



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION**

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The Honorable Marie C. Johns
Chairperson

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September 9, 2025

James Comer, Chair
Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Via Email

Re: H.R. 5125, District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia:

Members of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission respectfully submit this letter to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in response to H.R. 5125, District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act.

The District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC or Commission) was established by Congress on December 24, 1973 (Public Law 93-198, 87 Stat. 796). The JNC is composed of seven members – two appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia, two by the Board of Governors of the District of Columbia Bar Association (Unified), one by the Council of the District of Columbia, one by the President of the United States, and one judicial member appointed by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Each member is appointed for a six-year term, except for the member appointed by the President, who serves a five-year term.

The JNC solicits, screens, and recommends a panel of three candidates to the President of the United States for each judicial vacancy on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. From the panel of names recommended by the JNC, the President nominates a person for each vacancy and submits the nominee's name to the United States Senate for confirmation. The JNC also designates the Chief Judges for the District of Columbia courts.

The JNC, using a merit-based selection process, works to provide the citizens of the District of Columbia with the best possible court system by (a) soliciting a diverse and talented pool of applicants for each judicial vacancy; (b) screening applicants to ensure they have the requisite experience, skill, temperament, and qualifications for judicial office; and (c) recommending the three most qualified applicants to the President of the United States for his or her consideration in selecting a nominee to fill each judicial vacancy on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Since its first list of applicants was sent to President R. Gerald Ford, Jr. on May 8, 1975, the JNC has recommended more than 93 candidates for 31 vacancies on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (Court of Appeals) and more than 513 candidates for 171 vacancies on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (Superior Court). Working with both Republican and Democratic Presidents for more than 50 years, the Senate has confirmed 29 Presidential nominations to the Court of Appeals and 159 to the Superior Court. To date, the Senate has confirmed more Republican Presidential nominees to both courts – 17 of 29 on the Court of Appeals and 83 of 159 on the Superior Court. All the Presidential nominees were selected from lists the JNC sent to the President pursuant to D.C. Code §§ 1-204.31, 1-204.33. Arguably, the judicial nomination process in the District of Columbia is one of the best nonpartisan processes in the country, a process that President Trump engaged in during his first term (with 10 confirmations to the local courts) and on September 2, 2025, when he nominated candidates for three vacancies on the Superior Court.

In conclusion, the Commission members are united in expressing our pride in the JNC's lengthy history of proficient service. The Commission process has been effective for over 50 years, working with both Republican and Democratic administrations. Our process is carefully designed to ensure that the over 700,000 residents of our city have a voice in judicial appointments, while also respecting the President's authority in nominating individuals for the critical role of judicial service in the District of Columbia. We stand in support of the JNC's current role and configuration, and we look forward to continuing to serve our city in discharging our critically important responsibilities.

Respectfully Submitted.

For the Commission,

/s/

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cc: Members, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform