

24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar  
24H Judicial District Bar  
October 4, 2023

TO: Members of the Bar, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and 24H Judicial District

FROM: Gerald L. Walden, Jr. President of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar and  
Ashley M. Mills, President of the 24H Judicial District Bar

RE: Notice of Special Joint Meeting for the Selection of Nominees for the  
office of Public Defender for the 18<sup>th</sup> Defender District pursuant to  
standing regulations for nominations of candidates for the Office of Public  
Defender for the 18<sup>th</sup> Defender District on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

**Notice:** Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §7A-498.7(b) and the Bylaws of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 24H Judicial District Bars, notice hereby is given that a **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> and 24H JUDICIAL DISTRICT BARS** will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. at the String and Splinter Club, 305 W. High Avenue, High Point, NC, for the purpose of selecting nominees for the office of Public Defender for the 18<sup>th</sup> Defender District, whose term expires November 30, 2023 and the office is currently filled by Public Defender John Nieman.

Member check-in and distribution of ballots will begin at 3:00 p.m.

**Candidates/Applicants:** Any member of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar or the 24H Judicial District Bar who wishes to be a candidate for the office of public defender and who is a resident in either district must notify us of her or his intention in writing, **no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 14, 2023, which is ten (10) days from the date of this notice.** Notification shall state that he or she is duly authorized to practice law in the 24<sup>th</sup> and 24H Judicial District Bars and that his or her residence address is located within either district. Notification should be delivered or mailed to the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar president Gerald Walden, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar, P.O. Box 1825, Greensboro, NC 27402, or e-mailed to [geraldwalden@thefreshmarket.net](mailto:geraldwalden@thefreshmarket.net), **AND** delivered or mailed to the 24H Judicial District Bar president Ashley Mills, McPherson & Mills, PLLC, 405 W. Westwood Avenue, High Point, NC 27262, or e-mailed to [ashley@scottlawoffices.net](mailto:ashley@scottlawoffices.net). (If you send notice by e-mail, please request confirmation that the e-mail is received.)

Persons desiring to be considered for election are requested to submit a statement of personal and professional information concerning the applicant's credentials. Such information will be posted at the website of the Greensboro Bar Association at [www.greensborobar.org](http://www.greensborobar.org) and the High Point Bar Association at [www.highpointbarassociation.com](http://www.highpointbarassociation.com) several days prior to the election meeting to assist members of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 24H Judicial District Bars to evaluate candidates. Participation by applicants in this evaluation is voluntary.

**Speeches by Candidates:** Beginning at approximately 3:30 p.m., each candidate for public defender will be allowed three minutes to address the members present. To accommodate our members' varying schedules, voting will be allowed before, during,

and following the speeches. We encourage you, however, to listen to the presentations of the candidates.

**Voting:** Voting shall be limited to those attorneys licensed to practice in North Carolina who are in attendance at the joint meeting and are members and **residents in good standing** in either the 24th Judicial District Bar or the 24H Judicial District Bar. **An attorney is not authorized to vote if he or she is merely practicing but not residing in either district.**<sup>1</sup> Members of districts 24 and 24H who reside outside the districts are encouraged to attend but not entitled to vote. The ballots shall be counted immediately after the completion of the speeches. Proxy voting is prohibited.

Each voting member of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 24H Judicial District Bars shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for the public defender office by secret written ballot. Ballots marked for more than one candidate shall be disqualified. Cumulative voting is prohibited.<sup>2</sup> The two or three candidates (the exact number of which will be determined by the voting members at the beginning of the meeting) who receive the highest number of votes cast shall be the nominees for the public defender office. If an insufficient number of candidates had earlier submitted a written nomination, additional candidates may be nominated from the floor from any attorney authorized to vote.

**Results of the Elections:** The results of the election shall be announced at the meeting. Following the meeting, we will transmit to the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Guilford County the names of the applicable number of candidates receiving the most votes for the office of Public Defender along with the number of votes for each. The entire 24th Judicial District Bar and the 24H Judicial District Bar will be notified by e-mail of the results of the election, and the results will be listed on the Greensboro Bar Association web site, [www.greensborobar.org](http://www.greensborobar.org) and the High Point Bar Association at [www.highpointbarassociation.com](http://www.highpointbarassociation.com) and in the newsletters of the Greensboro Bar Association and High Point Bar Association.

Please attend and vote at this important joint election meeting.

Thank you.

Gerald L. Walden, Jr.  
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405 W. Westwood Avenue  
High Point, NC 27262  
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<sup>1</sup> A current membership roster will be obtained from the North Carolina State Bar prior to the meeting. If you recently transferred to this district, please contact the North Carolina State Bar to make sure your information is current.

<sup>2</sup> Cumulative voting is where a member casts more than one vote for one candidate.