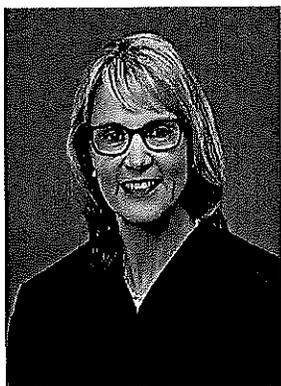


**RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC
IF THE APPLICANT IS SELECTED AS A NOMINEE**



NAME: VIRGINIA WASIUK LAY

- 1. State your present principal occupation:** Associate Circuit Judge, Twenty First Judicial Circuit

- 2. Answer the following:**
 - (a) Are you at least 30 years of age? (Please answer if you are applying for a circuit judge vacancy.)** Yes.

 - (b) Are you at least 25 years of age? (Please answer if you are applying for an associate judge vacancy.)**

 - (c) How long have you been a citizen of the United States?** 52 years

 - (d) How long have you been a resident of St. Louis County?** 19 years

 - (e) How long have you been a qualified voter of Missouri?** 27 years

- 3. For each jurisdiction in which you are or have been licensed to practice, state:**
 - (a) The name of the jurisdiction;**
 - i. Missouri
 - ii. U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri

 - (b) The date you were admitted to that bar and, if applicable, ceased to be a member of that bar;**
 - i. 1993-present
 - ii. 1998-2002

 - (c) Your bar number:** 41940

4. State the name and address of each post-high school educational institutions you have attended, together with the dates and any degree received:

Columbia University, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027-English and American Studies,
B.A. with Honors 1990, rowed Division I Crew, ran marathons

Washington University School of Law, 1 Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-J.D. 1993

5. List each position of employment you have held, beginning with your earliest, including non-legal employment, and for each state:

- (a) The name and address of the employer;
- (b) The position(s) you held;
- (c) The dates of employment;
- (d) Whether the employment was full, part-time, or seasonal; and
- (e) The reason(s) the employment ceased.

- (a) **Gordon Research Conferences;** Tilton School, 30 School Street, Tilton, NH 03276;
- (b) Chambermaid;
- (c) June through August 1982;
- (d) Seasonal full-time;
- (e) Began high school in fall.

- (a) **Gordon Research Conferences;** Tilton School, 30 School Street, Tilton, NH 03276;
- (b) Projectionist;
- (c) June through August 1983;
- (d) Seasonal full-time;
- (e) Resumed high school.

- (a) **Gordon Research Conferences;** Tilton School, 30 School Street, Tilton, NH 03276;
- (b) Projectionist;
- (c) June through August 1984;
- (d) Seasonal full-time;
- (e) Resumed high school.

- (a) **Camp Lochearn;** 1061 Robinson Hill Road, Thetford, VT 05058
- (b) Senior Camp Counselor/Head of Waterskiing Program;
- (c) June through August 1986;
- (d) Summer full-time live in position;
- (e) Position concluded, entered college.

- (a) **Hillside Restaurant**, Hartsville, MA 01230;
- (b) Waitress;
- (c) June through August 1987;
- (d) Summer full-time;
- (e) Resigned to resume college in fall.

- (a) **Hillside Restaurant**, Hartsville, MA 01230;
- (b) June through August 1988;
- (c) Waitress;
- (d) Summer full-time;
- (e) Resigned to resume college.

- (a) **Manhattan Pizza**, 490 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230;
- (b) Waitress;
- (c) June through August 1988;
- (d) Summer full-time;
- (e) Resigned to resume college.

- (a) **Ward's Nursery**, 600 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230;
- (b) Landscaper and retail salesperson;
- (c) June through August 1990;
- (d) Summer full-time;
- (e) Resigned to attend law school.

- (a) **Public Defender's Office**, 184 North Street, Suite 301, Pittsfield, MA 02169;
- (b) Summer Stipend Legal Intern;
- (c) June through August 1991;
- (d) Summer full-time;
- (e) Resigned to resume law school.

- (a) **Michael's of Stockbridge Restaurant**, 5 Elm Street, Stockbridge, MA 01262;
- (b) Waitress/Cocktail Waitress;
- (c) June through August 1991;
- (d) Summer part-time;
- (e) Resigned to resume law school.

- (a) **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation**, 8787 State Street, East St. Louis, IL 62203;
- (b) Legal Intern;
- (c) June through August 1992;
- (d) Summer full-time;
- (e) Resigned to resume law school.

- (a) **Northwest Coffee**; 8401 Maryland Avenue, Clayton, MO 63105;
 - (b) Barista;
 - (c) July through December 1993;
 - (d) Full-time;
 - (e) Resigned to begin full-time employment at the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office.
-
- (a) **St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office**; 1114 Market Street, Room 401, St. Louis, MO 63101;
 - (b) Assistant Circuit Attorney;
 - (c) 1993-1997;
 - (d) Full-time;
 - (e) Resigned to assume Jackson County Assistant Prosecutor position.
-
- (a) **Jackson County Prosecutor's Office**, 415 E. 12th Street, 11th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64106;
 - (b) Assistant Prosecuting Attorney;
 - (c) 1998-1999;
 - (d) Full-time;
 - (e) Recruited to do special prosecutions and civil defensive cases at the Missouri Attorney General's Office.
-
- (a) **Missouri Attorney General's Office**, 615 E. 13th Street, Suite 401, Kansas City, MO 64106;
 - (b) Assistant Attorney General;
 - (c) 1999-2002;
 - (d) Full-time;
 - (e) Moved from Kansas City to enter private practice in St. Louis County.
-
- (a) **Hesse Martone LLC**, 13354 Manchester Road, Des Peres, MO 63131;
 - (b) Senior Attorney;
 - (c) 2002-2017;
 - (d) Part-time;
 - (e) Resigned to focus on Special Prosecutor duties.
-
- (a) **St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office**; 1114 Market Street, Room 401, St. Louis, MO 63101;
 - (b) Special Assistant Circuit Attorney for Missouri Division of Employment Security;
 - (c) 2012-present;
 - (d) Part-time: 25-35 hours weekly;
 - (e) Resigned to take the bench.
-
- (a) **Washington University School of Law**; 1 Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130;
 - (b) Adjunct Professor: Teaching a course entitled "Pretrial through Settlement";
 - (c) 2015 through 2019;
 - (d) Part-time: 8 hours weekly;
 - (e) Resigned to take the bench.

- (a) **State of Missouri**; 105 South Central Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105;
- (b) Associate Circuit Judge for the Twenty First Judicial Circuit;
- (c) April 1, 2019-present;
- (d) Full-time.

6. If you have served as a judge or commissioner, identify up to five significant cases over which you presided to completion. Set forth the style, cause number, date and name and current address of the primary attorneys participating in each case, identifying the party each attorney represented. Indicate whether bench or jury tried and give a one to three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

(1) Richard Wilson et al. v. Transam Trucking, Inc. et al., 18SL-AC28147

October 21, 2019, Mike Hall, Law Offices of Mark G. McMahon, 7730 Carondelet Avenue, Suite 147, Clayton, MO 63105 for Plaintiffs, J. Phillip Bryant, Pitzer, Snodgrass, P.C., 100 South Fourth Street, Suite 400, St. Louis, MO 63102 for Defendants. Jury trial on automobile negligence action with stipulated damage amount, defense verdict without post-trial motions or appeal.

(2) T. G. v. Missouri Department of Revenue, 19SL-AC05885, *aff'd* ED 108485, 2020 WL 4091508

October 19, 2019, Christopher Combs, 8820 Ladue Road, Suite 201, Ladue, MO 63124 for Petitioner, Christina Varcарcel, St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office, 100 S. Central Avenue, Clayton, MO 63105 for Respondent. Bench trial on petition for rehearing to reinstate driving privileges following administrative denial by the Director of Revenue. Petitioner was found to have refused to submit to breathalyzer and administrative revocation of driving privileges upheld. Judgment upheld on appeal, Thomas Kissell, Kissell Law Group, LLC, 7733 Forsyth Blvd, 11th Floor, Clayton MO 63105, for Appellant Christina Varcарcel, St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office, 100 S. Central Avenue, Clayton, MO 63105 for Respondent.

(3) Mark Eskra et al. d/b/a Clearwater Liquor, v. P-S Sales, LLC, 17SL-AC29441

September 27, 2019, Kenneth Leeds, 906 Olive Street, Suite 525, St. Louis, MO 63101 for Plaintiffs, Jeffrey B. Hunt, Rosenblum Goldenhersh 7733 Forsyth Blvd, Suite 400, Clayton MO 63105 for Defendants. Bench trial on breach of contract regarding the sale of a used commercial self-service ice maker under theories of warranty of merchantability and warranty of fitness for a particular purpose resulted in interlocutory defense verdict, issue of damages settled.

(4) J.J. v R. J. and C.J et al., 12SL-DR01712-02, March 31, 2020

Mary E. Davidson, Schwartz, Herman and Davidson, 8820 Ladue Road, Suite 201, St. Louis, MO 63124 for Petitioner, Respondent appeared *pro se*, Michelle Spirn, Spirn Family Law, 7700

Bonhomme Avenue, Suite 325, Clayton, MO 63105 for Intervenors, Cynthia Albin, The Center for Family Law, 7710 Carondelet Avenue, Suite 405, Clayton, MO 63105, *Guardian Ad Litem*. Bench trial on Intervenors' Motion to Terminate Custody and Motion to Dismiss as a Party, Respondent's Motion to Modify Custody and Petitioner's Reply and Motion to Modify, Intervenors Motion to Terminate Custody granted as well as Motion to Dismiss as a Party. Sole legal and sole physical custody granted to Respondent. Petitioner's Counter Motion to Modify Custody denied and supervised visitation granted to Petitioner.

(5) State of Missouri ex rel., J. R et al. v. J.D., 21667345

November 6, 2019, Jessica Nagy, St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office, 100 S. Central Avenue, Clayton, MO 63105 for Petitioner, Respondent appeared *pro se*. Hearing on Motion for Civil Contempt of Child Support, Respondent held in contempt for \$19,668 child support arrears.

7. List up to ten cases which you have tried as either first or second chair. Set forth the style, cause number, date, court and judge, and identify who you represented, whether you were first or second chair, and the name and address of opposing counsel. Indicate whether each case was bench or jury tried and provide a one to three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

State v. Nicholas D. Breakfield, 965 S.W.2d 961 (Mo. Ct. App. E.D. 1998)(affirming conviction)
Judge Phillip Heagney, 22nd Judicial Circuit
Nicholas Llewellyn, Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse, 111 South 10th Street, St. Louis, MO 63112
Bench Guilty verdict 10/25/1996

As first chair, I represented the State of Missouri and tried Mr. Breakfield for Burglary First. The defendant, three days after release from prison, broke into the private home of a St. Louis Police officer while the officer and his young child were inside. Prior to trial, I conducted two full waiver of conflict hearings due to the Judge being a former police officer and the defense attorney's brother being a co-worker of the victim's at the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

State v. Maverick Bluford, 22941-02073-01
Judge Daniel T. Tilman, 22nd Judicial Circuit.
Gerald Ruess, 406 E. Karsch Blvd., Farmington, MO 63640
Jury Guilty verdict 4/7/1995

Representing the State as first chair counsel, I tried the defendant on charges of burglary 2nd degree and making a false declaration after the defendant broke into a residential dwelling and lied to police regarding his identity at arrest.

Joyce Beasley v. Truman Medical Center, Dr. Steven Go, MD, et al., 16CV97-29308
Judge J.D. Williamson, 16th Judicial Circuit
Philip Morris, 410 Admiral Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106

Jury Defense Verdict 5/10/1999

As an Assistant Attorney General, I second chaired a wrongful death case in which the sister of the decedent alleged that the decedent had been given the wrong medicine and then was not treated for an allergic reaction, causing her death. We proved that the decedent died of natural causes, not negligence. All of the defendants were held blameless.

State v. Dennis Hinkle, 22951-03926-01
Judge Thomas Grady, 22nd Judicial Circuit
Eugene N. Mitchell Jr., address unknown
Jury Guilty verdict 7/15/1997

I represented the State as first chair and tried the defendant for tampering with a motor vehicle 1st degree for his actions in hotwiring and stealing a car by using a screwdriver to bypass the ignition.

State v. John Logan, Cause 22941-03544B
Judge Robert H. Dierker, 22nd Judicial Circuit
Terri J. Johnson, Gillespie, Hetlage & Coughlin, LLC, 120 S. Central Ave., Suite 650, Clayton,
MO 63105
Guilty Jury verdict 2/3/1995

As first chair Assistant Circuit Attorney, I represented the State in prosecuting the defendant for stealing over \$500 from Victim M.S.

State v. Albert Lambers, 22941-04010-01
Judge John J. Riley, 22nd Judicial Circuit
Terence Niehoff, Niehoff & Hufty, 818 Lafayette, St. Louis, MO 63104
Guilty Jury verdict 07/19/1996

I second chaired in the above case where the defendant was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and armed criminal action, causing the death of another by shooting.

State v. Keith W. Bonds, Sr., 22941-03571-01
Judge David C. Mason, 22nd Judicial Circuit
Eugene N. Mitchell Jr., address unknown
Guilty Jury verdict 03/31/1996

I represented the State as first chair and the defendant was found guilty by jury of tampering 1st degree, involving theft of a car.

State v. Darrow White, 2951-01985-01
Judge Sherri B. Sullivan, 22nd Judicial Circuit
Rich Moran, deceased 2004
Jury Guilty verdict 07/12/1996

I represented the State as first chair where the defendant was found guilty of unlawful use of a weapon and two counts of assault 3rd degree.

State v. Leon W. Carter, 22951-01144B-01
Judge Brendan J. Ryan, 22nd Judicial Circuit
Clinton Wright, the Wright Law Firm, LLC, 225 South Meramec Ave, Suite 1100, Clayton, MO
63105
Jury Guilty verdict 04/26/1996

I represented the State as first chair and successfully won a jury conviction on resisting/interfering with arrest for a felony and property damage 1st degree.

State v. Tiffany Riefling and Andrea Grossius, Cause Number unknown
Guilty Jury Verdict 1994
Judge Henry Autrey, 22nd Circuit
Christine Milligan-Ciha, last known address, Stoughton, WI

I represented the State as first chair where both defendants were charged with assault 3rd degree after they beat the victim outside a bar at night on the Landing, causing the victim to suffer bruising as well as the loss of several square inches of hair on her scalp. The jury convicted both defendants as charged.

8. List up to ten appeals or writs before appellate courts which you have briefed or argued. Set forth the style, cause number, date, and court, and identify who you represented, whether you briefed, argued or both, and the name and address of opposing counsel. Provide a one to three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

J.S. v. Beaird et al, 28 S.W.3d 875 (Mo.banc 2000)
Supreme Court of Missouri
James Wyrsh, Wyrsh, Hobbs & Mirakian, 1200 Main Street, Suite 2110, Kansas City, MO
64105
Statute's constitutionality upheld

J.S., a convicted sex offender and over the road trucker, sought and received an injunction declaring him exempt from the sex offender registration requirements, arguing that he did not "come into" the county as required by the statute and therefore was not required to register with law enforcement. J.S. also asserted that the sex offender registration law was unconstitutional as excessively punitive. As an Assistant Attorney General, I intervened, briefed and argued on behalf of the State of Missouri on the constitutional issue, which was upheld.

State v. Entertainment Ventures I, INC. et al. 44S.W.3d 383 (Mo.banc 2001)
Supreme Court of Missouri
Opposing counsel Charles Smarr and Mark G. Anderson, Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.,
312 East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Statute's constitutionality upheld

As an Assistant Attorney General representing the State of Missouri, I briefed and argued as *Amicus Curae* before the Missouri Supreme Court against a constitutional vagueness attack on Missouri liquor law's nuisance provisions. The High Hill Cabaret, a bar next to a school bus stop that employed semi-nude women to serve alcoholic beverages was the source of many complaints regarding noise, lewd acts by the dancer/servers and severely intoxicated patrons. Both the permanent injunctive relief as well as the constitutionality of the statute were upheld against vagueness and due process attacks. The High Hill subsequently closed.

State v. Bibb, 922 S.W.2d 798 (Mo. App. ED 1996)

Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District

Deborah B. Wafer, Raymund J. Capelovitch and Mary Ann Caradonna, last known address
Public Defender's Office, 1221 Locust Street, Suite 1000, St. Louis, MO 63108

Appeal granted, case reversed and remanded

While an Assistant Circuit Attorney, I briefed and argued a *nunc pro tunc* appeal in criminal drug case in which the judge suppressed drugs seized from the defendant and dismissed the State's case. After argument, the Court held that the appeal was proper and timely as double jeopardy had not attached and further that the lower court had improperly dismissed the State's case; the lower court's order was reversed and remanded.

Jackson v. Director of Revenue, State of Missouri, 60 S.W.3d 707 (Mo. App. SD 2001)

Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District

H. Marvin Gilmore, 743 N. Main Street, Sikeston, MO 63801

Cause reversed and remanded

While an Assistant Attorney General, I briefed a defense of the Missouri Department of Revenue's revocation of a driver's license for DUI violations. The trial court had lost the revocation trial transcript but I successfully argued for a remand instead of a ruling against DOR; remand for new trial was granted.

9. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?

No

If yes, provide details, including the style of the case, cause number, name of the jurisdiction, and date of conviction.

10. Have you ever been a party to any litigation, other than as guardian ad litem, plaintiff ad litem or defendant ad litem?

No

If yes, identify the style of the case, cause number, name of the jurisdiction and the approximate year in which such litigation was commenced and in which it was terminated, and provide a one to three sentence description of the case and its outcome.

11. Have you ever been investigated, disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or professional conduct by a court, bar association, or any office or committee thereof?

If yes, provide details.

In 1999, as an Assistant Attorney General, I litigated a Section 1983 inmate suit filed by Christopher L. Prosser who was serving a sentence for Murder 2nd Degree and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. After dismissal of his Section 1983 suit, Prosser filed an ethical complaint alleging illegal disclosure of his prison medical records because his medical records were referred to in a motion for summary judgement. Because Prosser had placed his medical condition at issue, his ethics complaint was ruled unfounded by the Missouri Supreme Court Region IV Disciplinary Committee on June 6, 1999.

12. Have you ever been held in contempt of court?

No

If yes, provide details.

13. 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?

No

If yes, state the nature of such breach, the date discipline was imposed and the exact nature and duration of the discipline imposed.

(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?

No

If yes, provide details including date the order was entered, the date of your consent, and a description of the conduct you were ordered to cease and desist.

(c) Whether, to your knowledge, you have been a subject of a complaint and investigation by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline, which did not result in any action by the Commission? If yes, provide details.

No

14. List all bar associations and other professional societies, of which you are a member, with any offices held and dates.

Missouri Bar Association
St. Louis County Bar Association
Women Lawyer's Association of Greater St. Louis
Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, Board member 1999-2001
Missouri Bar: Criminal Practice and Procedure Committee 1995-present
Missouri Bar: Labor and Employment Committee 2005-present

15. Describe your community activities, including any organizations, not listed above, with which you are affiliated.

Unleashing Potential (Formerly Neighborhood Houses) Board member and Governance Committee 2018-present
Clayton High School Athletic Advisory Committee 2018-present
Missouri Police Chiefs Association: Legal Advisor 2013-2019
First Congregational Church Former Board Member 2006-2008
Missouri Botanical Garden, Master Gardener certified volunteer 2003-present
Washington University: Negotiation Competition Judge 2006-present
Washington University: Client Counseling Competition Judge 2006-present
Clayton School District Fourth and Fifth Grade Boys Baseball Coach 2014-2015
Clayton School District Nutrition Evaluation and Compliance Committee 2010-2011
Clayton Child Center Auction Chair 2005

16. Do you now hold or have you ever held any elective or appointive public office or position?

No

If yes, provide details.

17. Provide the branches and dates of (a) military service, or (b) other public service, not otherwise covered in this application. If discharged from the military, was the discharge other than honorable?

N.A.

18. List any professional articles or books which have been published or any special recognition or award of a professional nature which you have received.

St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office Special Recognition Award 2016
Missouri Attorney General Merit Award 1999

19. Furnish the name, address, telephone number, and email address of up to five individuals, who are not judges, as references with respect to your judicial qualifications

1. Darlene Sowell, President and CEO, Unleashing Potential, 1000 N. Vandeventer, St. Louis, MO 63113, (314) 383-1733, Dsowell@upstl.com
2. Vic Richey, CEO and President, ESCO Technologies, Inc., 9900 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63124 (314) 213-7200 vrichey@escotechnologies.com
3. Michelle Spirn, Spirn Family Law, 7700 Bonhomme Avenue, Clayton, MO 63105, (314) 451-1700, Michelle@spirnfamilylaw.com
4. Suzanne Besnia, Riezman Berger, 7000 Bonhomme Avenue, Clayton, MO 63105, (314) 727-0101, besnia@riezmanberger.com
5. David Betz, The Betz Law Firm, 120 East Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119, (314) 801-8488, david@betzlawfirm.com

20. Set forth any additional information that demonstrates the quality of your legal work or which you believe to be relevant.

I feel very fortunate to be an Associate Circuit Judge. Short term, I have focused on getting experience in all of the cases that Associate Circuit Judges manage. In 2019, while assigned to Civil, I presided over a tort jury trial to verdict, without motion for new trial or appeal, in addition to nearly one hundred bench trials. I handled landlord tenant and collection bulk dockets, civil child support docket, small claims, equity matters, Department of Revenue rehearings, quiet title actions, administrative appeals and injunctive actions. While periodically serving as duty judge, I review search warrants and *ex parte* orders as well as handle bond review hearings.

In January 2020, I volunteered to move to Family Court, to fill a vacancy created by the elevation of Judge Borbonus. I now handle a Circuit docket of dissolutions, paternity and custody matters as well as a domestic violence order of protection docket. My new role in Family Court allows me to expand my experience in the area of domestic law in a very direct form of service for families.

Prior to taking the bench, I gained a wide diversity of civil, criminal, appellate and trial experience that I draw on every day. For fourteen years I served as a prosecutor in various state offices, trying over 65 cases to verdict. In addition to gun cases, drug offenses and crimes against people including homicides and sex crimes, I conducted civil commitment trials, DUI and post-conviction relief trials. I served as a Special Assistant Circuit Attorney, prosecuting unemployment fraud and other white collar crimes for the Missouri Division of Employment Security.

While at the Missouri Attorney General's Office, pursuant to the State Legal Defense Fund, I defended state doctors against medical malpractice claims, which included taking depositions and retaining experts. I represented several state agencies and their employees, such as the Missouri State Department of Health and Human Services and the Missouri Department of

Corrections, involving myriad claims such as excessive force, employment discrimination claims, and tort actions resulting from patrol car accidents. I also handled several *quo warranto* actions, successfully removing the public officials including an elected prosecutor and a mayor who were violating state law. I briefed and argued before the Eastern District Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Missouri.

I practiced for fifteen years in the private sector, defending corporations such as BJC Healthcare, the YMCA and municipalities including Town and Country, Bel-Nor and Ladue against employment suits. I handled EEOC and MCHR complaints, as well as conducting all phases of civil litigation in state court. I drafted employment manuals as well as Affirmative Action Plans for clients receiving federal funding. Numerous times I successfully filed and argued for injunctive relief in state court.

Experience matters. Drawing on my experience gained statewide and more recently on the bench, I hope to better the lives of those in my community as a Circuit Judge for the 21st Circuit of Missouri.

Virginia W. Lay was appointed Associate Circuit Judge on April 1, 2019 by Governor Michael L. Parson. She received her B.A., with honors in American Studies from Columbia University in 1990 and her law degree from Washington University School of Law in 1993.

From 1993-1997, Judge Lay served as an Assistant Circuit Attorney in St. Louis. She was an Assistant Prosecutor for Jackson County, Missouri in Kansas City for 1998-1999, after which she handled civil and criminal cases on behalf of the Attorney General for the State of Missouri. Judge Lay was in private practice from 2002-2017, handling a diverse civil defense caseload, including employment and municipal matters. She has served as an Adjunct Professor at Washington University School of Law, teaching Civil Pretrial through Settlement. From 2012-2019, Judge Lay served as a Special Assistant Circuit Attorney for the Missouri Division of Employment Security, handling white collar cases.

Judge Lay serves on the board of Unleashing Potential. She is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, the Women' Lawyers Association of St. Louis, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the St. Louis County Bar Association.

Judge Lay lives in St. Louis County with her family.