

(Draft – Awaiting Committee Approval)  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SENATE JUDICIARY CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**  
Friday, June 10, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Todd Weiler, Chair  
Sen. Luz Escamilla  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Jani Iwamoto  
Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher  
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Gregg A. Girvan, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Lucy 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Weiler called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Chair Weiler introduced the purpose of the committee and stated that it is considering appointees to the Indigent Defense Commission.

**2. Interview of Appointees**

Mr. Girvan outlined the qualifications for membership on the Indigent Defense Commission as found in Utah Code Section 77-32-802.

Justice Michael D. Zimmerman, partner, Zimmerman Jones Booher, summarized his professional experience in the legal field, including practice as a defense attorney and as a Justice on the Utah Supreme Court.

Ms. Mary Corporon, attorney, Christensen & Jensen, said that her career in the legal field is focused on defense. She highlighted her service on the Utah Criminal Justice Act Panel as well as experience representing Salt Lake Legal Defenders conflict cases and providing indigent defense in cases with the option of the death penalty.

Ms. Nicole Cottle, General Counsel, West Valley City, noted that her first experience with indigent defense was during her time in law school. She stated that indigent defense is a concern for West Valley City as the city is second only to Salt Lake City in the number of indigent defense cases carried annually.

The candidates answered questions from the committee regarding their qualifications and experiences with indigent defense.

Mr. Patrick Anderson, Director, Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, summarized his experience in criminal defense and described the structure of the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association.

Mr. Ryan Loose, City Attorney, South Jordan, said that the case load in South Jordan is growing rapidly and stated the concern that indigent defense attorneys are not able to spend enough time on each case.

Mr. David Wilson, Chief Civil Deputy Attorney, Civil Division, Weber County, said that he has worked with public defenders to develop contracts for indigent defense. He noted that most of the felony cases in Weber County involve indigent defense.

The appointees answered questions from the committee regarding the current indigent defense system and allocation of resources for indigent defense.

The committee discussed issues related to indigent defense and the criminal justice system.

Chair Weiler asked Sen. Hillyard to assume the chair.

Sen. Weiler stated that his prior involvement with indigent defense has been serving on the Indigent Defense Taskforce formed by the Judicial Council prior to the creation of the Indigent Defense Commission.

Sen. Weiler answered questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Sen. Thatcher moved to favorably recommend Sen. Weiler, Justice Zimmerman, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Corporon, Ms. Cottle, Mr. Loose, and Mr. Wilson to the full Senate for confirmation to the Indigent Defense Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Other Items/Adjourn**

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

Chair Hillyard adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.