

Connecticut Bar Association Capitol Update with Bill Chapman



Capitol Update News

Check your inbox every Monday for your Capitol Update Newsletter in the CBA's *Weekly Docket* during this year's legislative session (February 7 – May 9), featuring the Capitol Update Newsletter and Video Series.

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April 2, 2018

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Aware of a likely defeat in the Senate, the governor and Justice McDonald agreed to go forward with the nomination of McDonald to the Office of the Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. The governor placed McDonald's name as chief justice nominee before the senate on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. It did not happen. He was voted down 19-16 with one democrat recusing herself and one democrat flipping to vote with the Republicans.

The Republican issues with Justice McDonald includes his involvement, while chairing the Judiciary Committee, in proposed legislation that later came before the Supreme Court; they felt he should have recused himself. They also felt he was too close to the governor as Stamford municipal attorney, and eventually governor's counsel.

There was disagreement in Justice McDonald's decisions, including on the death penalty. Additionally, a concern was that he did not have any previous trial experience.

Early this week the governor will forward another name to nominate as chief justice. Because his first nominee was rejected, it must be submitted within five days from disapproval from the present Supreme Court justices (Palmer, Robinson, D'Auria). Justices Kahn and Mullins are still interim justices. Also to be included is anyone who has filed paperwork before the Judicial Selection

Committee. Two people have filed chief justice paperwork in the past few weeks. If the governor does not name someone, the senior judge—if accepting—will become interim chief justice. The senior justice is Richard Palmer.

There are still a number of judges who have been re-nominated by the governor and have been approved in the Judiciary Committee. They have yet to be approved in legislative chambers. Thoughts are whether they have been held until the vote on Justice McDonald. There are also a number of new nominees that we are awaiting.

Angel Arce (D-House District 4, Hartford) has submitted his letter of resignation to the House of Representatives. Because of the timing, there will be no special election before the end of the session.

Committees

Only three committees will meet this week. JF deadlines include:

April 4 – Judiciary Committee

April 5 - Appropriations Committee

April 6 – Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

The Judiciary Committee will be meeting on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, to vote (JF) on which bills will be moved to the chambers.

Public Hearing

Monday, April 2, 2018

10:30 a.m. - [Finance Committee](#) in Room 2E

In Session

Nothing scheduled yet for this week.

Notes of Interest

[2018 YLS Annual Legislative Breakfast](#)

Wednesday, April 11

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

The Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section cordially invites all legislators and staff to attend the 2018 YLS Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Legislative Office Building in the Executive Dining Room. The event's guest speaker is Representative Matt Ritter, house majority leader.

Capitol Update video

[In this week's Capitol Update video](#), Representative Bob Godfrey (D-Danbury), speaker pro-tempore, speaks of being #3 in the House leadership and #4 in House longevity, how he got involved in the legislature both locally and nationally, and how he loves doing what he does at the Capitol. Rep. Godfrey is a member of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, Judiciary Committee, Regulation Review Committee, Joint Committee on Legislative Management, and the bill screening committee.