

## Questions for Judicial Review Council Nominees

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### **Judicial Review Council ([CGS §§ 51-51k to -51n](#))**

The Judicial Review Council investigates and resolves complaints or internal referrals about state judges, family support magistrates, and administrative law judges regarding alleged misconduct, disability, or substance abuse. It consists of 12 regular members and 13 alternates. Of the regular members, six are members of the general public, three are Superior Court judges, and three are attorneys. Of the alternate members, three are members of the general public, two are Superior Court judges, two are attorneys, three are administrative law judges, and three are family support magistrates.

The council investigates a complaint to determine if there is probable cause that judicial misconduct occurred. The investigation is confidential unless the judicial officer being investigated requests that it be open to the public.

The council dismisses a complaint when it does not find probable cause. It may issue an admonishment if there is no misconduct but the judicial officer acted in a manner that created the appearance of impropriety or constitutes an unfavorable judicial practice. If the council finds probable cause, it must hold a public hearing. If, after the hearing, the judicial officer is found guilty of misconduct, the council may impose a range of sanctions such as public censure, suspension without pay for up to one year, or recommending suspension or removal from office to the state Supreme Court or the governor, as applicable. The council may also exonerate the judicial officer from all charges.

## Questions

1. Why do you want to serve on the council?
2. Do you believe the council has been effective? Why or why not? What would you do to improve it?
3. According to the council's most recent [administrative report](#), of the 151 complaints disposed of during FY 25, most were dismissed due to no factual basis after an investigation (136); the second most common reason for dismissal was the statute of limitations (13); and a few were moot or withdrawn. The council issued no admonishments. How would you respond to some members of the public who express concerns about the high dismissal rate and the infrequency with which the council conducts probable cause hearings?
4. Over the last four years, the number of complaints submitted to the council has increased from 102 (FY 22) to 165 (FY 23) to 225 (FY 24) to 234 (FY 25). Do you believe there is any significance to this?
5. By law, the council's investigation of a judicial officer must remain confidential unless the officer requests that it be open to the public ([CGS § 51-51l](#)). What are your thoughts on this law? How would you balance the public's right to know against judicial confidentiality?
6. The law provides for the removal, suspension, or censure of judges for incompetent performance of judicial duties ([CGS § 51-51i](#)). What type of evidence would you look for to determine whether a judge's performance was incompetent?
7. The law also provides for these sanctions against judges for temperament that adversely affects the "orderly carriage of justice." What type of temperament would you consider to meet this standard?
8. To what extent does a judicial officer's personal life affect his or her ability to adequately perform his or her duties? Is it appropriate to sanction a respondent for something that occurred in his or her personal life, whether or not it directly affected the person's official duties?
9. Some of the council's previous annual reports state that many complaints concern issues more appropriate for an appellate court. Is there a better way to inform the public of the council's jurisdiction?
10. One of the council's duties is to make recommendations when a judge is nominated to serve on a different court or when a judge, family support magistrate, or administrative law judge is up for reappointment ([CGS § 51-51q](#)). Under what circumstances should the council withhold its recommendation for appointment or reappointment?

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