

August 24, 2018

The Honorable James Conley Justice, Jr.  
Governor, State of West Virginia  
State Capitol  
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Vacancies

Dear Governor Justice:

Pursuant to W. Va. Code § 3-10-3a, the Judicial Vacancy Advisory Commission has interviewed a number of candidates offering varying levels of courtroom and life experiences as we consider the two current vacancies on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Each candidate possesses significant talents to offer to our Court. We believe that our judiciary is in a period of unparalleled scrutiny. This Commission has concerns about public perceptions surrounding the Court. These appointments, while relatively short in terms of period of service, will have a potentially significant impact on our Court based on its calendar. Therefore, we submit to you the following list of best-qualified persons for the first vacancy, in alphabetical order:

Timothy P. Armstead  
Stephen R. Crislip  
Robert J. Frank  
D. C. Offutt, Jr.

Further, we submit to you the following list of best-qualified persons for the second vacancy, also in alphabetical order:

Gregory B. Chiantas  
James Victor Flanagan  
Evan Jenkins  
William Schwartz  
Martin P. Sheehan

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Should you require any additional information from the Commission, please call me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Debra Scudiere, Chair  
Judicial Vacancy Advisory Commission

DS/bjn

