



PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUALIFICATION COMMISSION

State of Georgia

Open Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 4:00 pm Walton County Government Bldg
Drive 303 Hammond

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Investigative Panel of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualification Commission of the State of Georgia was held at the Walton County Government Building at 303 Hammond Drive, in Walton, GA. District Attorney Randy McGinley Chaired the meeting and Ms. Baucum served as Recording Secretary.

Investigative Panel

Members Present:

District Attorney Randy McGinley, Chairman
Vice Chairman Joey Cowart
Judge John Ott, Member
Mr. Jason Saliba, Member
Mr. Steve Scheer, Member

PAQC Staff Members

Present:

Mr. Ian Heap, Executive Director
Ms. Barbara Baucum, Executive Assistant
Mr. Greg Blackmon, Investigator

Chairman's Comments:

Chairman Randy McGinley called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum of the Panel was present.

A motion to adopt the open meeting minutes from the regular September 24th, 2024, Investigative Panel meeting passed unanimously.

Randy McGinley commented that being the President of the DA Association would cause a conflict if he has to go to the Capitol on behalf of that body and that he would recuse himself from any PAQC voting if that should occur.

Randy McGinley said spoke to Courtney Veal, the JQC Director and found out that no panel members attend legislative sessions, but they do go to the budget hearings.

Director's Report:

Mr. Ian Heap suggested that regular meeting dates be posted on the PAQC website, as mentioned in the Open Meetings Act of Georgia. It was also determined that regular meetings should be every other month unless the caseload increases.

Mr. Heap reported on his meetings with the Senate and the House Budget Analysts and that both were surprised at the 10% De minimis fee being charged by the Prosecuting Attorney's Council (PAC) to provide administrative services for the PAQC. Both said that it was too high.

Mr. Heap then discussed upcoming legislation involving two bills. The first bill involves retirement benefits for the PAQC Executive Director coming from Judicial vs State. This would be a recruiting factor for future Directors, who would most probably be former DAs. It's a two-year bill for it to be enacted if passed. The second bill involves getting subpoena and warrant authority as well as moving the PAQC to a different pass-through agency to handle the administrative functions of the PAQC. Mr. Heap said he was meeting with Representative Gullet of the sub-committee on House Appropriations on Friday to discuss the upcoming legislation. Lt Gov Brad Vaughn set up the meeting. Mr. Heap sent the drafts to JQC Director Courtney Veal to see if she wanted that agency to be included in the legislation.

Mr. Heap asked the IP Commissioners if the PAQC has authority with an acting District Attorney or Solicitor General. It was determined that statutorily, it didn't appear the PAQC has authority as acting DAs or SGs are not elected. If a DA is out of circuit, then the Chief ADA is the acting DA, and it would not be appropriate for that person in their capacity. Mr. Heap mentioned he could write an opinion and send it to the Hearing Panel for their input.

Following was a discussion on Conflict Attorneys. Mr. Heap said it was up to the IP Commissioners to select a Conflict Attorney. He mentioned that a draft of a Conflict Attorney Independent Contractor was uploaded to the IP SharePoint site for their use or consideration.

There was then a discussion on Giglio cases in general and how they should be considered. It was agreed that they should be looked at on a case-by-case basis

At this time (5 pm) a motion was made by Mr. Steve Scheer to go into Executive Session, which was seconded by Mr. Jason Saliba. Executive Session ended at 6:02 pm.

Old Business: Judge Simms from the Hearing Panel had asked Mr. McGinley if there was any new information about the ongoing lawsuit against the PAQC. Mr. McGinley said he would ask Chuck Boring for an update.

There being no further old or new business for discussion, Mr. Scheer made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Saliba. The Open Meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Investigative Panel of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualification Commission.