

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE JUDICIAL CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, October 8, 2014 – 12:00 p.m. – Room 415 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Sen. Stuart C. Reid  
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Michael E. Christensen, Director  
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Kristen Ricks, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Sen. Urquhart joined the meeting telephonically.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to close the meeting for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, and physical or mental health of the judicial candidate. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Urquhart absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Reid moved to open the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Interview of Ms. Kara L. Pettit**

Ms. Kara L. Pettit was placed under oath by Mr. Christensen. Ms. Pettit introduced her family in attendance and thanked the committee and the governor for this opportunity. She provided a personal background statement, including stories of her upbringing in Iowa. She said she strives to emulate her parents' strong work ethic. Prior to attending law school she graduated with a degree in accounting and worked as an operational auditor for the 3M Corporation. She explained how her desire to work in public service led her to attend law school. Ms. Pettit gave an overview of her law school involvements and indicated that she focused on public service and public interest classes. During her career as an attorney her areas of practice included civil and commercial litigation. While working at her current law firm of Snow, Christensen, and Martineau, she fulfilled her desire for public service by volunteering with various local organizations. Now she is ready to work in the public service sector full time and believes she has the necessary qualities that befit a judge, including legal knowledge, a patient temperament, and a respect for the law. She explained why she will not legislate from the bench.

Ms. Pettit responded to questions from the committee regarding her decision to move to Utah, the death penalty, pro bono cases, and the cost of legal representation. She said her knowledge base in domestic relations is limited and could be increased. In response to Sen. Hillyard, Ms. Pettit said that there is nothing in her past that, if made public, would be an embarrassment to her or the bench.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Ms. Pettit be confirmed as a judge to the Third District Court. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Other Items/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.