JUDICIAL SELECTION IN RHODE ISLAND:
Assessing the 15-Year Experience with "Merit Selection"

FRIDAY
November 13, 2009
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. Carlucci, 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

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

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