

**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

March 24, 2010

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

**Re: Evaluation of the Honorable Inez Smith Reid**

Dear Mr. President:

The term of Inez Smith Reid, an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, expires on May 25, 2010. Judge Reid is completing a fifteen year term.

On October 9, 2009, Judge Reid filed a declaration of candidacy with the District of Columbia Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure ("Commission") stating her desire to be reappointed in her capacity as an Associate Judge. The Commission hereby submits this evaluation of Judge Reid's performance during her present term of office and her fitness for reappointment to another term, pursuant to Section 433(c) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, P.L. 93-198, 87 Stat. 774 ("The Home Rule Act"), as amended by the District of Columbia Judicial Efficiency and Improvement Act of 1986, P.L. 99-573, 100 Stat. 3228. Section 433(c) provides as follows:

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 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 subsections (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. To be "qualified," a judge must at least satisfactorily perform his or her assigned duties or be one whose strong attributes are materially offset, but not overborne by negative traits. "Unqualified" signifies that the judge is unfit for judicial service.

In evaluating Judge Reid's qualifications for reappointment, the Commission has carefully reviewed her record as a sitting judge. With her declaration of candidacy Judge Reid provided the Commission with a statement of her service on the Court. The statement reviewed the significant aspects of her judicial activities and accomplishments. She met with the Commission on March 10, 2010, to discuss her record and the information the Commission had received during the course of its evaluation. The Commission also met with Chief Judge Eric Washington, who furnished additional information about Judge Reid's judicial performance, qualifications, and numerous contributions to the Court. In addition, members of the Commission have interviewed attorneys who appear frequently before Judge Reid as well as members of the Court's staff. As part of its evaluation, the Commission also reviewed its own records regarding the Judge. Finally, the Commission considered the medical report from Judge Reid's personal physician, who advised the Commission that Judge Reid is in good health.

During her term Judge Reid authored a substantial number of panel opinions of the Court. She also has participated actively and constructively in writing comments on other opinions drafted by other panels of the Court, which are circulated only to the other judges. It is evident from our review that Judge Reid's opinions are well written and detailed and she takes very seriously the requirement that the Court explain its

reasoning clearly and thoroughly without excess verbiage. Judge Reid has also managed to handle her heavy docket in a timely and efficient manner.

Attorneys who appear frequently before the Court of Appeals and whom we interviewed uniformly commend Judge Reid's preparation for oral argument, mastery of the facts of the case being argued, incisive questions, unfailing fairness, and courtesy to advocates. Our interviews with Court of Appeals staff reveal that Judge Reid treats all members of the staff with the utmost courteousness and respect. Many of those interviewed, attorneys and Court staff alike, opined that Judge Reid is amongst the best of the Court's judges. These individuals described her as "hardworking," "conscientious," "fair," a "credit to the Court," always "well prepared for argument," "cordial and pleasant to all parties," and as having a "good judicial temperament."

Judge Reid has served diligently and ably on several Court committees. She has been particularly active in the promotion of equal access to the District of Columbia courts. Since 1996, Judge Reid has chaired the District of Columbia Courts' Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the D.C. Courts. She also was instrumental in founding, and now serves as the Vice Chair of, the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission. Judge Reid is also a member of Rules Committee of the D.C. Court of Appeals, and has served as an Adjunct Professor and Constitutional Law Scholar at American University.

In this evaluation report the Commission has discussed many, but certainly not all of the contributions Judge Reid has made to the Court of Appeals over the past 15 years. She has been exemplary not only in the performance of her adjudicatory duties, but also in fulfilling her administrative responsibilities. Judge Reid continues to be a valuable asset to the Court.

For the foregoing compelling reasons, the Commission finds that Judge Reid's outstanding service merits automatic reappointment to the Court of Appeals bench. We therefore determine Judge Inez Smith Reid to be well qualified for reappointment, which is the highest category to which this Commission is statutorily empowered to place a judge, and her term shall be automatically extended from May 25, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON  
JUDICIAL DISABILITIES AND TENURE

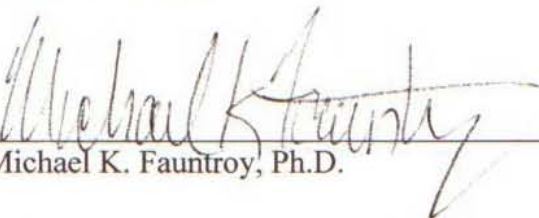
  
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Hon. Gladys Kessler, Chairperson

  
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William P. Lightfoot, Esq., Vice Chairperson

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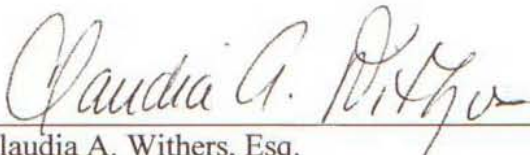
Report on Judge Reid

  
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cc: The Honorable Inez Smith Reid