

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT VACANCY
MEETING – PUBLIC COMMENT/INTERVIEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

MINUTES

Ms. Tadesse called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. in Conference Rooms 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, Mr. Lepore, Mr. Moore, Ms. Petrarca, Mr. Preciphs, and Dr. Onye. Ms. Tadesse declared that a quorum was present.

Ms. Tadesse noted that the Notice of the Meeting had been properly posted on August 5, 2025, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A copy of that Notice is annexed to these Minutes.

On a motion by Dr. Onye and seconded by Ms. Petrarca, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the September 9, 2025, meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Ms. Tadesse welcomed the audience and gave a brief explanation of the public comment process. Ms. Tadesse then opened the floor for public comment and asked that their remarks be kept to five (5) minutes. The following persons were recognized and heard:

- The Honorable William E. Carnes, Jr. Associate Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court and The Honorable Angelyne E. Cooper, Associate Judge, Cranston Municipal Court spoke in support of Michael B. Forte, Jr.;
- The Honorable Maureen B. Keough, Associate Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court and The Honorable Nicholas Parillo, Associate Justice, Rhode Island District Court spoke in support of Amy Dodge Murray;
- The Honorable Daniel Procaccini, Associate Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court and Tana Giron, Director of Victim Services, Office of Attorney General spoke in support of Shannon G. Signore;
- The Honorable Christopher Smith, Associate Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court and Laura Nicholson, Esquire spoke in support of Joanna M. Achille;
- The Honorable John F. McBurney III, Magistrate, Rhode Island Superior Court and Kara Hoopis Manosh, Esquire spoke in support of Rebecca Aitchison;
- Matthew Dawson, Esquire and James Vincent, Community Outreach Officer, RI Public Transit Authority spoke in support of Maria Deaton;
- Mark DeSisto, Esquire and Lauren Motola-Davis, Esquire spoke in support of Michael Marcello;
- Kerry Rafanelli, Esquire spoke in support of Kelly A. McElroy; and
- Kelsey Phillips and Glenn S. Sparr, Esquire spoke on behalf of Ania M. Zielinski.

The following individuals were then interviewed for the current vacancy on the Rhode Island Superior Court created by the retirement of Associate Justice Daniel A. Procaccini:

Joanna M. Achille
Rebecca Aitchison
Maria Deaton
Amy Dodge Murray
Michael B. Forte, Jr.
Michael Marcello
Kelly A. McElroy
Shannon G. Signore
Ania M. Zielinski

The Commission Members conducted the voting for the position of Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court created by the retirement of Daniel A. Procaccini on written ballots. After the initial votes three (3) applicants received a total of five (5) or more votes. Accordingly, the following names will be forwarded to Governor Daniel J. McKee, in alphabetical order, for his consideration:

Amy Dodge Murray
Michael B. Forte, Jr.
Shannon G. Signore

A copy of the voting chart is attached hereto.

There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Petrarca, seconded by Mr. Principe, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Laura Jeanne Verdecchia
Laura Jeanne Verdecchia, Legal Assistant

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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 @ 4:00 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 September 9, 2025.
- (2) Receive public comment about the applicants under consideration to fill the following vacancy:
 - Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court created by the retirement of Associate Justice Daniel A. Procaccini.

To provide public comment, please e-mail Laura Jeanne Verdecchia at laura.verdecchia@troutman.com **no later than September 2, 2025**, with your name, title (if any), e-mail address, telephone number and the candidate you wish to comment on and you will be provided further instructions to submit public comment during the meeting. The applicants under consideration are:

Joanna M. Achille
Rebecca Aitchison
Maria Deaton
Amy Dodge Murray
Michael B. Forte, Jr.
Michael Marcello
Kelly A. McElroy
Shannon G. Signore
Ania M. Zielinski

(3) Interview the aforementioned candidates being considered for the Superior Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Justice Daniel A. Procaccini.

(4) Vote to select from the aforementioned candidates being considered for the Superior Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Justice Daniel A. Procaccini whose names will be sent to the Governor for his consideration.

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 of 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 August 5, 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, please contact Laura Jeanne Verdecchia at (401) 455-7611 twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

KRYSTLE G. TADESSE
CHAIRPERSON

ROUND 1
Master

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION VOTING TALLY

SUPERIOR COURT – ASSOCIATE JUSTICE DANIEL A. PROCACCINI VACANCY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Name	Achille	Aitchison	Deaton	Dodge Murray	Forte	Marcello	McElroy	Signore	Zielinski
Capizzo					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Casale	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
Lepore	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Moore		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Onye		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Petrarca	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Preciphs	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tadesse		✓	✓	✓					✓
TOTAL				5	6			7	