

**PIMA COUNTY COMMISSION ON TRIAL COURT APPOINTMENTS**

**MINUTES**

**November 9, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Vice Chief Justice John Pelander, Acting Chairman; Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer; Michael Boreale; Lynn Cuffari; Sherry Downer; Michael Hennessy; Marian Hill; Cassia Lundin; Gioia Sanderson; Richard Schaefer and Carole Siegler

**ABSENT:** Troy Larkin and Nanette Warner

Justice Pelander called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and welcomed the commission members and public present. He noted that the interviews will be followed by nominations to fill the judicial vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Karen Adam.

**Public Comment**

Justice Pelander called for public comment on the candidates being interviewed. He reminded the speakers they were limited to five minutes each and asked them not to repeat comments by previous speakers about the same candidate.

Donna Kelly spoke on behalf of Peter Hochuli.  
Michael Meehan spoke on behalf of Thomas Denker.  
Steve Borozan spoke on behalf of Peter Hochuli.

**Approval of Minutes**

Justice Pelander asked if any member wished to submit changes or additions to the draft minutes of the screening meeting held on October 26, 2015. It was moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Selection of Interview Questions**

A motion to go to executive session for the purpose of selecting interview question was made at 8:44 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The commission returned to public session at 9:53 a.m.

**Investigation Reports**

The Commission members provided their due diligence findings on the candidates to be interviewed.

**Interviews of Applicants**

From 10:42 a.m. to 12:05 a.m. the Commission interviewed Lee Ann Roads, Peter Hochuli, Ryan Schmidt and Nanette Morrow.

From 12:05 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. the commission recessed for lunch.

From 1:00 p.m. to 2:13 p.m. the Commission interviewed Justin Castillo, Anita Simons, Daniel Jurkowitz and Thomas Denker.

### **Disqualifications and Disclosures**

Justice Pelander asked the Commission members if there were any changes to the disqualifications and disclosures since the February 20<sup>th</sup> screening meeting.

Mike Hennessy knows Thomas Denker's references' children.

Carole Siegler had lunch with Peter Hochuli before the application process.

Cassie Lundin's daughters attend the same school as Justin Castillos'.

### **Discussion of Applicants and Interviews**

Justice Pelander reminded Commission members of the constitutionally required balance of political affiliations among nominees. He added that he would not be voting unless there was a tie.

The Commission discussed the interviews and the qualifications of the candidates in alphabetical order. Justice Pelander suggested that a non-binding straw poll would be helpful to focus discussion and determine if any strong consensus existed on the potential nomination list. The results of the straw poll were:

Justin Castillo – 4  
Thomas Denker – 5  
Peter Hochuli – 9  
Daniel Jurkowitz – 0  
Nanette Morrow – 4  
Lee Ann Roads – 0  
Ryan Schmidt – 1  
Anita Simons - 7

The commission further discussed all the candidates that received four or more votes. After further discussion, Vice Chief Justice Pelander asked for a second vote on Nanette Morrow, the result of the vote was 7-2-1 with Vice Chief Justice Pelander abstaining.

Gioia Sanderson motioned to send the list of nominees consisting of **Peter Hochuli, Nanette Morrow and Anita Simons** to the Governor. The motion was seconded and passed with a vote of

9-0-1 with Justice Pelander abstaining.

**Adjournment**

At 2:54 p.m., it was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gioia Sanderson  
Commission Secretary