

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Megan Blair Benton

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

United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri

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: Sixth Judicial Circuit Court
415 Third Street
Platte City, Missouri 64079

Residence: Parkville, Missouri

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

1985; Columbia, Missouri

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.

2007 – 2010, Vanderbilt University Law School, J.D., 2010

2006 – 2007, Emory University, M.A. in Political Science (*summa cum laude*), 2007

2003 – 2007, Emory University, B.A. in Political Science (*summa cum laude*), 2007

Summer 2004, Lincoln University, no degree

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.

2021 – present
Sixth Judicial Circuit, Platte County, Missouri
415 Third Street
Platte City, Missouri 64079
Circuit Judge (2023 – present)
Associate Circuit Judge (2021 – 2023)

2019 – 2021; 2014 – 2017
Platte County Prosecutor's Office
415 Third Street, Suite 60-CH
Platte City, Missouri 64079
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

2012 – 2014
Kuhlman & Lucas, LLC
[now The Kuhlman Law Firm]
4700 Belleview Avenue, Suite 300
Kansas City, Missouri 64112
Associate Attorney

2011 – 2012
Honorable Ralph W. Dau
Honorable Barbara M. Scheper
Los Angeles County Superior Court
Stanley Mosk Courthouse
111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Law Clerk

Summer 2008 and Summer 2009
Bryan Cave LLP
[now Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP]
One Kansas City Place
1200 Main Street, Suite 3800
Kansas City, Missouri 64105
Summer Associate

Summer 2007
Matthew and Patricia Winkeljohn
Atlanta, Georgia
Childcare Provider

Summer 2006
Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) Scholar
201 Dowman Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Summer Research Scholar (Uncompensated)

Summer 2005

Missouri Department of Revenue

301 West High Street

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Intern, General Counsel's Office (Uncompensated)

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 was not required to register for the selective service.

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.

Honorary Co-Chair, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's 50th Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference (2023)

Top Litigator Award, Vanderbilt University Law School (2008)

Degrees from Emory University conferred with Highest Honors (2007)

Phi Beta Kappa (2007)

Pi Sigma Alpha (2007)

Emory 100 Senior Honorary (2007)

Levitas Award for Most Outstanding Graduating Senior (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.

Association of Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City (2012 – present)

Attorneys Information Exchange Group (2012 – 2014)

California Bar (2010 – present)

California Young Lawyer's Association (2010 – present)

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (2012 – present)

Honorary Co-Chair, Bench-Bar and Boardroom Conference (2023)

Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges (2021 – present)

Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (2014 – 2021)

Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys (2012 – 2014)

Women's Caucus Section (2012 – 2014)

Missouri Bar (2011 – present)

Missouri Supreme Court Committee, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (2023 – present)

Platte County Bar Association (2014 – present)

Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, sustaining member (2025)

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.

California, 2010

Missouri, 2011

There have been no lapses in admission.

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.

United States District Court for the Central District of California, 2013

United States District Court for the District of Kansas, 2013

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, 2013

I did not renew my admissions after becoming an assistant prosecuting attorney in 2014.

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.

Emory University Alumni Association (2010 – present)

The Federalist Society (2008 – present)

Junior League of Pasadena, California (2011 – 2012)

The National Golf Club of Kansas City, Missouri (2021 – present)

Platte County Prevention Coalition (2014 – 2016), Prosecuting Attorney Representative

Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri (2012 – 2017)

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.

Junior League of Pasadena, California, limits its membership to women, but adults of both genders may attend many of the events. I am no longer a member of the Junior

League of Pasadena, California. Rotary Club limited its memberships to men until 1989. I joined the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, after 1989.

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.

Child Support for Vocational Education: Concepts to Improve Determination and Enforcement, Journal of the Missouri Bar, Vol. 78, No. 6, November-December 2022. Copy supplied.

Prosecutor-Led Diversion and the Legislature's New Law, Journal of the Missouri Bar, Vol. 76, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 2020. Copy supplied.

Editor, *Missouri Courts Bulletin*, Tort Law Section, 2020 – 2022. I wrote case law summaries for the Missouri Bar Courts Bulletin, an online publication. I wrote the Tort Law Section summaries from 2020 through February 2022. My published summaries are in the January 2021, May 2021, August 2021, and October 2022 Courts Bulletin. Copies supplied.

In God We Trust: Messaging and Evangelical Political Behavior, Emory University Library Press, 2007. 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.

During the summer of 2008, I helped draft the Missouri Bar's pro bono policy while a summer associate at Bryan Cave, LLP. I do not have a copy of any report, memorandum, or policy statement. The address for Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP is 1200 Main Street, Suite 3800, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

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.

None.

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.

September 13, 2025: Judge, Liberty University School of Law Moot Court. I served on a panel that judged a law school moot court competition. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings of the event. The address of Liberty Law School is 1971 University Boulevard, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502.

February 7, 2025: Panelist, "The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Views from the Bench." University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School. Kansas City, Missouri. Recording available at <https://umsystem.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=90e06e85-0caf-478a-96e4-b38e01060d71&start=16281.82314>.

November 16, 2024: Judge, University of Missouri-Kansas City Regional Moot Court Competition (sponsored by the New York City Bar Association). I served on a panel that judged a law school moot court competition. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings of the event. The address of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School is 500 East 52nd Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64110.

November 8, 2024: Panelist, "2024 Annual Labor & Employment Law Symposium: Judicial Panel." The Missouri Bar Continuing Legal Education. Kansas City, Missouri. Recording supplied.

November 13, 2024: Speaker, The Barstow School. I spoke to a preschool class about the judicial system. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings of the event. The address of The Barstow School is 11511 State Line Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64114.

February 2, 2024: Panelist, "The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Views from the Bench." University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School. Kansas City, Missouri. Recording available at <https://umsystem.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=88ba00d7-0c3b-4271-9442-b38e01077374&start=14544.667749>.

October 24, 2023: Speaker, "This Time Tomorrow Series," Christ Community Church, Kansas City, Missouri. I briefly spoke about being a judge. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings of the event. The address for Christ Community Church, Brookside Campus is 400 West 67th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64113.

August 4, 2023: Presenter, "College child support: General developments and the specific challenge of vocational education," Missouri Bar Annual Family Law Conference. Branson, Missouri. Presentation supplied.

May 11, 2023: Panelist, "Views from the Bench," Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings of the event. The address for the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association is 2300 Main Street, Suite 100, Kansas City, Missouri 64108.

In April of 2023: Speaker, Park Hill High School. I spoke to students about being a judge and interning at our Courthouse. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for Park Hill High School is 7701 Northwest Barry Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64153.

February 3, 2023: Panelist, "The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Views from the Bench." University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School. Kansas City, Missouri. Recording available at <https://umsystem.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=55320806-75f1-4874-9bd0-b38e0107a21e&start=14700>.

April 19, 2022: Speaker, "Courtroom Changes Post-Covid," Platte County Bar Association. I spoke about procedural changes in my courtroom post-Covid. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings of the event. The Platte County Bar Association does not have an official address, but its president's address is 4717 Grand Avenue, Suite 820, Kansas City, Missouri 64112.

February 4, 2022: Panelist, "The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration: Views from the Bench." University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School. Kansas City, Missouri. Recording available at <https://umsystem.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=e94f73ac-6ddd-4014-8fad-b38e0107afb2&start=14593>.

July 2016: Speaker, "Platte County's Treatment Courts," Platte County Bar Association. I updated the Platte County Bar Association on the treatment court program. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The Platte County Bar Association does not have an official address but its president's address is 4717 Grand Avenue, Suite 820, Kansas City, Missouri 64112.

September 16, 2014: Speaker, Platte County Commission Meeting. In my role as a domestic violence prosecutor, I spoke on behalf of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office about the need for domestic violence shelters in Platte County. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. Press coverage 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.

None.

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.

Sixth Judicial Circuit

Associate Circuit Judge (2021 – 2023)

Appointed position

Original jurisdiction over civil, criminal, probate, and domestic cases in Platte County, Missouri.

Sixth Judicial Circuit

Circuit Judge (2023 – present)

Appointed position

Original jurisdiction over civil, criminal, and probate cases in Platte County, Missouri.

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

I have presided over approximately 150 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials: 10 %

bench trials: 90 %

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings: 70 %

criminal proceedings: 30 %

b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.

As a state court circuit judge, my trial court judgments and orders are not reported or published in Westlaw or Lexis. I estimate that since becoming a judge in 2021, I have issued about 750 unreported, unpublished judgments or orders. I have three trial court orders available on Westlaw:

Inglis v. BNSF Ry. Co., No. 21AE-CC00055, 2025 WL 1348632 (Mo. Cir. Ct. Feb. 20, 2025) (Judgment).

Inglis v. BNSF Ry. Co., No. 21AE-CC00055, 2025 WL 1348633 (Mo. Cir. Ct. Feb. 20, 2025) (order on post-judgment interest).

Inglis v. BNSF Ry. Co., No. 21AE-CC00055, 2025 WL 1348634 (Mo. Cir. Ct. Feb. 20, 2025) (order on contributory negligence defense).

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).

1. *State of Missouri v. C.H.*, Case No. 21AE-CR01882-01

The State of Missouri charged the defendant with one count of rape in the second degree. The defendant was accused of raping a 20-year-old woman while she was passed out. I presided over pre-trial hearings from 2023 through 2025. After a hearing, I denied the defendant's request to modify bond to allow community supervision, which would have released the defendant from custody. I ruled on numerous pre-trial motions, including motions in limine and a motion to endorse additional witnesses. Before trial began, the defendant waived his right to sentencing by a jury. I presided over the jury trial in May 2025. The jury found the defendant guilty of rape in the second degree. After a lengthy hearing on August 8, 2025, I sentenced the defendant to seven years in prison, the statutory maximum.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Justin Kalwei
Platte County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
415 Third Street, Suite 60-CH
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-3476

Counsel for Defendant:

Alexander Hartley
The Hartley Law Firm
908 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 303
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 451-0909

2. *State of Missouri v. C.C.*, Case No. 19AE-CR03243-01

The State of Missouri charged the defendant with first-degree domestic assault. In 2019, the defendant gravely assaulted his girlfriend, resulting in serious physical injuries. From 2023 through 2025, I held numerous pre-trial hearings. I presided over the defendant's change of plea to guilty on April 10, 2025. Defendant deferred sentencing. After an evidentiary hearing on July 11, 2025, I sentenced the defendant to 20 years in prison.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Jaclyn Taylor

Platte County Prosecutor's Office
415 Third Street, Suite 60-CH
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-3476

Counsel for Defendant:
James LaSalle
6314 Brookside Plaza, Suite 206A
Kansas City, MO 64113
(816) 797-2325

3. *State of Missouri v. A.G.*, Case No. 23AE-CR00909-01

The State of Missouri charged the defendant with one count of domestic assault in the second degree and two counts of domestic assault in the third degree. I presided over all pre-trial proceedings in this case from 2023 through the time of trial in 2025. I held a final pre-trial conference and entered the final pre-trial order in the case. I then ruled on the motion in limine regarding the admissibility of character evidence. After a hearing, I found the defendant to be a prior and persistent offender. I presided over the jury trial in June 2025. The jury found the defendant not guilty on all three charges.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Sydney Alizadeh
Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
321 West Lexington Avenue
Independence, MO 64050
(816) 881-3555

Counsel for Defendant:
Michael Hunter
115 East Park Street, Suite C
Olathe, KS 66061
(913) 732-3234

4. *Greg Plumb, et al. v. Missouri Department of Revenue, et al.*, Case No. 25AE-CC00044.

An organization, "Platte County 4 Kids," filed a petition for writ of mandamus to compel the Platte County Commission to levy a sales tax for youth mental health services. Voters approved a tax for youth mental health services. The Commission, relying on a statute, refused to levy the tax. Based on the statute, I upheld the Commission's decision not to levy the tax. I issued a preliminary order of mandamus on February 24, 2025. I held an evidentiary hearing on relators' petition for writ of mandamus and respondent's motion to dismiss on March 31, 2025. I issued a Judgment on April 1, 2025. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Relators:
Charles Hatfield
Stinson LLP
230 West McCarty Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 636-6827

Counsel for Respondent Missouri Department of Revenue:
Andrew Crane
Missouri Attorney General's Office
207 West High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3321

Counsel for Respondent Platte County Commission:
Rob Redman
1828 Swift Avenue, Suite 101
North Kansas City, MO 64116
(816) 581-9908

5. *Inglis v. BNSF Ry. Co.*, Case No. 21AE-CC00055. Copies of final orders supplied.

Plaintiff sued BNSF Railway Company, his employer, under the Federal Employer's Liability Act (FELA). While working near the railroad tracks, plaintiff was hit by a BNSF train. He alleged that, due to BNSF's negligence, he sustained a back injury. I presided over all pre-trial matters in this case from 2023 through 2024. I ruled on multiple pre-trial motions, including a motion to exclude demonstrative exhibits and motions to exclude witness testimony. I entered a pre-trial order in this case and held a final pre-trial conference in September 2024. I presided over the jury trial in October 2024. The jury awarded \$3,000,000 to plaintiff and found plaintiff contributorily negligent under FELA, assessing 70 percent of the fault to plaintiff and 30 percent of the fault to BNSF. After a hearing on the parties' post-trial motions, I entered final judgment in the case in February of 2025 and reduced plaintiff's damages to \$900,000.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Nicholas Hinrichs
Hinrichs & Scott Injury Trial Lawyers
1100 Main Street, Suite 2600
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 320-4454

Phillip G. Greenfield
GM Law PC
1201 Walnut Street, Suite 2000
Kansas City, MO 64106

(816) 471-7700

Christopher Leach
1100 Main Street, Suite 2930
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 815-8022

Counsel for Defendant:
Sean Hamer
Scott Ast
Scharnhorst Ast Kennard Griffin PC
1100 Walnut Street, Suite 1950
Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 268-9400

6. *State of Missouri v. W.M.*, Case No. 20AE-CR02450-01

The defendant was charged with one count of patronizing prostitution. I presided over all hearings in this case from 2023 through 2024. I held numerous conferences and entered a final scheduling order. I ruled on multiple pre-trial motions, including the parties' motions in limine and the defendant's waiver of jury sentencing. I presided over the jury trial in September 2024. The jury found the defendant guilty of patronizing prostitution. After a sentencing hearing in December of 2024, I sentenced the defendant to four years in prison, the statutory maximum, pursuant to section 559.115's 120-day mandatory institutional treatment program.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Justin Kalwei
Platte County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
415 Third Street, Suite 60-CH
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-3476

Counsel for Defendant:
Michael Crawford
908 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 303
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 370-4449

7. *State of Missouri v. R.S.*, Case No. 21AE-CR00503-01

The State of Missouri charged the defendant with first-degree robbery and armed criminal action. A jury returned a guilty verdict in November of 2023. I held a sentencing hearing in February of 2024. After an extensive evidentiary hearing, I sentenced the defendant to 28 years in prison. The judgment was affirmed on appeal in *State v. Spotz*, 709 S.W.3d 458 (Mo. App. W.D. 2025).

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Mark Gibson
Kaitlynn Donnelly
Platte County Prosecutor's Office
415 Third Street, Suite 60-CH
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-3476

Counsel for Defendant:
Michael Crawford

908 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 303
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 370-4449

8. *In the Matter of T.L.*, Case No. 23AE-PR00205

Petitioner, St. Luke's Hospital, filed a petition for appointment of guardian and conservator for respondent due to concerns about his mental health. Petitioner alleged that the respondent was incapacitated and disabled and proposed that the Platte County Public Administrator serve as guardian and conservator. Respondent disputed that he was incapacitated and disabled and requested a jury trial. I presided over all proceedings in this case, including all pre-trial motions in limine. In September of 2023, I held a pre-trial conference and issued the final pre-trial orders for the case. I presided over the jury trial in October of 2023. The jury found the respondent to be incapacitated and disabled. After accepting the jury's verdict, I held a commitment hearing and appointed the Platte County Public Administrator as guardian of respondent's person and conservator of his estate. I retained jurisdiction of this matter and currently handle all post-trial motions and review hearings.

Counsel for Petitioner:
Ashley Irwin
Northland Injury Law
4151 North Mulberry Drive, Suite 225
Kansas City, MO 64116
(816) 370-5943

Counsel for Respondent:
Steven Petry
4444 North Belleview Avenue, Suite 209
Kansas City, MO 64116
(816) 452-2889

Counsel for Platte County Public Administrator:
Rob Redman

1828 Swift Avenue, Suite 101
North Kansas City, MO 64116
(816) 581-9908

9. *In the Matter of the Care and Treatment of J.B.*, Case No. 19AE-PR00023.
Judgment supplied.

The Missouri Attorney General filed a petition requesting the respondent's civil commitment in 2019. The Attorney General alleged that the respondent met the criteria of a sexually violent predator under Missouri law due to his history of committing sexually violent offenses. I presided over pre-trial proceedings in this case from 2021 through 2023. I held numerous conferences, hearings, a final pre-trial conference, and ruled on numerous motions in limine. Shortly before trial, after an extensive hearing, I ruled on a motion to exclude a witness's testimony. I presided over the jury trial in July 2023. The jury found the respondent to be a sexually violent predator. I ordered him to lifetime civil commitment in the Department of Mental Health.

Counsel for Missouri Attorney General:
Melissa Pierce
George Lankford
207 West High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3321

Counsel for Respondent:
Amy Clay
Samuel Lawrence
Missouri State Public Defender
1010 Market Street, Suite 1100
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 340-7662

10. *In the Matter of S.M.*, Case No. 22AE-PR00148

Siblings filed competing petitions for guardianship and conservatorship for their mother, who they alleged was incapacitated and disabled. I presided over all proceedings in this case, including pre-trial and post-trial motions. In April of 2023, I held a bench trial on the petitions for appointment of guardian and conservator. I appointed one of the siblings as the guardian of S.M. and conservator of her estate. The other sibling filed a motion for a new trial, which I denied after a hearing. The parties appealed. My decision was affirmed on appeal in *McCombs v. Edmiston*, 696 S.W.3d 58 (Mo. App. W.D. 2024).

Counsel for Petitioner:
Jason Dorrel
Witt, Hicklin, Snider & Fain, PC
2300 Higgins Road

Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-2750

Counsel for Petitioner:
Steven Wolcott
204 East Kansas Street, Suite A
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 781-0299

Counsel for Respondent:
Maria Theoharidis
Mid-America Law Firm, LLC
7211 Northwest 83rd Street, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64152
(816) 984-8800

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.

1. *Branch Ins. Exchange v. Byrne*, Case No. 23AE-CC00308. Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Michael Lester
DM Injury Law
4600 Madison Avenue, Suite 1200
Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 320-5922

Counsel for Defendant:
Patrick Foppe
Lashly & Baer, P.C.
714 Locust Street
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 621-2939

2. *By the Blade v. Wagener*, Case No. 23AE-CC00076. Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
William Christian Boggs
6406 Northwest Cosby
Kansas City, MO 64151
(816) 587-6688

Counsel for Defendant:

David Halphin
Gepford Law Group, LC
300 South Liberty Street
Independence, MO 64050
(816) 333-9600

3. *Coronado v. Head*, Case No. 23AE-CC00303. Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
William Quitmeier
10150 North Ambassador Drive, Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64153
(816) 891-6300

Counsel for Defendant:
Stephen G. Mirakian
Wyrsh Hobbs Mirakian
1200 Main Street, Suite 2110
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 221-0080

4. *Cox, et al. v. Grady Hotel Investments, et al.*, Case No. 23AE-CC00292.
Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Stephen Magers
Platte County Assessor's Office
415 Third Street, Room 114
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 826-1303

Counsel for Defendant:
Peter Corsale
McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer, L.C.
825 Maryville Centre Drive, Suite 300
Town and Country, MO 63017
(314) 392-5200

Counsel for Intervenor Park Hill School District:
Kevin Mason
Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.
4510 Belleview Avenue, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 753-9200

5. *Mummert v. Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission*, Case No.

23AE-CC00289. Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
David Lunceford
201 Southeast 1st Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 525-4701

Counsel for Defendant:
Ryan Nely
Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission
105 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3575

6. *Nothstine v. Moss*, Case No. 23AE-PR00055. Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Anne-Linton Pond Hendrickson
Complete Law KC
10401 Holmes Road, Suite 210
Kansas City, MO 64131
(816) 601-1234

Counsel for Defendant:
Anthony Gosserand
Van Osdol, P.C.
2600 Grand Boulevard, Suite 630
Kansas City, MO 64108
(816) 421-0644

7. *Plumb, et al. v. Missouri Dep't of Revenue, et al.*, Case No. 25AE-CC00044.
Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Relators:
Charles Hatfield
Stinson LLP
230 West McCarty Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 636-6827

Counsel for Respondent Missouri Department of Revenue:
Andrew Crane
Missouri Attorney General's Office
207 West High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102

(573) 751-3321

Counsel for Respondent Platte County Commission:
Rob Redman 1828 Swift Avenue, Suite 101
North Kansas City, MO 64116
(816) 581-9908

8. *Richards v. The Bunkhouse Bar & Grill, et al.*, Case No. 22AE-CC00066.
Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
William Kenney

P.O. Box 561
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 842-2455

Counsel for Defendant:
C. Zachary Vaughn
Patrick T. Cody
Wiedner & McAuliffe, LTD
101 South Hanley Road, Suite 1450
St. Louis, MO 63105
(314) 818-7937

9. *Smith v. Nelson*, Case No. 23AE-PR00215. Judgment supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner:
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Witt, Hicklin, Snider & Fain, PC
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Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-2750

Counsel for Defendants:
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Stinson LLP
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Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 691-3149

Counsel for Decedent:
William Hubbard
Hubbard & Kurtz, LLP
1718 Walnut Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

(816) 472-4673

10. *State of Missouri v. Wildermood*, Case No. 21AE-CR01421-01. Order supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Collin VanOstran
Platte County Prosecutor's Office
415 Third Street, Suite 60-CH
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-3476

Counsel for Defendant:
Katherine Berger
Missouri Public Defender's Office
234 West Shrader Street, Suite A
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 792-5394

e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.

Certiorari has never been requested or granted in any of my cases.

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.

My decisions have never been reversed by a reviewing court or affirmed with significant criticism of my substantive or procedural rulings.

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.

As a state court circuit judge, my trial court judgments and orders are not reported or published in Westlaw or Lexis. I estimate that since becoming a judge in 2021, I have issued roughly 750 unreported, unpublished judgments or orders. All of my decisions are filed and/or stored in CaseNet, available at <https://www.courts.mo.gov>.

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.

Cox, et al v. Grady Hotel Investments, et al., Case No. 23AE-CC00292. Judgment supplied.

- 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.

I have never sat by designation on a federal court of appeals.

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:

- 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.

As a state court trial judge, I have sought to comply with Missouri Supreme Court Rule 2 in disqualifying myself as commanded by the Rule, and in any case where my impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

I have recused on every criminal case that I handled or had knowledge of while I served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The clerk is responsible for ensuring that no cases are assigned to me in cases where I was the prosecutor. Our entire circuit court recused in one criminal matter, case number 22AE-CR02922, due to threats made to judicial officers.

I recused myself *sua sponte* on two domestic matters. One matter involved my neighbors' dissolution of marriage. The second matter concerned a close family friend's dissolution of marriage proceeding. Because I knew out-of-court details about both matters, I recused myself.

I have recused from two civil cases. The first case involved a plaintiff who disputed the validity of a warrant after alleging a woman stole her identity. I signed the criminal warrant at issue and, therefore, I recused. The second case was an appeal from the Department of Social Services' Child Abuse and Neglect Board findings. The appeal involved the same factual allegations and parties as a criminal case pending before me. Due to this conflict, I recused *sua sponte*.

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.

From 2016 to 2021, I served as Committeewoman for sub-district 13-5, Platte County Republican Central Committee, Platte County, Missouri. I was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2016 by James Rooney, the chair of the Central Committee. I was elected without opposition to this role in 2018 and 2020.

- 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.

I was committeewoman for the Platte County Republican Central Committee from 2016 through 2021. Other than that, I have not had any memberships or held any offices in any political party or election committee.

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 2011 to 2012, I served as a research attorney/law clerk to the Honorable Ralph W. Dau and the Honorable Barbara M. Scheper, judges on the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Los Angeles, California.

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

I have not practiced law 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;

Summer 2008 and Summer 2009
Bryan Cave LLP
[now Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP]
One Kansas City Place

1200 Main Street, Suite 3800
Kansas City, Missouri 64105
Summer Associate

2012 – 2014
Kuhlman & Lucas, LLC
[now The Kuhlman Law Firm]
4700 Belleview Avenue, Suite 300
Kansas City, Missouri 64112
Associate Attorney

2014 – 2017; 2019 – 2021
Platte County Prosecutor's Office
415 Third Street
Suite 60-CH
Platte City, Missouri 64079
Assistant Prosecuting 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 never served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

b. Describe:

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

From 2012 through 2014, I practiced law at Kuhlman & Lucas, LLC, a boutique litigation firm. I was the firm's sole associate attorney. I gained extensive litigation experience, including taking and defending depositions, appearing before both state and federal courts, drafting and filing motions and trial documents, serving as chief counsel on bench trials, and serving as second chair in a jury trial.

In 2014, I became an assistant prosecuting attorney in Platte County, Missouri. I charged criminal cases, handled felony dockets, drafted and argued motions, and first-chaired bench and jury trials.

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

While I was an associate with Kuhlman & Lucas, LLC from 2012 to 2014, I specialized in civil litigation and represented a wide range of individual

clients. From 2014 to 2021 (except for time off for extended maternity leave), I represented the State of Missouri in criminal matters. While an assistant prosecuting attorney, I specialized in the prosecution of drug crimes, serious violent felonies, crimes against children, and domestic violence offenses.

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.

I have devoted 100% of my practice to litigation. When I was in both private practice and as an assistant prosecuting attorney, I appeared in court frequently.

i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. | federal courts: | <u>30%</u> |
| 2. | state courts of record: | <u>70%</u> |
| 3. | other courts: | <u>0%</u> |
| 4. | administrative agencies: | <u>0%</u> |

ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. | civil proceedings: | <u>40%</u> |
| 2. | criminal proceedings: | <u>60%</u> |

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 that I have tried 50 cases to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settlement). In approximately 35 of these cases, I was sole counsel, in approximately ten I was chief counsel, and in approximately five I was associate counsel.

i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | | |
|----|-----------|------------|
| 1. | jury: | <u>30%</u> |
| 2. | non-jury: | <u>70%</u> |

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.

I have never appeared before the Supreme Court of the United States.

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.
1. *State of Missouri v. G.D.*, Case No. 16AE-CR00435-02 (Sentencing occurred on February 25, 2022, after I became a judge)

As an assistant prosecuting attorney, I charged the defendant with four counts of murder in the first degree after a quadruple homicide. A notice of intent to seek the death penalty was filed. I was involved in this case from its date of charging in 2016 through my appointment to the bench in 2021 (except for time off for extended maternity leave). In addition to completing the initial filings, I wrote almost all memoranda and motions related to this case. I became a judge before the case went to trial. Platte County Circuit Court Judge James Van Amburg presided over the case.

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Mark Gibson
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Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 858-3476

Counsel for Defendant:
John P. O'Connor
Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP
4740 Grand Avenue, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 701-1100

2. *State of Missouri v. J.P.*, Case No. 14AE-CR01844-01 (October 22, 2015)

I represented the State of Missouri as lead counsel in the felony bench trial. The defendant, a passenger in a car, was stopped for a traffic violation. During the stop, the officer found illegal drugs. Before trial, the defense counsel filed a motion to suppress. I wrote the response to that motion and argued against it at a hearing in February of 2015. The motion to suppress was denied. The defendant requested a bench trial. I served as lead counsel during the trial in October of 2015. I conducted direct and cross examination of witnesses and presented a closing

argument. While the matter was under advisement, the defendant changed his plea to guilty. The case was heard by Platte County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Fincham.

Counsel for Defendant:

Bruce Brown
Brown & Brown Attorneys LLC
302 South Platte Clay Way, Suite 205
Kearney, MO 64060
(816) 628-6100

3. *State of Missouri v. J.N.*, Case No. 13AE-CR02442-01 (September 15, 2015)

I served as co-counsel, representing the State of Missouri, from 2014 to 2015. Defendant was arrested after refusing a breathalyzer during a sobriety checkpoint and charged with felony driving while intoxicated. After a hearing, the defendant was found to be a prior and persistent offender. I argued the State's pre-trial motions during the pre-trial conference. I served as co-counsel during the jury trial. I gave the opening statement, conducted direct and cross examinations, and gave closing arguments. The jury found the defendant guilty and the Court sentenced him to probation. The case was heard and sentenced by Platte County Associate Circuit Court Judge Quint Shafer.

Co-Counsel:

Nicholas Hinrichs
Hinrichs & Scott Injury Trial Lawyers
1100 Main Street, Suite 2600
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 320-4454

Counsel for Defendant:

Greg Watt
Watt and Young
700 Broadway Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64105
(913) 433-3849

4. *State of Missouri v. A.W.*, Case Nos. 15AE-CR00642-01 and 15AE-CR00141-01 (August 20, 2015)

I represented the State of Missouri as co-counsel during the entire litigation in 2015. The defendant was charged in two separate cases with felony stealing. The court granted my motion to consolidate the cases. I served as co-counsel during the pre-trial hearings and the jury trial. During the jury trial, I conducted voir dire, examined witnesses, and gave the closing argument. The jury convicted the defendant of felony stealing. The court sentenced the defendant to prison. The case was affirmed on appeal in *West v. State*, 605 S.W.3d 607 (Mo. App. W.D. 2020) and *State v. West*, 541 S.W.3d 635 (Mo. App. W.D. 2017). The case was heard by Platte County Circuit Judge James Van Amburg.

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Counsel for Defendant:
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Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 343-8977

Bill Pak
The Lucas Law Firm
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Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 729-9999

5. *State of Missouri v. G.T.*, 12AE-CR00149-01 (October 23, 2014)

I served as co-counsel, representing the State of Missouri on this matter in 2014. The defendant was charged with burglary in the first degree, armed criminal action, and unlawful possession of a firearm. I second-chaired the jury trial in October of 2014, presented the opening statement, and conducted the direct and cross examinations of witnesses. The defendant was found guilty of unlawful possession of a firearm, and not guilty on the two remaining charges. The judge sentenced him to prison. The case was heard by Platte County Circuit Judge Thomas Fincham.

Co-Counsel
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Kansas City, MO 64151
(816) 505-0001

Counsel for Defendant:
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Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 221-4321

Graham Potter
118 North Water Street
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 781-9822

6. *State of Missouri v. R.W.*, 12AE-CR01210 (May 12, 2014)

I represented the State of Missouri as lead counsel in this case in 2014. The defendant was charged with a domestic violence offense. I first-chaired the jury trial. I argued all pre-trial motions, gave the opening statement, examined witnesses at trial, and argued closing. The jury returned a not guilty verdict. The case was heard by Platte County Associate Circuit Judge Dennis Eckold.

Counsel for Defendant:
Kathleen Brown
Missouri Public Defender's Office
920 Main Street, Suite 500
Kansas City, MO 64105
(660) 530-5550

7. *State of Missouri v. B.C.*, Case No. 11AE-CR01864-01 (April 10, 2014)

I represented the State of Missouri in this criminal case in 2014. The defendant was charged with second-degree murder after killing his girlfriend's father during a fight. I assisted as counsel during the jury selection and prepared all pre-trial motions and exhibits for the jury trial in April of 2014. After four days of trial, the defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree murder. The court sentenced the defendant to 22 years in prison. The case was heard by Platte County Circuit Court Judge Lee Hull.

Co-Counsel:
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Mark Gibson
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Counsel for Defendant:
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Community of Christ
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(816) 833-1000

Kathleen Brown
Missouri Public Defender's Office
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Kansas City, MO 64105
(660) 530-5550

8. *Wymer v. Roy*, Case No. 12 CV 08249 (December 9, 2013; District Court of Johnson County, Kansas)

I represented the plaintiff in a civil case from 2012 through 2013. Plaintiff's son was struck by a car while crossing the street near his house. I took and defended depositions and wrote the pre-trial motions. I served as second-chair during the jury trial. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant. The case was heard by District Court of Johnson County, Kansas, Judge Thomas M. Sutherland.

Co-Counsel
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Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 729-9999

Counsel for Defendant:
Leonard R. Frischer
Frischer & Schaffer
12980 Foster Street, Suite 370
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 345-0100

9. *Rench v. McCall*, Case No. 13C00022 (Case settled in 2014; District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas)

I represented the plaintiff in the civil case. Plaintiff was struck by a drunk driver and sustained injuries. I supervised the civil case, filed the initial pleading, took and defended depositions, and briefed and argued pre-trial motions. The case settled in 2014 before jury trial. The case was heard by District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas, Judge Franklin R. Theis.

Counsel for Defendant:
Mark E. Meyer
Wrabec Law Firm
10203 East US Highway 24
Independence, MO 64053
(816) 252-0095

10. *Crowe v. Booker Transportation Services, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 4:11-CV-00690-FJG (W.D. Mo. 2013)

I represented the daughter of a man who was killed after being struck by a tractor-trailer truck. I served as chief counsel on this matter. I took and defended depositions. I wrote a motion to compel, a response against summary judgment, and a lengthy memorandum (with exhibits) against the motion for summary judgment. The court denied summary judgment. After summary judgment, I negotiated a favorable settlement on my client's behalf. The case settled in 2013 before trial.

Associate Counsel:
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The Lucas Law Firm
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(816) 729-9999

Counsel for Defendant:
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Matteuzzi Law
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(913) 253-2500

Matthew J. Brooker
Brooker Law
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Overland Park, KS 66210
(816) 690-5051

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.)

In 2023, the Missouri Supreme Court appointed me to serve on the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Committee. In that capacity, I am working with four judges to develop standing orders on the use of artificial intelligence in Missouri courts.

The Missouri Supreme Court appointed me to preside over a capital case in 2024 as a special judge after all the judges in Jackson County recused. The case is still pending.

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.

As a state court judge, I vested in the Missouri State Employees' Retirement System upon joining the judiciary, with the option of early retirement at age 62 with 20 or more years of service. If I leave the state judiciary prior to that date, I may obtain a one-time, lump-sum payment of my vested amount as a buyout under the plan.

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.

I have no plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, 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).

When my nomination is formally submitted to the Senate, I will file my mandated Financial Disclosure Report and supply a copy to this Committee.

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.

If confirmed, I will evaluate any real or potential conflict, or relationship that could give rise to an appearance of 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.

As a judge, I cannot provide pro bono legal advice. However, I encourage pro bono work in my legal community by appointing attorneys in appropriate cases.

Previously, while in private practice from 2012 – 2014, I volunteered for the Step Up Program and Connections to Success through the Association of Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City. This program provides free legal assistance to women affected by domestic violence. I spent one day (eight hours) each quarter assisting the program.

While working in the prosecutor's office, I served as a liaison for the Platte County Prevention Coalition. In this role, I met with local high school students and administrators once a month to discuss issues affecting teenagers. Our goal was to minimize drug use among teenagers through open dialogue about consequences. I also volunteered for Platte County's Arrive Alive program, teaching high schoolers about the negative consequences of unsafe, distracted, and impaired driving.

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.

On November 13, 2024, I wrote a letter to Senator Josh Hawley and Senator Eric Schmitt seeking consideration for Missouri's federal district vacancies. I interviewed with Senator Schmitt's office on November 27, 2024 in Kansas City, Missouri. On February 4, 2025, I interviewed with Senator Hawley's office at the federal courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri.

I met with a member of Senator Hawley's judicial advisory committee on April 4, 2025. On September 22, 2025, officials from the White House Counsel's Office contacted me to set up an interview. I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office and the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. on September 30, 2025. On October 24, 2025, I was notified by the White House

Counsel's Office that there would be an FBI background check for the possible nomination. On November 14, 2025, President Trump called to inform me that he would nominate me.

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, Megan Blair Benton, do swear that the information
provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

November 14, 2025
(DATE)

Megan Benton
(NAME)

Kelly Ranae Rukavina
(NOTARY)

KELLY RANAE RUKAVINA
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
Platte County
My Commission Expires: Aug. 23, 2028
Commission # 20612841