

PATRICK T. CONLEY, J.D., Ph.D.

Attorney at Law

*1445 Wampanoag Trail, Suite 203
East Providence, Rhode Island 02915*

Telephone: 401-273-1787 and 401-272-1776

Fax: 401-273-1791

February 2, 2009

To whom it may concern:

Despite my letter of declaration of December 15, 2008 (copy enclosed), I have decided not to submit the required formal application for the post of chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. My decision is based upon three principal factors:

I. The impossibility that Governor Carcieri would appoint me should the Judicial Nominating Commission select me as a finalist. The governor has already shown his animosity toward me by twice vetoing a historian laureate bill passed unanimously by the General Assembly with me in mind. Of late, we have exchanged three sharply worded letters to the editor (copies enclosed) which evidence an extreme mutual disrespect. My first letter (written on September 26, 2008) was not published until December 14, 2008--days after Chief Justice Williams abruptly announced his intention to resign (presumably to take a major national role in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln).

My initial letter accused the governor of a breach of ethics by using his former chief of staff to handle the legal aspects of a \$1.5 billion dollar offshore wind farm deal with the state.

My letter was followed by one obviously commissioned by the governor and his staff impugning my qualifications as a lawyer and remarking that I was unfit even to be a traffic court judge. The letter was signed by a "Devin Connors" of Warwick, with whom I have never had contact. Small wonder! I commissioned a private investigation (which the *Journal* should have done before printing the letter) that revealed that Devin Connors does not exist in Rhode Island--no driver's license, no voting record, no tax payments, no nothing! A copy of that investigation report is also attached,. The references by "Devin" in this letter to the obscure historian laureate bill demonstrates (to me, at least) that this spiteful missive emanated from the governor. Such "planted" letters have been aptly described as political "dirty tricks." I stated my views regarding the governor's sleazy conduct in my own letter published on January 5, 2009.

As an aside, I am engaged in a major effort to revitalize the Providence waterfront north of Thurbers Avenue. Despite the arrival of coastal cruise ships, the use of the site by the Providence-Newport Ferry, and the staging of numerous events, festivals, and governmental conferences at our emerging development, the governor has never set foot on the site nor given us one iota of state economic assistance in the four years that the project has been underway. Is this nonfeasance because the governor has no clue regarding economic development and job creation other than his platitudinous political soundbites, or is it because of his hostility towards me? I believe the correct answer is both of the above. Were he not the governor, I coulda been a contender!

February 2, 2009

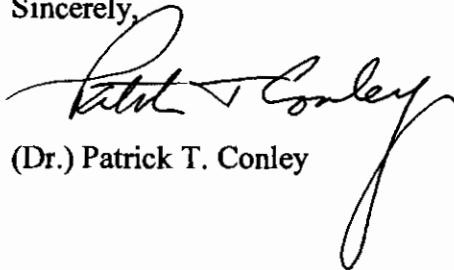
Page two

The second principal reason for my decision to withdraw is the current status of my Providence waterfront development project. Although I got killed in the "Brotherhood" series on Showtime TV, my project is gaining new life with the addition of a co-developer, new financing prospects, and the imminent adoption of a new comprehensive plan by the City of Providence. My wife and CFO, Gail, has strongly urged me to concentrate on business, given the economic perils we all face.

The third factor influencing my decision not to seek the chief justiceship relates to my civic involvements. I have just been elected president of the newly-reorganized board of directors of the Heritage Harbor Museum. That organization is poised to open Rhode Island's first statewide historical museum and cultural center in 2010. Since a major theme of that facility is based upon the Rhode Island Ethnic Heritage Program that I created in 1976 when I was chairman of the Rhode Island Bicentennial of Independence Commission (*ri76*), it means a great deal to me as a historian to lead this massive and long-awaited project to its successful conclusion. I am also the current president of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and the Rhode Island Senior Olympics, Inc., and not yet ready to relinquish these positions.

The intellectual and legal obligations of the Supreme Court would have simply been an added challenge in view of the fact that Bob Flanders and I have just completed a 156,000-word analysis of every aspect of every clause of the Rhode Island Constitution. We published this volume in 2007, despite our other obligations. The administrative tasks of the chief justiceship, however, would be a full-time obligation that my time and interests could not accommodate. I believe that no matter who is selected among the remaining six candidates, the court system will be in competent hands.

Sincerely,



(Dr.) Patrick T. Conley

PTC:aml

Enclosures