

**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.

**Janette Kay Rodecap**

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

**Associate Circuit Judge, Division 29  
16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Jackson County Courthouse  
415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64106**



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, I am fully capable of performing the essential functions of a Circuit Judge as described above.**

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.

**I was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 2002. My Missouri Bar license is and always has been 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.

**Iowa – I am an inactive member of the Iowa Bar. I was and always had been in good standing when I took inactive status.**

**Florida – I am a retired member of the Florida Bar. I was and always had been in good standing when I retired.**

**United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri – I was inactive for a period of time, but I reinstated my membership on June 1, 2016. I was and always had been in good standing when I took inactive status, and I am and always have been in good standing since I was reinstated.**

7. Provide the following information for all colleges or universities, other than law schools, you have attended:

(a) Name and location of institution.

**Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.**

(b) Dates attended and degrees received.

**1993-1997; Bachelor of Arts; Major in European history, Minor in philosophy.**

**1995-1996; Studied abroad at the University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, England.**

(c) Significant activities, achievements, honors, and awards.

**Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*; I made the Dean's List every quarter and was selected for membership in Phi Beta Kappa.**

**National Merit Scholar; I was awarded a partial academic scholarship.**

**I played the flute in the marching and concert bands, and I was a staff writer for the *Daily Northwestern* newspaper.**

8. Provide the following information for all law schools you have attended:

(a) Name and location of law school.

**The University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa.**

(b) Dates attended and degrees received.

**1998-2001; Juris Doctor with distinction.**

(c) Significant activities, achievements, honors, and awards.

**Graduated with Distinction, in the top 15% of my law school class.**

***Journal of Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems*; writer (1999-2000), Senior Note and Comment Editor (2000-2001).**

**Van Oosterhout Moot Court Competition Semifinalist; received Best Oralist award.**

**University of Iowa Legal Clinic, Student Legal Intern and Extern; received Michelle R. Bennett Client Representation Award.**

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

**No, I have never been suspended or expelled as a student.**

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.

**Televue Systems Cable Television Company, 207 W. Pearl Street, Decorah, IA 52101. Secretary and Receptionist, September 1990 to September 1993. I worked here every day after school and in the summers from the beginning of my sophomore year in high school until I voluntarily left to start college.**

**Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, 502 W. Water Street, Decorah, IA 52101. Iowa Conservation Corps, Museum Maintenance Crew, June to August 1994. Voluntarily left to return to college.**

**Northwestern University Media Center, 1935 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201. Federal Work Study, Media Aide, September 1994 to June 1995. Voluntarily left at**

**the end of my sophomore year to return to my hometown for the summer.**

**Cliff House Hotel and Restaurant, Intersection of Highways 9 and 52, Decorah, IA 52101. Waitress, June to July 1995. Voluntarily left to focus on my employment at Video Warehouse.**

**Viking Theater / Video Warehouse, 109 Mechanic Street, Decorah, IA 52101. Theater Employee and Video Store Clerk, June to October 1995. Voluntarily left to study abroad in England.**

**Viking Theater / Video Warehouse, 109 Mechanic Street, Decorah, IA 52101. Theater Employee and Video Store Clerk, June to September 1996. Voluntarily left to return to college.**

**Northwestern University Media Center, 1935 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201. Federal Work Study, Media Aide, September 1996 to June 1997. Voluntarily left when I graduated from Northwestern University.**

**Champion Recruitment, 55 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, England. Temporary Secretary, August 1997 to February 1998. Voluntarily left when my six-month work visa expired.**

**Putnam Law Office, 518 Montgomery Street, Decorah, IA 52101. Legal Secretary, March to July 1998. Voluntarily left to start law school.**

**Stinson, Mag & Fizzell (now Stinson Leonard Street, LLP), 1201 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO 64106. Summer Associate, May to August 1999. Voluntarily left to return to law school.**

**Iowa State Attorney General's Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hoover Building, 1305 E. Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319. Legal Intern, May to July 2000. Voluntarily left to split summer with Stinson, Mag & Fizzell.**

**Stinson, Mag & Fizzell (now Stinson Leonard Street, LLP), 1201 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO 64106. Summer Associate, July to August 2000. Voluntarily left to return to law school.**

**U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri, 400 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 7452, Kansas City, MO 64106. Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Nanette K. Laughrey, August 2001-August 2003. Voluntarily left at the end of my two year term.**

**Palau Supreme Court, P.O. Box 248, Koror, Palau 96940. Court Counsel, October 2003 to September 2004. Voluntarily left at the end of my one year term.**

**State Attorney's Office, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, 1700 Monroe Street, P.O. Box 399, Fort Myers, FL 33902. Assistant State Attorney, March 2005 to April 2006. Voluntarily left to accept position at the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office.**

**Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, 415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO 64106. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, May 1, 2006 to June 16, 2014. Voluntarily left to be sworn in as an Associate Circuit Judge in Division 29 of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in Jackson County.**

**16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Division 29, 415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO 64106. Associate Circuit Judge from June 16, 2014 to present.**

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 have spent most of my professional career in the courtrooms of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. As an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, I appeared in those courtrooms almost every day, often for substantive hearings including everything from bond hearings to sentencings. I tried 17 jury trials and 11 bench trials as an Assistant Prosecutor, and I tried the majority of those cases as the lead attorney. I have conducted all phases of trial from *voir dire* to closing arguments and responding to post-conviction motions. I engaged in trial preparation for hundreds of other cases by meeting with victims and witnesses, responding to discovery requests, defending depositions, organizing exhibits, drafting jury instructions and motions *in limine*, and researching potential legal issues and defenses. I understand the amount of work and time that an attorney invests in each case, and I know how important it is for each litigant to feel like they have been treated fairly. I also understand the daily challenges faced by practicing attorneys, from discovery disputes to scheduling issues. I have learned from my own experience the importance of being prepared, treating others with respect and courtesy, and giving attorneys the opportunity to present their evidence and arguments in a fair hearing.**

**I began my legal career first as a judicial law clerk for Federal District Court Judge Nanette Laughrey and then as a court counsel for the Supreme Court of Palau. I was fortunate to work for exceptionally bright and hard-working judges who cared deeply about the integrity of our judicial system and reaching a fair decision by correctly and impartially applying the law. I had the opportunity to watch many trials and other court proceedings at the Federal trial court level, and I was then able to review trial court decisions as an appellate Supreme Court clerk. These experiences exposed me to a broad range of complex legal issues and encouraged me to think like an impartial judge rather than as an advocate. Most of my Federal workload consisted of drafting preliminary decisions on motions for summary judgment in civil cases. I was responsible for thoroughly reviewing the court file and pleadings, researching the legal issues raised by the parties, and applying the law accurately in the orders and judgments that I drafted for the Court. I had to learn**

vastly different areas of the law quickly and, in my work in Palau, I even had to learn a new legal system as I worked to synthesize customary Palauan law with U.S. Federal law. My experience as a judicial clerk has given me strong research and writing skills, a familiarity with complex civil litigation, and an ability to learn new areas of the law quickly that will be critically important as a Circuit Judge.

After my clerkships, I gained my first trial experience at the State Attorney's Office in Fort Myers, Florida. I managed an average caseload of 300 to 350 misdemeanor cases, and I would have up to 60 cases set for trial any given week. As a result, I tried 15 jury trials and 7 bench trials in less than 14 months. I also handled ongoing responsibilities such as making charging decisions, representing the State at first appearances and bond and suppression hearings, responding to motions and discovery requests, and handling a probation violation docket on top of my trial caseload. This experience taught me how to think on my feet, be a supportive team player, and efficiently handle many different tasks simultaneously to carry this workload.

When I joined the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office in 2006, I was assigned to the Street Crimes Unit. I managed an average caseload of 40 to 50 felony trial cases consisting of homicides, assaults, robberies, drug offenses, and driving offenses. I also handled a weekly probation violation docket, where I worked closely with probation officers, defense attorneys, and the judge to determine how to best resolve each violation. In addition, I made charging decisions on hundreds of cases and served as a primary legal researcher for the office. During my first two years in the office, I managed a large driving docket in Associate Circuit Court, which required a great deal of preparation and organization to allow me to efficiently resolve as many cases as possible. This experience exemplifies my strong work ethic and my ability to be organized and efficient in order to effectively handle a heavy caseload. I also developed the negotiation skills that are necessary to resolve cases and work well with opposing counsel.

When I transferred to the Special Victims Unit of the prosecutor's office, I was assigned a caseload of adult and child sex crimes, child abuse, sex offender registration, and domestic violence cases. I often met with vulnerable victims to discuss some of the most emotional and private moments of their lives and to prepare them to speak about those painful experiences in a deposition or at trial. These meetings required a great deal of sensitivity to the trauma that the victims had experienced. At trial, I presented medical and scientific evidence, such as the results of DNA testing, to corroborate the victim's testimony. I frequently made charging decisions on cases submitted to the prosecutor's office by KCPD, which required me to make credibility determinations about the evidence, analyze evidence from different sources such as police reports, lab reports, medical records, Children's Division records, and Child Protection Center interviews, and apply the law to the facts to determine the appropriate charges. This experience demonstrates my ability to work with non-attorneys by patiently listening to their concerns and explaining the process and the law to them in a respectful and compassionate way. It also shows my ability to make credibility determinations and analyze information from many different sources to draw accurate legal conclusions.

I left the Special Victims Unit when I was promoted to serve as a Trial Team Leader in the Street Crimes Unit at the end of 2013. I supervised several other attorneys and support staff in that capacity, as well as carrying my own trial caseload which consisted primarily of violent crimes such as murder, assault, and robbery. I also served as a member of the homicide committee, which was tasked with making charging decisions for all homicides committed in Jackson County. In addition, I took a lead role in developing and implementing New Start, an education-based diversion program for first-time felony offenders aged 17-21. I also served as the neighborhood prosecutor for the Center City and Hyde Park neighborhoods. I regularly attended neighborhood meetings to listen to residents and respond to their questions and concerns. I then reached out to police officers, municipal employees, child welfare officials, and other agencies as the need arose to strategize solutions to the community's problems. This experience gave me the ability to facilitate communication and problem solving in a racially, socially, and economically diverse community, which has helped me to be a better judge.

My experience as a practicing attorney has instilled in me a strong work ethic and a deep respect and appreciation for the trial bar. It also showed me the importance of ensuring that all parties are given a level playing field and a fair trial. I have changed jobs from a judicial clerk to a prosecutor, and from a prosecutor to a judge. Each time, I had to master new areas of the law very quickly. As an Associate Circuit Judge, my diligence in learning the law and preparing for each docket has helped me to perform well under the pressure of a heavy caseload. My experience has also taught me the importance of treating all parties with respect and dignity, and patiently listening to their evidence and arguments. I will continue to use these skills to conduct court in a fair, efficient, and respectful manner upon appointment as a Circuit Judge.

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.

**\*Initials have been used to identify Defendants who were acquitted to protect their privacy.**

### JURY TRIALS

**State of Missouri v. L. M., Case No. 0516-CR04193-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 4, Judge Justine Del Muro.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was charged with selling drugs to an undercover police officer. The jury found inconsistencies between the officer's description of the suspect and the defendant's actual appearance, and acquitted him of Sale of a Controlled Substance on September 18, 2006.

**State of Missouri v. James E. Lee, Case No. 04CR203702-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 4, Judge Justine Del Muro.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The police stopped the defendant in a car with almost 10 grams of crack cocaine in a bag wedged between the front seats and over \$1300 cash in his pocket. The jury found the defendant guilty of Trafficking in the First Degree (B Felony) on July 9, 2007.

**State of Missouri v. B. H., Case No. 0616-CR03061-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 15, Judge Robert Schieber.** Represented the State of Missouri, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair. This was a ten-year-old circumstantial murder case, with no eyewitnesses, in which the defendant was the last person to be seen with the two teenage victims alive. The male victim was found buried in a shallow grave, and the female victim was never found. After two days of deliberations, the jury acquitted the defendant of two counts of Murder in the First Degree on March 9, 2009.

**State of Missouri v. Marcellus Williams, Case No. 0716-CR01382-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 9, Judge Joel Fahnestock.** Represented the State of Missouri, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair. The victim was waiting with her two-year-old daughter at a bus stop when the defendant attacked her, dragged her behind a building and tried to rape her. A passerby intervened, and the victim was able to escape and get herself and her daughter into the witness's car. The jury found the defendant guilty of Attempted Forcible Rape, Kidnapping, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child on May 14, 2009.

**State of Missouri v. K. H., Case No. 0916-CR00662-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 13, Judge Jay Daugherty.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of robbing the victim at gunpoint after the victim gave him a ride in his truck. The jury acquitted the defendant of Robbery in the First Degree and Armed Criminal Action on August 12, 2009.

**State of Missouri v. Jovell Swopes, Case No. 0816-CR03404-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 8, Judge Peggy Stevens McGraw.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of shooting the victim in front of several witnesses, none of whom wanted to testify. Eventually, I was able to win their trust and all of the eyewitnesses testified at trial. The jury found the defendant guilty of Assault in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action on August 27, 2009.

**State of Missouri v. Blanche Johnson, Case No. 0916-CR05594-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 18, Judge Brian Wimes.** Represented the State of Missouri, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of shooting her estranged girlfriend to death as they sat in the victim's van. The defendant initially confessed, but then testified at trial that an unknown assailant came up to the van and shot the victim. The jury found the defendant guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action on August 19, 2010.

**State of Missouri v. Anthony Perkins, Case No. 0916-CR04089-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 19, Judge Kathleen Forsyth.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of driving while intoxicated and driving with a revoked license when he crashed into two oncoming cars full of teenagers. The jury found the defendant guilty of DWI (B Felony) and DWR (D Felony) as a prior and persistent offender on February 16, 2011.

**State of Missouri v. M. R., Case No. 1116-CR01176-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 12, Judge Edith Messina.** Represented the State of Missouri, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair. This

was the first K2, or synthetic marijuana, case taken to trial in Jackson County. The case involved testimony by two chemists regarding the chemical structure of K2 and its analogs. The jury acquitted the defendant of Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Sell, and could not reach a verdict on Possession of a Chemical with the Intent to Create a Controlled Substance on March 14, 2013. This case was dismissed before it could be re-tried when Federal charges were filed against the defendant.

**State of Missouri v. Umar Muhammad, Case No. 1116-CR02310-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 8, Judge Peggy Stevens McGraw.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of shooting one victim to death and shooting at another victim as he hid in his car. The living victim, who was the only eyewitness to the shooting, was terrified of the defendant, and moved to California shortly after the shooting for his own safety. I was finally able to convince the victim to return to testify at trial. The jury found the defendant guilty of Murder in the Second Degree, Assault in the First Degree, and two counts of Armed Criminal Action on August 1, 2013.

**State of Missouri v. Cruz Hernandez-Vergara, Case No. 1216-CR05306-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 1, Judge Sandra Midkiff.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of sexually assaulting the male victim at a party where there was a lot of drinking and all of the attendees were undocumented immigrants. I conducted the jury selection, which was difficult due to the need to discuss sensitive issues to detect any bias or prejudice that might affect the outcome of the case. The defendant pled guilty to Assault III on the second day of trial on August 20, 2013.

### **BENCH TRIALS**

**State of Missouri v. Leo S. Thomas, Case No. 0516-CR02892-01, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 14, Judge John Torrence.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of driving while intoxicated and colliding with another vehicle, causing a roll-over crash with injuries. The defendant's blood alcohol content tested at .10 from blood drawn at the hospital. I presented scientific evidence regarding the determination of BAC using blood. The judge found the defendant not guilty of Assault II but guilty of DWI (D Felony) as a persistent offender on October 12, 2006.

**State of Missouri v. Claude Ford/Gross, Case No. 0816-CR00767, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 18, Judge Brian Wimes.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. The defendant was accused of shooting his neighbor in the head when she came over to his house to buy drugs. The defendant testified that the shooting was accidental, but the judge found him guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action on February 24, 2010.

**State of Missouri v. Michael Cushingberry, Case No. 1016-CR00146, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Division 6, Judge J. Dale Youngs.** Represented the State of Missouri, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. This was a murder for hire, in which a high-level member of a Mexican drug cartel paid the defendant and the victim's cousin \$10,000 to kill the victim in retaliation for

stealing drugs from the cartel. The judge found the defendant guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action on February 8, 2011.

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.

**I am currently an Associate Circuit Judge in the 16th Judicial Circuit in Jackson County, Missouri. I preside over high volume criminal, civil, and domestic dockets as a court of general jurisdiction. Since my appointment in 2014, I have presided over more than 700 civil bench trials and 550 domestic bench trials. I carry an average inventory of 1600 civil and domestic cases at a time, and I dispose of more than 4,000 cases a year. I also supervise over 100 probation cases and routinely preside over probation violation hearings. When I am on a criminal assignment, I carry an average of 800 active criminal cases, and most of those cases are felonies. Working with high volume dockets requires diligent preparation to allow me to make timely, well-reasoned decisions and to promptly dispose of the cases before me.**

**Criminal – In 2016, and from August 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, I was on a criminal assignment. During this assignment, I presided over preliminary proceedings in all criminal cases filed in downtown Kansas City. I conducted hundreds of initial appearances, arraignments, preliminary hearings, and extraditions. I also presided over more than 500 bond hearings, took almost 700 guilty pleas, and conducted several sentencing hearings. In addition, I presided over bench trials *de novo* on appeals from Kansas City Municipal Court convictions. I was also responsible for making probable cause and bond determinations after reviewing almost 700 search warrant and more than 1,600 arrest warrant applications submitted by the prosecutor’s office.**

**Civil – I carry an average caseload of 1,500 civil cases comprised of collections, landlord/tenant disputes, unlawful detainer actions, small claims, delinquent tax cases, and general civil matters such as breach of contract, torts, property damage, and suits on account. I handle all pre-trial motions including motions for summary judgment, motions to dismiss, and discovery motions. I also preside over hearings and bench trials. I oversee the enforcement of judgments through garnishments, debtor’s examinations, revivals of judgment, and contempt actions. Once a month, I preside over a docket and conduct bench trials for drivers who contest the administrative suspension or revocation of their driving privileges, usually for refusing a breath or blood test.**

**Domestic** – I preside over uncontested domestic cases including dissolutions of marriage, modifications of child custody and support, paternity actions, and name changes. I carry an average caseload of 94 domestic cases at any given time, with most of those cases involving at least one *pro se* litigant. In 2015 and 2018, I presided over a weekly protection order docket and reviewed emergency *ex parte* orders of protection. If I granted an *ex parte* order or issued a summons, I had to schedule a hearing within two weeks to determine whether a full order of protection should be granted. Many of these cases resulted in bench trials, and I also awarded child custody, child support, and distributed property as part of these proceedings.

As a member of the Court, I strive to be a team player and help other judges where needed. As a result, I have had the opportunity to conduct 11 mediations at the request of Circuit Judges, and I also cover hearings and dockets for other divisions. In addition, I have assisted at the Jackson County Family Court by presiding over several contested and uncontested termination of parental rights hearings and three adoptions. In 2018, I was honored when Judge Alok Ahuja of the Missouri Court of Appeals appointed me to serve as a Special Master to review a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus in the case of *In re Leontae Hill v. Jay Cassidy*, WD81483. I reviewed the record and the parties' pleadings, held an evidentiary hearing, and wrote a report and recommendation that the Court of Appeals subsequently adopted. I was also invited to sit as a Special Judge with Judge Karen King Mitchell and Judge Cynthia Martin of the Missouri Court of Appeals to hear two appellate oral arguments, participate in deliberations, and assist in drafting the Court's decisions.

I take a leadership role on my Court by serving on several 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court committees. I have served on our Rules Committee, which is tasked with updating the Local Rules that govern many of our court procedures. I currently serve on our Executive Management Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Hearing and Dockets Committee, which was formed in April of 2020 to identify issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and develop solutions to address those concerns. Within two weeks of the shutdown in March, I had drafted a form notice, including phone conference and WebEx instructions, that my division continues to provide to *pro se* litigants to enable them to appear for hearings remotely. Several other divisions have used my form and instructions as a basis for their own notices. I hope to continue to use my leadership skills to improve the functioning of our Court as a Circuit Judge.

I have been honored to be appointed to four statewide judicial committees by three different Chief Justices of the Missouri Supreme Court, particularly because I believe strongly in the mission of each committee. In 2016, Chief Justice Patricia Breckenridge appointed me to the Committee on Access to Family Courts and the Trial Judge Education Committee. The Committee on Access to Family Courts works to make our courts more accessible to self-represented litigants by simplifying court forms and providing instructions for use by *pro se* litigants. The committee also updates the forms to conform to changes in the law. The Trial Judge Education

Committee provides high-quality, relevant training to the judiciary. We develop the curriculum, recruit presenters, and often give presentations ourselves at the statewide Judicial Colleges and New Judge Orientations, which all newly-appointed judges in the State of Missouri are required to attend. Chief Justice Zel Fischer appointed me to the Civic Education Committee in 2018. Members of this committee develop presentations and engage in public speaking to promote the public's understanding of Missouri's court system, thereby enhancing the public's trust and confidence in the judicial branch of government. Finally, Chief Justice George Draper recently appointed me to the Task Force on Criminal Justice, which reviews and attempts to standardize our criminal practices and procedures statewide. These committees work to improve the performance of our judiciary and help our legal system better serve all of the citizens of Missouri, and I am grateful to have an opportunity to contribute to them.

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.

**James Randolph v. Christine M. Baldin, et al., Case No. 1416-CV01123, Bench Trial held on June 16, 2014.** I presided over this trial on my first day on the bench. A *pro se* plaintiff filed suit against the defendants for nuisance, trespass, and interference with quiet enjoyment of his land. The defendants argued that the plaintiff lacked standing because the property in dispute was a public street that had been abandoned, and the plaintiff had no deed or any other proof of ownership of this property. I entered judgment for the defendants on June 19, 2014. My judgment was affirmed on appeal.

**City of Kansas City, Missouri v. Edna Crook, et al., Case No. 1316-CV16841, Bench Trial held on July 8, 2014.** The City filed suit for the recovery of a delinquent water services account. The defendant denied that she owed the water bill because she vacated the property after the bank foreclosed upon it. I entered judgment for the plaintiff only for the delinquent water bills that preceded the foreclosure on July 11, 2014. My judgment was affirmed on appeal.

**Joe McClernon v. Elimane Mbengue, Case No. 1516-CV00825, Bench Trial held on February 27, 2015.** This was a small claims case for breach of contract. The defendant hired the plaintiff to build an addition on his house, and the plaintiff sued for the unpaid balance due upon completion of the project. The defendant asserted that the project continually ran over budget, requiring him to pay many expenses out of pocket that were not included in the original estimate. I entered judgment for plaintiff on March 11, 2015.

**Andrew Clark Bates v. Shaela Renee Pickering, Case No. 1416-FC08868, Child Support Hearing held on April 1, 2015.** Petitioner father filed a motion for termination of child support after his child began residing with him instead of with the child's mother, the respondent. The State of Missouri filed a motion to intervene, arguing that the State was a necessary party because the mother had been receiving TANF benefits from the

State even after the child began residing with his father. I terminated the father's child support obligation and entered an order directing the parties to share future child-related expenses on May 27, 2015.

**Gerald Chaitman, et al., v. Christopher Zach, et al., Case No. 1416-CV20865, Bench Trial held on April 22, 2015.** The plaintiffs sued for breach of a residential lease agreement. They alleged that the defendant tenants failed to report significant water damage and mold in the kitchen in violation of the lease agreement. The defendants responded that they were unaware of any leaks or problems. I did not find the defendants' testimony to be credible and entered judgment in favor of the plaintiffs on May 5, 2015.

**Christina Lopez Jackson v. Joshua Jackson, Case No. 1516-FC08862, Bench Trial held on November 30, 2015.** The petitioner was granted an *ex parte* order of protection, and the case was set for trial to determine whether a full order of protection should be entered. The petitioner testified that the respondent pointed a gun at her, stole her car, and sent her threatening emails and texts. The respondent denied the allegations. I found in favor of the petitioner and entered a Full Order of Protection on November 30, 2015.

**Glenda Howell v. King's Quarters Apartment a/k/a Sundance Bay Property Mgmt., Case No. 1516-CV21504, Dismissed on December 8, 2015.** This was a small claims case where the plaintiff tenant sued the defendant landlord for property damage. However, the plaintiff filed bankruptcy after the property damage allegedly occurred, and failed to disclose any pending property damage claims. I found that she was judicially estopped from bringing her small claims case due to the discharge of her debts in the intervening bankruptcy proceeding, and dismissed her case on December 8, 2015.

**City v. Mourad I. Salhi, Case No. 1516-CR04205, Trial *de Novo* held on February 8, 2016.** The defendant was convicted of Violation of an Order of Protection in Kansas City Municipal Court, and he appealed. I held a Trial *de Novo*, and heard testimony from the victim that the defendant had called her ten times and sent multiple text messages over the course of a day in violation of the order. The defendant testified that he had been calling in regard to their children because no one was there to pick them up from school. I found the defendant guilty of Violation of an Order of Protection on February 8, 2016.

**City v. Marshonta Londel Locket, Case No. 1616-CR00262, Trial *de Novo* held on March 14, 2016.** The defendant was convicted of Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Careless Driving in Kansas City Municipal Court, and she appealed. I held a Trial *de Novo*, and considered testimony from the victim, witness, investigating police officer, and the defendant, and reviewed photos of the damage to the car. I found the defendant guilty of Leaving the Scene and Careless Driving on March 14, 2016.

**Zachery Zurbrick v. Director of Revenue, Case No. 1616-CV22969, Bench Trial held on February 2, 2017.** The petitioner filed a Petition for Trial *de Novo*, arguing that his breath test results should have been excluded from evidence because the maintenance report for the Intoxilyzer was not timely filed, and the breath test operator failed to

perform a meaningful fifteen-minute observation period or mouth check before administering the breath test. I entered judgment in favor of the Director of Revenue and sustained the suspension of the petitioner's driving privileges on February 21, 2017.

**Amee Jo DeMello v. Director of Revenue, Case No. 1616-CV26472, Bench Trial held on March 2, 2017.** The petitioner filed a Petition for Trial *de Novo*, arguing that there was no probable cause to arrest her and that her blood test result of 0.088% should have been excluded from evidence. I entered judgment in favor of the Director of Revenue and sustained the suspension of the petitioner's driving privileges on April 19, 2017.

**Pyramid Roofing Company, Inc. v. AAS Restoration, et al., Case No. 1616-CV16495, Bench Trial held on April 26, 2017.** Defendant AAS Restoration hired plaintiff Pyramid Roofing to perform work on a construction project. After the plaintiff completed the work and received partial payment, the CEO of AAS Restoration decided to sell the company instead of filing bankruptcy due to financial shortfalls. The plaintiff sued both AAS Restoration and its CEO, arguing that the CEO should be held personally liable for the unpaid balance due under the contract, because she acted fraudulently and in bad faith for her own personal self-interest. I declined to hold the CEO personally liable, and entered a judgment against defendant AAS Restoration only on June 21, 2017.

**Grace Bridgeford v. Kansas City Public School District, Case No. 1616-CV03000, Summary Judgment hearing held on October 18, 2017.** Upon her retirement, the plaintiff received a severance payment under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement. She submitted a form requesting that part of the payment be deposited into a retirement medical program (RMP) account, but due to an error, no deposit was made. Instead, the plaintiff received the entire severance payment. She filed suit against the defendant for breach of employment contract, but because there was no written contract requiring the defendant to fund the RMP, I granted the defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment on November 28, 2017.

**Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC v. Keba McKinley, Case No. 1716-CV10261, Bench Trial held on November 7, 2017.** The plaintiff filed a Petition for Account Stated against the defendant, attempting to collect a delinquent credit card debt. The plaintiff presented the testimony of its custodian of records and business records affidavits to show that the debt had been assigned to the plaintiff by the original creditor. I held that the plaintiff had no standing to sue because it had failed to produce competent evidence to prove every link in the chain of assignment, and I dismissed the case on February 1, 2018.

**Fruition Holdings, LLC v. Deffenbaugh Industries, Inc., Case No. 1716-CV17665, Bench Trial held on November 29, 2017.** The plaintiff sued for injunctive relief, nuisance, and trespass, claiming that the defendant's early morning trash collections disturbed its tenants and that the defendant routinely trespassed on its parking lot to collect trash. The defendant responded that it performs a necessary community service in compliance with industry standards and all applicable laws, and that it had no notice that the plaintiff did not want it to use its parking lot. I entered judgment for the defendant on

the nuisance claim and judgment for the plaintiff on the trespass claim, and enjoined the defendant from entering onto plaintiff's parking lot to collect trash on February 9, 2018.

**Angela Smith v. Isiah Magitt, III, Case No. 1716-FC07855.** After the Petition for a Child Order of Protection was dismissed on January 22, 2018, the Guardian ad Litem filed a motion for fees, which I initially taxed as costs to be paid out of public funds. Jackson County then filed a motion to set aside and to intervene, arguing that it was not given an opportunity to challenge the reasonableness of the fees requested or its responsibility to pay those fees. After I set the original order aside, I denied the motion for GAL fees on April 13, 2018, holding that a trial court cannot order the payment of GAL fees by a sovereign unless there is specific statutory authority to do so. This case involved complicated issues of statutory interpretation, and my decision was affirmed on appeal.

**Carol Eblen v. City of Kansas City, Missouri, Case No. 1816-CV08269, Summary Judgment hearing held on January 29, 2019.** The *pro se* plaintiff originally filed several State and Federal claims against the City, but the only remaining claim was for breach of contract. The plaintiff claimed that the City had agreed to provide her with a sewer connection on her property in exchange for her payment of a special assessment for the construction of the sewer line and ongoing sewer fees. I granted the defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment on February 8, 2019, holding that the parties did not have a written contract, and the plaintiff could not recover against the City on a theory of implied contract. My judgment was affirmed on appeal.

**Vazquez Commercial Contracting, Inc. v. City of Kansas City, Missouri, et al., Case No. 1816-CV11980.** The plaintiff requested judicial review of the administrative denial of its application for a Minority Business Enterprise certification for electrical services, as a Hispanic-owned contracting firm. The City argued that Mr. Vazquez, as the owner, did not have the requisite technical competence and experience related to the firm's electrical services to qualify for the certification. After reviewing the parties' briefs and the record, I entered judgment affirming the denial of the MBE certification on April 12, 2019.

**River Oaks Homes Association No. 1 v. Melinda Clark-Sann, Case No. 1716-CV31450, and River Oaks Homes Association No. 1 v. Antoinette Gordon, Case No. 1716-CV12841, Bench Trial held on April 19, 2019.** These were companion cases filed against two home owners for failing to pay assessments to their home owner's association. The home owners filed counterclaims against the plaintiff for breach of contract, negligence, nuisance, and retaliation. They claimed that the plaintiff's failure to maintain their sewer lines caused storm water and sewage to back up into their basements, and that the plaintiff had turned off their water in retaliation for their complaints about the sewage backups. I entered judgments for the plaintiff on June 12 and June 14, 2019.

**KPC Enterprises, LLC v. Stonewood Holding, LLC, et al., Case No. 1916-CV11676, and KPC Enterprises, LLC v. Team Property and Investment, LLC, et al., Case No. 1916-CV11687, Bench Trial held on March 11 and June 1, 2020.** The plaintiff sued to collect payment owed after it performed roofing and guttering work at several apartment

complexes, one of which was owned by defendant Stonewood Holding and others which were owned by defendant Team Property. The defendants filed counterclaims for breach of contract, negligence, and fraudulent misrepresentation, claiming that the work was not fully or properly performed and that the plaintiff misrepresented how much work it had actually done. I entered partial judgments for the plaintiff on June 30, 2020.

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.

**Although I do have significant litigation and judicial experience, I have additional training that would serve me well as a Circuit Judge. I believe it is important for a judge not to become complacent, but to keep learning and to have an intellectual curiosity about the law. Since my appointment as an Associate Circuit Judge, I have attended advanced judicial training courses in an effort to improve my decision making and performance. In 2016, I attended the two-week *General Jurisdiction* course provided by The National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. This intensive course included twelve hours of evidence instruction, four hours on judicial writing, and several hours on jury trials, sentencing, domestic violence, technology, self-represented litigants, ethics, communication, and updates on the law. This training has been useful in my current position and will be valuable to me if I am selected to serve as a Circuit Judge. I also attended a three-day course entitled *Designing & Presenting Courses Effectively: A Faculty Development Workshop for the Missouri Judiciary* presented by the National Judicial College to enhance my presentation skills. In 2017, I completed the 25-hour *Mediation Training for Civil Cases* offered by the University of Missouri School of Law at UMKC. I have been able to use some of the techniques I learned at this training to resolve high-conflict situations in my courtroom and mediate cases for other judges. The skills I have gained through these courses will help me to provide better service to the community and the judiciary if I am selected to serve as a Circuit Judge.**

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.

**The Missouri Bar, 2002 to present.**

**The Iowa Bar Association, 2001 to 2003 (inactive).**

**The Florida Bar, 2005 to 2006 (retired).**

**United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, 2002 to 2005 and June 1, 2016 to present.**

**Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA), 2013 to present.**

**Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy Master, 2015 to present.** I have led this program since August of 2017. I work with KCMBA staff members, members of the Young Lawyers Section, and retired U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Larsen to plan an annual program consisting of classroom sessions, CLE luncheons, and on-your-feet sessions that give newer lawyers, called Barristers, the opportunity to practice each part of a jury trial. I also recruit experienced litigators and judges to serve as Masters to give critiques and advice to the Barristers at the practice sessions. I give the Barristers and Masters instructions for each practice session, and I personally lead these sessions. I also administer a final mock trial that allows the Barristers to conduct a trial from start to finish in front of volunteer judges and juries. I presided over the first virtual Trial Academy mock trial on June 27, 2020.

**PREP-KC/KCMBF Student Law Academy, 2019 to present.** This program provides mentoring and job shadowing opportunities to urban high school students who are interested in pursuing a legal career. I hosted two students in the summer of 2019 and gave a virtual presentation to the Student Law Academy in July of 2020.

**Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City (AWL), 2013 to present.**

**AWL Step Up for Women program participant, 2013.**

**AWL Golf Tournament Committee, 2013, 2014, and 2015.**

**AWLF 5K Run/Walk Organizing Committee, 2016 and 2017.**

**AWL Denise Henning Connections Program Mentor, 2014 to present.** We are placed into classes of ten women, with five more experienced mentors and five newer lawyer mentees. We are paired with a different mentee every year. We meet monthly, sometimes one-on-one with our mentee and sometimes as a group. I am currently in my seventh year of participation, and I am mentoring my seventh young attorney. I have been able to help each mentee with a different aspect of their career. For example, one mentee had never had a jury trial, and we worked on developing her trial skills and confidence. Another mentee had just had a baby, and was struggling to find the right work/life balance. A third mentee was unhappy at her current job, and needed help with identifying her career goals, networking, and leaving her job on good terms. We also perform community service as a group, and I have volunteered at Lazarus Ministries and Connections to Success and gathered donations for other organizations through AWL.

**Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges, 2014 to present.**

**Western District Historical Society Board of Directors, September 2018 to present.**

**Supreme Court Committee on Access to Family Courts, April 2016 to June 2020.**

**Website and Litigant Awareness Subcommittee, March 1, 2019 to June 2020.**

**Supreme Court Trial Judge Education Committee, June 2016 to present.**

**General Core Subcommittee, 2017 Judicial College.**

**Planning Committee, 2018 New Judge Orientation.**

**Chair of the General Core Subcommittee, 2018 Judicial College.**

**Planning Committee, 2019 New Judge Orientation.**

**Civil Core and General Core Subcommittees, 2019 Judicial College.**

**Planning Committee, 2020 New Judge Orientation.**

**Chair of the General Core Subcommittee and Member of the Civil Core Subcommittee, 2020 Judicial College.**

**Criminal Bench Book Subcommittee, January 2019 to present.**

**Supreme Court Civic Education Committee, May 2018 to present.**

**Public Outreach Subcommittee, May 2018 to present.**

**Supreme Court Task Force on Criminal Justice, October 7, 2019 to present.**

**Education Subcommittee, November 15, 2019 to present.**

**Private Probation Subcommittee, November 15, 2019 to present.**

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

**I authored a chapter entitled *Preliminary Hearings* for the Missouri Criminal Law Bench Book. It is currently awaiting publication.**

I have served as a primary speaker for the following programs or events:

Panel speaker for a presentation that I developed entitled *The Code of Judicial Conduct: A Practical Discussion* with Judge Corey Herron and Judge Kelly Lovekamp for the 2020 Judicial College. We are taping our presentation on August 19, 2020, and it will be re-played several times in October and November of 2020.

Developed and co-presented a CLE program entitled *Nuts & Bolts of Eviction & Missouri Landlord-Tenant Practice* with Bob Wise for the Missouri Solo and Small Firm Conference. We taped our presentation on July 27, 2020, and we will attend the session virtually to answer questions when it is played for the conference attendees on August 21, 2020.

Edited and presented a training entitled *Implicit Bias and Debiasing* to the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit law clerks virtually over WebEx. This program discussed the formation of implicit bias, tests to become more aware of our own implicit bias, how implicit bias may influence our decisions or actions, and techniques to help debias our perceptions and improve our interactions (June 26, 2020).

Presented *Using WebEx in the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court* with Judge Mark Styles and our IT support staff virtually to the KCMBA membership via Zoom (May 20, 2020).

Updated and co-presented *Pleas of Guilty – Plea Agreements, Avoiding PCR Problems, and Probation Considerations* with Judge Alan Blankenship at the New Judge Orientation program (January 2019, January 2020).

Co-presented a one-hour CLE entitled *How to Ethically and Effectively Approach Cases with Pro se Litigants* with Tiffany McFarland at the KCMBA Beyond the Basics: Unique Issues in Family Law program (October 2018).

Developed and presented a one-hour CLE entitled *What Missouri's Adoption of Daubert Means for the Admissibility of Expert Testimony* at the Federal Courthouse, Western District of Missouri, to the participants in the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy program (February 2018).

Co-presented *Rent and Possession / Unlawful Detainer* with Judge Jalilah Otto at the New Judge Orientation program (January 2018, January 2019, January 2020).

Developed and co-presented a CLE entitled *491 Hearings Involving Child Witnesses in Civil and Criminal Cases* with Judge Chad Pfister at the summer and fall Judicial Colleges, which are attended by the entire judiciary (August 2017, November 2017).

Spoke on panels at several CLE presentations discussing the Federal E-Discovery Rules and giving the State court perspective on how electronic discovery is handled in State court (April 2016, June 2016, September 2017, October 2017, May 2018, April 2019, July 2019).

**Presented a two-hour ethics CLE entitled *The Code of Judicial Conduct: Why Me? I'm Only the Law Clerk* to the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit law clerks at the Jackson County Law Library (May 2016, May 2017, May 2018, May 2019, virtually on June 26, 2020).**

**Developed and presented a one-hour CLE entitled *Practice Tips for Associate Circuit Court* (UMKC Law School, November 2015; WDMO Federal Courthouse, June 2016, March 2017, April 2017, June 2017, April 2018).**

**Co-presented a one-hour CLE at the KCMBA Domestic Violence conference with Amanda Basri on the topic of *Presenting the Court with Evidence of DV and Impact on Victims and Children* (October 2015).**

**Spoke on the panel at a full-day NBI seminar entitled *As Judges See It: Best and Worst Practices in Civil Litigation Seminar*. Topics included discovery, motion practice, ethics, and practical tips for appearing in court (June 2015).**

**Developed and presented a class entitled *Sentencing and the Death Penalty* to several classes of juniors and seniors at Cristo Rey High School (April 2015, April 2017).**

**Developed and presented a one-hour program entitled *Overview of the Criminal Justice System* for interns at the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office (August 2010, May 2011, August 2011, May 2012, August 2012, May 2013).**

**DWI Prosecution Instructor, KCPD Police Academy (March 2010).**

**The Supreme Court Civic Education Committee has developed more than a dozen PowerPoint presentations to be shared with schools and civic groups ranging from elementary school to adult audiences. These presentations use case studies to educate audiences about the role of the judiciary and our system of government. As a member of that committee, I have personally given these presentations 17 times to different school and civic groups.**

**In addition to the more formal presentations listed above, I have spoken at numerous classroom sessions, mock trials, luncheons, and other events in the six years since I became a judge. I have spoken to a wide range of audiences, including elementary, middle and high school students, law school students, civic groups, and legal associations. Canon 1, Rule 2-1.2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct directs judges to act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the judiciary and the legal profession. I strive to maintain my active involvement in the community because I believe that community engagement builds trust and confidence in our judicial system, educates the public about the role of the judiciary, and makes our legal system more accessible to the public. I plan to continue to promote ethical, competent, and professional conduct in the practice of law through speaking, mentoring, and teaching if I am selected as a Circuit Judge.**

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

**Yes, I was appointed Associate Circuit Judge for Division 29 in the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in 2014, and I was retained by the voters of Jackson County in November of 2016. The attorneys responding to the retention survey conducted by the Missouri Bar unanimously recommended that I be retained. In addition, over 90% of the attorneys surveyed responded that they “agree or strongly agree” that I “treated the parties equally,” “adhered to appropriate rules of procedure,” “maintained a professional demeanor in the courtroom,” “addressed individuals respectfully,” and that I “gave reasons for a ruling when needed.”**

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.

**I have never served in the military.**

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

**Big Brothers Big Sisters, Kauffman Scholars Mentor, May 2009 to August 2011.  
Mentored a student at Northeast High School until she left for college.**

**Northwestern University Alumni Club, 2010 to present.  
Alumni interviewer of prospective students, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017.**

**Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP), 2015.**

**I volunteered as a “Reading Buddy” where I was paired with an elementary school child to read together at Operation Breakthrough from January to May of 2015. I also volunteered at the LEAP Back to School Breakfast in July of 2015 to hand out backpacks and school supplies to children.**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, parishioner and volunteer, 2013 to present.**

**I have spoken at our Adult Forum, donated items and packed sack lunches for delivery to homeless shelters, participated in Christmas gift drives for low-income families, donated items and assembled care packages for Metro Lutheran Ministry, and delivered care packages to members of the congregation who were homebound due to illness.**

**Fort Osage High School Crime Scene Investigation/Law Enforcement Program, Advisory Committee member, 2014 to present.**

**This is a two-year high school vocational program designed to offer practical education and real-life experience to students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. The Advisory Committee meets periodically at the high school to discuss the needs and goals of the program. We also contribute to the students' education by conducting job interviews with them and hosting them at our workplaces during the spring semester. I hosted students at the courthouse in 2018, 2019, and for two weeks in 2020 before the program was cut short due to the coronavirus. I have also given classroom presentations to the students on the criminal justice system and the role of the judiciary.**

**Crossroads Academy Charter Schools, parent volunteer, 2015 to present.**

**I have two children, and I am actively involved at their school. I have participated in book drives, volunteered to serve at parent and teacher appreciation breakfasts, and chaperoned several field trips. I have also spoken at the school about my job as a judge and helped evaluate and critique 4<sup>th</sup> grade Constitution projects.**

**Girl Scout Troop 3925, volunteer, August 2017 to August 2019; Community Service Coordinator, 2018-2019 school year.**

**I chaperoned camping trips and worked at cookie booths. As Community Service Coordinator, I organized and participated in volunteer activities with our Troop including sorting and packaging food donations at Harvesters, collecting warm clothing for refugee families, cleaning up the park at Lakeside Nature Center, and walking dogs at an animal shelter.**

**Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Kansas City, May 2018 to present; Vice President, January 2020 to present.**

**My daughter and I practice Scandinavian folk dances with the group weekly, and we perform several times a year at events like the Ethnic Festival in Swope Park and at churches, nursing homes, and IKEA.**

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

**2012 Neighborhood Prosecutor of the Year Award for my work with the Center City and Hyde Park Neighborhood Associations.**

**2014 Albert Reiderer Award for my contributions to the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office.**

**2015 Missouri Lawyers Weekly's Up and Coming Award in the Public Service category.**

23. Are you delinquent in the payment of any federal, state, county or city taxes? If so, please explain.

**No, I am not delinquent in the payment of any taxes.**

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, I have never been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony or received a suspended imposition of sentence in any federal, state, or military court.**

25. Have you ever been held in contempt of court? If so, please explain.

**No, I have never been held in contempt of court.**

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, I have never been sued by a client or been a party to any litigation.**

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, I have never been disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or professional conduct.**

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, no such order has ever been entered against me.**

- (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, I have never been reprimanded or admonished.**

- (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, to my knowledge, I am not the subject of any complaint that is currently under investigation.**

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

**I grew up on a dairy and hog farm outside of a small town in Northeast Iowa. My dad still lives on the land that he has farmed for more than 50 years. Many of the values that I bring to the bench are values that I learned from my childhood: hard work, respect for others, integrity, and fairness. I was taught to care about others and to help my neighbors. Everyone knows you in a small town, and I understood from a young age that my reputation and how I treated others was very important.**

**I was always interested in other people and their experiences and perspectives, and I loved to write. I wanted to find a career where I could use my interests and abilities to help people, but I wasn't quite sure how to do that. I had worked as a secretary in high school, and after I graduated from college, I looked for a secretarial job while I tried to decide what to do next. Luckily, I found a job with Dale Putnam, who ran a solo legal practice in my hometown. All I knew about lawyers was what I had seen on TV, and it did not seem very appealing. However, I was immediately impressed by how Mr. Putnam used his legal knowledge and counseling skills to help people with problems that they could not resolve on their own. I also noticed that many of the leaders in my community were lawyers. I realized that this might be a way to use my communication skills and interest in other people to serve the public and my community.**

**I enrolled in law school at the University of Iowa and loved it. I did well enough to come to Kansas City for a summer internship at Stinson and a clerkship with Judge Laughrey. Kansas City was new to me, but it immediately felt like home, with the same small town values that I grew up with. Even though I thought I had found a place to put down roots, I wanted to experience more of the world, so I seized the opportunity to go to Palau. Serving as a Supreme Court clerk was an amazing professional experience, but living in Palau helped me to grow as a person as well. For the first time in my life, I was obviously an outsider, because I looked different and spoke a different language than everyone else. Palauans were generally warm and welcoming, but there were times when a room would go silent when I walked in or the language would suddenly shift from English into Palauan, and I knew I was being intentionally excluded. That experience helped me to understand what it feels like to be treated differently on the basis of what you look or sound like, or where you come from. As a result of that experience, it is very important to me that everyone has equal access to justice in my courtroom, and that no one feels like they are being excluded from the process.**

**I knew that I wanted to prosecute after I finished my clerkships because I wanted to pursue justice for victims of crime. My inability to find a prosecution job in the Kansas City area did not deter me from my goal of advocating for victims. I broadened my search and applied to every State Attorney's Office in Florida, and I was hired in Fort Myers. What had been a low point in my career became a great opportunity, because that job got me into the courtroom every day, trying multiple cases a month, and it helped me to develop my confidence and litigation skills. I stayed in contact with the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office while I was working in Florida, and I returned home for good when they hired me in the spring of 2006.**

**Although we have one of the best legal systems in the world, I believe we can always strive to improve it and to better serve the public. One of the hardest things I had to do as a prosecutor was to meet with victims and their families. I believe that violent offenders should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law because I witnessed the devastating and permanent wounds that violent crime inflicts on victims and our community. I was drawn to programs like New Start diversion and neighborhood prosecution because my goal was not just to prosecute crime, but to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. As a judge, I have seen too many cases on my order of protection, landlord/tenant, and small claims dockets that have led to violent conflicts between family members, neighbors, and friends. In September of 2018, I started a mediation program to attempt to resolve disputes between *pro se* parties in Associate Circuit Court. I recruited volunteer mediators to attend our small claims and landlord/tenant dockets and provide free mediation services to the parties. These volunteer mediators successfully resolved 33% of the small claims and 75% percent of the landlord/tenant cases that they mediated. More importantly, the *pro se* litigants had a confidential opportunity to explain their positions, diffuse conflict, and to participate in crafting creative solutions in their own cases.**

**First as a prosecutor, and now as a judge, I am often charged with making difficult decisions. I am well aware that the problems we face as individuals and as a community are complex and some of the questions raised in our courtrooms are not easily resolved. I accept the tremendous responsibility that comes with making decisions that affect public safety and people's lives. I take that obligation seriously, and I work diligently to fairly and accurately apply the law to the cases that come before me. I may have 100 cases on a docket, but I always try to remember that each case is the *only* case for the litigants involved. All litigants deserve to be treated with compassion and respect and to be given an opportunity to be heard. Although the litigants might not agree with my final decision, they are more likely to accept it if they feel like they have had a fair hearing.**

**My entire legal career has been dedicated to serving the public. I look forward to continuing that service by becoming a Circuit Judge. I love working with the other judges and staff at the courthouse, I love the intellectual challenge of learning new areas of the law, and I love interacting with lawyers and the public. A good judge is patient, fair, courteous, respectful, and has a good judicial temperament. In addition, a judge must be prepared and should know the law, but also must be willing to carefully consider**

**the arguments from both sides. I have all of these qualities. My small town values, training, and experience have prepared me to take the next step and serve the public as a Circuit Judge. I would be very grateful and honored to be given that opportunity.**

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.

**Ms. Dawn M. Parsons**  
**Attorney, Shareholder**  
**Shaffer Lombardo Shurin**  
**2001 Wyandotte Street**  
**Kansas City, MO 64108**  
**(816) 303-9971**  
[dparsons@sls-law.com](mailto:dparsons@sls-law.com)

**Ms. Teresa Woody**  
**Attorney**  
**The Woody Law Firm, PC**  
**1621 Baltimore Avenue**  
**Kansas City, MO 64108**  
**(816) 421-4246**  
[teresa@woodylawfirm.com](mailto:teresa@woodylawfirm.com)

**Hon. Larry Harman (retired)**  
**Attorney, Of Counsel**  
**Withers, Brant, Igoe & Mullennix, PC**  
**2 South Main Street**  
**Liberty, MO 64068**  
**(816) 781-4788**  
[lharman@withersbrant.com](mailto:lharman@withersbrant.com)

**Ms. Karen Slaughter**  
**Restorative Justice Facilitator/Mediator**  
**Center for Conflict Resolution**  
**6285 Paseo Boulevard**  
**Kansas City, MO 64110**  
**(816) 461-8255**  
[kslaughter@ccrkc.org](mailto:kslaughter@ccrkc.org)

**Ms. Ashley S. Grace**  
**Assistant Attorney General**  
**Missouri Attorney General's Office**  
**615 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 401**  
**Kansas City, MO 64106**  
**(816) 889-5049**  
[ashley.grace@ago.mo.gov](mailto:ashley.grace@ago.mo.gov)