



STATE OF WISCONSIN – JUDICIAL COUNCIL

DECEMBER 9, 2025 AGENDA

WISCONSIN JUDICIAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

December 9, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.
This Meeting is open to the Public but
Attendance is only provided via Zoom

You may join this meeting in two ways:

First method to Join our Zoom Meeting: You may click on the following link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84804444369?pwd=jkCUvkLJVrJ2X7Aax6TWEwrG0v1VPG.1>

The second method to Join our Zoom Meeting: Open your Zoom Program and enter the following information when prompted.

Meeting ID: 848 0444 4369

Passcode: 876633

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THIS FULL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Judicial Council recently received funding from the State Legislature for the first time in eight years. The Council has consulted with the State of Wisconsin with the assistance of a DNR Specialist who is also a member of this Council, namely Attorney Molly McNab. It was decided that the way to proceed was to create two committees. One committee would function as a search committee which would have as its purpose the identification of prospective candidates to serve as Staff Attorney for the Council (a position which has been unfilled since the tenure of Attorney April Southwick, who resigned eight years ago after many years of distinguished service).

A search Committee was created which was charged with identifying candidates to serve as Staff Attorney. This search Committee is chaired by Attorney Molly McNab. The other members of this Search Committee include the following: UW Professor Lanny Glinberg; Wisconsin Assistant Attorney General Steve Kilpatrick; Circuit Court Judge Kristine Snow; and Attorney Sarah Zylstra. The Search Committee received thirteen applications and decided on four candidates, the names of whom were forwarded to the Council's Selection Committee.

That Selection Committee is in fact the Council's Executive Committee and consists of

the following: Chair, William Gleisner; Vice Chair Margo Kirchner; Court of Appeals Judge Rachel Graham; Circuit Judge Eugen Gasiorkiewicz; Attorney Tom Shriner and Attorney Dan Blinka, Jr.

After conducting lengthy interviews first at Foley & Lardner and then via Zoom, the Executive Committee/Section Committee [hereafter, "Selection Committee"] is ready to make a selection but would prefer to limit discussion of the merits of a candidate to as few persons as possible in order to protect candidate privacy. Also, because all members of the Council are busy practitioners, the Selection Committee wants to avoid unnecessary meetings of the full Council. Further, the Selection Committee should have the maximum flexibility in dealing with the selection process.

We are faced with several possibilities. What if a candidate declines our offer? It would be best if the Selection Committee is empowered to work directly with the Search Committee to select another candidate or candidates without involving the full Council. What if a selected candidate wishes to negotiate about pay or benefits? Again, it would be best if the Selection Committee can proceed with negotiations, without returning to the full Council for affirmation of its negotiations. And what if in the future unforeseen circumstances arise where we must review the work of the new staff attorney or consider discipline, it would be best if the Executive Committee can deal with that without involving the full Council in managing the Staff Attorney, if possible.

**REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION
BY THE FULL COUNCIL JUDICIAL COUNCIL.**

We believe that broader authority should be vested in the Executive Committee to help streamline the search and hiring process, protect privacy and provide oversight of the Staff Attorney after his/her hire. If due process considerations require that a matter be referred to the full Council, we can cross that bridge when we get to it. For now, the goal should be to vest as much authority in the Executive Committee and/or the Search Committee as is judged appropriate by the full Council so that matters regarding the Council's Staff Attorney can proceed as expeditiously as possible.

The Executive Committee/Selection Committee requests the following powers:

1. The power to select a candidate for Staff Attorney and award a contract for the position of Staff Attorney without further approval of the full Judicial Council.
2. The power to work directly with the Search Committee to find other candidates to send to the Selection Committee without approval of the full Judicial Council, if a selected candidate declines an offer of employment,
3. The power to negotiate salary and other issues with a selected candidate without

seeking further approval of the full Judicial Council.

4. The power to convene from time to time to review the work of the Staff Attorney and to vote to impose discipline in small matters without seeking further approval of the full Judicial Council.

Vote and Conclusion of the Full Council Meeting followed by Adjournment.

This Agenda was prepared by Attorney Gleisner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All meetings of the Judicial Council and its committees are open to the public. The Council's December 9, 2025 meeting will only take place via Zoom. Members of the public are welcome. However, if any member of the public disrupts the meeting in any way, security will be called, and the disrupting member will be asked to leave. For more information, please contact the Chair of the Judicial Council, Mr. Gleisner, at 414-651-3182 or gleisnerwilliam@gmail.com.