

May 8, 2014

Meeting of Judicial Branch & Administration of Justice Subcommittee

A quorum was present. The members continued discussion of possible improvements on judicial elections. Mr. Mulvihill and Professor Saphire will work with other committee members to make specific proposals on judicial elections and selection alternatives respectively.

Pros and cons of odd numbered years judicial elections and the modifications Justice O'Connor announced to her proposal were discussed. Several members spoke on the issue of including party affiliation on the ballot for judicial elections.

Mr. Hollon and Dean Steinglass provided information on some specific issues which were presented after the last meeting. As to diversity in the Ohio judiciary, 72.3% are male and 27.7% are female. 90.5% are white, 6.7% black, 2.1 % multiracial and 0.7 did not provide information. In regard to term lengths for justices, only 16 states have 6 year terms, 2 have 7, 13 have 8, 13 have 10, 5 have 12, 1 has 14 and 1 (D.C.) has 15. That means that 31 states have 8 years or shorter terms.

Mr. Hollon suggested the American Judicature Society and the Institute for Advancement of American Legal Systems as resources for data.