

**SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI  
APPLICATION FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE**

***PLEASE NOTE: RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC IF THE APPLICANT IS SELECTED AS ONE OF THE NOMINEES FOR THE VACANCY.***

1. State your full name.

**Sarah Anne Castle**

2. State your present occupation, place of work, and job title.

**Associate Circuit Court Judge, Division 27  
Jackson County, Missouri**

3. Provide the following information concerning your eligibility for the office of Circuit Judge:

- (a) Are you at least thirty years of age?

**Yes.**

- (b) Are you licensed to practice law in Missouri?

**Yes.**

- (c) Have you been a citizen of the United States for at least ten years?

**Yes.**

- (d) Have you been a qualified Missouri voter for at least three years?

**Yes.**

- (e) Have you been a resident of Jackson County for at least one year?

**Yes.**

4. State whether you are able, with or without a reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of a Circuit Judge, including the ability to preside over trials, conduct legal research and analysis, attend court anywhere in the State of Missouri, communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing, and expeditiously decide issues coming before the court.

**Yes.**

5. State the year of your admission to the Missouri Bar and whether your license is and always has been in good standing. If not, please explain.

**2012- Admitted to the Missouri Bar. License has remained in good standing.**

6. List any other states, courts, or agencies in which you have been licensed as an attorney, and state whether your license is and always has been in good standing.

**2013- Admitted to the United States District Court for the Western District of**



**Missouri. Admission remained in good standing while I practiced in Federal Court.  
I did not continue to pay dues after beginning practice for the State of Missouri**

7. Provide the following information for all colleges or universities, other than law schools, you have attended:
- (a) Name and location of institution
  - (b) Dates attended and degrees received
  - (c) Significant activities, achievements, honors, and awards

**Masters of Arts in Political Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
(Jan. 2007-Aug. 2008)**

Participated with the selected small group for the “Elite” Civic Leadership Program.

**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
(Aug. 2002-Dec. 2006)**

Emphasis in Civic Leadership and Disability Studies.

8. Provide the following information for all law schools you have attended:
- (a) Name and location of law school
  - (b) Dates attended and degrees received
  - (c) Significant activities, achievements, honors, and awards

**Juris Doctor, University of Missouri, Kansas City Law School  
(Aug. 2009-May 2012)**

National Member of the Order of Barristers (2012)

UMKC Thomas E. Deacy Trial Lawyer Award (2012)

Member of the Moot Court Board (2011-2012)

Member of the Mock Trial and National Appellate Advocacy Teams (2011-2012)

Named to the National Moot Court Team (2011)

9. State whether you have ever been suspended or expelled as a student from any school or educational institution. If so, please explain.

**I have never been suspended or expelled as a student from any school or educational institution.**

10. List, in chronological order, all non-legal and legal employment you have held post-high school. Include the name and location of each employer, job title, dates of employment, and reason for termination of employment.

**Associate Circuit Court Judge- Division 27**

Sixteenth Judicial Circuit- Jackson County

Kansas City, Missouri

Jan. 2020 - present

**Assistant Prosecuting Attorney**

Jackson County Prosecutor's Office  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Oct. 2013- Jan. 2020

*Separation due to Appointment to Associate Circuit Court Judge, Division 27 Sixteenth Judicial Circuit*

**Special Assistant United States Attorney**

United States Attorney's Office  
Western District of Missouri- Kansas City Office  
Feb. 2013- Oct. 2013

*Separation due to Jackson County, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Position*

**GE Health Ahead Paralympic Ambassador**

General Electric- position held remotely  
May 2013- December 2013

*Separation due to Jackson County, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Position*

**Judicial Intern- Chambers of United States Magistrate Robert E. Larsen**

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri- Kansas City, Missouri  
August 2011-February 2013

*Separation due to Special Assistant United States Attorney Position*

**Legal Intern**

Mitchell, Kristl, and Lieber  
Kansas City, Missouri  
May 2010-December 2011

*Separation due to internship with the Honorable Robert E. Larsen*

**Community Organizer**

Campaign for Real Choice  
Urbana, Illinois  
January 2008- July 2009

*Separation due to relocation for law school*

**Research Assistant-Cline Center for Democracy, University of Illinois**

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois  
August 2007 – May 2008

*Separation due to graduation*

**Intern**

B&D Consulting  
Washington, D.C.  
March 2007-June 2007

*Separation due to internship conclusion.*

11. Describe the nature and extent of your experience as a practicing attorney in the trial and appellate courts, and explain how such experience demonstrates the quality of your legal work.

I began interning for Judge Robert Larsen my second year of law school, and after watching hundreds of criminal and civil proceedings I knew I wanted to be in a courtroom. I was offered a position with the United States Attorney's Office in 2013, as a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA). In that position, I was assigned to the Strike Force Unit, which was primarily charged with handling cases involving federal firearms offenses. I handled probation violation hearings, detention and preliminary hearings, scheduling conferences, and a caseload of nearly 70 cases. I handled proffers, plea negotiations, and ultimately plea hearings. My first jury trial was a federal bank robbery case, in which the jury returned guilty verdicts as charged on all counts. The following week, I tried my second federal jury trial, and the jury found the Defendant guilty as charged on both counts.

I joined the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office in October 2013 and was assigned to the Warrant Desk, where I was instantly exposed to the fast pace and large dockets of the Jackson County Court. At that time, I was responsible for the property crimes docket, which averaged over 100 cases weekly. I also assisted with the driving crimes docket, drug docket, and maintained a probation violation hearing docket. The role of an attorney at the Warrant Desk, in addition to managing dockets, includes reviewing and charging cases, working with victims and law enforcement to prepare them for preliminary hearings, and maintaining a small trial caseload.

After about six months with the Warrant Desk, I was transferred to the downtown General Crimes Unit, where I was assigned the administrative refusal docket, an Associate Court division probation violation docket, and multiple cases to review and make charging decisions, and trial caseload of property crimes, drug crimes, and some violent crimes. I was additionally assigned to the White Collar Crimes Team, which handled investigations and charges for white collar crimes. I was involved the charges and disposition of cases involving forged quit claim deeds and forged notary signatures, cases submitted for false claims made to the Missouri Department of Social Services and Missouri Division of Employment Security, and trademark violations.

In 2015 I was assigned to the Jackson County Drug Court program. While there I handled hundreds of treatment court cases, and worked with multiple defendants on successful completion of the program. I helped organize and orchestrate a warrant round-up with law enforcement in an effort to get participants re-engaged and to reduce the number of outstanding warrants in the program. I reviewed hundreds of drug cases for charging consideration. In 2015 I worked to update the process of charging cases for individuals eligible for Drug Court to reduce time lapses between the date of arrest and the date of entry into the program. I further worked to develop a process to allow for more individuals to be considered for the program, for the documentation of reconsideration, and for a systematic way of reporting entry and progress in the Drug Court program.

In April 2016 I was reassigned back to the General Crimes Unit and assigned to the position of Gun Prosecutor, but continued to assist with the training and supervision of the new Drug Court prosecutors. As the Gun Prosecutor I acquired an intimate knowledge of the gun laws in Missouri, and

was on occasion asked to provide legal updates to the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department Investigations Bureau, Prosecutor's Office, and the Kansas City, Missouri Police Detective School. In this role, I managed many non-violent gun cases, found creative resolutions for the changed landscape, and wrote motions and responses, some of which were circulated statewide.

In January 2017 I was assigned to the Jackson County Grand Jury. In that role, I was responsible for reviewing the evidence and charges for every case that would be presented to the Jackson County Grand Jury. In a period of two years, I reviewed over 2500 cases for Grand Jury. I completed the voir dire process, and assisted with the selection process for six grand juries.

That same year, I began serving on Homicide Committee, and my trial caseload shifted, as I starting handling primarily violent crimes and homicide cases. While at the Prosecutor's Office, and beginning in 2017, I was lead counsel for over twenty homicide cases, as well as second chair for many others. Beginning in 2017, my trial caseload consisted primarily of violent crimes cases and individuals with mental health issues.

In 2018 I was placed into the role of Diversion Manager. My additional responsibilities included screening and management of the New Start Diversion Program. In that role I met monthly with members of the Department of Mental Health ("DMH") to track and manage cases with outstanding, pending, and ordered 552 competency motions. The goal of those meetings was to screen for the mental health diversion program, and to try to speed up the process, and reduce wait times for DMH bed dates. We also worked to expand the program to include outpatient treatment for individuals that may be suitable for outpatient treatment, but who are not eligible for diversion.

During my tenure as a Jackson County Prosecutor I had an opportunity to review and charge cases involving non-violent and violent offenses, offenses against property, and offenses against people. I handled hundreds of diversion and treatment court eligible cases, and cases where defendant's faced or were sentenced to life in prison. I was exposed to the diversity of cases and diversity of outcomes in the criminal justice system. I found that I was driven by my understanding and adherence to the law, fairness and a goal to seek justice, as well as a mindset that there was no one size outcome fits all to any case. I independently reviewed and made charging decisions for hundreds, if not thousands of cases, and always maintained my commitment to the law and the facts.

12. Provide a representative list of at least ten cases in which you served as the primary attorney at trial or an administrative hearing. The list should include the style of each case, court or administrative agency, identification of your client, and the nature and date of disposition.

**United States v. Eric Smith- Criminal Case No. 12-CR-223-BP**

**Trial Court:** Judge Beth Phillips

**United States Attorney's Office:**

**Lead Attorney:** Christina Tabor

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:** Larry Pace (US Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:** Jury Verdict- Guilty as Charged (08-14-2013)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged in the criminal case with a bank robbery, use of a firearm in commission of a violent offense, and with being a felon in possession of a firearm. The Defendant demanded money and the security guard attempted to stop him. The Defendant fled the scene and fired a gun in the direction of the bank, leaving shell casings behind. Video captured the Defendant and his vehicle fleeing the scene. Ultimately law enforcement conducted a search of a residence where the Defendant was staying and recovered a firearm. The firearm was examined, and it was determined that the firearm recovered was the same firearm that had left the shell casings at the scene. Defense counsel attempted to persuade the jury in closing arguments that there were thousands of Ruger handguns on the street. In rebuttal, I argued that the firearms expert had testified that it was the Ruger admitted into evidence, and not just any Ruger. Ultimately the jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts, as charged.

**United States v. – Jamie D. Jones- Criminal Case No. 12-CR-316-FG**

**Trial Court:** Judge Fernando Gaitan

**United States Attorney's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Leena Romano

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:** Deborah Fickler

**Disposition:** Jury Verdict- Guilty as Charged (08-20-2013)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with two counts of unlawful possession of a firearm for being a felon in possession of a firearm under 18 U.S.C. 922(g). The case was based in large part on the unique features of a firearm identified by a confidential informant who testified, and the information the confidential informant had provided to the case detective. The firearm was recovered from a vent in the bedroom where the Defendant was known to sleep. After only about an hour of voir dire the jury was seated and the case presented to the jury. At the conclusion of the trial, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on both counts.

**State v. Edward Pennington- Criminal Case No.: 1116-CR01800-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Justine Del Muro (Div. 4)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Julie Hamilton

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:** Stephanie Lopez (KC Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:** Jury Verdict- Guilty as Charged (04-16-2014)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with one count of felony Resisting a Lawful Stop by Fleeing and one count of Possession of a Controlled Substance. As a result of multiple prior incarcerations, the Defendant alleged that at the time of the offense he lacked the requisite mental capacity to be responsible for his actions. This case involved significant research and understanding of the nuances surrounding the laws related to competency, diminished capacity, and not guilty by reason of insanity. I drafted and argued the motions in limine related to the diminished capacity defense being presented by the defense. Additionally, I was responsible for the primary defense witness who testified regarding the diminished capacity defense. The jury returned a guilty verdict on both counts as charged. The Defendant was a prior and persistent offender, and in a bifurcated sentencing hearing he was sentenced to two years in the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections on each count, to run concurrent.

**State v. Thadius Hughes- Criminal Case No. 1216-CR04525-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Justine Del Muro (Div. 4)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Julie Hamilton

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:** Jeff Gedbaw and Anna Lambert (KC Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:** Jury Verdict- Guilty as Charged (04-16-2014)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The victims, Angela Cage and Ronnie Gunn, had gone to the residence of their daughter /sister after receiving information that the Defendant was beating her up. While there the Defendant pulled up to the back door of the residence and began to shoot. Mr. Gunn was shot in the arm and Ms. Cage was shot in the hand and leg. The Defendant was later charged with two counts of Assault in the First Degree Causing Serious Physical Injury, and two counts of Armed Criminal Action. The case proceeded to jury trial, and I assisted with opening statements, witness direct examinations, and closing arguments. The Defendant was a prior and persistent offender, so the trial was bifurcated. The jury found the Defendant guilty as charged on all four counts. He was later sentenced by Judge Del Muro to thirteen (13) years in the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections on both Assault counts and three years on each of the Armed Criminal Action counts, to run concurrent.

**State v. Michael C. Collier- Criminal Case No. 1216-CR03853-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Kathleen Forsyth (Div. 19)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** James Stigall

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:** Dorothy Savory

**Disposition:** Jury Trial- Mistrial (10-22-2014)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with two counts of Assault in the First Degree and two counts of Armed Criminal Action after an altercation that started near the Power and Light District. The Defendant fired shots at the two injured parties and fled in his vehicle, before he was ultimately stopped. Police found a firearm the Defendant had thrown from his vehicle, which was captured on police dash cameras. The Motions in Limine precluded the introduction of certain evidence. Throughout the trial spent significant time on the record and outside the hearing of the jury addressing these compliance with the Motions in Limine. After the close of evidence and arguments, the jury hung and a mistrial was declared. The Defendant later plead guilty after obtaining new counsel.

**State v. Roy Samuels- Criminal Case No.: 1416-CR04359-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Joel Fahnestock (Div. 9)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Co-Counsel:** Lauren Whiston

**Defense Counsel:** Tom Bailey (KC Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:** Dismissed (01-25-2016)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with 60 total counts of burglary and stealing, after his parole ordered GPS bracelet placed him in more than twenty-five Kansas City homes during the times of the burglaries and stealings. The defense filed a significant Motion to Suppress / Motion to Exclude the parole ordered GPS data, which if excluded would have eliminated the State's strongest evidence. The case was set for a hearing on the Motions to Suppress and Exclude the State's Evidence, but the Defendant died prior to the matter being taken up by the Court.

**[Co-Defendants]**

**State v. Omar Muhammad- Criminal Case No.: 1416-CR01008-01 /**

**State v. Monique Ransom- Criminal Case No.: 1416-CR01009-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Joel Fahnestock (Div. 9)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Theresa Crayon

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Co-Counsel:** Ben Cox

**Defense Counsel:**

**Monique Ransom-** Janeal Mattheson (Public Defender's Office)

**Omar Muhammad-** Nate Anderson (Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:**

**Monique Ransom-** Jury Verdict- Guilty as Charged (04-28-2017)

**Omar Muhammad-** Jury Verdict- Guilty as Charged Counts 1, 2 & 4; Not Guilty Count 3  
(05-04-2017)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** Monique Ransom and Omar Muhammad, brother and sister, were charged for shooting and killing Eric Harrell, who at the time was Monique Ransom's roommate. This case involved a witness who was granted immunity, a witness who proffered and provided testimony although charged in a separate homicide, and witnesses forced to appear by subpoena. These cases were tried separately, but in consecutive weeks. Omar Muhammad was also charged with burglary of firearms from a separate home. I was responsible for opening statements and the examination of multiple witnesses throughout the trial. I presented the first half of closing argument, and Theresa Crayon presented rebuttal in both cases. Ultimately, the jury returned a verdict for Murder in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action for Monique Ransom. A jury returned a verdict for Omar Muhammad for Murder in the Second Degree, Armed Criminal Action, and Receiving Stolen Property for possession of the stolen firearms. He was acquitted of the count of Burglary in the Second Degree. At a joint sentencing, both Defendants were sentenced to life with the eligibility of parole.

**State v. Marcelino Solis- Criminal Case No(s): 1516-CR02402-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Sandra Midkiff (Div. 1)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Co-Counsel:** Dion Sankar

**Defense Counsel:** Paul Franco

**Disposition:** Guilty Plea as Charged (11-12-2017); Sentencing (07-13-2018)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was in the custody of the Department of Mental Health ("DMH") undergoing competency restoration when he attacked and brutally assaulted a DMH social worker. The victim suffered a fractured orbital bone and had to have a metal plate implanted into her face. The Defendant had a significant criminal history, with escalating violence, and drug use that had made his mental health issues more profound. After defense counsel made multiple attempts to find residential placement, it was clear that no such options existed for the Defendant. After a sentencing hearing the Court entered a sentence of nine (9) years in the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections pursuant to 559.115 at the request of defense counsel, to allow defense counsel to again attempt to find residential options. No options were found and the full sentence was executed.

**[Co-Defendants]**

**State v. Joshua Nesbitt- Criminal Case No.: 1516-CR03731-01**

**State v. Shawn Burkhalter- Criminal Case No.: 1616-CR04347-01**

**State v. Joslyn Lee- Criminal Case No.: 1516-CR03720-01**

**State v. Nickayla Jones- Criminal Case No.: 1516-CR03710-01**

**State v. Autry Hines- Criminal Case No.: 1516-CR03682-01**

**State v. Rachel Ryce- Criminal Case No.: 1616-CR04346-01**

**Trial Court(s):**

**Joshua Nesbitt** - Judge Jalilah Otto (Div. 15)

**Shawn Burkhalter** - Judge Sandra Midkiff (Div. 1)

**Joslyn Lee** - Judge Sandra Midkiff (Div. 1)

**Nickayla Jones** - Judge Brian Round (Div. 8)

**Autry Hines** - Judge Sandra Midkiff (Div. 1)

**Rachel Ryce** - Judge Justine Del Muro (Div. 4)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Sydney Paquette / Theresa Crayon

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:**

**Joshua Nesbitt** - Mark Jones

**Shawn Burkhalter** - David Wylie

**Joslyn Lee** - Jarrett Johnson

**Nickayla Jones** - Kathy Noble

**Autry Hines** - Devon Pasley

**Rachel Ryce** - Dawn Parsons

**Disposition:** Dismissed for Federal Prosecution

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** Shawn Burkhalter and Joshua Nesbitt were involved in drug sales and robberies around the Kansas City area. Burkhalter was eventually arrested after fleeing from police and taken into custody for a parole violation. In fewer than seventy-two hours, the victim, Anthony Johnson, was killed, in what looked like an armed robbery by Joshua Nesbitt, Nickayla Jones, and Autry Hines. Joslyn Jones was Burkhalter's girlfriend and the getaway driver. The weapon used in the death of Anthony Johnson was recovered from Hines and linked to another homicide and robberies. Lee, Hines, and Jones all plead guilty in Jackson County and were cooperating witnesses against Burkhalter and Nesbitt. During the pendency of the trials for the death of Anthony Johnson, the firearm and other evidence linked Nesbitt and Burkhalter to a homicide that had occurred in Raytown. The investigation revealed that Anthony Johnson was aware of that homicide, and it appeared that he was actually killed as a result of trying to give police information on the death of Danny Dean. The new information was presented to a special setting of Homicide Committee and it was determined that Shawn Burkhalter and Joshua Nesbitt should be charged with the robberies and homicides in one case. Law enforcement also asked us for assistance in putting together our case information for them to present to the United States Attorney's Office. After receiving the memos and case work we compiled, the United States Attorney's Office charged each of the Defendants. Joshua Nesbitt and Shawn Burkhalter are charged with death penalty eligible offenses. As a result of the federal charges against each of the Defendants, those who had plead were allowed to withdraw their pleas of guilty, and each case was dismissed. The federal case is still pending.

**State v. Antonio Miles- Criminal Case No. 1616-CR02786-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Charles McKenzie (Div. 13)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Bryan Covinsky

**Co-Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:** Tracy McFadin (Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:** Jury Verdict- Guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter (Lesser-Included Offense) and Armed Criminal Action (07-23-2018)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with Murder in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action for the death of James Hines. The victim was left on the side of the road with a contact gunshot wound to the temple. Two witnesses, who had employed the Defendant, were the primary witnesses. The Defendant alleged that he had been having an affair with one of the witnesses and that she was not maintaining proper business practices in one of her businesses and asked the court to admit the evidence not as character evidence, but as evidence showing bias and motive to lie. In addition, the defense wanted to present a defense that someone else did it, despite a lack of credible evidence, which is generally prohibited. As part of the trial team, I was asked to work on the motions and responses related to the defense's argument that it should be allowed to argue that someone else committed the crime and the bad character evidence of the State's witnesses. After multiple hearings, the Court ruled that the evidence related to the bad business practices, as well as the affair, was admissible to show the witness' potential bias and motive to lie. However, the Court ruled that the defense was not permitted to argue that someone else committed the crime. Throughout the pretrial hearings and the trial, the Court heard argument on the defense that someone else was responsible for the homicide, and even voir dire'd a witness outside the hearing of the jury. The evidence and argument were still excluded. I completed the first half of closing argument, and Bryan Covinsky argued rebuttal. The jury returned a verdict of guilty on the lesser-included offense of Voluntary Manslaughter and the offense of Armed Criminal Action. The Defendant was a prior and persistent offender and was sentenced to the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections for twenty-five years (25) on Voluntary Manslaughter and five (5) years on the Armed Criminal Action.

**[Co-Defendants]**

**State v. Jerome Walker- Criminal Case No(s): 1616-CR02485-01; 1616-CR02883-01, -02, -03; 1816-CR02119-01**

**State v. Devon Davis- Criminal Case No.: 1616-CR05191-01**

**Trial Court(s):**

**Jerome Walker-** Judge S. Margene Burnett (Div. 7); Judge Patrick Campbell (Div. 10)

**Devon Davis-** Judge Charles McKenzie (Div. 13)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Bryan Convinsky / Sarah Castle

**Co- Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Co- Counsel:** Dion Sankar

**Co-Counsel:** Lauren Dollar

**Defense Counsel:**

**Jerome Walker-** Laura O'Sullivan (KC Public Defender's Office)

**Devon Davis-** Devon Pasley (MO Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:**

**Jerome Walker-** Guilty Plea to Lesser-Included Offense on Count 1, Guilty Plea as Charged to Count 2, and Guilty Plea as Charged to Count 6 in Case No. 1616-CR02883-03 (01-08-2020)

**Devon Davis-** Guilty Plea to Lesser-Included Offense on Count 1; Guilty Plea as Charged to

Count 2 (10-15-2019)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** Jerome Walker and Devon Davis were charged for acting in concert to cause the death of Alvino D. Crawford by shooting him. Devon Davis was sixteen at the time of the offense, and was certified as an adult. Police recovered a baseball bat that was used to assault the victim prior to his death, which was caused by shooting. A witness told police that Jerome Walker was the individual who struck the victim with the bat, and that Devon Davis was the individual who shot the victim. The firearm and baseball bat were recovered. These cases involved evidence which was to be provided by a confidential informant and an eye witness, which resulted in complex litigation issues surrounding the reliability, credibility, and admissibility of their testimony. The Defendants each plead guilty to lesser-included offenses and were sentenced to the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections.

**State v. Victor Kelley- Criminal Case No.: 1716-CR05315-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Justine Del Muro (Div. 4)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Defense Counsel:** Arimeta Dupree

**Disposition:** Guilty Plea to Lesser-Included Offense (05-19-2019)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with Murder in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action. He and the victim were in a verbal dispute outside of a gas station, and as the victim approached the Defendant, the Defendant pulled a firearm and shot the victim one time in the chest. The gas station is a frequent location for individuals with alcohol and/or drug problems, and is known to law enforcement as a spot for drinking. Surveillance video showed the Defendant leave the scene with the firearm. The Defendant was sixty-three (63) years old at the time of the offense and had no criminal history. It appeared that the Defendant had suffered from alcohol abuse and that he was not necessarily clear minded at the time of the offense. Ultimately the Defendant plead guilty to a sentence of nine (9) years in the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections on Voluntary Manslaughter and 3 years on Armed Criminal Action.

**State v. Reginald Jones, Jr.- Criminal Case No.: 1716-CR052419-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Kevin Harrell (Div. 18)

**Prosecutor's Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Co-Counsel:** Dion Sankar

**Co-Counsel:** Lauren Dollar

**Defense Counsel:** Paige Bremner (KC Public Defender's Office)

**Disposition:**

**Jury 1-** Mistrial Resulting from Hung Jury (06-13-2019)

**Jury 2-** Verdict- Not Guilty Counts 1 & 2; Guilty as Charged Counts 3 & 4 (07-05-2019)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with two counts of Murder in the First Degree and two counts of Armed Criminal Action for a homicide that occurred at 4502 E. 24th Street, outside of a neighborhood grocery store, owned by his father's cousin. The victims were the Defendant's father and a bystander who worked at the store. The Defendant was eighteen years old at the time of the offense, which was captured on surveillance video. However, the video lacked audio. The Defendant's friends testified as witnesses for the State, although they articulated the Defendant's potential self-defense claim in a jury trial. After nearly two weeks of trial, the jury could not reach a conclusion and the judge declared a mistrial. The case was set for the following week and tried before a new jury. After a second jury trial, the jury found the State had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant did not act in self-defense against his father, but found the Defendant guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and Armed

Criminal Action for the bystander. The Defendant had no prior criminal convictions, so the jury also had to consider sentencing. After two days of evidence and argument, the jury recommended twenty (20) years in the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections on the homicide count and thirteen (13) years on the Armed Criminal Action. The Court ran those sentences concurrent with one another following a formal sentencing hearing before the Court.

**State v. Dimitri Tinsley- Criminal Case No.: 1816-CR01082-01**

**Trial Court:** Judge Patrick Campbell (Div. 10)

**Prosecutor’s Office:**

**Lead Counsel:** Sarah Castle

**Co-Counsel:** Jeannette Wolpink

**Defense Counsel:** Walter Stokely (KC Public Defender’s Office)

**Disposition:** Jury Verdict- Guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter in the Second Degree (Lesser-Included Offense), Armed Criminal Action, two counts of Endangering the Welfare of Child in the Second Degree (Lesser-Included Offense), Guilty as Charged Counts 5 & 6 (08-19-2019)

**Nature of the Case / Synopsis:** The Defendant was charged with Murder in the Second Degree, Armed Criminal Action, two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child in the First Degree, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Controlled Substance, for causing the death of his longtime girlfriend, and the mother of his two children. His two children, who were three and eight at the time of the offense, witnessed the crime. Following a jury trial, the jury returned a verdict for Involuntary Manslaughter in the Second Degree, Armed Criminal Action, two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child in the Second Degree, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Controlled Substance. The Defendant was a prior and persistent offender and was sentenced to the Missouri Division of Adult Institutions – Department of Corrections.

13. If you have appellate experience, provide a representative list of cases in which you served as the primary attorney on appeal. The list should include the style of each case, appellate court or administrative agency, identification of your client, and the nature and date of disposition.

**Not Applicable.**

14. If you are serving or have served in a judicial capacity, describe the nature and extent of your judicial responsibilities, the types of dockets handled, and any special expertise developed.

My current assignments as an Associate Circuit Court Judge comprise of the following dockets: domestic, including uncontested marriage dissolutions and name changes; high volume debt collections; landlord-tenant actions; post-judgment revivals; civil matters with damages alleged less than \$25,000; small claims matters; criminal expungements; matters involving the Department of Revenue, including driver’s license revocations and reinstatements, and vehicle title determinations; and criminal probation violation and revocation hearings.

As an Associate Circuit Court Judge I spend the majority of my days hearing cases involving pro se litigants, who are faced with complex issues and who often struggle to understand fully the matters pending before the Court. I have found that my role on the bench is to listen and explain matters that may not be particularly complex to an attorney, but are daunting to someone appearing in Court for the first time. There is a delicate balance of explaining rights and the proceedings to a pro se litigant, without providing them with legal advice. I try to ensure that each person has the opportunity to be heard during

each hearing. Some of my dockets have lasted more than 5 hours. I have taken up some matters after hours to ensure that litigants are able to appear without conflicts to their employment.

COVID-19 drastically changed the landscape of the Court system. It has forced us to think about accessibility to the Court system in ways that had never been contemplated before. I had only been on the bench for a little more than a month when the operations of the Court were challenged and thrust into a virtual format. The responsibilities of the Associate Circuit Court include ensuring the public has access to the Court, that the pro se litigants are not adversely impacted by a court system that has had to continue business remotely, and ultimately that the process is fair.

I have spent significant time learning the virtual formats of WebEx and telephone. I have worked with my Division staff to develop methods of communicating through phone and email with litigants, as we faced obstacles with standard mail, and receipt of court notices. As a Judge I have fully embraced the virtual court “option.” I have held bench trials with individuals in different states through WebEx; we have taken testimony from individuals who appear by phone; and we have found ways to continue to make the Court available to the public.

It is not lost on me that there has been concern about holding hearings with pro se litigants who have not been able to or cannot appear in person. I believe that adapting to the unexpected is part of the responsibility required of me as a Judge, and I work tirelessly to find ways to work with parties to appear virtually, in person on a limited basis, and with hybrids of the two. I have found modes to receive and review evidence virtually, and to ensure that all parties are heard and present in court, even if it means repeating everything that a witness or litigant says for the record.

Managing virtual hearings is and will continue to be imperative to the function of the Court. I have embraced this change, and have fully integrated virtual hearings into the format for Division 27, and believe that my ability to adapt to this fundamental change has prepared me for some of the challenges of Circuit Court.

As an Associate Court Judge I offer the strength of high volume docket management and working with pro se litigants through navigating the legal process. Since I took the bench I have handled hundreds of cases and have attempted to implement new processes for the Division. I continue to try to find ways for the Division to be more efficient. My priority is to ensure that the time on the bench is spent hearing matters, and ensuring that litigants, whether through counsel or pro se, feel respected and heard. My legal background prior to taking the bench was almost entirely criminal and in my few months on the bench I have heard few criminal matters. The few criminal matters I have heard have been probation violation hearings, and I approach them with the same fairness and patience that I practiced as a prosecutor and apply in all other matters before me.

I knew that educating myself on the different types of matters before the Associate Circuit Court would be my responsibility and my challenge. I have often heard from my colleagues that “I have never heard of this before” or “I have never seen this before.” I think that the uncommon forces us to learn, and challenges me as a Judge and as a person to continue to strive to be better. Each time I have come across a case with an issue I have not seen before, I dedicate whatever time is necessary to work through the issues

and come to a fair resolution for all parties within the letter of the law. This attribute is one that I believe will benefit the Circuit Court bench. The judge doesn't always have to be the expert in the area of law, but the judge needs the skills to work through the unexpected and unseen. My experience as a judge exemplifies this quality.

15. If you are serving or have served in a judicial capacity, provide a representative list of at least ten cases over which you have presided to completion. The list should include the style of each case and the nature and date of disposition.

**Doris Judon v. Wayne Judon, Sr.- Civil Case No. 1916-CV19750**

**Plaintiff:** Doris Judon

**Plaintiff's Counsel:** N/A

**Defendant:** Wayne Judon, Sr.

**Defendant's Counsel:** N/A

**Nature of Case:** Small Claims

**Disposition:** Judgment for Defendant on Petition. Judgment for Plaintiff on Counterclaim. (03-02-2020)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff and Defendant were married and then divorced. The parties later reconciled and purchased a home prior to remarrying. The second marriage lasted approximately eight days and the parties then divorced again. The Plaintiff sought damages for appraisal fees of the home, moving services expenses, and utilities for the time period when the parties were living together. The Defendant sought damages for one-quarter of the mortgage of the residence that was purchased prior to the second marriage and divorce. The parties presented evidence and argument after which the Court entered Judgment in favor of the Defendant as to the Plaintiff's Petition, and entered Judgment in favor of the Plaintiff as to the Defendant's Counterclaim.

**Taylor A. Hudgens v. Director of Revenue- Civil Case No.: 1916-CV20271**

**Petitioner:** Taylor Hudgens

**Petitioner's Counsel:**

**Respondent:** Missouri Department of Revenue

**Respondent's Counsel:** Sean Emery (Jackson County Prosecutor's Office)

**Nature of Case:** Revocation of Driver's License based on Refusal to Take Breathalyzer Test

**Disposition:** Judgment in Favor of Petitioner (07-06-2020)

**Synopsis:** Petitioner sought to have his driving privileges reinstated after an alleged refusal to take a breathalyzer test. The Court found the evidence was insufficient to meet the Respondent's burden that there was reasonable suspicion that the Petitioner was driving while intoxicated. Therefore, the Court entered Judgment in favor of the Petitioner.

**Bannister Gardens Apartments, L.P d/b/a Polo Run Apartments v. Kenetra Brookins- Civil Case No. 1916-CV26313**

**Plaintiff:** Bannister Gardens Apartments

**Plaintiff's Counsel:** James Schurman

**Defendant(s):** Kenetra Brookins

**Respondent's Counsel:** Tyson Bramley

**Nature of Case:** Landlord-Tenant

**Disposition:** Judgment in favor of Defendant (04-01-2020)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff filed suit against the Defendant for past due rent and restitution of the premises. An Answer and Counterclaim were filed. The Court took up a Motion to Enforce a Settlement Agreement, which was denied, and then took up the matter for trial. Plaintiff sought damages for past due rent, while

Defendant sought damages for Breach of Implied Warranty of Habitability and Constructive Eviction. The case was tried and the Court took the matter under advisement. Judgment was entered in favor of the Plaintiff for both the claim of Breach of the Implied Warranty of Habitability and Constructive Eviction; however, no monetary damages were awarded.

**In Re the Marriage of: Cheyenne Caudle and Toni Chiesi- Family Court Case No.: 1916-FC07581**

**Petitioner:** Cheyenne Caudle

**Petitioner's Counsel:** Brian Costello

**Respondent(s):** Toni Chiesi

**Respondent's Counsel:** N/A

**Nature of Case:** Petition for Annulment

**Disposition:** Annulment Granted (06-04-2020)

**Synopsis:** Petitioner and Respondent sought an annulment of their marriage. Missouri law permits annulment in few circumstances. After hearing the evidence and argument from each party, the Court granted the annulment of the marriage between the parties.

**In Re: Eva Marie Lossa, by her Next Friend Nicole Harder- Family Court Case No.: 2016-FC02105**

**Petitioner:** Eva Lossa

**Petitioner's Next Friend:** Nicole Harder

**Petitioner's Counsel:** Amanda Kivett

**Nature of Case:** Contested Minor Name Change

**Disposition:** Minor Name Change Granted (06-29-2020)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff, by and through her Next Friend and mother, sought to have her surname changed to match that of her mother's surname. The Petitioner's father, who appeared pro se, did not consent to the Minor's name change. The matter was taken up entirely through WebEx videoconferencing. Evidence was heard, and the Court entered Judgment in favor of the Petitioner's request to add her mother's surname to her name, but denied the removal of the Petitioner's father's last name.

**In Re: Trinity Kay Vandeputte, by her Next Friend Kayla Hardin- Family Court Case No.: 2016-FC02122**

**Petitioner:** Trinity Kay Vandeputte

**Petitioner's Next Friend:** Kayla Hardin

**Petitioner's Counsel:** N/A

**Nature of Case:** Contested Minor Name Change

**Disposition:** Minor Name Change Granted (08-10-2020)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff, by and through her Next Friend and mother, sought to have her surname changed to match that of her mother's last name. The Petitioner's father, who appeared pro se, did not consent to the Minor's name change. The Petitioner and Next Friend appeared via WebEx. The Petitioner's father appeared in person. A witness appeared via telephone by agreement of the parties. Evidence was heard, and the Court entered Judgment in favor of the Petitioner's request to add her mother's surname to her name, but denied the removal of the Petitioner's father's last name.

**Ezatullah Abdulbazi v. Nobel Motors, LLC- Civil Case No.: 2016-CV05851**

**Plaintiff:** Ezatullah Abdulbazi

**Plaintiff's Counsel:** N/A

**Defendant:** Nobel Motors, LLC

**Defendant's Counsel:** N/A

**Nature of Case:** Small Claims

**Disposition:** Judgment in Favor of Plaintiff (07-24-2020)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff sought damages for failure to provide title to a vehicle he purchased from the Defendant, and he further alleged that the Defendant improperly kept a vehicle owned by the Plaintiff, alleging it had been traded in for the other vehicle. Both parties presented evidence and argument was heard. The Court entered a monetary Judgment in favor of the Plaintiff.

**La Casita MHP, LLC v. Jeremiah Popplewell, et al- Civil Case No.: 2016-CV08965**

**Plaintiff:** La Casita MHP, LLC

**Plaintiff's Counsel:** C. Spence Stover

**Defendant:** Jeremiah Popplewell

**Defendant's Counsel:** N/A

**Nature of Case:** Landlord Tenant

**Disposition:** Judgment in Favor of Plaintiff (06-15-2020)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff sought damages for past due rent and restitution of the premises for Defendant's failure to pay rent. The parties appeared in person and presented evidence to the Court. Following a bench trial, Judgment was entered in favor of the Plaintiff.

**Toniesha Bledsoe v. Andres Bledsoe- Family Court Case No.: 2016-FC01975**

**Petitioner:** Toniesha Bledsoe

**Petitioner's Counsel:** N/A

**Respondent:** Andres Bledsoe

**Respondent's Counsel:** N/A

**Nature of Case:** Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

**Disposition:** Dissolution Granted with Parenting Plan after Hearing (07-08-2020)

**Synopsis:** Parties sought dissolution of their marriage. The parties filed pro se for an uncontested dissolution, but needed the assistance of the Court to finalize the terms of the parenting plan. The parties were able to reach an agreement as to the terms of the dissolution and the parenting plan, and Judgment was entered.

**Joy Eke v. Oleksandra Okrepka- Civil Case No.: 2016-CV07481**

**Plaintiff:** Joy Eke

**Plaintiff's Counsel:** N/A

**Defendant:** Oleksandra Okrepka

**Defendant's Counsel:** N/A

**Disposition:** Consent Judgment (07-10-2020)

**Nature of the Case:** Landlord-Tenant (Pro Se)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff owns a residence that offers housing to individuals receiving medical and mental health care treatment from local hospitals. Plaintiff offered evidence that the facility serves as transitional housing and sometimes operates as a homeless shelter. The Defendant had been a resident of the facility for over a year and had not paid rent, in accordance with the terms of the lease agreement. The Plaintiff sought past due rent and possession of the premises. The Defendant presented evidence that she alleged supported her claim that the residence was a homeless shelter and therefore she did not owe rent. After trial, but before the Court entered Judgment, the parties came to a consent agreement for restitution of the premises only.

**Celtic Property Management v. Brendan James Lambert, et al- Civil Case No. 2016-CV10607**

**Plaintiff:** Celtic Property Management

**Plaintiff's Counsel:** Stephanie Burton

**Defendant:** Brendan James Lambert

**Defendant's Counsel:** N/A

**Nature of Case:** Landlord-Tenant

**Disposition:** Judgment in favor of Plaintiff (07-17-2020)

**Synopsis:** Plaintiff sought past due rent and restitution of the premises. Plaintiff appeared through counsel. Defendant appeared pro se. This matter was filed April 10, 2020, after the CARES Act had been passed. The Defendant objected numerous times to appearing by telephone and to the Court proceeding with the action. Ultimately the Defendant was able to obtain videoconferencing technology and we proceeded with trial by WebEx. After presentation of each party's evidence and argument, the Court entered Judgment in favor of the Plaintiff for past due rent and restitution of the premises.

**Ramona Mayer v. Ronald Butler, et al.- Civil Case No.: 2016-CV12165**

**Plaintiff:** Ramona Mayer

**Plaintiff's Counsel:** N/A

**Defendant(s):** Ronald Butler, Ashley Allen

**Defendant's Counsel:** Gina Chiala

**Nature of Case:** Landlord-Tenant

**Disposition:** Dismissal (07-31-2020)

**Synopsis:** This matter was a landlord-tenant dispute that arose from unpaid rent. The pro se Plaintiff was seeking past due rent and possession of the premises. The property was not subject to the CARES Act, therefore, there was no limitation on the Court's jurisdiction or ability to consider the matter. Although the parties presented evidence during a bench trial, the case was ultimately dismissed because the Defendant was able to pay the past due rent and return the keys to the Plaintiff prior to Judgment being entered.

16. If you do not have significant experience in litigation or in a judicial capacity, describe any other legal experience or accomplishments in the legal profession that may qualify you to serve in the office of Circuit Judge.

**Not Applicable.**

17. List all bar associations and law-related organizations of which you are or have been a member, with any offices held and dates of membership.

**Missouri Bar Association,  
Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association  
Association of Woman Lawyers**

18. List any published articles or books you have authored and any significant programs or events for which you served as a primary speaker.

Speaker: "Inspirational Speaker" Camp WIN-At-Home Summer Camp- Kansas City, Missouri (2020)

Keynote: Wendy's Hall of Fame Classic, Youth Clinic hosted by the National Association of Basketball Coaches- Kansas City, Missouri (2019)

Keynote: Department of Mental Health Forensic Conference re: Jackson County Mental Health and Diversion Programming- Jefferson City, Missouri (2019)

Keynote: ALFN (American Legal Financial Network) – WILLPOWER- Summit, Dallas, TX (2018)

Keynote: Whole Person – Night of Independence Gala- Kansas City, Missouri (2018)

Keynote: Kansas City Police Detective School- Probable Cause Statements and Missouri Gun Laws Updates (2018)

Keynote: WIN (Women Intersport Network) Summer Camp- Kansas City, Missouri (2018)

Keynote: Shawnee Mission East High School- Spring Sports Orientation/Meet the Coach Night- Kansas City, Missouri (2018)

Keynote: Symposium for Therapeutic Recreation- Kansas City, Missouri (2018)

Keynote: Miss Wheelchair Kansas Competition- Topeka, Kansas (2018)

Keynote: Kansas City, Missouri Police Department Investigations Bureau Missouri Gun Law Legal Updates and Drug Court Education (2017)

Keynote: Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy- Leadership Forum for High School Students with Disabilities- Topeka, Kansas (2015)

Keynote: Missouri Youth Leadership Forum for High School Students with Disabilities- Columbia, Missouri (2014)

Keynote: St. Mary's Academy High School Commencement- Littleton, Colorado (2012)

Panel Member: Kansas City, Missouri Police Department Disability Inclusion Panel- Kansas City, Missouri (2013)

19. Do you now or have you ever held any elective or appointive public office or position? If so, please explain.

**Yes- Associate Circuit Court Judge**

20. Provide the branches and dates of any military service or other public service not otherwise covered in this application. If discharged from the military, state whether the discharge was other than honorable.

**Not Applicable.**

21. Describe your community and volunteer service activities, including any organizations (outside the legal profession) with which you are affiliated and any offices held.

**Head Judge- Ms. Wheelchair Kansas Event (2020)**

*March 13-15, 2020*

The Miss Wheelchair Kansas program annually highlights wheelchair mobile women, who are dedicating their lives to advocacy, education, and the empowerment of wheelchair mobile people and people with disabilities. At the annual event, one woman is selected to represent the State of Kansas at the Miss Wheelchair America event. Miss Wheelchair America was established in 1972 as a forum for the promotion of the achievements of women who are wheelchair mobile.

**President / Co-Founder, Youth 4 Kansas City (Y4KC)**

*June 2017- 2020*

Youth 4 Kansas City is a charitable 501(c)(3), Missouri non-profit organization aimed at providing youth ages 15-22 with mentorship, leadership, and service opportunities aimed at bettering the Kansas City community. By actively engaging with our youth members and by allowing them to advocate for causes they want to support, we are able to foster relationships and break down barriers in our community. The youth members for 2019 are dedicated to a “By Youth For (4) Youth” focus, which has led them to partner with Healing Pathway and Midwest Adaptive Sports for service opportunities.

Y4KC was formalized in 2018. In 2017, it was developed after a challenge to raise funding and awareness for wheelchair basketball locally and nationally. Together with 13 youth members of the community, we were able to host a gala and silent auction, and an exhibition basketball game, which featured medal winning Paralympic athletes, including members of the 2016 Paralympic Gold Medalist Men’s and Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Teams. The event grossed over \$60,000 and ultimately \$12,000 came back to Midwest Adaptive Sports to fund a youth wheelchair basketball program.

- Honors: (2017) Jackson County Legislative Proclamation on behalf of wheelchair basketball.

**Youth Basketball Coach, Liberty Parks & Recreation**

*November 2017 – 2020*

I volunteer to coach basketball for a Liberty Parks and Recreation co-ed basketball team. I have maintained a relationship with the team for the past two years, and have aged up with them. The team members will be 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders this year. My coaching style emphasizes sportsmanship and fundamental skill development.

**President, National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)**

*January 2014-June 2019*

- Member of the Ethics Committee
- Member of the Governance Committee

**Vice President, National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)**

*June 2012- January 2014*

- Member of the Ethics Committee
- Member of the Governance Committee

**Secretary, National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)**

*June 2011- June 2012*

- Chair of the Governance Committee

**Director, National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)**

*April 2009- February 2020*

As a board member I was responsible for assisting with the management, oversight, employment, and governance of the NWBA.

**Paralympic Swimming Athlete Representative, Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) for the United States Olympic Committee (USOC)**

*August 2011-January 2017*

I was one of the original six Paralympic representatives selected to serve on the Athlete Advisory Council, which in 2011 had been positions traditionally held by Olympic athletes only. In 2011, when Paralympians were still marginalized in the sport world, we were asked to come to advocate and educate on behalf of athletes with disabilities and the Paralympic Games. In my six years of service, the AAC came to make Paralympian inclusion and equality a core topic to address with the United State Olympic Committee, which in 2019 changed its name to the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC). I worked to update voting procedures, bylaws, and other practices in the AAC, while also working to ensure more inclusive perspectives for athletes with disabilities.

**Member, Missouri Lawyer’s Inclusion Group**

*Jan. 2016- 2017*

The Missouri Lawyer’s Inclusion Group brought together professionals with disabilities and with backgrounds in disability law, to work towards the promotion and inclusion of lawyers with disabilities in the legal profession.

**Member, International Paralympic Committee - Board of Appeal of Classification**

*Sept. 2015- 2016*

Assisted with review and disposition of appeals of disability classification for Paralympic Athletes and the International Paralympic Committee

Developed recommendations and the final decision of policies and procedures, violations of athlete rights and decisions of National Governing Bodies

**Campaign for Real Choice in Illinois**

*January 2008- July 2009*

Lead Organizer for the statewide action called “Freedom Quest 2009”, which brought people with developmental disabilities from around Illinois together to advocate for their rights; included 13 stops in 13 different cities and over 250 participants. The event concluded with a rally at the State Capital in Springfield, Illinois.

**Member, Illinois Imagines Review Teams**

*March 2009- July 2009*

As a member of the Illinois Imagines Review Teams, I assisted with the assessment of rape crisis centers and disability service providers in Illinois for their preparedness to serve people with disabilities who were victims of sexual violence.

22. List any significant honors or awards you have received that otherwise have not been covered in this application.

**Phillips 66 Live to the Full Hero Award- 2019**

This award is presented to individuals in Kansas City who have made a contribution to the community through basketball. It was presented to me for my volunteer work with local youth basketball teams, and for my volunteer and advocacy efforts for wheelchair basketball in Kansas City.

**The Whole Person Individual of the Year- 2018**

This award was presented for my contribution to the support of the Whole Person and for my advocacy of adaptive sports programs in our community for youth with disabilities.

**Royals Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat Honoree- 2018**

**WIN Game Changer Award- 2018**

The Kissick Construction Game Changer Award is presented to a local individual or group who personifies the true spirit of sport not as a participant, but as a supporter, promoter, or champion of girls' and women's sports and fitness. This award recognizes those who give their all to girls' and women's sports through an outlet other than participation. Nominees demonstrate empowerment by working behind the scenes to promote or create opportunities for women and girls in sports.

**United States Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team- (2005-2012)**

2012- 4<sup>th</sup> place, Women's Wheelchair Basketball Paralympic Games, London, England  
2011-2012- Captain of USA Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team  
2011- Gold Medalist, ParaPan American Games, Guadalajara, Mexico  
2011- Tournament of Champions MVP, Charlotte, North Carolina  
2010- Gold Medalist, World Championships, Birmingham, England  
2008- Gold Medalist, Paralympic Games, Beijing, China  
2007- Gold Medalist, ParaPan American Games, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
2006- Silver Medalist, World Championships, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
2005- Gold Medalist, America's Cup, Colorado Springs, Colorado

**University of Illinois Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team (2002-2008)**

2002-2008- Assisted in raising over \$50,000 for the Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team  
2007-2008- Women's Division National Champions  
2007-2008- Team Co-Captain  
2007-2008- Lead Organizer for the Women's Division National Tournament  
2006-2007- Women's Division National Champions  
2005-2006- Women's Division National Champions  
2004-2005- Women's Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Finish  
2003-2004- Women's Division National Champions  
2002-2003- Women's Division National Champions

**United States Paralympic Swim Team- (1998-2004)**

2004- 4<sup>th</sup> place, SB6 100m Breaststroke, Paralympic Games, Athens, Greece

2002- Silver Medalist, SB6 100m Breaststroke, World Championships, Mar del Plata, Argentina

2000- Silver Medalist, SB6 100m Breaststroke, Paralympic Games, Sydney, Australia

2000-2002- S8 1500m Freestyle, World Record Holder

2000- Inducted into the Sportswomen of Colorado Hall of Fame

2000- Inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame

23. Are you delinquent in the payment of any federal, state, county or city taxes? If so, please explain.  
**No.**
24. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony or received a suspended imposition of sentence in any federal, state, or military court? If so, please explain and provide the style of the case (including case number), the court, the date of the conviction, and the sentence or fine imposed.  
**No.**
25. Have you ever been held in contempt of court? If so, please explain.  
**No.**
26. Have you ever been sued by a client or been a party to any litigation, other than as a guardian ad litem, plaintiff ad litem, or defendant ad litem? If so, please explain and provide the style of each case, the court, your role as plaintiff or defendant, and the nature and date of disposition.  
**No.**
27. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or professional conduct by a court or by any bar association or committee thereof? If so, please explain.  
**No.**
28. If you are or were a member of the judiciary of the State of Missouri, please state:
- (a) Whether an order of reprimand, removal, retirement, suspension or other disciplinary action has ever been entered against you by the Supreme Court of Missouri for breach of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Canons of Judicial Conduct. If so, explain the details of such breach and the date, nature, and duration of the discipline imposed.  
**No.**
- (b) Whether a reprimand or admonishment has ever been entered against you by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline for any of the causes specified in Rule 12.07 of the Supreme Court Rules Governing the Judiciary. If so, explain the details of such cause and the date and nature of the discipline imposed.  
**No.**
- (c) Whether, to your knowledge, you are the subject of a complaint that is currently under investigation by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline. If so, explain the nature of such complaint and the status of the investigation.  
**No.**

29. Provide any additional information that you consider relevant to your qualifications for the office of Circuit Judge.

I was appointed to the Associate Circuit Court in January 2020. Weeks later the world as we knew it drastically changed and in many ways “shut down”. When I came before the Commission for the Associate Circuit Judge position I promised a strong work ethic. I believe that I have continued to pursue excellence in my new role by building relationships and being mindful of the same principles that have governed me all of my life, and to following through on my promise of a strong work ethic.

As a prosecutor I was at the center of the gateway into the criminal justice system. As an Associate Circuit Court Judge, I am now at the heart of people’s first time in the court system. I am mindful that people find themselves in a courtroom after something has gone wrong, and it is not unusual that someone fears the courtroom and the judgment of the court. Courtrooms are intimidating. A judge who serves with fairness, compassion, and a calm temperament can help to bring ease to those who find themselves in court for the first time. A judge doesn’t serve as an advocate for any individual person, but rather is an advocate for the law and for the system. It is my belief that I have filled this role and have served in a manner consistent with the judicial temperament I offered upon seeking my first appointment.

The combination of skills I developed as a prosecutor as well those from my short time in the Associate Circuit Court have prepared me for the more complex litigation of the Circuit Court. Although the majority of the cases I have handled in the Associate Circuit Court have been with pro se litigants, the cases that have come before me clearly demonstrate that at the heart of any dispute are emotions that can often challenge the legal issues. I spend much of my time explaining the law and walking litigants through the process to ensure that it continues to be fair.

I recall my interview with the Commission for Division 27, and in that interview I was asked the question of what I thought the hardest thing I would have to do as a judge would be; my response was follow the law when my personal feelings wanted a different outcome. I have been fortunate enough to only experience this in the extreme once or twice since taking the bench. That said, I thought it was worth mentioning in this application because as the complexity of litigation and the potential stakes grow, I believe there is a greater likelihood that I could be faced with this challenge. I am confident, however, that my limited experience on the bench and my years of work as a prosecutor have prepared me to set my personal opinions aside, and to give my judgment on the law.

I was appointed to the Associate Circuit Court position on January 29, 2020. The twenty-fifth anniversary of my paralysis was January 30, 2020. I don’t raise this point for sympathy, but rather to talk about opportunity and inclusion. I went to law school to become a disability advocate and to add to the credentials behind so that people would take me seriously when I entered a room and advocated on behalf of people with disabilities. Twenty-five years ago I never would have imagined that by working hard and trying every day to become a better person that I would be in the position I am now. I could not have predicted that just by doing things that were natural to me, like working hard, being respectful and compassionate, and caring about people, would make me the best kind of disability advocate, one who lives and aspires.

In the summer of 2020 I was asked to record an inspirational talk for the WIN (Women’s Intersport Network) Summer Camp. They asked that I talk to young girls/women about the importance of goal setting. I talked about my life as a person with a disability, as a competitive athlete, as a prosecutor, and

now as a Judge. The common link through all of my experiences was my ability to set goals, to work hard, and to dedicate myself wholly to any task in front of me. My lessons in life, and my lessons to them included the importance of integrity, focus, determination, respect, and a belief that we can define ourselves as we want to be seen. Recently in the hallway of the courthouse, a litigant apologized to me because she saw that I was in a wheelchair. She said this knowing I was the Judge presiding over her case. I wasn't offended nor was I upset, but it certainly made me think about my life and experiences, and how I want to be as a Judge, and ultimately as a person. Each of my experiences, positive and difficult or negative, have helped me to develop compassion and empathy, creative ways of resolving problems, and a unique way of viewing the world. These experiences are certainly not all legal in nature, but they are critical for the role of a Judge. This application reflects upon the wide variety of legal, professional, and personal experiences and the unique perspective that I offer. I have the temperament, dedication, commitment, and skillset to serve in the role of Circuit Court Judge for Division 1 with integrity and humility.

30. List the names and contact information (title, mailing address, telephone, and email address) of the **five** persons whom you have requested to provide letters of reference regarding your character and judicial qualifications. Do not list as a reference any judge who currently sits in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

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