

APPELLATE JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Guidelines for References

The Appellate Judicial Commission is accepting letters of references for applicants for the vacancy created on the Supreme Court by the resignation of the Honorable John C. Holstein. Please send your original letter of reference to the Chair of the Appellate Judicial Commission and a copy of your letter to each of the other Commissioners. A list of the names of the Commission members is enclosed.

Your letters must be received by **Noon, February 15, 2002**. Reference letters will be held in the strictest confidence and should contain the following information:

1. Your acquaintance with the applicant, including length of acquaintance and familiarity with personal and professional qualifications.

2. The applicant's qualifications as a lawyer, including educational background, fields of law with which the applicant is familiar, and the applicant's aptitude for doing the regular work of an appellate judge in evaluating briefs, hearing oral argument, and writing reasoned and scholarly opinions.

3. The applicant's performance as practitioner, teacher, or judge or otherwise in the legal profession. For a practicing lawyer, this might include comment on forensic ability, thoroughness of preparation, trustworthiness, and courtesy to judges and opposing counsel. For a judge, there might be comment on soundness of rulings, courtesy and demeanor, promptness in moving cases, and ability to instill confidence in lawyers and litigants. For others, there should be discussion of the nature and depth of legal assignments.

4. Personal qualifications, including reputation in the community, activity in civic and charitable organizations, public positions held, whether compensated or not, and any other qualities of character appropriate for applicants on the bench.

Enclosure



APPELLATE JUDICIAL COMMISSION

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