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Judicial Selection in Rhode Island: Assessing the Experience with "Merit Selection"

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JUDICIAL SELECTION
IN RHODE ISLAND:

*Assessing the
15-Year Experience with
“Merit Selection”*

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Sponsored by the Roger Williams University Law Review

AGENDA

12:00 p.m.

WELCOME

David A. Logan

Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law

Brian Fielding '10

Editor-in-Chief, Roger Williams University Law Review

12:15 p.m.

INTRODUCTION: OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Michael J. Yelnosky

Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

PANEL I

Moderator:

Jared A. Goldstein

Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law

JUDGING HOW WE PICK JUDGES: FIFTEEN YEARS OF MERIT SELECTION IN RHODE ISLAND

John Marion

Executive Director, Common Cause Rhode Island

RESPONSES

Stephen J. Carlotti, *Partner, Hinckley, Allen & Snyder;*

former Chair, Rhode Island Judicial Nominating Commission

Rachel Caufield, *Professor, Drake University; Research Fellow, American Judicature Society*

Alan S. Flink, *Partner, Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge (ret.);*
former Commissioner, Rhode Island Judicial Nominating Commission

Joseph S. Larisa, Jr., *Larisa Law and Consulting;*

Chief of Staff and Executive Counsel to former Governor Lincoln Almond

Scott MacKay, *Political Analyst, WRNI; former political reporter, Providence Journal*

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE



2:30 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

PANEL II

Moderator:

Jared A. Goldstein

Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law

WHAT DO PREVIOUS STUDIES SHOW ABOUT THE IMPACT OF MERIT SELECTION ON THE TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS SELECTED FOR JUDGESHIPS?

Rachel Caufield

Professor, Drake University; Research Fellow, American Judicature Society

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF “MERIT SELECTION” ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JUDGES APPOINTED TO RHODE ISLAND COURTS

Michael J. Yelnosky

Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law

MEASURING MERIT IN RHODE ISLAND’S NATURAL EXPERIMENT IN JUDICIAL SELECTION

Mirya Holman

Empirical Research Associate, Duke University School of Law

RESPONSES

Lynette Labinger, *Partner, Roney & Labinger*

Emily J. Sack, *Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

The Honorable William E. Smith, *United States District Court*
for the District of Rhode Island

Angel Taveras, *Taveras Law Offices*

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

