

FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DUKAKIS

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BOSTON--The Judicial Nominating Commission announced today it will hold a public hearing on April 2 regarding the vacancy in Taunton District Court caused by the death of Justice Gordon M. Owen.

The Commission, established in January by Governor Michael Dukakis, screens candidates for all judicial appointments. The Governor must appoint new judges and court clerks from lists of recommended candidates.

At the hearing--the Commission's first since its 11 members were appointed February 13--views will be solicited on the needs of Taunton District Court and the particular qualifications or skills the new judge should possess.

The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 at the Joseph E. Martin Middle School, 131 Caswell Street, E. Taunton. The court's jurisdiction includes the towns of Berkley, Dighton, Easton, Raynham, Rehobeth, Seekonk and Taunton.

The public hearings, required under the executive order establishing the J.N.C., "will be an integral part of our process of recommending qualified candidates to the Governor to find a successor to Justice Gordon," said Raymond J. Kenney Jr., chairperson.

Kenney urged interested citizens from throughout the court's jurisdiction to make their views known at the public hearing. But he noted that the Commission requires that comments about particular individuals be submitted only in writing to the Judicial Nominating Commission, P.O. Box 1, Boston, 02133.

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NOTE: News media coverage of the public hearing is welcomed by the J.N.C.