

Special Constitutional Appointments Committee
State Bar of Arizona

April 1, 2021
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
ZOOM

Open Session Minutes

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

V = present virtually; A = absent.

Jessica Sanchez, Chair	V	Alison Crane	V
Robyn Austin	A	Juan Flamand	V
Hector Figueroa	A	Marla Hudgens	A
John Moody	V	Andrew Reilly	V
Jimmie Smith	V		

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Guests: None

State Bar Staff: Carrie Sherman

Minutes taken by: Carrie Sherman

Called to Order by: Jessica Sanchez, Chair

Time: 2:35 p.m.

I. Call to the Public: There were no guests or members of the public present.

II. Arizona Commission on Appellate Court Appointments: SCAC member Alison Crane was not in attendance for this portion of the meeting. Due diligence reports were presented on the applicants. Each Committee member then cast two votes for their two top candidates. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to recommend the following constitutionally qualified candidates to the Board of Governors as ranked:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>POLITICAL PARTY</u>
Ms. Alison Crane, Attorney General’s Office – 2 votes	Pima	Democrat
Ms. Tanya N. Miller, U.S. Attorney’s Office – 2 votes	Pima	Independent
Mr. Oscar S. Lizardi, Rusing Lopez & Lizardi PLLC – 2 votes	Pima	Republican
Mr. Mark D. Rubin, Rubin & Bernstein PLLC – 1 vote	Pima	Democrat
Mr. G. Micah Schmit, U.S. Attorney’s Office – 1 vote	Pima	Independent
<u>Constitutionally qualified but received no votes:</u>		
Ms. Donna L. Elm, Law Practice of Donna L. Elm	Yavapai	Democrat
Mr. Christopher M. Gast, University of Arizona College of Law	Pima	Democrat

III. Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments

Supervisorial District 2: The Committee agreed not to consider the application of a Judicial Member as a Board of Governors policy states that Active Members are eligible to apply for positions handled through the appointments process. Due diligence reports were presented on the remaining six applicants. Each Committee member then cast two votes for their two top candidates. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to recommend the following constitutionally qualified candidates to the Board of Governors as ranked:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>POLITICAL PARTY</u>
Mr. James E. Holland, Stinson LLP – 4 votes	Republican
Mr. Bradley D. Holm, City of Phoenix Aviation Department – 2 votes	Democrat
Mr. Gregg C. Gibbons, Gregg Clarke Gibbons PC – 1 vote	Republican
Mr. Keith L. Hendricks, Moyes, Sellers & Hendricks Ltd. – 1 vote	Independent

Constitutionally qualified but received no votes:

Ms. Ashley D. Adams, Adams & Associates PLC	Democrat
Mr. Steven M. Jackson, Steven M. Jackson Law Group LLC	Democrat

Supervisorial District 4: Due diligence reports were presented on the two applicants. Each Committee member then cast a vote for their top candidates. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to recommend the following constitutionally qualified candidates to the Board of Governors as ranked:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>POLITICAL PARTY</u>
Ms. Lynda R. Vescio, Law Offices of Vescio & Seifert PC – top candidate	Democrat
Ms. Brooke A. Gaunt, Maricopa County Attorney’s Office	Democrat

Supervisorial District 5: The SCAC met on April 1st and screened four (4) previous applications. No new applications had been received. Pursuant to the BOG Appointments Policy amended and adopted by the Board in February 2019, the four (4) applicants were deemed to be constitutionally qualified. After receiving due diligence reports on the applicants, the Committee members discussed concerns about what two of the candidates provided in their applications and feedback from their references. The Committee however deemed this information did not disqualify the two candidates from the Board’s consideration. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to submit the following candidates to the Board:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>POLITICAL PARTY</u>
Mr. Robert E. Wisniewski, Robert E. Wisniewski PC – unanimous support	Republican

Constitutionally qualified but received no votes:

Mr. Jeffrey C. Mehrens, Attorney at Law	Independent
Ms. Tabitha R. Myers, Midtown Law	Independent
Mr. Eric L. Overstreet, Overstreet Law Office	Independent

IV. Pima County Commission on Trial Court Appointments

Supervisorial District 2: Due diligence reports were presented on the two applicants. Each Committee member then cast a vote for their top candidates. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to recommend the following constitutionally qualified candidates to the Board of Governors as ranked:

APPLICANT

POLITICAL PARTY

Mr. James A. Fein, James A. Fein, Attorney at Law – 3 votes

Democrat

Ms. Tanya N. Miller, U.S. Attorney’s Office – 1 vote

Independent

V. Ongoing Recruitment

No applications were received for the following positions which will be reopened and re-advertised:

Coconino County Commission on Trial Court Appointments – Supervisorial Districts 3 and 5

Pinal County Commission on Trial Court Appointments – Supervisorial Districts 3 and 4

VI. Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.