE Committee was set for Monday, June 13, 2016 at 3:00pm at the AOC, Training Room B, in Concord.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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*Submitted by Carole Alfano, Executive Secretary to the Committee*