

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 15-01**

Re-establishment of the Probate Fiduciary Panel

WHEREAS, by Administrative Order 04-06, issued on April 28, 2004, the Probate Fiduciary Panel was established as a permanent, standing panel of attorneys from which judicial officers of the Superior Court select attorneys for appointment in any capacity in guardianship, conservatorship, and all other Probate Division proceedings; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the administration of justice that the Court establish a regular and ongoing process for re-establishing the Probate Fiduciary Panel on a predictable schedule and to otherwise establish a process to accept, at any time, applications from attorneys who wish to become a member of the Probate Fiduciary Panel during the time between the periodic re-establishment of the Panel;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is, by the Court,

ORDERED, that the Court does hereby re-establish the standing panel of attorneys for the Probate Fiduciary Panel in 2015; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Court shall re-establish the standing panel of attorneys for the Probate Fiduciary Panel every four (4) years hereafter; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Presiding Judge of the Probate Division shall accept applications to the Probate Fiduciary Panel from qualified attorneys, including applications from current Fiduciary Panel members, and from individuals not currently included on the Probate Fiduciary Panel, and make recommendations to the Chief Judge as hereafter described; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Presiding Judge of the Probate Division shall disseminate all completed applications to the Probate Panel Implementation Committee (the "Committee"), which shall review the applications to the Probate Fiduciary Panel from attorneys, including applications from attorneys not currently included on the Probate Fiduciary Panel; and it is further

ORDERED, that, after the Committee has reviewed all of the applications and received any comments by the Probate Panel Advisory Committee, consisting of members of the Probate Education Committee, the Committee shall recommend to the Presiding Judge of the Probate Division those attorney applicants it deems well-qualified to become Panel members consistent with the Court's need for attorneys; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Committee shall, before recommending that any attorney become a member of the Panel, consider and decide (a) whether the individual is qualified for the Probate

Fiduciary Panel, and (b) the Court's need for additional attorney(s) required to provide quality representation and services; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Committee may also recommend an attorney with excellent credentials but less Superior Court experience, if

1. The individual has a demonstrated interest in representing persons in need of fiduciary assistance and in the subject matter of guardianships and conservatorships; and
2. The individual is willing to serve as a Provisional Member of the Probate Fiduciary Panel for one year, at which time the Committee shall determine whether the attorney is qualified for full panel membership; and it is further

ORDERED, that to be considered for appointment to the Probate Fiduciary Panel, attorney applicants must submit a completed application, including all materials required by the application; and it is further

ORDERED, that, for prospective new members of the Probate Fiduciary Panel, prior to being eligible to accept new case assignments as a member of the Probate Fiduciary Panel, the prospective new member must complete the educational program presented by the Probate Education Committee; and it is further

ORDERED, that no individual will be considered for the Probate Fiduciary Panel unless he or she has the following qualifications:

1. An office within the Washington Metropolitan Area;
2. A commitment to complete six hours of Fiduciary Credits towards Fiduciary Panel Education Requirements each year as may be required by the Court;
3. A commitment to comply with all applicable Administrative Orders setting an annual cap on attorney compensation for appointed representation; and
4. A commitment to comply with Superior Court Attorney Practice Standards; and it is further

ORDERED, that the schedule for the initial re-establishment of the Probate Fiduciary Panel shall be as follows:

1. Acceptance of Applications: Friday, February 20, 2015 – Friday, March 20, 2015
2. Committee's Recommendations to Chief Judge: June 26, 2015
3. Re-Establishment of Panel: July 31, 2015; and it is further

ORDERED, that between periods of re-establishment, the Presiding Judge of the Probate Division shall accept, at any time, applications to the Probate Fiduciary Panel from qualified attorneys, and make recommendations to the Chief Judge to add such qualified individuals to the Probate Fiduciary Panel as the Committee deems appropriate in accordance with the needs of the Court; and it is further

ORDERED, that attorneys not selected for the Probate Fiduciary Panel may not re-apply for selection to the Probate Fiduciary Panel for a period of one (1) year from the date on which notification of non-selection was sent to the applicant; and it is further

ORDERED, that, for those applications that are submitted and considered between the times of re-establishment of the Probate Fiduciary Panel, the Court reserves the right to act expeditiously with regard to any application, or to defer action with regard to the application, as the Court sees fit.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT.

February 12, 2015

/s/

Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge

Copies to:

Judges
Senior Judges
Magistrate Judges
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Court
Division Directors
Library
Daily Washington Law Reporter
District of Columbia Bar Webmaster
Register of Wills

NOTICE

By Administrative Order 15-01, the Court announces that the Probate Fiduciary Panel will be re-established in 2015. Attorneys who are members of the District of Columbia Bar may submit applications to become a member of the Probate Fiduciary Panel beginning February 20, 2015. The deadline for applications is March 20, 2015. All applications must be submitted in accordance with the applicable instructions.

Because the Court is re-establishing the standing panel of attorneys for the Probate Fiduciary Panel, attorneys who are currently members of the Probate Fiduciary Panel must submit an application if they wish to remain a panel member and be eligible for new court appointments after the date of this order.

Once attorneys are selected for the new Probate Fiduciary Panel, the Court will undertake a process of re-establishing the standing panel of attorneys for the Probate Fiduciary Panel every four years. In addition, in those interim periods between re-establishment of the Probate Fiduciary Panel, the Court will allow qualified attorneys to submit applications to become panel members at any time.

The Court is undertaking these changes to fulfill its commitment to better ensure proper oversight for those in need of assistance with their personal care and the administration of and accounting for funds in intervention and other Probate Division proceedings. Any inquiries about the Probate Fiduciary Panel application process should be made to:

Judge Erik P. Christian
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