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HEARING PROCEEDINGS

January 15, 2024

2023 Judicial Merit Selection Commission

REPORTER: Kathryn Bostrom

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JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

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BEFORE: REPRESENTATIVE "MICAH" CASKEY, IV, CHAIRMAN
SENATOR LUKE A. RANKIN, VICE CHAIRMAN (VIA ZOOM)
SENATOR SCOTT TALLEY (VIA ZOOM)
REPRESENTATIVE WALLACE H. "JAY" JORDAN (VIA ZOOM)
SENATOR RONNIE SABB (VIA ZOOM)
REPRESENTATIVE J. TODD RUTHERFORD
LUCY GREY MCIVER (VIA ZOOM)
ANDREW N. SAFRAN
J.P. PETE STROM
KATE CRATER, COUNSEL

* * * * *

DATE: January 15, 2024
TIME: 3:05 p.m.
LOCATION: Gressette Building, Room 105
1101 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
REPORTED BY: Kathryn B. Bostrom, Court Reporter

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EXHIBITS

There are no exhibits marked during this hearing.

Court Reporter's Legend:

dashes [--] Intentional or purposeful]

interruption

[ph] Denotes phonetically written

[sic] Written as said

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: Ladies and gentleman, I will go
3 ahead and call to order today's meeting of the
4 Judicial Merit Selection Commission. We have a
5 number of members who have joined us remotely,
6 both because of the logistics headaches caused by
7 the Vice President's visit to the Statehouse here
8 this afternoon as well as the relatively
9 unexpected nature that brings us together, as
10 well as some unexpected illness. So everyone on
11 the Commission is present in person or virtually
12 with the exception of Hope, Ms. Hope Blackley,
13 she is unfortunately having to attend a funeral.
14 She has assigned her proxy to Senator Sabb. So
15 we're all gathered and on motion of
16 Representative Rutherford seconded by Mr. Safran,
17 the pending question is going into Executive
18 Session. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

19 MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: All opposed, nay. The ayes have it.
21 At this point, we will pause our proceedings and
22 go into Executive Session for a legal briefing.
23 Thank you.

24 Executive Session was held from 3:06 to 3:20 p.m.

25 (Off the record)

1 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: Ladies and gentlemen, we are now
2 coming out of Executive Session. For the record
3 while we were in Executive Session receiving a
4 legal briefing, no votes were taken and no
5 decisions were made.

6 [Redacted]

7 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: All right. We will proceed now to
8 the portion of our agenda with respect to the
9 motions, any motions that need to be made.

10 [Redacted]

11 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: Any other member of the Commission?

12 All right. At that point then we need to -- we
13 have had four candidates in this race be found
14 qualified. Two have already been nominated. We
15 have two candidates that remain that could be
16 nominated. And so those individuals being
17 [redacted] and the Honorable Russell D. Hilton.
18 Ms. Crater, I think a roll call vote is required
19 for this?

20 MS. CRATER: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: If you would please call the roll or
22 explain the balloting process, how about that.

23 MS. CRATER: We will vote twice. I will call the
24 name. So we will start -- you will have one vote
25 among two candidates. The two candidates

1 remaining who have been found qualified are
2 [redacted] and the Honorable Russell D. Hilton.
3 Again, members, you will each have one vote.

4 [Redacted]

5 MS. CRATER: Thank you. The next candidate is the
6 Honorable Russell D. Hilton. Chairman Caskey?

7 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: Aye.

8 MS. CRATER: Senator Rankin?

9 SENATOR Rankin: Aye.

10 MS. CRATER: Senator Sabb? Senator Talley?

11 SENATOR RANKIN: By proxy.

12 MS. CRATER: Yes. Representative Rutherford.
13 Representative Jordan?

14 REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN: Aye.

15 MS. CRATER: Aye. Ms. Blackley? Ms. McIver?

16 MS. MCIVER: Aye.

17 MS. CRATER: Mr. Safran?

18 MR. SAFRAN: Aye.

19 MS. CRATER: And Mr. Strom?

20 MR. STROM: Aye.

21 MS. CRATER: The votes are six for the Honorable
22 Russell D. Hilton.

23 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: With that, the Commission finds that
24 the Honorable Russell D. Hilton will be
25 nominated. Having already been found qualified,

1 he is nominated for Circuit Court At Large Seat
2 11. There being no further business on our
3 agenda today, the Commission will stand
4 adjourned. Thank you all for being here.

5 (There being no further questions, the
6 hearings concluded at 4:25 p.m.)
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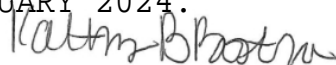
1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 I, KATHRYN BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC
4 IN AND FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT LARGE, HEREBY
5 CERTIFY THAT I REPORTED THE HEARINGS ON MONDAY, THE 15TH
6 DAY OF JANUARY 2024, THAT THE WITNESS WAS FIRST DULY SWORN
7 BY ME AND THAT THE FOREGOING 6 PAGES CONSTITUTE A TRUE AND
8 CORRECT TRANSCRIPTION OF MY STENOMASK REPORT OF SAID
9 DEPOSITION.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NEITHER ATTORNEY NOR
11 COUNSEL FOR, NOR RELATED TO OR EMPLOYED BY ANY OF THE
12 PARTIES CONNECTED WITH THIS ACTION, NOR AM I FINANCIALLY
13 INTERESTED IN SAID CAUSE.

14 I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL OF SAID TRANSCRIPT
15 WAS THEREAFTER SEALED BY ME AND DELIVERED TO ERIN CRAWFORD,
16 GRESSETTE BUILDING, 1101 PENDLETON STREET, COLUMBIA, SOUTH
17 CAROLINA, WHO WILL RETAIN THIS SEALED ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT
18 AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING SAME WITH THE COURT
19 PRIOR TO TRIAL OR ANY HEARING WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN A FINAL
20 ORDER ON ANY ISSUE.

21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE SET MY HAND AND SEAL THIS
22 16TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.

23 

24 _____
KATHRYN B. BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER

25 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES AUGUST 23, 2032

<p>1</p> <hr/> <p>11 6:2</p> <hr/> <p>3</p> <hr/> <p>3:06 3:24</p> <p>3:20 3:24</p> <hr/> <p>4</p> <hr/> <p>4:25 6:6</p> <hr/> <p>A</p> <hr/> <p>adjourned 6:4</p> <p>afternoon 3:8</p> <p>agenda 4:8 6:3</p> <p>ahead 3:3</p> <p>assigned 3:14</p> <p>attend 3:13</p> <p>aye 3:18,19 5:7,9, 14,15,16,18,20</p> <p>ayes 3:20</p> <hr/> <p>B</p> <hr/> <p>balloting 4:22</p>	<p>Blackley 3:12 5:15</p> <p>briefing 3:22 4:4</p> <p>brings 3:9</p> <p>business 6:2</p> <hr/> <p>C</p> <hr/> <p>call 3:3 4:18,21,23</p> <p>candidate 5:5</p> <p>candidates 4:13,15,25</p> <p>Caskey 3:2,20 4:1,7,11, 21 5:6,7,23</p> <p>caused 3:6</p> <p>Chairman 3:2,20 4:1,7,11, 21 5:6,7,23</p> <p>Circuit 6:1</p> <p>Commission 3:4,11 4:11 5:23 6:3</p> <p>concluded 6:6</p> <p>Court 6:1</p> <p>Crater 4:18,20,23 5:5, 8,10,12,15,17, 19,21</p>	<hr/> <p>D</p> <hr/> <p>decisions 4:5</p> <hr/> <p>E</p> <hr/> <p>exception 3:12</p> <p>Executive 3:17,22,24 4:2,3</p> <p>explain 4:22</p> <hr/> <p>F</p> <hr/> <p>favor 3:18</p> <p>finds 5:23</p> <p>found 4:13 5:1,25</p> <p>funeral 3:13</p> <hr/> <p>G</p> <hr/> <p>gathered 3:15</p> <p>gentleman 3:2</p> <p>gentlemen 4:1</p> <hr/> <p>H</p> <hr/> <p>headaches 3:6</p> <p>hearings 6:6</p> <p>held</p>	<p>3:24</p> <p>Hilton 4:17 5:2,6,22,24</p> <p>Honorable 4:17 5:2,6,21,24</p> <p>Hope 3:12</p> <hr/> <p>I</p> <hr/> <p>illness 3:10</p> <p>individuals 4:16</p> <hr/> <p>J</p> <hr/> <p>joined 3:5</p> <p>Jordan 5:13,14</p> <p>Judicial 3:4</p> <hr/> <p>L</p> <hr/> <p>Ladies 3:2 4:1</p> <p>Large 6:1</p> <p>legal 3:22 4:4</p> <p>logistics 3:6</p> <hr/> <p>M</p> <hr/> <p>made 4:5,9</p> <p>Mciver 5:15,16</p>	<p>meeting 3:3</p> <p>member 4:11</p> <p>members 3:5,19 5:3</p> <p>Merit 3:4</p> <p>motion 3:15</p> <p>motions 4:9</p> <hr/> <p>N</p> <hr/> <p>nature 3:9</p> <p>nay 3:20</p> <p>nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1</p> <p>number 3:5</p> <hr/> <p>O</p> <hr/> <p>opposed 3:20</p> <p>order 3:3</p> <hr/> <p>P</p> <hr/> <p>p.m. 3:24 6:6</p> <p>pause 3:21</p> <p>pending 3:17</p> <p>person 3:11</p>
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