



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

Call to Order:

Chair Janet Abaray called the meeting of the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee to order at 9:15 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Abaray, Vice-chair Fischer, and committee members Curtin, Jacobson, Obhof, Sapphire, Skindell, and Wagoner in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting of the committee were reviewed and approved.

Discussion:

Committee member Richard Sapphire distributed written material to committee from the Law Day 2003 Planning Guide, which provided examples of judicial selection from other states. He proceeded to read through the handout and answered questions from the committee.

Chair Abaray sought discussion on how the committee wanted to proceed on addressing the judicial selection and election. Several committee members noted that financial contributions on the local level have been a longstanding issue. A suggestion was made to consider giving voters more than one option with regard to selection or electing members of the judiciary. It was noted that, although members may not be in favor of a merit system, one should still be designed as an option.

A concern was expressed with respect to the requirement that an attorney be admitted to the bar for at least six years in order to run for the Ohio Supreme Court. A suggestion was made that the committee should consider how members of the judiciary are appointed and to approach the Ohio State Bar Association about conducting an evaluation of the judiciary.

Chair Abaray distributed written material to the committee that was comprised of alternative proposals for selection of Ohio Supreme Court justices. She described the options, asking for committee discussion.

Before concluding, a suggestion was made to review the Modern Courts Amendment at a future meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the April 10, 2014 meeting of the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee were approved at the May 8, 2014 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Janet Gilligan Abaray
Janet Gilligan Abaray, Chair

/s/ Patrick F. Fischer
Justice Patrick F. Fischer, Vice-chair