

Committee on Judicial Ethics
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 18, 2025

Committee members present via *Microsoft Teams*: Justice Nora R. Dannehy (Chair), Judge Kimberly A. Knox, Judge Daniel J. Klau, Judge Wendy Grispin, and Judge Patrick F. Caruso. Staff present: Attorney Viviana L. Livesay (Secretary) Attorney Steven Bidwell (Assistant Secretary), Attorney Kevin J. DiAdamo (Assistant Secretary) and Carolina E. Marin.

MINUTES

- I. Justice Dannehy (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Although publicly noticed, no members of the public were present.
- II. Judge Klau made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024, Regular Meeting. Judge Knox seconded the motion. Justice Dannehy abstained from voting. The Committee approved the minutes.
- III. The Committee discussed and considered draft [Informal JE 2025-05](#) concerning whether a Judicial Official (JO) may serve on a Merit Selection Committee that evaluates applications and interviews qualified candidates for the Federal Public Defender position.

The Committee reviewed the staff recommendation. Judge Knox made a motion to adopt the recommendation. Judge Klau seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and the members proposed deleting all but the first sentence of the “recommendations” paragraph on page 3 of the staff memo. All members approved the “friendly amendment.” Based upon the facts presented and the foregoing discussion, the Committee determined that the JO may serve on a Merit Selection Committee that evaluates applications and interviews qualified candidates for the Federal Public Defender position. This recommendation is subject to the following conditions:

1. The JO shall not use or attempt to use the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests of the JO or others or allow others to do so under Rule 1.3.
2. The JO shall continue to monitor and evaluate the time required for participation in the Merit Selection Committee so that said activities that will not interfere with the proper performance of the JO’s judicial duties under Rule 3.1.
3. The JO shall not participate in any interviews that involve a relative within the meaning of the Rules or General Statutes§ 51-39a.

IV. Discussion of 2026 Meeting Schedule: The Committee reviewed and discussed the 2026 meeting schedule, agreeing to meet quarterly. The Committee also agreed to convene Special Meetings as needed.

- V. New Business - Annual Report to Chief Justice: Attorney Livesay informed the Committee members that the 2025 Annual Report to the Chief Justice is due in January. She will prepare and circulate a draft report to the members for their review and comment.
- VI. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

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