

**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.

Jerri Jiarui Zhang



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

**Probate Commissioner, Division 19
16th Judicial Circuit of Jackson County, MO
415 East 12th Street, 9th 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 able to perform the essential functions of a Circuit Judge.

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 2009, and my 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.

I was admitted to the United States District Court, Western District of Missouri in 2016, and my license has always been in good standing. I have maintained an inactive status since 2018.

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

**University of Missouri-Columbia
Columbia, MO**

2002-2006, Bachelor of Journalism, *magna cum laude* and General Honors

- **Society for Psychophysiological Research**

- **Published: *Intense Emotions: Developmental Differences in Cognitive/Emotional Processing of the Visual Portrayal of Threat in Substance Abuse Prevention Messages (2006)***

St. Cloud State University

St. Cloud, MN

2003 and 2004 Summer Semesters, No degree received

Imperial College

London, England

2005, Winter/Spring Semester Study Abroad Program, No degree received

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

University of Missouri-Columbia

Columbia, MO

2006-2009, Juris Doctor

- **Associate Managing Editor, Missouri Environmental Law and Policy Review**
 - **Published**
 - **Note: *A New View, or Just Being Difficult? The 9th Circuit's View of Categorical Exclusions*, 16 Mo. Env'tl. L. & Pol'y Rev. 263 (2008)**
 - **Case Summary: *Certain Underwriters at Lloyds, London v. Inlet Fisheries Inc.*, 2008 WL 351688 (9th Cir. 2008), 15 Mo. Env'tl. L. & Pol'y Rev. 478 (2008)**
 - **Case Summary: *Benzman v. Whitman*, 523 F.3d 119 (2nd Cir. 2008), 15 Mo. Env'tl. L. & Pol'y Rev. 629 (2008)**
- **Founder and President, Asian American Law Students Association**

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 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.

Sam Goody

St. Cloud, MN 56301

Sales Associate

Summer 2002

Reason for departure: To attend college

St. Cloud Times
3000 7th Street North
St. Cloud, MN 56303
Intern
Summer 2003
Reason for departure: Completed internship

University of Missouri-Columbia Academic Retention Services
110 Student Success Center
Columbia, MO 65211
Student Employee
August 2003-August 2006
Reason for departure: Graduated from college

Missouri State Teachers Association
407 South 6th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
Intern
Summer 2006
Reason for departure: Completed internship

Campus Lodge Apartments
2900 Old 63 South
Columbia, MO 65201
Resident Employee
Summer 2006
Reason for departure: To start law school

University of Missouri-Columbia Honors College
210 Lowry Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
Summer Student Advisor
Summer 2006
Reason for departure: To start law school

Faber and Brand
6750 New Town Avenue
Columbia, MO 65203
Intern
Spring 2007
Reason for departure: Time constraints with law school

**Audrain County, Missouri Prosecuting Attorney's Office
101 North Jefferson Street, Suite 306
Mexico, MO 65265**

Intern

Summer 2007

Reason for departure: Completed internship

**Missouri Department of Labor & Industrial Relations
P.O. Box 59
Jefferson City, MO 65104**

Intern

Summer 2008

Reason for departure: Completed internship

**University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law
103 Hulston Hall
Columbia, MO 65211**

Work Study Student Employee

August 2007-May 2009

Reason for departure: Graduated from law school

**Missouri Department of Revenue
301 West High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101**

Law Student Extern

January 2009-May 2009

Reason for departure: Completed externship

Barbri

12222 Merit Drive, Suite 1340

Dallas, TX 75251

Contract Employee

May 2009-July 2009

Reason for departure: Completed bar review courses

**University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law
103 Hulston Hall
Columbia, MO 65211**

Coordinator of Diversity Programs and Academic Success

August 2009-May 2011

**Reason for departure: Accepted position at the Missouri Administrative Hearing
Commission**

**Missouri Administrative Hearing Commission
United States Post Office Building, 3rd Floor
131 West High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Special Assistant to the Commission/Staff Attorney
May 2011-April 2013
Reason for departure: Accepted position at the Jackson County Public
Administrator's Office**

**Jackson County Public Administrator's Office
415 East 12th Street, Suite 400
Kansas City, MO 64106
Staff Attorney
April 2013-June 2015
Reason for departure: Accepted position at the Jackson County Counselor's Office**

**Jackson County Counselor's Office
415 East 12th Street, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64106
Assistant County Counselor
June 2015-October 2016
Reason for departure: Appointed Deputy Probate Commissioner**

**16th Judicial Circuit Court of Jackson County, MO
415 East 12th Street, Division 19
Kansas City, MO 64106
Deputy Probate Commissioner
October 2016-February 2020
Reason for departure: Appointed Probate Commissioner**

**16th Judicial Circuit Court of Jackson County, MO
415 East 12th Street, Division 19
Kansas City, MO 64106
Probate Commissioner
February 2020-Present**

***Note: Some positions held concurrently with others.**

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.

My legal career has been focused on public service and assisting others. Prior to my appointment to the bench, I was an attorney with the Jackson County Counselor's Office. In that position, I represented Jackson County in civil litigation at the administrative, state, and federal levels. My clients were the department directors of Jackson County and as such, I answered an array of legal questions pertaining to the unique functions of each office. My areas of practice included premises liability, employment discrimination, civil rights, tax, compliance with Missouri Sunshine Law, and contract issues. I also managed over 900 property value appeals to the State Tax Commission and thousands of Board of Equalization appeals. I appeared in court at the trial level and worked with my clients to gather pertinent information for each case. Frequently, this included interviews with past and present employees. As legal counsel for Jackson County, I maintained a temperament that encouraged cooperation from all individuals with whom I interacted and was able to address the specific concerns of each department. I was also able to explain complex legal issues to my clients in a way that was concise and easy to understand.

In addition to defense work, I also prosecuted petitions for involuntary detention in the Jackson County Probate Division pursuant to Chapter 632 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. I prosecuted over 130 of these cases. These are highly sensitive and confidential matters involving individuals alleged to have mental illnesses who may be a danger to themselves or others. They are also quasi-criminal matters because a judgment granting the petition allows a hospital to detain an individual and forcibly medicate that person. I worked with five psychiatric hospitals in the Kansas City area to prepare doctors, nurses, caseworkers, and social workers for each trial. Additionally, many of these cases involved law enforcement officers and family members. I understood the importance of explaining the law to all involved and that each respondent was a member of our community who deserved my respect.

Prior to working in the County Counselor's Office, I served as legal counsel for the Jackson County Public Administrator. My areas of practice included issues involving fiduciary litigation, real property, personal property, and creditor claims. I also administered and managed between 500 and 600 decedent estates, minor conservatorships, and the estates of disabled and incapacitated individuals. I appeared in court regularly in Jackson County. I worked with individuals in our community who were wards of the Public Administrator, as well as the care facility staff, hospital staff, outpatient care staff, and family and friends of wards. While I had a professional obligation to the Public Administrator, my legal work involved interacting with people from all walks of life and in various parts of our community. Through that experience, I gained a better understanding of the challenges people face each day.

As an attorney for the Missouri Administrative Hearing Commission, I acquired a deeper knowledge of litigation at the administrative level. I was responsible for matters including, but not limited to, state tax, professional licensing, disciplinary actions of state employees, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and actions involving motor carriers.

My trial and appellate experience has primarily been in Jackson County and has provided me an opportunity to work with individuals from all areas of our community. I understand the issues that affect our county, our government, and our people.

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.

Jackson County Public Administrator v. Bernice Ralls

Jackson County Case No. 16PRK149724-01

***Client:* Jackson County Public Administrator**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition to Remove Fiduciary. Ms. Ralls was the fiduciary for Leonard Ralls, but was unable to perform her duties. The Public Administrator was appointed Limited Guardian Ad Litem and Limited Conservator Ad Litem for Mr. Ralls. I filed the Petition to Remove Fiduciary to permanently remove Ms. Ralls as fiduciary for Mr. Ralls.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on July 30, 2013 granting the petition.**

In the Matter of Arthur L. Nelson

Jackson County Case No. 16PRK178808-01

***Client:* Jackson County**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition for the Appointment of a Successor Guardian and Conservator. Mr. Nelson's sister served as his fiduciary until her death. I was the attorney who conducted the trial requesting the Court to appoint another sister of Mr. Nelson to serve as his fiduciary.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on August 26, 2015 granting the petition.**

City of Grandview, Missouri v. Ifeyinwa Akanuligu, et al.

Jackson County Case No. 1516-CV26378

***Client:* Jackson County Collection Department**

***Case Information:* This was a Petition for Condemnation of Fee Simple Interest for a piece of real property located in Jackson County, Missouri. The Collection Department was named as a defendant due to its role in collecting real estate taxes. I represented the County in obtaining payment on delinquent taxes.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on July 11, 2016 granting the motion for apportionment.**

Jackson County Public Administrator v. Michael Perkins

Jackson County Case No. 09P8-PR00964-01

***Client:* Jackson County Public Administrator**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition for Successor Guardian and Conservator. The Public Administrator was appointed Guardian Ad Litem and Conservator Ad Litem for Mr. Perkins after the removal of his former fiduciary. I filed a petition to ask the Court to appoint the Public Administrator as the Successor Guardian and Conservator for Mr. Perkins.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on July 31, 2013 granting the petition.**

In the Matter of G.W.

Jackson County Case No. Confidential

***Client:* Jackson County**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition for Involuntary Detention and Treatment for a Period Not to Exceed 21 days. The Respondent was alleged to have a mental illness and to be a danger to self and/or others.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on April 22, 2016 granting the petition.**

Jackson County Public Administrator v. Willis Minor

Jackson County Case No. 16PRK131967-01

***Client:* Jackson County Public Administrator**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition for Restoration. Mr. Minor was adjudicated totally disabled and totally incapacitated on December 4, 1979. The Public Administrator served as his guardian and conservator since that time. Mr. Minor worked hard over the years to understand his diagnosis and treatment and was at a point in his life where he could manage his own affairs again. I filed a Petition for Restoration on behalf of the Public Administrator to restore all of Mr. Minor's rights.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on November 14, 2013 granting the petition and restoring all of the rights back to Mr. Minor.**

In the Matter of L.C.C.

Jackson County Case No. Confidential

***Client:* Jackson County**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition for Involuntary Detention and Treatment for a Period Not to Exceed 90 Days. The Respondent was hospitalized on a 21-day involuntary commitment and was still a danger to self and/or others.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on August 3, 2016 granting the petition.**

Jackson County Public Administrator v. V.M.

Clay County Case No. 14CY-PR00143

***Client:* Jackson County Public Administrator**

***Case Information:* The Public Administrator served as conservator of V.M.'s minor conservatorship. Records in the Public Administrator's file reflected that V.M. was a disabled individual and that the assets of the conservatorship could not be distributed to him upon his age of majority. I filed a Petition for the Appointment of a Conservator for an Adult so that the assets of the minor conservatorship could be transferred to an adult conservatorship.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on May 1, 2014 granting the petition.**

Jackson County Public Administrator v. Scott McKay

Jackson County Case No. 16PRK158779-01

***Client:* Jackson County Public Administrator**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition to Terminate Guardianship and Conservatorship. The Public Administrator was appointed Mr. McKay's Limited Guardian Ad Litem and Limited Conservator Ad Litem when his former fiduciary resigned. Upon appointment, the Public Administrator's Office discovered that Mr. McKay lived in Michigan with family and had no plans of returning to Missouri. The Public Administrator's Office did not hold any assets for Mr. McKay and was not payee for any public benefits. I filed a Petition to Terminate the Guardianship and Conservatorship.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on January 23, 2014 granting the petition.**

Jackson County Public Administrator v. Herbretta Matthews

Jackson County Case No. 16PRK154396-02

***Client:* Jackson County Public Administrator**

***Case Information:* This was a bench trial on a Petition to Increase Authority of Fiduciary and Appointment of Successor Fiduciary. The Public Administrator was the Limited Guardian Ad Litem and Limited Conservator Ad Litem for Ms. Matthews. Ms. Matthews' condition required the need for a full guardianship and conservatorship. I filed the petition to increase the authority of the Public Administrator and for the Public Administrator to be the ongoing fiduciary for Ms. Matthews.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* Judgment entered on February 19, 2014 granting the petition.**

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.

Jackson County Public Administrator, Personal Representative for the Estate of Brandy L. Rye v. Mark W. Westhusing

Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District Case No. WD77545

***Client:* Jackson County Public Administrator**

***Case information:* I was co-counsel on this case on appeal. I represented the Jackson County Public Administrator as Personal Representative of the Estate of Brandy L. Rye and argued that Ms. Rye and the Appellant had an implied-in-fact contract to share the assets they had acquired during their cohabitation.**

***Nature and Date of Disposition:* The Western District affirmed the judgment of the Jackson County Circuit Court on August 18, 2015.**

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 was appointed Deputy Probate Commissioner in October 2016 and Probate Commissioner in February 2020. The Probate Division has jurisdiction over matters including decedent estates, wills, adult guardianships, adult conservatorships, minor guardianships, minor conservatorships, involuntary civil commitments, mental health warrants, and all issues relating to fiduciary litigation. As Probate Commissioner, I handle all of these types of cases. I manage a full caseload of high-volume dockets, conduct contested bench trials, and rule on an extraordinarily large volume of estate administration motions.

Jackson County has over 8,000 probate estates open. I handle cases in both Kansas City and Independence which include, but are not limited to, estate administration motions, settlements, claims against estates, motions to terminate guardianship, successor fiduciary applications, small estate matters, and will certificates. On average, I review approximately 500 filings each month.

The Probate Division has jurisdiction over civil commitment matters. These include applications for 96-hour detention, 21-day detention, and 90-day detention. Anyone can come to the Probate Division during normal court hours and file an application for 96-hour detention if they believe someone is affected by a mental disorder and that individual is of imminent harm to self and/or others. These cases are sensitive both in content and time. I must always be prepared and available to review these applications, grant the application if appropriate, and issue the warrant that goes to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department for the individual to be taken into custody for evaluation. Trials on 21-day and 90-day detentions must be set within two or four days. This means I must remain prepared and on call for a mental health trial at any given moment.

The cases before me are complex, emotional, and concern the safety of people in our community. As Probate Commissioner, I understand and apply the applicable law in each case and do so with the respect and compassion that each party deserves. I have learned from my experience on the bench that people will respect my decision, even if it is not in their favor, if they feel like they have had the opportunity to be heard. I am confident in my abilities to continue working in a Circuit Court Division.

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.

In the Matter of M.H., Case No. Confidential

Bench trial on a Petition for Involuntary Detention and Treatment for a Period Not to Exceed 21 Days. Petition alleged respondent to have a mental illness that caused respondent to be a danger to self and/or others. Judgment entered on November 21, 2016 granting the Petition.

Lynda K. Morrison v. Vickie Kutz, et al., Case No. 17P8-PR01008

Bench trial on a Petition to Admit Lost Will to Probate. Petition alleged that the original will of the decedent was lost. Judgment entered on November 21, 2017 rejecting Will to Probate and Judgment Denying Petition to Admit Lost Will to Probate.

In the Matter of T.R.E., Case No. 14P8-PR00966-02

Bench trial on contested Petition for a Guardian of a Minor. Petition alleged that the natural parents were unfit, unwilling, and/or unable to parent the minor. Judgment entered on July 21, 2017 appointing guardian for minor.

In the Matter of C.L., Case No. 18P9-PR01232

Bench trial on a Petition for Electroconvulsive Therapy for Minor Child. Petition alleged that minor was in need of electroconvulsive therapy and that minor's natural mother should be able to consent to such treatment. Judgment entered on October 31, 2018 granting the petition.

In the Matter of James Kinder, Case No. 18P9-PR01013 and 18P9-PR01282

Bench trial on competing Petitions for the Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator. One petition was filed by Mr. Kinder's sister, Ellen Hylton, nominating herself to be Mr. Kinder's fiduciary. The other petition was filed by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) nominating the Jackson County Public Administrator to be fiduciary. Judgment entered on February 22, 2019 granting the petition of Ms. Hylton and denying the petition of DHSS.

In the Matter of Martin Haering, Case No. 18P8-PR01229

Bench trial on Petition for the Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator. Petition alleged Mr. Haering was incapacitated and disabled and was in need of a guardian and a conservator. Judgment entered on January 24, 2019 denying the petition.

Truman Medical Center v. Jackson County Public Administrator, Case No. 18P8-PR01434

Bench trial on a Claim Against Estate in the Estate of William Kriger. Claimant alleged the amount of \$1,647.68 was due from the estate for hospital services rendered. Judgment entered on March 15, 2019 allowing the claim as a class 3 claim against the estate.

Jackson County Public Administrator v. Stephanie A. Zuniga, Case No. 19P8-PR00110

Bench trial on a Petition to Terminate Limited Guardianship and Total Conservatorship. Petition alleged the limited guardianship and total conservatorship was no longer necessary because Ms. Zuniga no longer lived in Missouri and was receiving services in Arizona, and that there were no services that the Public Administrator could provide. Judgment entered on March 15, 2019 granting the petition.

Loretta Stone v. Heirs of Josephine Duffey, Case No. 18P8-PR00958

Bench trial on a Petition for Determination of Heirship. Petition alleged numerous individuals as heirs of Ms. Duffey. Judgment Determining Heirship entered on April 4, 2019.

In the Matter of N.B. and N.B., Case No. 18P9-PR00702 and 18P9-PR00704

Bench trial on contested Petitions for the Appointment of a Guardian of a Minor for two minors. Natural mother contested the petition. Judgments entered on August 15, 2019 on both cases granting the petitions.

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 Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges (2015-Present)

Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City (2013-Present)

Golf Committee Member (2014-2016)

The Missouri Bar (2009-Present)

- Lawyers in the Community Section: Chair (2014-2016)**
- Young Lawyers' Section Council (2013-2019)**
 - District 3 Representative (2013-2016)**
 - Diversity Committee Chair (2013-2016)**
- Committee on Diversity: Chair (2013-2014); Vice-Chair (2011-2013); Member (2009-2011)**
- Leadership Academy: Co-Advisor (2011-2013); Member (2010-2011)**

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (2013-Present)

- Diversity Section (2014-Present)**
 - President-Elect (2016)**
 - Member at Large (2015)**
 - Member (2014)**
- Membership Committee (2015)**

American Bar Association (2013-2017)

- Young Lawyers Division (2015-2016)**
 - District 22 Representative (2015-2016)**
 - National Conferences Team (2015-2016)**

Asian American Bar Association of Kansas City (2012-Present)

- Board Member (2016)**
- Vice President (2015)**
- Social Chair (2014)**

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

Published:

- **Note: *A New View, or Just Being Difficult? The 9th Circuit's View of Categorical Exclusions*, 16 Mo. Env'tl. L. & Pol'y Rev. 263 (2008)**
- **Case Summary: *Certain Underwriters at Lloyds, London v. Inlet Fisheries Inc.*, 2008 WL 351688 (9th Cir. 2008), 15 Mo. Env'tl. L. & Pol'y Rev. 478 (2008)**
- **Case Summary: *Benzman v. Whitman*, 523 F.3d 119 (2nd Cir. 2008), 15 Mo. Env'tl. L. & Pol'y Rev. 629 (2008)**

Speaker:

2020

- **CLE: *The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Probate Practice in Missouri and Kansas: A View From the Bench***
- **CLE: *The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Settlements***
- **CLE: *The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Closing the Estate***

2019

- **Presentation: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for Kansas City Police Department: *Mental Health Law***
- **Presentation: Civic Education: *Can the School Search My Stuff?***
- **CLE: *The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Closing the Estate and Settlements***
- **Presentation: Kansas City Association of Paralegals: *Successful Probate Practice: Paralegal Edition***
- **Presentation: 2019 Summer Court Reporter Seminar: *Probate Law***

2018

- **CLE: *The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Closing the Estate***
- **CLE: *Kansas City 15 Hour Review of the Law: Probate Case Law and Statute Update***
- **CLE: *Senate Bill 806: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly***
- **Presentation: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for Kansas City Police Department: *Mental Health Law***
- **Presentation: Communities Without Boundaries Foundation: *Justice and the Law***

2017

- **CLE: *Probate Case Processing***
- **Presentation: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Omega Chapter: *Path to Legal Career***
- **CLE: *The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Closing the Estate***
- **CLE: *Young Lawyers Perspective***
- **Presentation: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for Kansas City Police Department: *Mental Health Law***
- **CLE: *Meet Commissioner Zhang***
- **CLE: *Perspective from the Probate Bench***
- **CLE: *View From the Bench: Perspectives and Advice from Young Judges Especially for Young Lawyers***
- **CLE: *The Basics (and Ethics) Involved in the Probate Administration Process***
- **CLE: *Successful Probate Practice-Top 20 Tips***

2016

- **CLE Moderator: American Bar Association Annual Meeting: *Working with the Civil Pro Se Litigant***

2015

- **CLE: *The Missouri Bar Stepping Up & Stepping Out – The New Lawyer Experience: Guardianships and Conservatorships for Minors and Adults***
- **Presentation: Jackson County Bar Association’s Law 101: *Probate Law***

2014

- **CLE: *The Missouri Bar Stepping Up & Stepping Out – The New Lawyer Experience: Guardianships and Conservatorships for Minors and Adults***
- **CLE: Missouri Bar Diversity Summit: *The Need for Recruiting and Retaining Minority Attorneys into Leadership Positions to Promote Diversity and Strengthen Bar Leadership***

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

**Probate Commissioner
16th Circuit Court of Jackson County, MO
Appointed by Court En Banc**

**Deputy Probate Commissioner
16th Circuit Court of Jackson County, MO
Appointed by The Honorable Mark A. Styles, Jr.**

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.

Communities Without Boundaries Foundation

The CWB is a Chinese-American civic group created to help bridge two cultures. I have been a speaker for the annual “CWB Talks,” which are programs designed to bring together Chinese Americans in the Kansas City area and to discuss various issues such as cultural diversity, cross-cultural parenting, and explorations into different professions held by Asian Americans.

Boys and Girls Club

As a member of the Junior League of Kansas City, I volunteered for two years with the Boys and Girls Club as part of a program to promote healthy cooking with children and their families.

Women’s Employment Network

I was a volunteer with the Women’s Employment Network through the Junior League of Kansas City for one year. I was part of a team of volunteers who created, organized, and presented information to women who were reentering the work force. We worked on various skills including how to build your own brand, updating resumes, creating a professional online presence, and networking.

Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri

I was a member of the Junior League from 2014 to 2019. Junior League is an organization of women who are committed to and promote volunteerism in the community. In addition to my work with the Boys and Girls Club and the Women's Employment Network, I have volunteered with several local non-profit organizations including Harvesters, Happy Bottoms, Kansas City Zoo, and University Academy. I was also a member of the ad hoc committee within the Junior League on diversity and inclusion.

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

**The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers' Section President's Award (2014-2015)
The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers' Section President's Award (2015-2016)
Missouri Lawyers Media Up and Coming Award (2017)**

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 that 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 came to the United States from China when I was five years old to join my parents who were already here pursuing their graduate degrees in higher education administration. They were English professors in China. However, I had to learn English by immersion when I started kindergarten. I learned, at a very young age, how challenging life can be when you cannot communicate and are in a strange and unfamiliar environment. While I eventually learned English, I still had to navigate cultural barriers growing up. As one could imagine, there are a lot of differences between the Chinese and American cultures. When my parents elevated in their careers, we moved from college town to college town. I also had the added challenge of being an only child, so with each move, I could only depend on myself to make new friends and fit into a new environment. My childhood experiences allowed me to become a person who understands the struggles of people from all walks of life and someone who gets along with just about anyone. This is a skill I have found to be valuable in my professional career: the ability to adapt and to be a team player is often just as important as any mental or technical skill. My background also instilled in me a desire to give back to my community, to help others who are in positions similar to those that were once experienced by my family, and to be involved in diversity and inclusion efforts. It is also why I have chosen a path of public service in my professional career.

The position of Circuit Judge is one of public service. While the position of judge is prestigious, the work of a judge is one of service. My experience as an immigrant in

this country taught me the importance of being able to understand one's surroundings and to be able to communicate with others. That same experience gives me the ability to help others navigate a system with which they are unfamiliar. As Probate Commissioner, I do this on a daily basis. I will continue to do this if given the opportunity to serve as Circuit Judge of Division 11.

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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