



JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
State of Georgia

Open Meeting Minutes
Investigative Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting

Friday, May 8, 2026 | 10:00 AM
The Methodist Home for Children and Youth | 304 Pierce Avenue, Macon, Georgia 31204

This regularly scheduled open meeting of the Investigative Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission of the State of Georgia was held at The Methodist Home for Children and Youth, 304 Pierce Avenue, Macon, GA 31204. Judge Victoria Darrisaw served as chair for the meeting, and Ms. Stephanie McGruder served as recording secretary.

Investigative Panel
Members Present:

Judge Victoria Darrisaw, Chair
Judge Brian Rickman
Mr. Bob Barr
Mr. James Coursey
Mr. Warren Selby, Jr.
Mr. Andy Welch

JQC Staff Members
Present:

Ms. Courtney Veal, Director
Ms. Ashton Murphy, Deputy Director
Mr. Jonathan McFarland, Chief Investigator
Ms. Stephanie McGruder, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Lynn Abass, Administrative Assistant

Chairperson's Comments:

Judge Darrisaw requested the approval of the open meeting minutes from the non-regular March 6, 2026 meeting. Director Veal confirmed that a quorum was not present to approve those minutes. As a result, the vote was tabled until the next meeting.

Judge Darrisaw then requested approval of the open meeting minutes from the regular April 17, 2026, Investigative Panel meeting, for which there was a quorum.

Mr. Barr moved to adopt the open meeting minutes from the April 17, 2026, Investigative Panel meeting. Mr. Welch seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Judge Darrisaw ended her comments by thanking the Panel members and the JQC staff for their continued work on behalf of the people of Georgia.

Director's Report:

Director Veal began with the financial report. She noted that fiscal year 2026 is ending on June 30, 2026, and the JQC is within its budget. Mr. Barr asked if Director Veal would provide details regarding the budget. Director Veal responded that as of May 1st, after spending 78% of the budget, the Commission has \$151,241 remaining.

Director Veal then updated the Panel on the status of new staff positions and that she intends to post those positions soon. The attorney position will be classified as General Counsel.

Director Veal then discussed the statute regarding the daily expense allowance rate of \$247 for in-person attendance for eligible Panel Members. She clarified that this amount is intended to cover hotel costs. Additionally, mileage or transportation costs are reimbursable expenses.

Director Veal moved to the Litigation Report, informing the Panel that the JQC has completed briefing in the Williams matter, which concerns whether the Court has authority to discipline someone who is no longer a judge and whether a life ban from judicial service is a constitutional sanction. The Commission is awaiting the Supreme Court's decision. She also updated the Panel on the Brodeaux matter, for which the JQC submitted briefs in December 2025, and a decision from the Supreme Court is still pending.

Director Veal concluded her report with a vote for a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Judicial Qualifications Investigative Panel. Judge Rickman nominated Judge Darrisaw to continue serving as Chairperson and Mr. Barr as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Welch seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

The chair recognized that there was no old business.

New Business:

Mr. Selby raised concerns as his term is due to expire, and he has not received any information regarding possible re-appointment. Under the rules, Mr. Selby may continue to serve until a new appointment is made.

Public Comments:

No members of the public appeared for this Panel.

Judge Darrisaw called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Selby's motion to adjourn was seconded by Mr. Welch. The Open Meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am.

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



Judge Victoria Darrisaw, Chair



Courtney Veal, Director