

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES AND TENURE
515 FIFTH STREET, N.W. BUILDING A, ROOM 246
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
(202) 727-1363

September 11, 2012

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Evaluation of the Honorable John M. Campbell

Dear Mr. President:

The fifteen-year term of the Honorable John M. Campbell, an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, expires on November 11, 2012. He is seeking reappointment to another term.

Pursuant to Section 433(c) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, 87 Stat. 744, as amended by the District of Columbia Judicial Efficiency and Improvement Act of 1986, P.L. 99-573, 100 Stat. 3228, the District of Columbia Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure (“the Commission”) hereby submits this evaluation of Judge Campbell’s performance during his present term of office and his fitness for reappointment. Section 433(c) provides:

Not less than six months prior to the expiration of his term of office, any judge of the District of Columbia courts may file with the Tenure Commission a declaration of candidacy for reappointment. If a declaration is not so filed by any judge, a vacancy shall result from the expiration of his term of office and shall be filled by appointment as provided in subsections (a) and (b). If a declaration is so filed, the Tenure Commission shall, not less than sixty days prior to the expiration of the declaring candidate’s term of office, prepare and submit to the President a written evaluation of the declaring candidate’s performance during his present term of office and his fitness for reappointment to

another term. If the Tenure Commission determines the declaring candidate to be well qualified for reappointment to another term, then the term of such declaring candidate shall be automatically extended for another full term, subject to the mandatory retirement, suspension, or removal. If the Tenure Commission determines the declaring candidate to be qualified for reappointment to another term, then the President may nominate such candidate, in which case the President shall submit to the Senate for advice and consent the renomination of the declaring candidate as judge. If the President determines not to so nominate such declaring candidate, he shall nominate another candidate for such position only in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) and (b). If the Tenure Commission determines the declaring candidate to be unqualified for reappointment to another term, then the President shall not submit to the Senate for advice and consent the renomination of the declaring candidate as judge and such judge shall not be eligible for reappointment or appointment as a judge of a District of Columbia court.

The Commission reserves the term “well qualified” for those judges whose work product, legal scholarship, dedication, efficiency, and demeanor are exceptional on the bench, and the candidate’s performance consistently reflects credit on the judicial system. The Commission will determine a judge is “qualified” if he or she satisfactorily performs his or her assigned duties or whose strong positive attributes are materially offset, but not overborne, by negative traits. A finding of “unqualified” means the Commission has found the judge to be unfit for judicial service.

Judge Campbell filed his timely declaration of candidacy for reappointment with the Commission on March 26, 2012. In evaluating Judge Campbell’s qualifications for reappointment, the Commission carefully reviewed the extensive written statement Judge Campbell submitted describing his services on the Court. This statement set forth the significant aspects of his judicial, professional, and community activities during the past

15 years. The Commission also reviewed a selection of judicial opinions that Judge Campbell has authored over the last 15 years. Judge Campbell met personally with the Commission on July 11, 2012, to discuss his record, as well as information the Commission had received during the course of its evaluation from Court personnel and members of the D.C. Bar, who were familiar with his performance. The Commission also reviewed a detailed, confidential statement from Judge Campbell's physician attesting to his excellent health and the absence of any medical reason why he cannot continue to perform his judicial duties.

The Commission also reviewed Judge Campbell's time reports and annual financial statements, which are required to be filed by every judge.

Finally, the Commission met with Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield, who recommended Judge Campbell's reappointment, and reported that he has been an extremely productive member of the Superior Court bench, has an excellent reputation with the Bar and among his colleagues, and has been heavily involved in leadership positions at the Court.

At this time, Judge Campbell is the Deputy Presiding Judge of the Probate and Tax Division. This is an important position and one which has great impact on the residents of the District of Columbia. Judge Campbell has done an outstanding job in this position. Upon taking this position, Judge Campbell immediately began to use it to make the Court system more efficient and to provide greater services to the residents of the District of

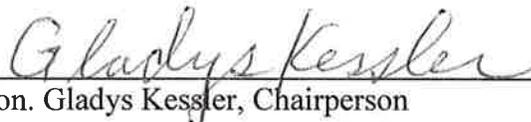
Columbia, including, for example, by strengthening the Guardianship Assistance Program, expanding the ranks of the Court's fiduciary personnel, and holding numerous community outreach meetings to help the citizens of the District of Columbia become better informed about issues concerning wills, powers of attorney, and guardianships. In addition to his current position, Judge Campbell has served on the Family Court, in the Criminal Division, and in the Civil Division. Over the past 15 years, Judge Campbell has presided over hundreds of trials and countless evidentiary hearings. He has also written a number of opinions on significant legal issues.

In addition, Judge Campbell has worked extremely efficiently with both his judicial colleagues and Court staff on a variety of other matters important to the Court. For example, he currently serves as the Chair of the Superior Court Rules Committee, on which he is in charge of overseeing the amendment and promulgation of all the rules governing the operations of all Divisions of the Superior Court. He also serves as one of two Superior Court members of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct, commonly known as the Ethics Committee. He also was an integral member of the Criminal Rules Advisory Subcommittee-Federal Rules, which, during his tenure, completed a comprehensive revision of the Superior Court's Rules of Criminal Procedure. Finally, Judge Campbell has been very active in the community, teaching courses at George Washington University Law School, conducting domestic violence training for high school students, and performing numerous other services for the District of Columbia community.

Judge Campbell, by virtue of his energy, integrity, leadership skills, legal scholarship, and patient and evenhanded demeanor, clearly deserves the term “well qualified” for the exceptional service he has provided the citizens of the District of Columbia as a Superior Court Judge. His performance is a credit to our judicial system and of great benefit to the District of Columbia community. For all these reasons, the Commission finds Judge Campbell well qualified for reappointment and his term shall be automatically extended for a full term of fifteen years from November 11, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

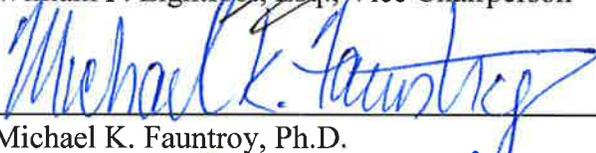
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES AND TENURE



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Michael deVere Williams, MD FACS

cc: The Honorable John M. Campbell