

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE JUDICIAL CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**
Monday, October 17, 2011 – 7:30 a.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher

Members Absent

Pres. Michael G. Waddoups

Staff Present:

Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Jerry D. Howe, Policy Analyst
Ms. Jennifer Christopherson, 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 7:36 a.m.

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

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to open the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. McAdams absent for the vote.

2. Interview of Ms. Elizabeth Hruby-Mills

The Committee introduced themselves to the candidate, Ms. Hruby-Mills, and the audience. Ms. Hruby-Mills introduced her family. She was placed under oath by Mr. Howe. She provided a personal and profession background statement to the Committee. She spoke about her childhood, family, education, and experience. She responded to questions from the Committee concerning equality, the role of Commissioners and District Court Judges, the death penalty, and child custody.

Sen. Hillyard asked Ms. Mills if there was anything in her background which, if it became publicly known, would be an embarrassment to the state or the judiciary. She answered there is not.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to close the meeting for matters of discussion with Ms. Hruby-Mills. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. McAdams absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to open the meeting to the public. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. McAdams absent for the vote.

Ms. Mills responded to questions from the Committee.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Ms. Elizabeth Hruby-Mills be confirmed as a judge for the Third District Court. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Interview of Mr. Ryan Harris

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to close the meeting for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of judicial candidate Mr. Ryan Harris. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to open the meeting to the public. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. McAdams absent for the vote.

Mr. Harris was placed under oath by Mr. Howe. He introduced his family and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to appear before them. He provided a personal and professional background statement. He talked about his family, education, personal values, professional experience and what he has learned from them. Mr. Harris responded to questions from the Committee concerning the role of the judiciary, his core beliefs, and the death penalty.

Sen. Hillyard asked Mr. Harris 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. Thatcher moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Mr. Ryan Harris be confirmed as a judge for the Third District Court. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Items / Adjourn

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

Chair Hillyard adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.