

APPROVED by the Board of Governors 5/20/97  
Revised 9/18/97; 9/14/00; 4/4/01; 12/18/03; 1/21/21; 10/21/21

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION  
Judicial Screening Procedure

1. At the beginning of each gubernatorial term, the President of the New Hampshire Bar Association<sup>1</sup> (“President”) shall inform the Governor’s office that the New Hampshire Bar Association wishes to participate in evaluating proposed judicial nominees.
2. Upon learning of a judicial nomination, the President shall contact the Executive Council’s staff to confirm the nomination.
3. The President shall invite each nominee to participate in the Bar Association’s judicial nominee review process.
4. Following such invitation, The Bar Association shall provide the nominee with a Judicial Selection Waiver form. The Executive Director shall arrange for timely return of the Waiver form and shall request the Judicial Nominee’s Application from the Governor’s office. The President shall notify the Board of Governors of the receipt of the Judicial Nominee’s Application and shall make it available for review prior to the meeting of the Board of Governors to consider the nominee’s qualifications.
5. The President and the member of the Board of Governors who represents the county where the nominee has his or her principal place of business shall conduct an confidential inquiry of the nominee’s qualifications, which shall include inquiries to references provided by the nominee, if any, and to others in regard to the nominee's reputation and qualifications for the nominated position.
6. The President shall forward a confidential written inquiry regarding the nominee to the New Hampshire Supreme Court Professional Conduct Committee and, if appropriate, to the Committee on Judicial Conduct.
7. If there is no regularly scheduled Board of Governors' meeting before the Executive Council hearing on the nominee’s judicial nomination, a special Board meeting shall be held at which:
  - (a) the nominee's completed Judicial Selection Application, together with any feedback from the Professional Conduct Committee and the Committee on Judicial Conduct, shall be considered;
  - (b) the President and the Board member who has conducted the investigation of the nominee shall report on their inquiries;
  - (c) the nominee shall be interviewed by the Board;
8. Upon completion of the process described in the preceding paragraph 7, the Board shall make one of the following findings:

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<sup>1</sup> The President of the New Hampshire Bar Association shall include any person designated to act on the President’s behalf.

- (a) the Board finds the nominee well-qualified based on highly favorable information with regard to all of the following factors: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, judicial temperament, diligence, financial responsibility, and public service.
  - (b) the Board finds the nominee qualified, which may include reservations about the nomination;
  - (c) the Board finds the nominee not-qualified, which shall include the basis for such findings.
9. The President shall promptly inform the nominee and the Governor's Office of the Board's findings.
10. In addition, the Board's findings shall be communicated in writing to the Governor, Executive Council, and the nominee.

**THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES AND IS COMMITTED TO THE NEED FOR ABSOLUTE CONFIDENTIALITY IN THIS PROCESS. ALL INVOLVED SHALL BE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY.**