

GENDER MATTERS

from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation

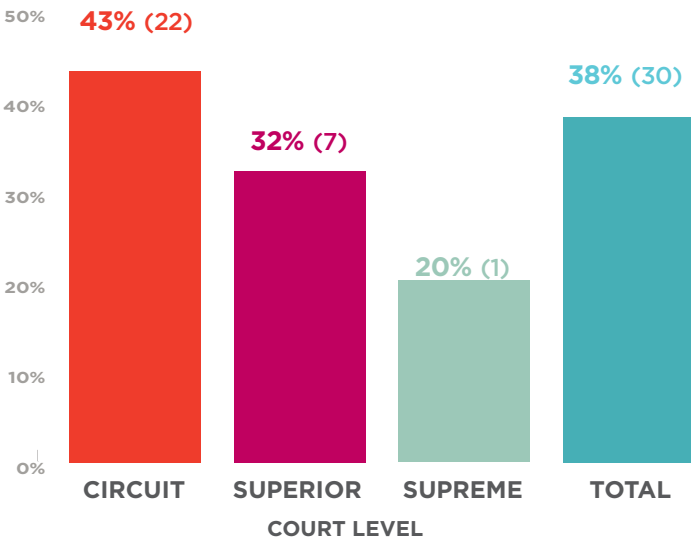
WHEN YOU KNOW THE FACTS, YOU CAN ACT!

2022: ISSUE 1

Women in the New Hampshire Judiciary

Representative government includes equitable gender and racial representation in the judicial branch. However, **only 38% of all New Hampshire state court judges** are women with smaller ratios of women judges in Superior Courts and the Supreme Court.^{1,2,3} There is currently only **one person of color** serving as a judge at any level of the New Hampshire state judicial system and that person is also the only woman of color.

WOMEN IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIARY BY COURT^{4,5,6}



GENDER AND RACIAL DIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDGES⁷

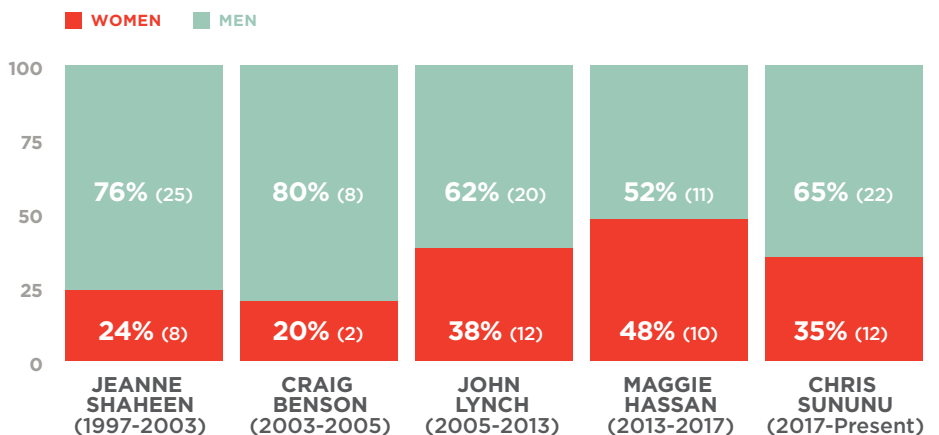


GOVERNORS DETERMINE GENDER EQUITY ON BENCH

New Hampshire governors play a significant role in achieving gender parity in the judiciary. After a judicial vacancy is announced, the Governor nominates a candidate who then must be confirmed by the Executive Council.⁸

In 2000, Governor Shaheen appointed the first woman, Linda Dalianis, to the Supreme Court. In 2010, Governor Lynch elevated Dalianis to Chief Justice, making her the first and only woman to have led the NH judicial branch.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS BY GOVERNOR OVER 25 YEARS^{9,10,11}

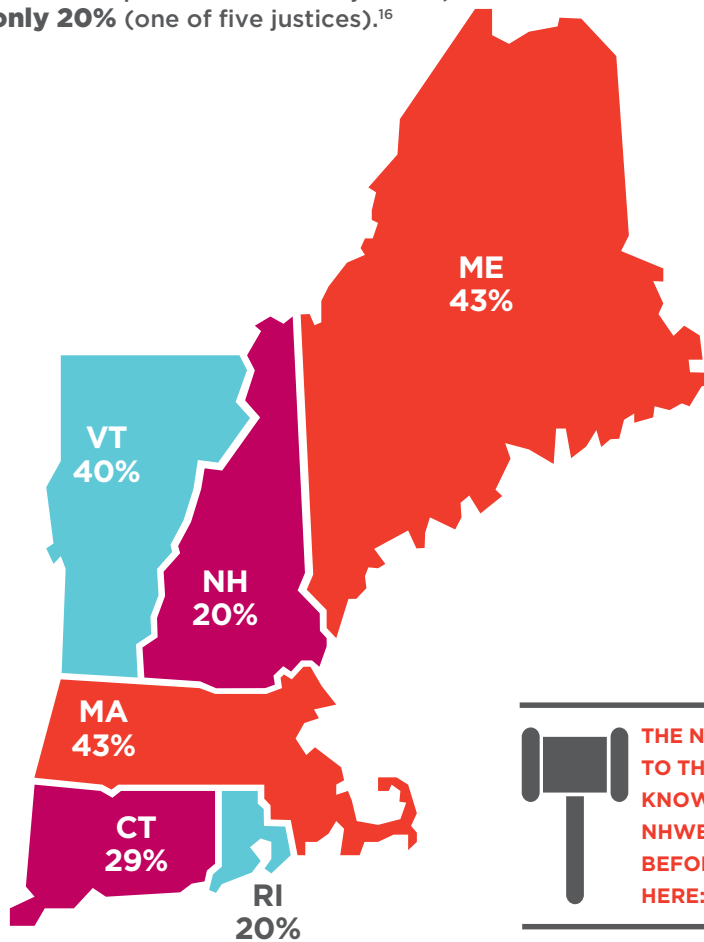


JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

First established by Governor Jeanne Shaheen in 2000, the Judicial Selection Commission is a body of nine members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms.¹² The Commission's role is to evaluate judicial applications and make recommendations to the Governor who may use these recommendations at his or her discretion.¹³ The Commission may not consider race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or political affiliation in its evaluation.¹⁴

WOMEN SUPREME COURT JUSTICES IN NEW ENGLAND¹⁵

Compared to surrounding New England states, the New Hampshire Supreme Court is tied with Rhode Island for the lowest percent of women justices, **only 20%** (one of five justices).¹⁶



TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIARY



MARILLA M. RICKER

Marilla M. Ricker was the first New Hampshire woman to pass a bar exam in 1882 and would go on to practice law in Washington, DC.¹⁷ Throughout her career, Ricker remained a staunch advocate for New Hampshire women in

law.¹⁸ In 1891, Ricker won her case against the state to allow women in New Hampshire the right to practice law.¹⁹ She was also the first New Hampshire woman to attempt to vote in 1870.



JEAN K. BURLING

In 1979, Jean K. Burling was the first woman appointed to the New Hampshire judiciary. She served as a District and Superior Court judge until her retirement in 2008.²⁰



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION HOSTS "PATH TO THE BENCH" SESSIONS TO GIVE WOMEN ATTORNEYS THE KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO APPLY FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS. NHWBA RECOMMENDS COMPLETING THE JUDICIAL APPLICATION BEFORE A VACANCY OCCURS. FIND MORE INFORMATION AND CLE HERE: bit.ly/NHWBApath

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Governors should nominate more women and people of color at a rate that would achieve equity in all levels of the New Hampshire state judicial branch comparable with New Hampshire's population.
2. The Governor should appoint members with gender and racial diversity to the Judicial Selection Commission.
3. With safeguards to protect the anonymity of the application process, the Judicial Selection Commission should publish the number or percent of women and people of color who have applied for judgeships and the number or percent they recommend to the Governor for each vacancy.
4. The New Hampshire Bar Association should collect and publish the gender and racial diversity of its membership on a regular basis. This data would be the basis to understanding trends in the pipeline to the bench.
5. Women attorneys could benefit from a mentorship program that supports career trajectory and opportunities including judgeship.

For citation references and methodology please see NHWomensFoundation.Org/GM2022Judiciary.



We invest in opportunity and equality for women and girls in New Hampshire through research, education, advocacy, grantmaking, and philanthropy.

Learn more at www.nhwomensfoundation.org

