

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

December 1, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 12:41 p.m.

Meeting conducted through Webex

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, Presiding

Members:

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, Chair
Hon. Todd Shaughnessy, Vice Chair
Hon. Samuel Chiara
Hon. Augustus Chin
Hon. Paul Farr
Hon. Michelle Heward
Hon. Mark May
Hon. David Mortensen
Justice Paige Petersen
Margaret Plane, Esq.
Hon. Derek Pullan
Hon. Brook Sessions

Excused:

Hon. Keith Barnes
Hon. David Connors

AOC Staff:

Ron Gordon
Nick Stiles
Jeni Wood

Guests:

Hon. Jennifer Brown, Fourth District Court
Mark Urry, TCE, Fourth District Court

Excused:

Hon. Ryan Evershed
Hon. Kara Pettit
Cathy Dupont
Michael Drechsel
Shane Bahr
Jim Peters
Neira Siaperas

1. WELCOME: (Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant)

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Council held their meeting through Webex.

2. FOURTH DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONER REQUEST: (Judge Jennifer Brown and Mark Urry)

Chief Justice Durrant welcomed Judge Jennifer Brown and Mark Urry. Fourth District Court Commissioner Sean Petersen was confirmed by the Senate on August 18, 2021 as a district court judge. The commissioner position has been vacant since this time. The Council approved the request to fill the vacant commissioner position. A total of 30 candidates applied for the commissioner position. The Fourth District Court Commissioner Nominating Commission reviewed all candidates and selected 8 semi-finalists to be interviewed on November 8, 2021. The Commission chose three finalists, including Marla Snow. After a public comment period, the Nominating Commission reviewed the comments and confirmed the three candidates to be recommended to the bench for consideration. The judges of the Fourth District Court interviewed

all three finalists on November 23, 2021, and Ms. Snow was the unanimous selection by the bench.

Ms. Snow graduated from the Chapman University School of Law in 2003. She has 18 years' experience in family law, including the last 10 years as senior partner in MacArthur, Heder, Metler, PLLC. In addition to her experience as a family law attorney, Ms. Snow has served as a Special Master in high conflict domestic cases and a private Guardian Ad Litem. Her extensive family law experience will be a perfect fit on the bench. The Fourth District Court bench is confident that she will serve the attorneys and public in a fair, compassionate, and professional manner.

Motion: Judge Brook Sessions moved to approve Marla Snow to fill the Fourth District Court commissioner vacancy. Judge Todd Shaughnessy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chief Justice Durrant thanked Judge Brown and Mr. Urry.

3. UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT: (Ron Gordon)

Ron Gordon requested this issue be addressed in an executive session.

After the executive session,

Motion: Judge Derek Pullan moved to allow Mr. Gordon to negotiate the terms of the agreement with the Attorney General's Office to represent the Judiciary consistent with what was discussed in the executive session, and that Mr. Gordon is authorized to sign the agreement. Judge Shaughnessy seconded the amended motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Judge Shaughnessy moved to go into an executive session to discuss pending litigation and the professional competency of an individual. Judge Pullan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned.