

2024 NCBJ Elections Committee  
Annual Report  
By: Hon. Janet S Baer (NDIL)

The 2024 Elections Committee consisted of the following judges: Peter Cary (1<sup>st</sup> Cir); Lisa Beckerman (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir.); Christine Gravelle ( 3<sup>rd</sup> Cir), Maria Chavez-Ruark (4<sup>th</sup> Cir); Brenda Rhoades (5<sup>th</sup> Cir); John Hoffman (6<sup>th</sup> Cir); Dennis Dow (8<sup>th</sup> Cir); August Landis (9<sup>th</sup> Cir); Robert Jacobvitz (10<sup>th</sup> Cir); and Clifton Jessup (11<sup>th</sup> Cir). It was chaired by Jan Baer (7<sup>th</sup> Cir), the President-Elect. In the first part of 2024, the Committee substantially completed its very successful process to obtain newly elected officer and board members for the period beginning September 2024.

Pursuant to the NCBJ By-Laws, on October 26, 2023, the Committee sent out its initial Elections Procedures notice to the NCBJ Membership. The notice gave Active Members until November 30, 2023, to nominate eligible judges for the open officer and board positions. As a result of that process, many excellent candidates were nominated for all open positions.

On December 15, 2023, the Committee met for the first time via Zoom to discuss the candidates. At that meeting, all of the candidates were discussed in detail and as a result of those discussions, various issues were raised that required some follow up. The necessary follow up was done and reported to the Committee and the Committee then met again via Zoom on January 16, 2024. At the January 16, 2024, meeting, the Committee again discussed each candidate for each position and ultimately decided to recommend to the Membership one applicant for each position. The Committee also discussed communicating with those candidates not selected to see if they wished to participate in a contested election or would prefer to remove their applications for this year.

On January 19, 2024, the Committee published its Report of the Elections Committee to the Membership. That report contained the recommendations of the Committee for all of the open positions. The report also provided that Members could make any additional nominations no later than February 15, 2024. No additional nominations were made.

On February 22, 2024, the Committee published to the Members its Ballot for Officers and Governors for 2024-2025 and indicated that the Members should cast their ballots for the nominees no later than March 14, 2024. Approximately 100 ballots were cast. The ballots indicated unanimous support for the recommended candidates.

On April 3, 2024, the Chair submitted to the President and Members, the Certificate of Election of Officers, and Governors of the NCBJ for 2024-2025. Pursuant to that Certification and the election process, the following recommended candidates were elected to the open officer and board positions:

President-Elect – Paul Black (W.D. Virginia)  
Secretary – Sheri Bluebond (C.D. California)  
Treasurer – Catherine Furay (W.D. Wisconsin)  
At Large Governors – Elizabeth Gunn (Washington, DC) and Scott Clarkson (C.D. California)

Circuit Governors:

1<sup>st</sup> Circuit – Edward Godoy (Puerto Rico)  
7<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Thomas Lynch (N.D. Illinois)

The work of the 2024 Elections Committee is completed and upon appointment of new members to replace certain of the Committee's members whose terms have concluded, the 2025 Elections Committee will commence its work under its new chair, Judge Paul Black (W. D. Virginia).

Janet S Baer  
Elections Committee Chair  
7/1/24