



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION**

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The Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan  
Chairperson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 1, 2011

**Three Persons Recommended for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals  
Vacancy Created by the Retirement of Judge Inez Smith Reid**

The District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission ("Commission") has forwarded to President Barack Obama the names of three lawyers for his consideration in selecting a nominee to fill the judicial vacancy on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. The President has sixty (60) days to select a nominee to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Inez Smith Reid. The Commission recommends the following candidates to fill this vacancy:

**Corinne Ann Beckwith** has been an attorney in the Appellate Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia since 1999. She has been a supervisor in that office since 2009. In this capacity, Ms. Beckwith handles the appeals of indigent criminal defendants who have been convicted of serious offenses. Prior to that, she worked as an appellate attorney at Michigan's State Appellate Defender Office and taught criminal appellate practice at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan. Prior to law school, Ms. Beckwith worked as a newspaper reporter and also taught journalism and English composition at Central Michigan University. Ms. Beckwith has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Kalamazoo College and a Master of Science degree in journalism from the University of Illinois. She earned her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Michigan Law Review*. After law school, Ms. Beckwith served as a law clerk to Judge Richard D. Cudahy on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and then to Associate Justice John Paul Stevens on the Supreme Court of the United States.

**Todd Sunhwae Kim** is the Solicitor General of the District of Columbia and has held that position since it was established in 2006. He oversees appellate litigation for the District of Columbia government in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Kim worked as an appellate attorney with the Department of Justice in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, where he handled significant appeals and argued before all of the 13 United States Courts of Appeals. Mr. Kim received an Artium Baccalaureus degree, *magna cum laude*, in biology from Harvard College, and earned his law degree, *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. After law school, Mr. Kim served as a law clerk to Judge Judith W. Rogers on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

**Walter A. Smith, Jr.**, has served as the Executive Director of the DC Appleseed Center of Law and Justice since 2001, managing teams of pro bono attorneys. DC Appleseed is a non-profit organization that works exclusively on a broad array of public policy issues in the District of Columbia, including healthcare, education, housing, voting rights, and the environment. Prior to joining DC Appleseed, Mr. Smith served two years as a Special Deputy Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia, where he was assigned to the District of Columbia's special education programs. Mr. Smith practiced for many years at the law firm of Hogan & Hartson, where he specialized in appellate litigation. For several years, he served as a partner and full-time director of the firm's pro bono practice. He also served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy JAG Corps. Mr. Smith has argued numerous cases before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Mr. Smith has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma. He earned his law degree from Harvard Law School and a Master of Laws degree from the George Washington University Law School. After law school, Mr. Smith served as a law clerk to Judge Charles Clark on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Questions concerning the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission should be directed to the Executive Director at (202) 879-0478 or via email at [dc.jnc@dc.gov](mailto:dc.jnc@dc.gov).

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