



# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

*Office of the Governor*



## EXECUTIVE ORDER 1384

**WHEREAS**, the maintenance of a fair and impartial judiciary is essential to the protection of the rights and freedoms of the citizens of the State of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Mississippi, the Governor is authorized to fill, by appointment, certain vacancies in judicial office; and

**WHEREAS**, it is my firm belief that only the most qualified, conscientious, dedicated and reputable persons available should be appointed to serve the public as judicial officers:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, under and by virtue of the Constitution and laws of this state, do hereby promulgate this executive order, effective immediately.

There is hereby created and established an advisory council to be known as the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee to review all applications for judicial appointments and shall recommend to the Governor, in accordance with this executive order, and such rules of procedure developed by the committee, persons qualified and eligible to fill vacancies created by death, resignation, or removal from office in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Chancery and Circuit Courts, and the County Courts of the State of Mississippi.

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee shall consist of thirty-one (31) members to be appointed as follows:

- A. The Governor shall appoint ten (10) resident attorneys from each of the Supreme Court districts of the State of Mississippi. The Governor shall also appoint a Chairman of the Committee who may reside in any Supreme Court District. Each ten member group will function as a Subcommittee independently of the other District subcommittees. The Chairman of the Committee will serve as Chairman of each Subcommittee.
- B. Appointments made by the Governor shall be for a term of two (2) years. Any member shall be eligible for reappointment. No person serving on the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee shall be eligible for an appointment to judicial office while serving on the Committee.

Within a reasonable time after a request by the Governor, the appropriate Subcommittee shall evaluate and classify, by majority vote of its membership, proposed nominees as "fully qualified" or "not fully qualified."

Where a vacancy exists on the Court of Appeals from a Congressional District lying within more than one Supreme Court District, the Chairman may expand the District subcommittee to include all members residing in the Congressional District.

The Advisory Committee shall certify and recommend to the Governor for appointment only those nominees deemed "fully qualified," in alphabetical order. If any of these persons shall be rejected by the Governor or shall notify the Governor of their unwillingness or inability to accept appointment, the Governor may request the Advisory Committee to submit additional recommendations.

With the approval of the Governor, the Committee shall adopt such operating rules, forms and notices as it may deem necessary to properly implement this order. All applications and information received from or concerning recommendations and all proceedings of the Advisory Committee shall be held strictly confidential.

Nothing contained herein is intended to in any way impair or delegate the constitutional and statutory duties or prerogatives of the Governor in the filling of vacancies of judicial office. The

right to reject any or all of the nominees so selected and recommended is reserved unto the Governor.

Any executive orders relating to the subject matter hereof and contrary hereto are hereby superseded by this order.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, the 25th day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.  
SECRETARY OF STATE