



# JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

## State of Georgia

### Open Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 16, 2024

9:00am

100 Galleria Pkwy, Suite 1600

Atlanta, GA 30339

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Investigative Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission of the State of Georgia was held in person at Freeman Mathis and Gary, LLP in Atlanta, GA. Judge Stacey Hydrick chaired the meeting and Ms. Kristen Bertsch served as Recording Secretary.

**Investigative Panel  
Members Present:**

Judge Stacey Hydrick  
Mr. James Balli  
Mr. Bob Barr  
Judge Victoria Darrisaw (virtual)  
Mr. Warren Selby (virtual)  
Mr. Stephen Green (virtual)

**JQC Staff Members  
Present:**

Ms. Courtney Veal, Director  
Ms. Ashton Murphy, Deputy Director  
Ms. Yosra Khalifa, Staff Attorney  
Ms. Kristen Bertsch, Executive Administrator  
Mr. Jonathan McFarland, Chief Investigator (virtual)

**Chairman's Comments:**

Judge Hydrick called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum of the Panel was present.

Mr. Barr's motion to adopt the open meeting minutes from the regular January 19, 2024 Investigative Panel meeting passed unanimously.

**Director's Report:**

Director Veal informed the Panel that the FY24 budget is on track and that the request for additional funding for a legal assistant position has been presented to the House Public Safety Subcommittee for consideration.

Director Veal updated the Panel on the ongoing progress of the Formal Advisory Opinion project.

Director Veal updated the Panel on the JQC Staff's plan to begin accepting applications for the vacant staff attorney position next week.

Director Veal proposed having an upcoming Panel meeting in Savannah. Judge Hydrick suggested the first week of June, to align with the State Bar's annual meeting. Director Veal advised Panel members to check their calendars to confirm availability for June, and Staff will research travel accommodations.

There being no further old or new business for discussion, Mr. Barr's motion to adjourn was seconded by Mr. Balli. The Open Meeting was adjourned at 9:15am.

These minutes were approved by the Investigative Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission.