



# **JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION**

## **FY 2023 PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**

**JANUARY 16, 2024**

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# 1 JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION

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*Mission:* The mission of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) is to screen, select, and recommend candidates to the President of the United States for his consideration in appointing judges to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The JNC also appoints the chief judges of both courts.

*Services:* The JNC advertises judicial vacancies, solicits applications, conducts background investigations, carefully reviews investigative materials, reads briefs and other application materials, interviews applicants, solicits and considers input from the bench, bar, and public regarding applicants fitness to serve, and carefully evaluates each candidate's application and background. The JNC also appoints the chief judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

## 2 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishment	Impact on Agency	Impact on Residents
<p>The Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC or Commission) conducted live, virtual, and "open conference call" outreach sessions despite the impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of these outreach sessions was to educate members of DC's legal community about the judicial selection process for the DC Courts and to provide practical advice for prospective applicants. Another goal of the JNC's outreach sessions was to increase the number of qualified applicants for judicial vacancies and the diversity of the applicant pool. The JNC's outreach sessions resulted in an increase in the number of new applicants for judicial vacancies on the DC Superior Court.</p>	<p>By providing frequent opportunities for individuals to learn and ask questions about the judicial selection process in DC, outreach sessions allow for greater transparency regarding the JNC's work. Additionally, a robust applicant pool helps ensure that the JNC can transmit strong candidate lists to the President of the United States to fill judicial vacancies on the DC Courts with individuals with a high degree of skills and qualifications.</p>	<p>Holding outreach sessions allows DC residents to understand better how the judicial selection process works for the DC Courts. As such, there is increased engagement with the judicial branch, which impacts the day-to-day lives of DC residents and shapes the professions of those in the DC legal community. Moreover, expanding the applicant pool for judicial vacancies allows the JNC to recommend the nomination of candidates with a broader range of backgrounds and professional experiences. The breadth of experience of those who serve on the bench directly impacts DC residents because judges of the DC Courts make daily decisions that affect many DC residents.</p>
<p>The JNC implemented a cost-effective and user-friendly web portal via SeamlessDocs that securely allows applicants to submit their application materials online. While critical during the COVID-19 shutdown, this portal continued to serve as an efficient mechanism for the JNC to do the work necessary for recommending judicial applicants to the President of the United States.</p>	<p>Using SeamlessDocs increased the efficiency of the application process for those applying to fill vacancies in the DC Courts and eased certain burdens for judicial applicants. It also provided a secure applicant database and application web portal to promote trust and integrity in the judicial vacancy application process.</p>	<p>SeamlessDocs modernized the JNC's application submission process by eliminating the need for judicial applicants to deliver their application materials in-person during business hours or rely upon the United States Postal Service or other shipping providers to submit their application materials timely. Further, by eliminating the need for JNC staff to manually scan and upload application materials to its electronic applicant database, the SeamlessDocs web portal streamlined the agency's internal operations.</p>

### **3 2023 OBJECTIVES**

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#### Strategic Objective

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Increase the pool of highly qualified applicants to fill each judicial vacancy within the required 60- day period either prior to or following the occurrence of a vacancy in accordance with the agency's governing statute.

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## 4 2023 OPERATIONS

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Operation Title	Operation Description
<b>Increase the pool of highly qualified applicants to fill each judicial vacancy within the required 60- day period either prior to or following the occurrence of a vacancy in accordance with the agency's governing statute.</b>	
Screen, select, and recommend candidates to the President of the United States for consideration in appointing judges to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia: Daily Service	The JNC advertises judicial vacancies, solicits applications, conducts background investigations, carefully reviews investigative materials, reads briefs and other application materials, interviews applicants, solicits and considers input from the bench, bar, and public regarding applicants' fitness to serve, and carefully evaluates each candidate's application and background.

## 5 2023 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND WORKLOAD MEASURES

### Key Performance Indicators

Measure	Directionality	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 Q1	FY 2023 Q2	FY 2023 Q3	FY 2023 Q4	FY 2023	FY 2023 Target	Was 2023 KPI Met?	Explanation of Unmet KPI
<b>Increase the pool of highly qualified applicants to fill each judicial vacancy within the required 60- day period either prior to or following the occurrence of a vacancy in accordance with the agency's governing statute.</b>											
Percent of candidate panels for judicial vacancies presented within statutory time frames	Up is Better	100%	100%	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	100%	100%	Met	
Percent of required background investigations on judicial vacancy applicants conducted and completed within statutory time frames	Up is Better	100%	100%	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	100%	100%	Met	

Workload Measures

Measure	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 Q1	FY 2023 Q2	FY 2023 Q3	FY 2023 Q4	FY 2023
<b>Screen, select, and recommend candidates to the President of the United States for consideration in appointing judges to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Superior Court of the District of Columbia</b>							
Number of Superior Court Judicial Vacancies	7	4	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	4
Number of Court of Appeals Judicial Vacancies	2	0	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	0
Number of Superior Court Chief Judge Designations	0	0	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	0
Number of Court of Appeals Chief Judge Designations	1	0	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	Annual Measure	0