

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT VACANCY
PUBLIC INTERVIEW MEETING

JULY 16, 2025

MINUTES

Ms. Tadesse called the meeting to order at 5:54 p.m. in Conference Room A, B and C, Second Floor of the Department of Administration Building. Laura Jeanne Verdecchia, Legal Assistant to the Commission, kept the Minutes. Ms. Verdecchia called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Ms. Tadesse, Mr. Capizzo, Mr. Casale, Ms. Glynn (remotely), Mr. Lepore, Mr. Moore, Ms. Petrarca, and Mr. Preciphs. Dr. Onye was absent. Ms. Tadesse declared that a quorum was present.

Ms. Tadesse noted that the Notice of the Meeting had been posted on July 10, 2025, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A copy of that Notice is annexed to these Minutes.

On a motion by Ms. Petrarca and seconded by Mr. Preciphs, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the July 8, 2025, meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Ms. Tadesse welcomed the audience.

The following individuals were then interviewed for the current vacancy on the Rhode Island District Court created by the resignation of Associate Judge Melissa R. DuBose:

Rebecca L. Aitchison
Maria Deaton
Anthony J. DiBiase Jr.
Amy Dodge Murray
Magistrate Alan R. Goulart
Robert E. Johnson IV
Eva-Marie Mancuso
Michael J. McCaffrey
Ania M. Zielinski

On a motion by Mr. Lepore, seconded by Ms. Petrarca, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5(a)(1) (discussion of the job performance, character of physical or mental health of the person), each applicant having been notified in writing of his or her right to request to be considered in open session on July 9, 2025.

On motion by Ms. Petrarca, seconded by Mr. Preciphs, the Minutes of the Executive Session were sealed by unanimous vote. On motion by Mr. Lepore, seconded by Mr. Preciphs, it was unanimously agreed to return to open session.

The Commission Members conducted the voting for the position of Associate Judge of the Rhode Island District Court created by the resignation of Judge Melissa R. DuBose on written ballots. After the initial vote, five (5) applicants received a total of five (5) or more votes. Accordingly, the following names will be forwarded to Governor Daniel J. McKee, for his consideration (listed in alphabetical order):

Rebecca L. Aitchison
Maria Deaton
Anthony J. DiBiase Jr.
Robert E. Johnson IV
Michael J. McCaffrey

A copy of the voting chart is attached hereto.

The Commission Members then discussed the eligibility of non-Rhode Island residents for judicial vacancies in Rhode Island courts. On a motion by Ms. Petrarca, seconded by Mr. Casale, it was unanimously voted that the Judicial Nominating Commission will not accept applications from non-Rhode Island residents for consideration for open judicial vacancies moving forward.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Preciphs, seconded by Ms. Petrarca, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Laura Jeanne Verdecchia

Laura Jeanne Verdecchia, Legal Assistant

**RHODE ISLAND JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
PUBLIC COMMENT AND INTERVIEW NOTICE**

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill, Conference Rooms A/B/C, 2nd Floor
Providence, Rhode Island 02908**

PURPOSES:

An open meeting to:

- (1) Approve the Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Commission held on July 8, 2025.
- (2) Interview the following applicants for the District Court vacancy created by the resignation of Associate Justice Melissa R. DuBose:

Rebecca Aitchison
Maria Deaton
Anthony J. DiBiase, Jr.
Amy Dodge Murray
Magistrate Alan R. Goulart
Robert E. Johnson, IV
Eva-Marie Mancuso
Michael J. McCaffrey
Ania M. Zielinski

- (3) Vote to select the candidates for the above-referenced vacancy whose names will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

- (4) Discuss and vote on eligibility of non-Rhode Island residents.

Commission Members may elect to go into Executive Session to consider and act upon such matters as may be considered at a meeting closed pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health or a person or persons who have been notified in writing and advised that they may require

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 42-46-6 (c) and (f), this notice will be posted on July 10, 2025 at the Office of the Department of Administration, the State House Library and electronically with the Secretary of State, as well as on the Judicial Nominating Commission website. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting who may have special needs for access or services such as an interpreter should contact Laura Jeanne Verdecchia at (401) 455-7611 at least twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

KRYSTLE G. TADESSE
CHAIRPERSON

ROUND 1
Master

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION VOTING TALLY
DISTRICT COURT - ASSOCIATE JUDGE MELISSA R. DuBOISE VACANCY

JULY 16, 2025

Name	Aitchison	Deaton	DiBiase	Dodge Murray	Goulart	Johnson	Mancuso	McCaffrey	Zielinski
Capizzo	X	X		X	X			X	
Casale		X	X	X		X		X	
Glynn		X	X					X	
Lepore		X	X			X	X	X	
Moore	X					X			X
Onye			NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING						
Petrarca	X	X	X			X		X	
Preciphs	X		X	X		X		X	
Tadesse	X	X		X		X	X		
TOTAL	5	6	5	4	1	6	2	6	1