

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
*Governor*



**KARYN POLITO**  
*Lt. Governor*

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## **Governor Baker Re-Opens Supreme Judicial Court Nominating Process**

*Nominating Commission to recruit and vet applicants for two 2017 SJC vacancies*

**BOSTON** – Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced that the Supreme Judicial Court Nominating Commission (SJC-NC) will begin recruiting and screening applicants for the two upcoming vacancies on the Commonwealth's highest court expected next year with the retirements of Justice Margot Botsford in March and Justice Geraldine Hines later in the year.

The [12-member SJC-NC](#) was created earlier this year to consider applicants for an unprecedented number of vacancies on the Commonwealth's highest court. In June, Governor Baker [nominated three](#) Superior Court Justices to the SJC based on the first round of recommendations from the SJC-NC. Associate Justices Frank Gaziano, David Lowy and Kimberly Budd were [all unanimously confirmed](#) by the Governor's Council and sworn in for the SJC's sitting last month.

"The Supreme Judicial Court has a distinguished history as one of the nation's leading appellate courts, a tribute to the intellect and temperament of its justices," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "We were pleased our first round of nominations resulted in the unanimous confirmation of Associate Justices Gaziano, Lowy and Budd, all three of whom are extremely experienced, hardworking and well-versed in the law. We look forward to a great pool of qualified applicants who have the potential to compliment and expand upon the talent of the current court."

“We are committed to finding candidates with a diverse range of experiences from across the Commonwealth for these expected vacancies, and encourage everyone to play a role in recruiting qualified applicants for consideration,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** “With the recent sitting of Justices Gaziano, Lowy and Budd alongside their colleagues, we welcome applicants with the breadth of experience and sense of justice they have demonstrated throughout their careers and service to the Commonwealth’s legal system.”

The SJC-NC seeks applicants who possess the temperament, ability and integrity to freely, impartially and independently interpret the laws and administer justice, and to work collaboratively with their colleagues in crafting opinions and administering the judicial branch of government. It also hopes to recruit applicants who represent not only the geographically diverse parts of the Commonwealth, but also the diversity of our citizens. Applications are available on the [JNC's website](#) and will be open until November 21st.

The 21-member Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), established in February 2015, will continue to screen candidates for the Massachusetts Appeals Courts and trial courts.

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