

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE JUDICIAL CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, November 5, 2014 – 12:00 p.m. – Room 415 State Capitol

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Sen. Patricia W. Jones

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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Sen. Jones was excused from the meeting.

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.

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

2. Interview of Ms. Angela F. Fannesbeck

Ms. Angela F. Fannesbeck was placed under oath by Mr. Christensen. She introduced her spouse, Mr. Tom Johnson and thanked the committee and the governor for this opportunity. She provided a personal background statement and talked about her upbringing in Logan, Utah. After graduating high school she was excited to move away for college. But after moving away she realized that the qualities of Logan she thought she did not like, were the qualities she missed most. After college she moved back to Logan and has enjoyed living there ever since.

She said she has taken the advice from trial attorney Mr. Gerry Spence, to "be who you are," very seriously and this has helped her to be her best self, inside and outside of the courtroom. Ms. Fannesbeck said she is honest, sincere, loyal, down to earth, and is always striving to have a positive impact on the individuals with whom she interacts. Public service is very important to her. She has always considered herself to be a problem solver and believes a juvenile court judge must solve problems by thinking outside the box. Because of this trait, she believes she can make the most difference by serving in the juvenile court. She reiterated how important it is to give people hope, especially when they are dealing with the judicial system. As a judge, if she is able to give people hope that the justice system will work for them by basing its decisions on facts, she will feel like she has made a difference. She wants to give individuals hope that hard work will pay off and small steps can lead to great rewards. She has spent a lot of time to develop skills that help her work with clients at a basic level without becoming desensitized to the complexities of the judicial system. She hopes to continue to have frank conversations with people from the bench.

Ms. Fannesbeck responded to questions from the committee regarding her education, possible prejudices toward fathers in custody and adoption cases, legal representation of minority populations, and the mental

health court. She said that there is nothing in her past that would be an embarrassment to herself, the bench, or the judiciary if she is confirmed.

Sen. Reid said that out of all the judicial candidates the committee has interviewed, Ms. Fannesbeck's testimony has impressed him the most in terms of her perspective on juvenile justice. He said that if she maintains that perspective, it would serve the bench well.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Ms. Fannesbeck be confirmed as a judge to the First District Juvenile 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 1:06 p.m.