

Judicial Nomination Commission FY2019

Agency Judicial Nomination Commission

Agency Code DVO

Fiscal Year 2019

Mission The mission of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) is to screen, select, and recommend candidates to the President of the United States for his consideration in appointing judges to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The JNC also appoints the chief judges of both courts.

Summary of Services The JNC advertises judicial vacancies, solicits applications, conducts background investigations, carefully reviews investigative materials, reads briefs and other application materials, interviews applicants, solicits and considers input from the bench, bar, and public regarding applicants' fitness to serve, and carefully evaluates each candidate's application and background. The JNC also appoints the chief judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

2019 Accomplishments

Accomplishment	Impact on Agency	Impact on Residents
The Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) conducted numerous live and "open conference call" outreach sessions. The purpose of these outreach sessions was to educate members of DC's legal community about the DC courts' judicial selection process and to provide practical advice for prospective applicants. Another goal of JNC's outreach sessions was to increase the number of qualified applicants for judicial vacancies, in addition to the diversity of the applicant pool.	By providing frequent opportunities for individuals to learn and to ask questions about the judicial selection process in DC, outreach sessions allow for greater transparency regarding JNC's work. Additionally, a robust applicant pool helps to ensure that JNC is able to transmit strong candidate lists to the President to fill judicial vacancies on the DC courts with individuals who have a high degree of skills and qualifications.	Holding outreach sessions allows DC residents to better understand how the judicial selection process works in the DC courts. As such, there is increased engagement with the judicial branch, which impacts the day-to-day lives of DC residents and shapes the professions of those in the DC legal community. Moreover, expanding the applicant pool for judicial vacancies allows it to include a broader range of backgrounds and professional experiences. Breadth of experience of those who serve on the bench directly impacts the residents of DC because judges of the DC courts make daily decisions that affect many DC residents.
The JNC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the District of Columbia Register to clarify ambiguities in the procedures relating to the status of applicants on judicial nomination lists, as well as certain application procedures for judicial candidates, and to codify what constitutes a quorum for the adoption of an action by the Commission.	The proposed clarification of the procedures will increase the efficiency of the nomination procedure by allowing the JNC to start the judicial application process anew under certain circumstances. Procedures in the Home Rule Act are ambiguous as to what happens when the Senate fails to confirm a nominee or returns a nomination. The rulemaking specifies that when the Senate rejects, returns, or fails to take action on a nomination by the end of a Senate session, the nomination will be deemed rejected, and the President will have 60 days to make another nomination. If the President does not make another nomination within 60 days, the list of candidates is deemed expired, and the Commission submits another list to the President, starting the application process anew.	The proposed clarification of the procedures will increase the efficiency of the nomination procedure in the DC courts, and ideally address the number of judicial vacancies on the DC courts. Reducing the number of judicial vacancies on the DC courts will positively impact the fair and effective administration of justice for DC residents. In addition, the proposed rulemaking will promote the public interest in effective and equitable administration of justice.

2019 Key Performance Indicators

Measure	Frequency	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Target	FY 2019 Q1	FY 2019 Q2	FY 2019 Q3	FY 2019 Q4	FY 2019 Actual	KPI Status	Explanation
1 - Increase the pool of highly qualified applicants to fill each judicial vacancy within the required 60- day period either prior to or following the occurrence of a vacancy in accordance with the agency's governing statute. (2 Measures)											
Percent of candidate panels for judicial vacancies presented within statutory time frames	Annually	100%	100%	100%	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	100%	Met	
Percent of required background investigations on judicial vacancy applicants conducted and completed within statutory time frames	Annually	100%	100%	100%	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	100%	Met	

2019 Workload Measures

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Measure	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Q1	FY 2019 Q2	FY 2019 Q3	FY 2019 Q4	FY 2019 Actual
1 - Screen, select, and recommend candidates to the President of the United States for consideration in appointing judges to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia (4 Measures)							
Number of Superior Court Judicial Vacancies	6	5	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	5
Number of Court of Appeals Judicial Vacancies	1	0	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	0
Number of Superior Court Chief Judge Designations	0	0	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	0
Number of Court of Appeals Chief Judge Designations	1	0	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	0

2019 Operations

Operations Header	Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
1 - Increase the pool of highly qualified applicants to fill each judicial vacancy within the required 60- day period either prior to or following the occurrence of a vacancy in accordance with the agency's governing statute. (1 Activity)			
COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	Screen, select, and recommend candidates to the President of the United States for consideration in appointing judges to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia	The JNC advertises judicial vacancies, solicits applications, conducts background investigations, carefully reviews investigative materials, reads briefs and other application materials, interviews applicants, solicits and considers input from the bench, bar, and public regarding applicants' fitness to serve, and carefully evaluates each candidate's application and background.	Daily Service

2019 Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiative Title	Strategic Initiative Description	Completion to Date	Status Update	Explanation for Incomplete Initiative
No strategic initiatives found				