

# Indiana Law Blog Newsletter

*Several special editions of the Indiana Law Blog Newsletter are being published today and tomorrow, featuring the reporting of Professor Joel Schumm, IU-McKinney School of Law, on the Marion County judicial selection process.*

---

## ***Monday Morning Retention Interviews for Existing Marion County Judges***

As expected, the morning interviews featured friendly and mostly predictable questions that allowed judges an opportunity to reflect on the positive parts of their background and experience as well as to offer ideas for the future. The judges all presented themselves well, and no answers raised eyebrows, much less approached the sort of gaffes that sometimes occur under more challenging questions from the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission.

Rather than offer several pages of interview summaries, this entry focuses briefly on some common themes from the morning's questions. The afternoon entry will offer some additional thoughts on these and other topics.

The Committee is interested in a person's background and how it informs what they do on the bench. These questions took many forms from volunteer activities to bar involvement to the importance of diversity, which was asked of about half of the judges.

The Committee was very interested in potential court reforms and the opportunities presented by the planned new judicial center. Judges took different views on some of these questions. Some extolled the virtue of specialization and the status quo while others expressed a desire for reform, innovation, and judges operating outside their current "silos."

As discussed in this morning's earlier entry, I believe all the judges will be recommended for retention; the statute sets a high bar for that not to happen. Thus, many of today's questions struck me as an opportunity for Committee members to think about questions and qualities for the new judges it will select in the coming weeks. Indeed, a few judges were explicitly asked what type of qualities or individuals the Committee should be seeking and how to promote diversity.

A few interesting tidbits:

Two of the seven judges (Rogers and Chavis) went around the table to shake the hands of

Committee members. This is customary with the seven-person JNC (two rounds of the table) but was not, at least this morning, with the much larger MCJSC.

Sen. Breaux asked Judge Brown about the pros and cons of moving from elections to this merit selection process. Judge Brown handled the question well, emphasizing a positive aspect of elections—the ability to interact with many different people—without criticizing the new merit selection system.

Finally, committee members are people who bring their own life experiences. For example, Ms. Lewis Burks worked at Central State for twenty years and made clear she cares about mental health issues. Ms. Cline asked more than one judge about ways to promote civility.

### **The Schedule**

#### **Monday, March 12, 2018**

- 9:00 - 9:20 Judge John Hanley
- 9:25 - 9:45 Judge Heather Welch
- 9:50 - 10:10 Judge Clark Rogers
- 10:15 - 10:35 Judge Jose Salinas
- 10:35 - 10:55 Break
- 10:55 - 11:15 Judge Grant Hawkins
- 11:20 - 11:40 Judge Linda Brown
- 11:45 - 12:05 Judge John MT Chavis II
- 12:05 - 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 - 1:35 Judge Mark Stoner
- 1:40 - 2:00 Judge Helen Marchal
- 2:05 - 2:25 Judge Lisa Borges
- 2:30 - 2:50 Judge Sheila Carlisle
- 2:50 - 3:10 Break
- 3:10 Executive Session

#### **Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

- 9:00 - 9:20 Judge William Nelson
- 9:25 - 9:45 Judge Alicia Gooden
- 9:50 - 10:10 Judge Steven Eichholtz
- 10:15 - 10:35 Judge Amy Jones
- 10:35 - 10:55 Break
- 10:55 - 11:15 Judge James Joven
- 11:20 - 11:40 Judge Clayton Graham
- 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Executive Session

---

**1/ Do you enjoy this  
Newsletter? Do you miss**

**2/ Could your  
organization or firm use**

**the ILB? I'm looking for support for an all-new and even better Indiana Law Blog.**

**some help with a challenging short or long-term project? Then let's talk.**



Copyright © 2018 The Indiana Law Blog, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
The Indiana Law Blog · 1319 N Alabama St · Indianapolis, In 46202 · USA

MailChimp