

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE JUDICIAL CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, June 29, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Chair  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams  
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher  
Pres. Michael G. Waddoups

**Members Absent**

Sen. Karen Mayne

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Jerry D. Howe, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Joy L. Miller, 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 10:05 a.m. He explained the procedures of the meeting.

The Committee introduced themselves to the candidate, Mr. Todd Shaughnessy, and the audience. Mr. Shaughnessy introduced his family, friends, and colleagues.

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

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

**2. Interview of Mr. Todd Shaughnessy**

Mr. Shaughnessy was placed under oath by Mr. Howe. He provided a personal and professional background statement to the Committee. He praised his family and discussed the tremendous impact they have had, and continue to have, on his life. He responded to questions from the Committee concerning child custody, the death penalty, a citizen's right to bear arms, and the Legislature's right to define marriage by statute. Mr. Shaughnessy pointed out that taking on such a responsibility should be motivated by a genuine desire to serve others.

Sen. Hillyard discussed the rising cost for the legal system and challenged Mr. Shaughnessy to address the issue and to consider how to control the costs to the clients.

Pres. Waddoups asked Mr. Shaughnessy if there was anything in his background which, if it became publicly known, would be an embarrassment to the state or the judiciary. He answered there is not.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Mr. Todd Shaughnessy be confirmed as a judge on 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 11:05 a.m.