

Judicial Performance Evaluation

New Jersey

Scope. Since 1988, trial court judges have been evaluated for the purposes of self-improvement and to inform reappointment decisions. Mandatory evaluations are conducted twice during a judge's initial term, with only the second evaluation going to the governor for reappointment. After reappointment, evaluation is voluntary.

Commission. The Judicial Performance Committee supervises the evaluation program and includes attorneys, non-attorneys, and judges who are appointed by the Supreme Court. The Judicial Evaluation Commission consults with and provides assistance to evaluated judges, and consists of retired judges who are appointed by the Supreme Court. Members of both entities serve three-year, renewable terms.

Criteria. N/A

Data collection. Evaluations are based on surveys of attorneys and appellate judges.

Dissemination. Evaluations of judges who are up for reappointment may be shared with the Governor and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Otherwise evaluation results are strictly confidential.

Website. N/A