



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

Executive Order 2017-01

an order establishing a Judicial Selection Commission

WHEREAS, Part I, Article 35 of the New Hampshire Constitution guarantees an impartial interpretation of the laws and administration of justice by impartial and independent judicial officers; and

WHEREAS, the quality of our system of justice and public confidence in our judicial system is largely determined by the integrity, intellect and judgment of judicial officers appointed to serve within our judicial system; and

WHEREAS, under Part II, Article 46 of the New Hampshire Constitution the Governor has the sole power and authority to nominate all judicial officers; and

WHEREAS, the highest quality of appointments to judicial office can be enhanced by the use of a Judicial Selection Commission to aid the Governor in the exercise of the Governor's power and authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately:

1. The establishment of a Judicial Selection Commission to conduct an examination of all potential applicants for judicial nominations and recommend qualified applicants to the Governor based on experience, good character, and temperament.
2. The Commission shall consist of no less than nine and no more than eleven members who shall be appointed by the Governor. Members will serve terms of three years, with the option of additional terms at the invitation of the Governor. Each of the Executive Council districts shall be represented on the Commission.
3. The Governor shall select a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

4. Applicants for judicial office shall be examined without regard to race, disability, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, familial status or political affiliation.
5. Whenever a vacancy occurs or is anticipated in the office of a Supreme Court justice, a Superior Court justice, or a Circuit Court judge, the Governor may notify the chair of the Commission of the vacancy. The Commission shall assist the Governor in examining qualified persons for each vacancy in accordance with a schedule provided by the Governor.
6. The Commission shall, in accordance with the Schedule provided by the Governor, submit to the Governor a list of names of individuals it deems qualified for a judicial vacancy.
7. The Commission shall adopt such proceedings necessary to ensure the prompt and efficient examination of qualified applicants.
8. All records and deliberations with respect to persons who are examined as nominees or prospective nominees shall be held in strict confidence by the Commission but shall be available to the Governor. The names of persons considered by the Commission shall remain confidential personnel records except to the extent necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibility to evaluate applicants for the Governor.
9. Executive Order 2013-06 is hereby rescinded.

Given at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this
6th day of February, in the year of Our Lord,
Two thousand and seventeen and of the
Independence of the United States of America, two
hundred and forty-one.


GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE