

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

The Senate was called to order at 1:51 o'clock p.m.,
the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Well good afternoon everyone and we would now like
to call our Senate to order and I'm going to
introduce Tim Kehoe, our Senate Chaplain, for our
prayer.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Before we begin with
the prayer, I just want to make sure that for
purposes of our notations that we are in a September
29th special session.

THE CHAIR:

And, Senator, yes, indeed, we are in the September 29th session, sir. So now we will go to Tim Kehoe for our prayer.

ACTING CHAPLAIN TIMOTHY KEHOE:

We ask for your patience to understand those who disagree with us, sensitivity to the needs of others, and prudence to make decisions which work toward the common good.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir, and I'd like to invite Senator Kissel to please join us on the dais and lead the Pledge of Allegiance, please?

SENATOR KISSEL (4TH):

(ALL) I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Senator. And now I would like to recognize Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, does the Clerk have any business on his desk?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Yes. The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 1, dated Thursday, October 1, 2020.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move that all items on Senate Agenda No. 1 dated Thursday, October 1, 2020, be acted upon as indicated, and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and the Transcript.

THE CHAIR:

And so noted. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Senate stand at east for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

And the Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if I can put on our go list from Senate Agenda No. 1, House Joint Resolution 204, House Joint Resolution 205, House Joint Resolution 206, and House Joint Resolution 207, in that order, please. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Resolution No. 204, A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE E. KELLER OF HARTFORD TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Emergency Certified Resolution in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. This is Judge Christine Keller who graduated Smith College in 1974, and the University of Connecticut Law School in 1977. In 2013, she was nominated by former Governor Malloy to be a judge of the appellate court, and she was approved in March of the same year. She was put up this year by the current Governor, Ned Lamont. She comes to us through a strong vote out of the Judiciary Committee, and I would urge acceptance and adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Senator Kissel, good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Good afternoon, Lieutenant Governor. I stand in strong support of the Honorable Christine Keller as well. I think she'll make an excellent Justice of the State Supreme Court. She was highly instrumental in helping us change our laws when we were working for years on Raise the Age Legislation here in the legislature. She has had various posts in the judicial branch leading her colleagues in various ways. While she comes from the very esteemed family of former Speakers of the House and her son is Matt Ritter, who is poised to become the next Speaker of the House of Representatives, she stands on her own two feet and she has earned this

nomination by her own merits and her own hard work for I would guess approximately two decades, so I would urge my colleagues to support the Honorable Christine Keller to be Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel. Will you remark further? Good afternoon, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, speaking in support of the resolution, Justice Keller has had a very distinguished career on the bench as Chairman Winfield and Ranking Member Senator Kissel have said, 20 years as a superior court judge, the last seven as a judge of the appellate court. Her specialty has been the needs of young people. As Senator Kissel said, on the juvenile justice bill and Raise the Age, she was presiding judge for a long time in the area of the juvenile courts. She is someone who has been both a talented judge and a talented administrator during her time on the bench so she comes to our State Supreme Court with a rich diversity of experience and wisdom and temperament that will be of great benefit to the entire state. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President, only to say that when the vote is called, it should be called by roll.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much. So if there are no further remarks on the legislation that is before us, Mr. Clerk, would you please announce a roll call vote and the machines will be opened?

CLERK:

The Senate will have a roll call for the House Joint Resolution No. 204. Immediate roll call has been called in the Senate for House Resolution No. 204. Roll call vote in the Senate. Roll call vote in the Senate for House Joint Resolution No. 204. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on House Joint Resolution 204.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked and Mr. Clerk, would you kindly announce the tally please, sir?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 204.

Total number voting	35
Those voting Yea	34

Those voting Nay	1
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) And the resolution is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 205, a RESOLUTION
CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOAN K.
ALEXANDER OF CROMWELL TO BE A JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE
COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I
move passage of the emergency certified resolution
in concurrence with the house.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Before us is the
Honorable Judge Joan K. Alexander. She was
nominated by Governor Ned Lamont back in July. She
came before the Judiciary Committee in August,
August 12. She is a resident of Connecticut and she
attended public schools in the city of Bristol. She

graduated from Yale University in 1984. She also graduated from the University of Connecticut's Law School in 1987. She was appointed to the bench by John Rowland back in 2000. She came to the Judiciary Committee and had an overwhelming vote. I urge adoption and passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Winfield. Will you remark further? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I also stand in strong support of Judge Alexander. She has a strong law and order background. She has done remarkably well as a jurist thus far and she will be a tremendous asset to our appellate court. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the matter before us? Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Speaking in support of the resolution, Judge Alexander has been an outstanding superior court judge now for about 20 years since her initial appointment. She has become one of the leading experts on criminal law within the judiciary and has had a leading role on the Rules Committee of the Superior Court regarding criminal matters, and she will bring that same

degree of expertise and scholarship and judgement to her work on the appellate court. It's fortunate that we will have I hope many, many years of service from Judge Alexander in this new capacity. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney. Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. If there is no objection, I ask that this item be placed on consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 206, A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE MELANIE L. CRADLE OF DURHAM TO BE A JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance, I move passage of the emergency certified resolution in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Before us is the Honorable Judge Melanie Cradle. She comes to us with a strong vote out of the Judiciary Committee. She is a graduate of Adelphi with a Bachelor's of Art in 1993, Seaton Hall Law School in 1998. She was a former assistant state's attorney and prior to her current appointment, she was serving on the superior court. I urge adoption and passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I also stand in strong support of this nominee. She's one of those shooting stars. I was a little concerned because I think she's only been a superior court judge for about seven years and hasn't served out her first term, but that being the case, she has young children that will keep her grounded and she just has outstanding credentials and the greatest respect from the people who have worked with her and

have come before her and I have the greatest hopes that she will be an asset to our appellate court. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the matter that is before us? Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Speaking in support of the resolution, Judge Cradle is someone who did have a very distinguished career as an assistant state's attorney in the Milford court. I have firsthand experience of her work there and was always impressed by her judgement and her temperament, that she had a great instinct for knowing the defendants who were just immature or thoughtless or acting compulsively from those who were thoroughly criminal in their outlook on life and I think that judgement that she showed as a prosecutor, she has shown as a superior court judge and will continue to show on the appellate court. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the resolution that is before us? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. When this vote is taken, I ask that it be taken by roll.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no -- with that, what we will do is Mr. Clerk, would you please announce the roll call and the machines will indeed be opened.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on House Resolution No. 206. An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked and Mr. Clerk, would you kindly announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 206.

Total number voting	35
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	1
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) And the resolution is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 207, A RESOLUTION
CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOSE A.

SUAREZ OF CHESTER TO BE A JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT AND A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I move passage of the emergency certified resolution in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

And the question is on passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Before us is Judge Jose A. Suarez who comes to us through another strong vote out of the Judiciary Committee. Judge Suarez is a graduate of the University of Dayton in 1989 and he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut in 1993. He was appointed by Governor Lamont back in July along with the other nominees before us. Prior to that, he was a judge in the Hartford Superior Court appointed by Governor Jodi Rell. He comes to us on a strong vote. I urge adoption and passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I also stand in strong support of Judge Suarez. I think he will be a fine addition to our appellate court and I would urge my colleagues to support this nominee as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?
Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. If there is no objection, I would ask that this be placed on consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, those are our four resolutions. We have two on our consent calendar. I would ask that the clerk read the consent calendar and then we have a vote.

THE CHAIR:

Certainly. Mr. Clerk, would you please read the consent calendar and call the vote?

CLERK:

Consent calendar No. 1, House Joint Resolution No. 205, House Joint Resolution No. 207. An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on consent calendar No. 1.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted on the consent calendar? Have all the Senators voted? The machine will be locked and Mr. Clerk, would you kindly announce the tally?

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1.

Total number voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) And the resolutions are adopted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that concludes our business for the September 29 special session, so I move that we adjourn Sine Die.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, this Senate stands adjourned Sine Die
(gavel).

On motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at
2:27 p.m. adjourned Sine Die.