

**State of New Hampshire
Judicial Branch
Judicial Performance Evaluation (JPE) Advisory Committee
September 10, 2014
9:00am**

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, Rep. Marjorie Smith, Daniel Will (NH Bar Association), 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, Attorney Christopher Keating (Judicial Council),

Minutes of the Meeting

On Wednesday, September 10, the JPE Advisory Committee met at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Concord. The minutes of the May 30 meeting were approved without any corrections.

Judge Conboy began the meeting by reviewing the 2013 JPE Annual Report that was submitted, as required by RSA 490:32, to the governor and legislature on June 30. She reminded the committee that the old evaluation forms were used for the evaluations summarized in the 2013 report and that the new forms the committee developed will be used in 2014. She also welcomed any suggestions regarding changes to the format of the report itself.

Judge Nadeau and Judge King told the committee that the new form is being used now for the evaluation of the superior and circuit court judges and marital masters scheduled for review this year. Since these reviews are currently in process, they could not report as to whether the response rates using the new forms are increasing. However, they sense things are going well, especially with the addition of a streamlined cover letter. They requested this issue be placed on the next agenda.

Clerk Eileen Fox gave an update regarding the draft forms for Supreme Court performance evaluations that are being prepared by her sub-committee. These evaluations cover the court as a body and not individual judges. There are two forms: One for attorneys and self-represented litigants, and the other for trial court judges and masters.

Clerk Fox suggested that all pro se litigants who received a decision on the merits of their case should be sent a form because they would have a better basis to evaluate the court. She also noted that New Hampshire does not provide a handbook for self-represented litigants at the supreme court level. Although not within the purview of the committee, it was observed that the Supreme Court might want to consider the feasibility of preparing such a handbook.

A general discussion followed regarding several committee suggestions to the draft Supreme Court forms. Clerk Fox said she would restructure several of the questions and present them for the committee's review at the next meeting.

Judge Conboy requested the review of the training, education and performance evaluation programs currently in use by the superior court and the circuit court that were scheduled for discussion be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

The next meeting of the full JPE Committee was set for Wednesday, October 22 at 3:00pm the AOC, Training Room A, in Concord.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Carole Alfano, Executive Secretary to the Committee