

Special Constitutional Appointments Committee
State Bar of Arizona

April 18, 2024
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
ZOOM

Open Session Minutes

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

V = present virtually; A = absent.

Sam Saks, Chair	V	Cortez Smith	V
Casey Arellano	V	Jimmie Smith	V
Jena Decker-Xu	V	Lonnie Williams	V
Alexis Firehawk	A	Chloé Woods	V
John Moody	V		

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Guests: None

State Bar Staff: Carrie Sherman

Minutes taken by: Carrie Sherman

Called to Order by: Sam Saks, Chair

Time 3:00 p.m.

I. Call to the Public: There was no response to the Call to the Public.

II. Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting as presented.

III. Arizona Commission on Appellate Court Appointments: The due diligence reports were reviewed. All candidates were deemed constitutionally qualified. Each applicant was discussed with regard to merit qualifications.

- A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to remove four applicants from consideration.
- After further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to remove a fifth applicant from consideration.
- A motion was made, seconded but failed to pass to remove a sixth applicant. Pursuant to the Board of Governors' directive, all applicants are to be interviewed, however, due to the short turnaround time allotted the entire process, the committee member and applicant were unable to connect.
- Two Appellate Commission applicants were recommended only for trial court commission positions.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to renominate applicants who were

recommended to the Governor in 2023 and who reapplied during this call for applicants.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to recommend the following applicants for the Board’s consideration in crafting its nominations to the Governor:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>POLITICAL PARTY</u>
Mr. Keith Berkshire, Berkshire Law Office PLLC	Maricopa	Republic
Ms. Alexis Danneman, Perkins Coie LLP	Maricopa	Democrat
Mr. Joel Nomkin, Perkins Coie LLP	Maricopa	Democrat
Ms. Sara Presler, Presler Consulting LLC	Maricopa	Democrat
Mr. Joel Robbins, Robbins & Curtin PLLC	Maricopa	Democrat

Reaffirm these 2023 nominations to the Governor:

Ms. Kathryn Marie Martin, U.S. Army Cyber Command	Pima	Democrat
Ms. Brenda Muniz Furnish, Wm. E. Morris Institute for Justice	Maricopa	Democrat
Mr. James Rappaport, Pima County Attorney’s Office	Pima	Democrat
Mr. Charles Wirken, Gust Rosenfeld PLC	Maricopa	Democrat

IV. Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments

Supervisory District 3 – The due diligence reports were reviewed. All candidates were deemed constitutionally qualified. Each applicant was discussed with regard to merit qualifications.

- A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to remove one applicant from consideration.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to recommend the following applicants for the Board’s consideration in crafting its nominations to the Governor:

Mr. James Peter Palestini, Palestini Law PLC	Independent
Mr. Joel Brooks Robbins, Robbins & Curtin PLLC	Democrat

Supervisory District 5 - The due diligence report was reviewed. The candidate was deemed constitutionally qualified and discussed with regard to merit qualifications.

- A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to recommend the applicant for the Board’s consideration in crafting its nominations to the Governor:

Mr. Jesse R. Ritchey Silence Law Group	Democrat
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V. Pima County Commission on Trial Court Appointments

Supervisory District 3 - The due diligence reports were reviewed. Both candidates were deemed constitutionally qualified. Each applicant was discussed with regard to merit qualifications.

- A motion was made, seconded and carried over one dissent to recommend the following applicants for the Board’s consideration in crafting its nominations to the Governor:

Mr. James L. Fullin, Pima County Legal Defender’s Office	Democrat
Mr. Adam Thomas Peterson, Farhang & Medcoff PLLC	Democrat

VI. Ongoing Recruitment

There were no applications received for the following positions. Recruitment must continue.

- Coconino County - Supervisorial District 2 and 4
- Maricopa County - Supervisorial District 2 and 4
- Pima County - Supervisorial District 2 and 5
- Pinal County - Supervisorial District 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m.