

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name:** State full name (include any former names used).

Jeffrey Marion Kuhlman

2. **Position:** State the position for which you have been nominated.

United States District Judge for the District of Kansas

3. **Address:** List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

Office: 1321 Main Street, Suite 300
P.O. Drawer 1110
Great Bend, KS 67530

Residence: Great Bend, Kansas

4. **Birthplace:** State year and place of birth.

1989; Dodge City, Kansas

5. **Education:** List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

2012 – 2015, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University; J.D. 2015

2008 – 2012, Kansas State University; B.A., 2012

6. **Employment Record:** List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2020 – Present
Watkins Calcara, Chtd
1321 Main Street, Suite 300

P.O. Drawer 1110
Great Bend, KS 67530
Shareholder/Attorney

2017 – 2020
Hinkle Law Firm LLC
1617 North Waterfront Parkway, Suite 400
Wichita, KS 67206
Associate Attorney

2015 – 2017
Honorable Eric F. Melgren
United States District Court for the District of Kansas
401 North Market Street
Wichita, KS 67202
Law Clerk

2013 – 2015
Commonwealth Attorney's Office for the City of Alexandria
520 King Street, Suite 301
Alexandria, VA 22314
Law Clerk

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I have not served in the military. I registered for selective service when I turned 18.

8. **Honors and Awards:** List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Emerging Leader, Wichita Business Journal (2019)

Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University
Honors graduate (*cum laude*) (2015)
Senior Notes Editor, The Journal of Law, Economics & Policy (2014 – 2015)
Candidate, The Journal of Law, Economics & Policy (2013 – 2014)
Merit-Based Scholarships (2012 – 2015)

Kansas State University
Irene Murdock Trust Scholarship (2008)
Kansas State University Foundation Scholarship (2008)
Arts and Science Scholarship (2008, 2009)
Robert J. Dole Scholarship (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

Phi Beta Kappa (2010)
Dr. Willard C. and Oma Grace Schwartz First Christian Church Scholarship (2010)
Arts and Sciences Great Books Undergraduate Certificate Program (2010)
Arts and Science Excellence Scholarship (2010, 2011)
Lois B. Turner Memorial Scholarship (2011)

National Honors Society (2007)

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

Kansas Association of Defense Counsel (Director: 2023 – Present)
U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel (2023)
Barton County Bar Association (2020 – Present)
Kansas Bar Association (Member: 2015 – Present; District 8 Governor, 2025 – Present)
Defense Research Institute (2017 – 2025)
The Honorable Wesley E. Brown American Inn of Court (2017 – 2020)
Wichita Bar Association (2015 – 2020)

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Kansas (2015)

There have been no lapses in membership.

b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

Supreme Court of the United States (2025 – Present)
Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (2020 – Present)
United States District Court for the District of Kansas (2017 – Present)
Virginia Third-Year Practice Certificate (2014 – 2015)

I obtained a third-year practice certificate in my last year as a law student at George Mason University School of Law. I never sought full admission to the Virginia bar because I returned to Kansas upon graduation from law school.

11. **Memberships:**

a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other

organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

Federalist Society (2012 – Present)

Knights of Columbus (2015 – Present)

Barton County Young Professionals (2021 – 2022)

Catholic Assembly for Business (2017 – 2020)

b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization whose membership is limited to men who are practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church, and so, it does limit membership based on sex and religion.

To the best of my knowledge, none of the other organizations listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin, either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

12. **Published Writings and Public Statements:**

a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply copies of all published material to the Committee.

Jeffrey M. Kuhlman, *Inefficiency of Leniency for First-Time Marijuana Possession in Virginia: Unintended Consequences, Time Discounting, and Deterrence*, 11 J.L. Econ. & Pol'y 83 (Spring 2015). Copy supplied.

b. Supply copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

To the best of my recollection, and after a review of my records, I am not aware of any such documents.

c. Supply copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

I served as the City Attorney for the City of Lyons for approximately one year. Almost all of my statements to the City Council were privileged communications in executive session; however, the minutes from three City Council meetings in which I addressed the council, as well as the minutes from the first planning commission meeting, dated June 17, 2021, are attached.

City of Lyons Regular City Council Meeting, Minutes for August 2, 2021. Copy supplied.

City of Lyons Planning Commission Minutes, June 17, 2021. Copy supplied.

City of Lyons Regular City Council Meeting, Minutes for June 7, 2021. Copy supplied.

City of Lyons Special City Council Meeting, Minutes for March 23, 2021. Copy supplied.

Otherwise, to the best of my recollection, I am not aware of any such statements or communications.

d. Supply copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

December 5, 2025: Introductory Speaker, "Introductory Remarks," Kansas Association of Defense Counsel 2025 Annual Conference, Kansas City, Missouri. I gave introductory remarks and introduced John Rapp, a scheduled speaker. I have no transcript or recording, but the script from the introduction is supplied. The address for the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel is 825 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 500, Topeka, KS 66612.

April 27, 2019: Presenter, "Protecting the Accused", Kansas Legal Professionals, Inc., Wichita, Kansas. I spoke regarding Kansas DUI law, from the initial stop to dealing with the consequences. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Kansas Legal

Professionals, Inc. is 712 South Kansas Avenue, Suite 201, Topeka, Kansas 66603.
Seminar agenda supplied.

September, 2018: Presenter, "Mechanic's Liens – Fact or Fiction", Hinkle Law Firm,
Wichita, Kansas. PowerPoint supplied.

May 4, 2018: Presenter, "Ethics of Client Intake", Wichita Bar Association, Wichita,
Kansas. I discussed the ethical issues that can arise at the client intake stage. Specifically,
what should be done when an existing client asks an attorney to handle a matter for which
the attorney lacks experience. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the
Wichita Bar Association is 225 North Market, Suite 200, Wichita, Kansas, 67202.
Seminar agenda supplied.

November 7, 2017 and November 8, 2017: Presenter, "Restrictive Covenants: Limiting
Unfair Competition with Strategic Drafting and Enforcement", Hinkle Law Firm,
Wichita, Kansas. PowerPoint supplied.

e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other
publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and
copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Podcast Episode, Jeffrey Kuhlman, Partner at Watkins Calcara, Chtd., *Latte with a
Lawyer*, Nov. 21, 2022. Audio recording available at:
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/jeffrey-kuhlman-partner-at-watkins-calcara-chtd-latte/id1554130801?i=1000586958821&l=ru>

Shelby Kellerman, *No Matter Where They're from, Emerging Leaders have a Love for
Wichita*, Wichita Business Journal, Dec. 4, 2019. Copy supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including
positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a
description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

I have never held judicial office.

a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict
or judgment? _____

i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials: _____ %
bench trials: _____ %

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings: _____ %

criminal proceedings: _____%

- b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.
- c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).
- d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.
- e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.
- f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.
- g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.
- h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.
- i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself sua sponte. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:

I have never held judicial office.

- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant

or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;

- b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

15. **Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:**

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

I have not held public office.

- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

Alternate Member, Kansas First District Republic Committee (2022 – 2024). I was elected as an alternate member in 2022, but as an alternate, I was not required to attend the 2022 meeting.

Member, Kansas First District Republican Committee (2020 – 2022). I was elected to this position in 2020, and attended the District Committee Meeting in Salina, Kansas, on December 12, 2020.

Volunteer, Derek Schmidt for Attorney General of Kansas (2018). I walked in a parade in Kechi, KS, in support of Candidate Schmidt.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

- a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

From 2015 to 2017, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Eric F.

Melgren, United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I have not practiced alone.

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each;

2017 – 2020
Hinkle Law Firm LLC
1617 North Waterfront Parkway, Suite 400
Wichita, KS 67206
Associate Attorney

2020 – Present
Watkins Calcara, Chtd
1321 Main Street, Suite 300
P.O. Drawer 1110
Great Bend, KS 67530
Shareholder/Attorney

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have not served as a mediator or arbitrator.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

Upon graduating from law school in 2015, I was privileged to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Eric F. Melgren for the United States District Court for the District of Kansas in Wichita, Kansas. In the role, I was tasked with researching legal issues, drafting memoranda and orders, and providing legal input and advice in collaboration with and support of Judge Melgren. We would also serve as the courtroom clerk for jury trials, and would draft bench memoranda, jury instructions, and verdict forms for use in those trials. We worked on both criminal and civil matters, and I served as the courtroom clerk for both civil and criminal trials.

Following my clerkship, I became an associate attorney at Hinkle Law Firm, LLC in Wichita, Kansas. I worked in the litigation department,

supporting various litigation partners and working in a wide variety of practice areas. My primary focus was civil litigation, and I worked on commercial and complex litigation, personal injury cases, transportation and trucking cases, medical malpractice cases, and election law disputes. In addition to civil litigation, about 15 – 25% of my practice at the Hinkle Law Firm was supporting our criminal defense team, and I gained valuable experience working on criminal misdemeanor and felony cases that centered primarily on DUI defense.

In 2020, I had an opportunity to move to Western Kansas, which was closer to both my parents and my in-laws. I joined the law firm Watkins Calcara, Chtd. I was an associate for about a year, before becoming a shareholder/partner in mid-2021. My practice at Watkins Calcara is primarily civil litigation, with an emphasis on municipal law and state or government agency defense. Most of my practice is in federal court, defending claims brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In addition to municipal law defense, about 10-15% of my current practice also includes commercial or complex litigation.

Our law firm also serves as the City Attorney for the City of Great Bend. From November 2021 through November 2022, I served as the City Prosecutor, prosecuting criminal misdemeanors and traffic infractions within the City of Great Bend. That was in addition to my civil practice. In November 2022, those duties were passed on to another attorney in our firm so I could focus on my busy, and growing, civil practice.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

As an associate at Hinkle Law Firm, I supported several litigation partners and practice areas, and therefore, had a wide variety of clients. These included the Kansas Attorney General and a variety of large and small businesses, including but not limited to oil and gas companies, restaurants, event venues, trucking companies, hospitals, and manufacturers. I also represented individuals in various business, contract, or estate planning disputes. My practice at Hinkle also occasionally included the representation of individual defendants in criminal or traffic matters.

At Watkins Calcara, Chtd., my practice has focused primarily on the defense of government entities or their individual employees, including cities, counties, school districts, sheriff's offices, and various state agencies, including but not limited to the Kansas Department of Corrections, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. I have also represented various large or small businesses, including rural electric utility companies, construction

companies, and oil and gas consultants. Lastly, as mentioned above, from 2021 through 2022, I served as the City Prosecutor for the City of Great Bend.

c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

Litigation has been about 95% of my practice since entering private practice in 2017.

i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. | federal courts: | 70% |
| 2. | state courts of record: | 28% |
| 3. | other courts: | 0% |
| 4. | administrative agencies: | 2% |

ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | civil proceedings: | 70% |
| 2. | criminal proceedings: | 30% |

d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I estimate I have tried approximately 35 trials to verdict. Four of those were jury trials that went to verdict. Another is a jury trial that ended in a mistrial due to a hung jury. The rest would have been non-jury trials. Utilizing my third-year practice certificate at the Commonwealth Attorney's Office in Alexandria, Virginia, I estimate that I tried approximately 10 – 12 bench trials on criminal misdemeanor or traffic offenses in the Alexandria General District Court. As City Prosecutor for a year in the City of Great Bend, I estimated that I tried approximately 20 bench trials on criminal misdemeanors or traffic offenses in Great Bend Municipal Court.

i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----|
| 1. | jury: | 14% |
| 2. | non-jury: | 86% |

e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

In law school, I participated in the George Mason University School of Law Supreme Court Clinic, which involved working on an Amicus Brief with attorneys at Consvooy

McCarthy PLLC. The brief we worked on was an Amicus Brief of the National Association of Police Organizations. A copy of that brief will be provided.

I also was attorney of record for a defendant in a case in which a pro se plaintiff/petitioner filed a petition for a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court. The case was *Geist v. Kan. St. Univ. Foundation*, No. 24-729. My client was one of several named defendants. The petition for a writ of certiorari was denied. Copy supplied.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

Matters are listed in alphabetical order by case name.

1. *Abbott v. Gay*, Case No. 2020-cv-000081 (Harvey Cnty. Dist. Ct., Hon. John Klenda) (Representation: Nov. 2020 – Dec. 2021)

This was a wrongful death case arising out of the Harvey County Jail in Newton, Kansas. The Plaintiff was the heir and executor of the estate of an inmate who had been arrested and later died while going through alcohol withdrawal while in the custody of the Harvey County Sheriff's jail staff. After engaging in extensive discovery, including numerous fact and witness depositions, and an unsuccessful mediation, the parties were ultimately able to resolve this matter via settlement agreement. I was lead counsel for the Sheriff and his employees.

Co-counsel:

Allen Glendenning
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.
1321 Main Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-8231

Counsel for Co-Defendant Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.

John Hicks
Norris Keplinger Hicks & Welder
11551 Ash Street, Suite 200
Leawood, KS 66211
913-663-2000

Opposing counsel:

Mark Schoenhofer
1631 E. 1st Street
Wichita, KS 67214
316-262-5400

2. *Bentz v. Cody, et al.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-02120-DDC-GEB (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree / Hon. Gwynne Birzer); *Gruver v. Cody, et al.*, Case No. 6:23-cv-01179-DDC-GEB (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree / Hon. Gwynn Birzer); *Herbel v. Cody, et al.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-02224-HLT-GEB (D. Kan., Hon. Holly Teeter / Hon. Gwynne Birzer); *Meyer v. Cody, et al.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-02122-DDC-GEB (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree / Hon. Gwynne Birzer); *Zorn v. Cody, et al.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-02044-DDC-GEB (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree / Hon. Gwynne Birzer) (Representation: 2023 – 2025)

These were five separate cases arising out of one event: the execution of search warrants on a newspaper office and two private homes in Marion, Kansas, in August 2023. Plaintiffs were journalists for the newspaper, owners of the homes searched, or both. They filed suit alleging violations of their First and Fourth Amendment rights, as well as violations of the Privacy Protection Act. I represented Marion County officials. Specifically, the Marion County Attorney and the Marion County Sheriff and his employees. The *Bentz*, *Gruver*, *Meyer*, and *Zorn* cases were before Judge Daniel Crabtree. The *Herbel* case was before Judge Holly Teeter. After some initial dispositive motion briefing, that culminated in a handful of published decisions, my clients participated in mediation, and were able to reach a settlement agreement with all of the plaintiffs. My clients' cases were resolved in 2025. The claims against the City and its officers are still pending. I was lead counsel for the County Defendants.

Counsel for City of Marion (Co-Defendants)

Jennifer Hill
Edward Keeley
McDonald Tinker PA
300 W. Douglas Avenue, Suite 500
Wichita, KS 67202
316-263-5851

Counsel for Plaintiff Bentz

Eric Weslander

Stevens & Brand LLP
900 Massachusetts Street, Suite 500
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-856-6535

Counsel for Plaintiff Gruver

Blake Shuart
Hutton & Hutton Law Firm, LLC
8100 E. 22nd Street
North Building 1200
Wichita, KS 67226
316-688-1166

Counsel for Plaintiff Herbel

Andrew Goodwin
Goodwin Johnston LLC
1141 Overbrook Road, Suite 102
Leawood, KS 66211
816-624-3115

Jared McClain
Institute for Justice
901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22203
703-682-9320

Counsel for Plaintiff Meyer

Bernie Rhodes
Lathrol GPM LLP
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 2200
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-460-5508

Counsel for Plaintiff Zorn

Randall Rathbun
Depew Gillen Rathbun & McInteer
8301 E. 21st Street North, Suite 450
Wichita, KS 67206

3. *Dechant v. Hanks*, Case No. 2:20-cv-2183-HLT-TJJ (D. Kan., Hon. Holly Teeter / Hon. Teresa James) (Representation: June 2020 – Oct. 2021)

This was an excessive force case brought against the Trego County, Sheriff's office and its deputy. I represented the Trego County Sheriff and his employees. I filed a motion to dismiss the *Monell* claim against the Sheriff and County, which was granted. From there, we engaged in extensive discovery and, following mediation, the case was resolved via settlement. I was lead counsel for the Sheriff and his employees.

Co-counsel:

Allen Glendenning
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.
1321 Main Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-8231

Opposing counsel:

Lyle Gregory
11 E. Kansas
Liberty, MO 64068
816-331-8767

4. *Duncan, et al. v. Wall, et al.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-02336-DDC-ADM (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree / Hon. Angel Mitchell) (Representation: Aug. 2024 – Mar. 2026)

This is an excessive force case filed against the City of Topeka and five of its officers. It arises out of an officer involved shooting that resulted in the death of a suspect. I was retained to represent the five individual officers. We engaged in extensive written discovery and depositions and were preparing for expert disclosures when Plaintiff dismissed the suit without prejudice in June 2025. Plaintiff has since re-filed this case, and that second case is in its early stages. New counsel has been retained to represent the individual defendants in light of my nomination to the federal bench. I was lead counsel for my clients.

Co-counsel:

Spencer Bailly
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.
1321 Main Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-8231

Counsel for the City of Topeka

Nicholas Jefferson
Geoffrey Lydick
City of Topeka Legal Department

215 SE 7th Street, Room 353
Topeka, KS 66603
785-368-3883

Opposing counsel:

William Denning
Paeten Denning
Denning Law Firm, LLC
8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 201
Overland Park, KS 66210
816-702-8400

5. *Harris v. Janes*, Case No. 5:18-cv-04124-DDC (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree)
(Representation: Mar. 2021 – July 2022)

This was an excessive force case filed against a City of Topeka Police Officer. We represented that officer. Prior to our involvement, the defendant filed a motion for summary judgment that was denied, and that denial was affirmed by the Tenth Circuit. After the Tenth Circuit affirmed, we were hired to try the case. We tried this case to a jury in June 2022. The jury returned a verdict finding that no excessive force was utilized. Mr. Glendenning was lead counsel. I worked the case with him and second-chaired the trial. In that trial, I handled the voir dire, direct examination of our client, the named defendant, and I also did the majority of the drafting and arguing for motions in limine, jury instructions, and the proposed verdict form, and I also argued the defendant's motion for directed verdict.

Co-counsel:

Allen Glendenning
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.
1321 Main Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-8231

Opposing counsel:

Andrew Stroth
Carlton Odum
Action Injury Law Group, LLC
191 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2300
Chicago, IL 60606

Ben Stelter-Embry
Embry Law Firm
801 W. 47th Street, Suite 401

Kansas City, MO 64112
ben@embry-law.com

6. *Iweha v. State of Kansas, et. al.*, Case No. 2:21-cv-1228-DDC (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree); Case No. 23-3074 (10th Cir. Hon. Jerome Holmes, Hon. Bobby Baldock, Hon. Scott Matheson) (Representation: November 2021 – January 2025).

This was an employment lawsuit brought by a former Larned State Hospital employee against her former employer, supervisor, and co-workers. I represented the Larned State Hospital and its employees. The plaintiff claimed discrimination, hostile work environment, and unlawful retaliation under Title VII. After extensive discovery and depositions, defendants moved for summary judgment. That motion was granted, and Plaintiff appealed. I argued the case in front of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, who affirmed the district court in a published opinion. I was lead counsel for defendants.

Co-counsel:

Allen Glendenning
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.
1321 Main Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-8231

Opposing counsel:

Jennifer Hill
Andrew Foulston
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Wichita, KS 67202
316-263-5851

7. *Johnson, et al. v. Smith*, Case No. 6:22-cv-01243-KHV-ADM (D. Kan., Hon. Kathryn Vratil / Hon. Angel Mitchell) (Representation: July 2024 – Aug. 2025)

This was a Fourth Amendment lawsuit filed against the Kansas Department of Agriculture. I represented the Department. The Department oversees and licenses boarding and kennel operators in Kansas. The regulatory scheme included routine inspections of properties. A dog trainer filed suit, challenging the inspections as unconstitutional warrantless searches. The Kansas Attorney General's office defended the statutory scheme and Department, initially. They filed a motion to dismiss that was granted. But the Tenth Circuit reversed. Following the Tenth Circuit decision, I was hired to represent the Department. The parties engaged in extensive discovery and both plaintiff and defendant filed cross-motions for summary judgment. Those motions were denied, and the matter proceeded to a bench trial. The plaintiff prevailed because the District Court found that boarding and training kennels are not closely regulated

industries, and therefore, routine, warrantless inspections of those kennels was unreasonable and violated the Fourth Amendment. I was lead counsel for defendant.

Opposing counsel:

Samuel J. MacRoberts
Jeffrey Shaw
Kansas Justice Institute
12980 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 130
Overland Park, KS 66213
913-213-5018

8. *Johnson, et al. v. Unified School District No. 507*, Case No. 6:20-cv-1162-TC-GEB (D. Kan., Hon. Toby Crouse / Hon. Gwynne Birzer) (Representation: Oct. 2020 – June 2022)

This was a First Amendment retaliation and employment action brought by former teachers against the defendant school district. After extensive discovery and numerous depositions, we moved for summary judgment but that motion was largely denied. The parties then participated in mediation, which was successful. The case was resolved by settlement agreement. I was lead counsel for defendant.

Co-counsel:

Allen Glendenning
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.
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620-792-8231

Opposing counsel:

Sean McGivern
Graybill & Hazlewood, LLC
218 N. Mosley Street
Wichita, KS 67202
316-266-4058

9. *Rangel-Lopez v. Cox*, Case No. 18-2572-DDC-TJJ (D. Kan., Hon. Daniel Crabtree / Hon. Teresa James) (Representation: Oct. 2018 – Jan. 2019)

This was an election law lawsuit filed on behalf of voters in Dodge City, Kansas, claiming that the County's relocation of a polling location violated the First and Fourteenth Amendment. I represented Ford County, the defendant in that case. I was an associate at the time, and provided support to lead counsel: Bradley Schlozman and Mitchell Herren.

Co-counsel:

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Hon. Mitchell Herren
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Wichita, KS 67202
316-315-4150

Opposing counsel:

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620-664-8584

Zal Kotval Shroff
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Long Island City, NY 11101
718-340-4053

Mark Johnson
Dentons US, LLP
4520 Main Street, Suite 1100
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-460-2400

10. *Teetz v. Stepien, et al.*, Case No. 6:22-cv-01134-EFM-ADM (D. Kan., Hon. Eric Melgren / Hon. Angel Mitchell); Case No. 24-3153 (10th Cir. Hon. Allison Eid, Hon. Carolyn McHugh, Hon. Richard Federico) (Representation: June 2022 – Mar. 2026)

This was an excessive force case brought by the family of a juvenile who died in custody of the Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center in Wichita, Kansas. I represented the five individual Sedgwick County corrections staff members that utilized a prone restraint on the decedent. This was an intensely litigated case, that involved the taking of dozens of fact and expert depositions. We moved for summary judgment. That motion was denied, and we filed an interlocutory appeal asserting qualified immunity.

The Tenth Circuit affirmed the District Court's decision. The case then proceeded to a two-and-a-half-week jury trial in January and February of 2026. The jury entered a verdict finding that my clients used excessive force and awarded damages to the Plaintiff. The punitive damages claims against my clients were dismissed upon the conclusion of the trial. I was lead counsel for the individual defendants.

Co-counsel:

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Counsel for Sedgwick County

Cory Buck
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Opposing counsel:

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18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

Almost all of my work has been litigation. That said, I have frequently advised clients with various legal issues, usually in the pre-litigation context. This advice often relates to employment questions and compliance with various statutes, regulations, or ordinances.

I have never acted or registered as a lobbyist.

19. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide copies to the committee.

I have never taught any courses.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

My retirement accounts are managed by my private financial planner, not through my employer. I will receive a lump-sum payment for my ownership interest in the firm upon my departure from the firm, and will not receive deferred income or future benefits.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service

with the court? If so, explain.

Other than volunteer coaching, if necessary, for my children's youth sports or activities, I have no plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment during my service with the Court.

22. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

See attached Financial Disclosure Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

I do not have any financial arrangements that may present potential conflicts of interest. Nor do I have any close relatives in the legal profession. If confirmed, I will recuse myself in all cases where I have played a role. I will also recuse myself from any matter in which, during private practice, I or another lawyer in my firm has participated. 28 U.S.C. § 455(b)(2).

I will also evaluate any real or potential conflict, or relationship that could give rise to the appearance of a conflict, on a case-by-case basis and determine appropriate action with the advice of parties and their counsel including recusal where necessary.

b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

If confirmed, I will carefully review and address any real or potential conflicts by reference to 28 U.S.C. § 455, Canon 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and any and all other laws, rules, and practices governing such circumstances.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the

disadvantaged.” Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

Throughout my time in private practice, I have provided pro bono service on a case-by-case basis. For example, I’ve provided pro bono services to my local Catholic parish and for other community-based, non-profit organizations in town.

26. **Selection Process:**

a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

In or around December 2024, I wrote letters to the offices of both Senator Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall expressing my interest in a potential vacancy in the United States District Court for the District of Kansas. I spoke with Senator Moran’s office on or around December 27, 2024, and was asked to submit a resume.

On or around March 5, 2025, I interviewed with Senator Moran’s office to discuss my interest and qualifications for the office. On April 23, 2025, I interviewed with Senator Moran in Wichita, Kansas, about my qualifications and interest in filling a vacancy on the bench. A few weeks later, I was informed that my name was going to be included on a list of names to be submitted to the White House for consideration.

In early August, 2025, I was contacted by an official with the White House Counsel’s office to schedule an interview. On August 28, 2025, I interviewed with several officials in the White House Counsel’s office regarding my interest and qualifications to serve as a District Court Judge. On February 17, 2026, President Trump called me to inform me that I would be nominated. I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy regarding the nomination since that time.

b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Jeffrey Kuhlman, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

3/17/26
(DATE)

Jeffrey Kuhlman
(NAME)

Janine Burton
(NOTARY)

