

**State of New Hampshire
Judicial Branch
Judicial Performance Evaluation (JPE) Advisory Committee
May 30, 2014
9:00am**

Attendees

Supreme Court Associate Justice Carol Ann Conboy, Superior Court Chief Justice Tina Nadeau, Circuit Court Deputy Administrative Judge David King, Attorney Daniel Will (NH Bar Association), Attorney Christopher Keating (Judicial Council), Attorney Randy Hawkes (Public Defender), Dr. Andrew Smith (UNH), Supreme Court Clerk Eileen Fox and Carole Alfano, Judicial Branch Public Information Officer.

Absent due to scheduling conflicts

Sen. Sharon Carson, Rep. Marjorie Smith and Deputy Attorney General Ann Rice.

Minutes of the Meeting

On Friday, May 30, the JPE Advisory Committee met at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Concord. The minutes of the April 11 meeting were approved without any corrections.

Judge Conboy began the meeting by continuing the general discussion concerning the drafts of new, one page versions of survey forms addressing judicial performance and juror feedback. Dr. Smith took the committee's suggestions from the last meeting and incorporated them into both forms. The committee further refined both forms by eliminating certain questions while revising others. Dr. Smith will make these changes to both surveys in time for the next meeting.

Eileen Fox updated the committee on the work that she and Dr. Smith have done on the supreme court evaluation forms. She noted that three separate forms are currently being used. Clerk Fox asked the committee to consider whether (1) all three forms should be combined into one and (2) whether the current language being used to rate the court's performance should be changed to be consistent with the language being applied in the judicial performance and juror survey forms. Clerk Fox added that supreme court forms focus on the legal process and the clerk's office, instead of individual judges. Clerk Fox will meet with Dr. Smith, Dan Will and Carole Alfano again to revise the supreme court forms in time for the next meeting.

The scope of the committee's work was also discussed. Justice Conboy suggested that after the forms were revised, the committee would continue to meet to revise the forms, as well as to review the evaluation process overall. Attorney Keating said the committee is a good opportunity to show the legislative branch how willing the judicial branch is to review itself and, also, that the judicial branch is serious about having positive relations with the legislative branch.

The committee also discussed the "portfolio approach" to evaluating judges. Judges Nadeau and King talked about how a global approach is already happening. They noted the mentoring, feedback and month-long training new judges receive. Other evaluation tools include: the creation of a bench book, veteran judges attending court proceedings and administrative judges listening to randomly selected hearings on CD's in order to give feedback, plus the initiation of case flow management meetings. Judge Nadeau and Judge King will put together a more formal list for the committee to review at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the full JPE Committee was set for Wednesday, September 10 at 9:00am at the AOC, Training Room B, in Concord.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Submitted by Carole Alfano, Executive Secretary to the Committee