

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE JUDICIAL CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, December 15, 2015 – Noon – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Sen. Todd Weiler

Staff Present:

Mr. Jerry D. Howe, Managing Policy Analyst
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lucy W. Daynes, Legislative Assistant

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 12:09 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Weiler moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015, committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Sen. Mayne 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.

Chair Jenkins requested that all audience members leave the committee room for the closed portion of the meeting.

The committee met in closed session.

Chair Jenkins invited the audience back into the committee room.

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

Chair Jenkins noted that Mr. John Pearce was placed under oath by Mr. Howe while the committee was in closed session, and that the oath would remain in effect through the remainder of the meeting.

2. Interview of Mr. John Pearce

Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Mr. Pearce described his ancestry, upbringing, and understanding of justice. He emphasized the importance of a fair judicial process. He explained that as a judge on the Utah Court of Appeals he learned the importance of preparing for oral argument, writing clear and transparent decisions, and maintaining collegial relationships with fellow judges.

Mr. Pearce answered questions from the committee regarding public opinion, errant judicial conduct, and the judicial process.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Mr. John Pearce be confirmed as a justice in the Utah Supreme Court. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Items/Adjourn

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

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.