

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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Chief Justice to Select New G.A.B. Candidate Committee

MADISON, WI – Four Wisconsin Court of Appeals judges will be selected Thursday, February 5, to serve on the Government Accountability Candidate Committee.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abramson will conduct the random drawing at 9:45 a.m. Thursday, February 5, prior to oral arguments in the Supreme Court Hearing Room at the Capitol. As required by state law, all seven justices must be present for the drawing.

The candidate committee is responsible for reviewing applications by former state judges to serve as members of the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.), and must unanimously agree on each nominee. For each vacancy, the committee forwards at least two names to the Governor. The Governor's appointment to the G.A.B. must be confirmed with the advice and consent of the State Senate by a two-thirds vote.

This spring, the candidate committee will review applications to fill the seat of Judge Thomas H. Barland of Eau Claire, whose six-year term expires in May. Judge Barland, who served as Board Chair in 2011 and 2014, will not seek reappointment for another term.

The G.A.B. is made up of six members who are all former state judges and who must be non-partisan, which means they may not be a member of a political party or make political donations for a year prior to appointment and during their service. Members serve staggered, six-year terms. The agency's nonpartisan structure, and the process for selecting its board members, is unique in the United States.

The new candidate committee begins its two-year term on March 1, 2015. The outgoing candidate committee was comprised of Judge Ralph Adam Fine of District I in Milwaukee (who passed away in early December 2014), Judge Paul F. Reilly of District II in Waukesha, Deputy Chief and Presiding Judge Michael W. Hoover of District III in Wausau, and Presiding Judge Paul Lundsten of District IV in Madison.

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The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.