UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Courtney Leigh Coker

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

United States District Judge, Northern District of Texas

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: United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Texas
1100 Commerce Street
Third Floor
Dallas, Texas 75242

Residence: Flower Mound, Texas

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

1976; Bowling Green, Kentucky

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.

1999 – 2002, Mississippi College School of Law, J.D., 2002

1995 – 1999, Centre College, B.A., 1999

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
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas

1100 Commerce Street, Third Floor
Dallas, Texas 75242
First Assistant United States Attorney (2025 – present)
Assistant United States Attorney (2021 –2025)
Deputy Criminal Chief (2020 –2021)

2017 – 2019
United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi
501 East Court Street, Suite 4.430
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Criminal Chief

2016 – 2017
United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Tennessee
719 Church Street, Suite 3300
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Assistant United States Attorney

2011 – 2016
United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida
99 North East Fourth Street
Miami, Florida 33132
Assistant United States Attorney

2008 – 2011
United States Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico
350 Carlos Chardon Avenue, Suite 1201
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918
Assistant United States Attorney

January 2007
Mississippi College School of Law
151 East Griffith Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Adjunct Professor, Trial Practice

2005 – 2007
Coker and Cole, PLLC
119 South President Street, Third Floor
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Partner

2004 – 2005
Banks, Coker and Cole, PLLC
119 South President Street, Third Floor
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Partner

2002 – 2004
John M. Colette and Associates
501 South State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Associate Attorney

2001 – 2002
Derek L. Hall, Attorney at Law
370 Towne Centre Boulevard
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
Law Clerk

2000 – 2001
Baxley Law Firm, PLLC (no longer extant)
125 S. Congress Street, Suite 1240
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Law Clerk

Summer 1999
Emerson Electric (no longer extant at this location)
150 Emerson Bypass Road
Russellville, Kentucky 42276
Summer Help

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 upon turning 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.

Admiral in the Texas Navy Award (2023)

United States Department of the Army, Achievement Medal for Civilian Service (2018)

United States Homeland Security Investigations, Director's Award for Outstanding Counter-Proliferation Investigation (2017)

Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement (2011)

FBI Director's Award for Outstanding Criminal Investigation (2011)

Mississippi College School of Law
    Am Jur award in Criminal Trial Practice (2001)
    Justice on the Law School's Honor Court (2000 – 2001)

Kentucky Colonel (1999)

Centre College
    James Graham Brown Leadership Scholar (1996 – 1999)
    Varsity Football Captain (1998)
    Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Football-All Conference (1998)
    Fred E. Arnicar Prize (1999)

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.

Magistrate Judge Selection Panel, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas, Texas (2026)

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.

Mississippi, 2002
Texas, 2008

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 Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2014
United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, 2010
United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, 2016
United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, 2002
United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, 2002

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.

The Federalist Society (2024 – Present)

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.

To the best of my knowledge, no organization listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

12. **<u>Published Writings and Public Statements</u>**:

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.

None.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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.

I have not previously served as a judge.

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 not 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 any public offices.

I have not had an unsuccessful candidacy for elective office or unsuccessful nomination for appointed 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.

In the fall of 2006, I participated in the campaign of Darren J. Lamarca for Hinds County Court Judge in Jackson, Mississippi by walking door to door campaigning in local neighborhoods. I have not otherwise been formally affiliated with any campaign, nor held any title, nor been paid any compensation.

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;

I did not serve as a clerk to a judge.

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

I never 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;

2002 – 2004
John M. Colette and Associates
501 South State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Associate Attorney

2004 – 2005
Banks, Coker and Cole, PLLC
119 South President Street, Third Floor
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Partner

2005 – 2007

Coker and Cole, PLLC
119 South President Street, Third Floor
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Partner

2008 – 2011
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350 Carlos Chardon Avenue, Suite 1201
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918
Assistant United States Attorney

2011 – 2016
United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida
99 North East Fourth Street
Miami, Florida 33132
Assistant United States Attorney

2016 – 2017
United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Tennessee
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Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Assistant United States Attorney

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United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi
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Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Criminal Chief

2020 – Present
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas
1100 Commerce Street, Third Floor
Dallas, Texas 75242
First Assistant United States Attorney (2025 – present)
Assistant United States Attorney (2021 –2025)
Deputy Criminal Chief (2020 –2021)

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 alternate 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.

During the start of my legal career from late 2002 until early 2005, I practiced as an associate attorney for a sole practitioner who specialized in both federal and state criminal defense. I was responsible for interviewing prospective clients, investigating cases, researching and developing appropriate defenses, negotiating with prosecuting attorneys, writing and filing pre-trial motions, preparing cases for plea or trial, and researching and filing post-trial motions and appeals.

From 2005 to 2007, I was in private practice, and the general character of my practice was criminal defense. I managed all aspects of those cases including researching legal issues, writing motions and appeal briefs, and trying cases. I represented approximately 100 criminal defendants in various municipal, county and circuit courts throughout Mississippi. I became a Criminal Justice Act ("CJA") panel attorney for the federal district courts for both the Southern and Northern Districts of Mississippi in 2005. As a "CJA" panel attorney, I represented criminal defendants in over 20 cases in federal district court and was the lead counsel in two federal jury trials. My last federal jury trial as an attorney for the defense involved a complex drug and money laundering case that lasted over nine weeks.

In 2005, I also added child advocacy to my responsibilities when I accepted a contract with the Hinds County Mississippi Youth Court to serve as its Guardian Ad Litem/Child advocate attorney. I worked with the Department of Human Services and law enforcement investigating cases where children were victims of neglect, sexual abuse, and physical abuse. In addition to the investigatory work, I also advocated on behalf of these clients in civil proceedings in court on a weekly basis.

In 2008, I was appointed as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico where I was assigned to the office's Narcotics Section as an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") prosecutor. In that position, I prosecuted numerous high-level international narcotics traffickers who were importing cocaine into the United States from Columbia to be distributed on our nation's East Coast. My investigations included both reactive and proactive long-term narcotics and money laundering cases. These investigations typically involved leading a team of agents and task force officers to gather evidence, identify suspects, and develop the probable cause and legal necessity required for Title III wiretap authorization. The use of Title III wiretaps were complex investigative tools that requires authorization from Department of Justice Headquarters in Washington, and the supervision of a United States District Judge.

In addition to narcotics trafficking cases, I also prosecuted police corruption cases. Due to Puerto Rico's close proximity to Columbia and Venezuela, the island has always acted as a critical distribution point for illegal narcotics bound for the United States' East Coast from Latin America. In this atmosphere, many drug trafficking organizations bribe local law enforcement officers for protection while they engage in illegal activities. As a result of this wide-spread corruption, I was assigned as the lead prosecutor in a two-and-a-half-year investigation that resulted in the largest police corruption case in the FBI's history, Operation Guard Shack, with over 90 police officers being charged in federal district court. As a result of my work on Operation Guard Shack, I was awarded the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement by Attorney General Eric Holder in 2011, and the FBI Director's Award for Outstanding Criminal Investigation by FBI Director Robert Mueller later that same year.

In late 2011, I transferred to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida where I continued working international drug trafficking and money laundering cases as an OCDETF prosecutor. These cases ranged from the maritime importation of narcotics to the Caribbean to methamphetamine distribution in South Central Florida. "Pill mills" were rampant in South Florida at this time, so I broadened the scope of my prosecutorial experience to also include drug diversion cases. During my time in the Southern District of Florida, I was also assigned to the enforcement component of the office's Violence Reduction Program. In that role, I developed relationships with local prosecutors and law enforcement officers to identify, target and prosecute violent gang members utilizing both federal firearms and narcotics laws.

In June 2016, I transferred to the Middle District of Tennessee. I was assigned as an OCDETF prosecutor and prosecuted cases involving Mexican methamphetamine distribution. In the latter part of my time in this district, fentanyl emerged as a widely available illegal street narcotic. I led an investigation into one of the first fentanyl overdose death cases in Middle Tennessee. The fentanyl distributed in that case caused the overdose of eight individuals, six of which experienced serious bodily injury and two died all within a 24-hour period. As a result of the investigation, seven defendants responsible for distributing this fentanyl were charged in federal district court.

In 2017, I transferred to the Southern District of Mississippi to serve as the office's Criminal Chief. This was my first role in Department of Justice senior leadership. I supervised approximately 35 AUSAs in the district's main office in Jackson along with its branch office in Gulfport.

In 2020, I became the Deputy Criminal Chief in the Northern District of Texas. In this senior leadership position, I supervised all four of the Dallas Division Criminal Section Chiefs, the Fort Worth Division Branch Chief, and the West Texas Division Chief.

In November of 2025, I was promoted to First Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas. In this role, I currently assist the United States

Attorney in all legal matters for this 8,000,000-person district that encompasses 100 North and West Texas counties, including the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

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

For the last 18 1/2 years, I have been a public servant, and my clients have been the people of the United States.

Prior to becoming a federal prosecutor, I was a criminal defense attorney and child advocate attorney in the private sector. During my time practicing criminal defense, my clients were criminal defendants. During my time as a child advocate/guardian ad litem, my clients were children that were the victims of abuse and neglect.

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. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

1.	federal courts:	95%
2.	state courts of record:	5%
3.	other courts:	__%
4.	administrative agencies:	__%

ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

1.	civil proceedings:	5%
2.	criminal proceedings:	95%

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 have tried 15 cases to verdict in courts of record with 14 of those cases occurring in federal district court. I was chief counsel in 11 of those trials and associate counsel in the other four. In ten of my 15 trials, I was an Assistant United States Attorney representing the United States while the other five I represented the defendant as defense counsel.

i. What percentage of these trials were:

1.	jury:	100%
2.	non-jury:	__%

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 not practiced before the Supreme Court.

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. *United States v. Angel Flores*, 3:25-CR-00271-K, (N.D. Tex.), Judge Ed Kindeade, Dates of representation: 2025 – 2026.

I represented the United States in the prosecution of Angel Flores. Angel Flores is a two-time convicted felon with a violent past. Flores was a significant distributor of heroin and methamphetamine for the Mexican Cartel, La Familia Michoacana. While Flores was being investigated for drug trafficking activities in Dallas, Texas, the DEA was utilizing a Title III wiretap of his phone. During wiretap interceptions, agents learned that Flores and other coconspirators were in the process of robbing another group of drug traffickers in Dallas. When federal agents attempted to intervene to stop this violent attack, Flores ordered his right-hand associate to lure the agents to a location where other criminal associates would be lying in wait to execute them. Flores' plan to kill agents was ultimately disrupted. Flores pled guilty plea, and he was sentenced to 360 months' imprisonment.

Opposing counsel:

Starling Marshall McCallum
325 North Saint Paul Street, Suite 2100
Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 871-2719

2. *United States v. Luis Robert Velasquez*, 3:25-CR-00063-N, (N.D. Tex.), Judge David C. Godbey, Dates of representation: 2025 – 2026.

I represented the United States in the prosecution of Luis Robert Velazquez. Velazquez was responsible for the large-scale distribution of methamphetamine and heroin in Dallas, Texas for the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), a domestic terrorist organization from Mexico. Velazquez was a unique target for agents because he was working for and communicating directly with one of the highest-ranking members of CJNG. Velazquez's arrest was the result of Title III wiretaps along with numerous hours of physical and electronic surveillance. The investigation revealed that from November 2024 until his arrest in April 2025, Velazquez distributed over 300 kilograms of methamphetamine and over ten kilograms of heroin on behalf of CJNG's network in Dallas. Velasquez pled guilty, and he was sentenced to a term of 135 months' imprisonment.

Opposing counsel:

Phillip A. Linder
3300 Oak Lawn, Suite 700
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 252-9900

3. *United States v. Sandra Janeth Lozano Blanco, et al.*, 3:23-CR-00282-B, (N.D. Tex.), Judge Jane J. Boyle, Dates of representation: 2022 – 2025.

I represented the United States in the prosecution of Sandra Janeth Lozano Blanco, and eight other defendants. Lozano Blanco, an illegal alien from Mexico, and Fernando Velazquez, her husband, worked together importing and distributing large quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin for a Mexican cartel group that had a significant customer base in Dallas, Texas. After the execution of a federal search warrant of their home, agents found evidence of the couple's multi-year operation in the form of ledgers and cell phone data. The year-long investigation involved numerous Title III wiretaps and resulted in the dismantling of a significant portion of Lozano Blanco's drug trafficking organization. I secured convictions for all nine defendants by guilty plea. Lozano Blanco and Velazquez both received life sentences. Sandra Blanco Graciano was sentenced to 87 months in prison, Jose Amador Gomez Rodriguez was sentenced to 120 months in prison, Jose Ramirez Paniagua was sentenced to 46 months in prison, Carlos Vladimir Gomez Soriano was sentenced to 108 months in prison, Areli Morales was sentenced to 37 months in prison, Alma Lopez Villanueva was sentenced to 30 months in prison, and Armando Tellez Jr. was sentenced to 60 months in prison.

Co-counsel:

Jonathan Penn, Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Texas
1100 Commerce Street, Third Floor
Dallas, Texas 75242
(214) 659-8649

Opposing counsel:

Kara L. Carreras
2120 Mistletoe, Suite 3
Fort Worth, Texas 76110
(817) 795-9956
Attorney for Sandra Janeth Lozano Blanco

Ezekiel Tyson, Jr.
942 W. Montana Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75224
(214) 942-9000
Attorney for Fernando Velazquez

F. Andino Reynal
917 Franklin, Sixth Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 228-5900
Attorney for Sandra Blanco Graciano

Tim Menchu
2603 Oak Lawn Avenue, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 766-1394
Attorney for Jose Amador Gomez Soriano

Carolyn A. Hill
4144 N. Central Expressway, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75204
(214) 418-3867
Attorney for Juan Jose Ramirez Paniagua

Vincent Carrizales
400 South Zang Boulevard, No. 105
Dallas, Texas 75208
(214) 942-4500
Attorney for Carlos Vladimir Gomez Soriano

Amanda Fisher Moore
6333 E. Mockingbird Lane
Dallas, Texas 75214
(214) 669-9674
Attorney for Areli Moralez

William Hermesmeyer
2600 E. Southlake Boulevard, Suite 120-181
Southlake, Texas 76092
469-251-0592

Attorney for Alma Lopez Villanueva

Eric Durojaiye
900 Jackson Street, Suite 640
Dallas, Texas 75202
214-416-9100
Attorney for Armando Tellez Jr.

4. *United States v. Magdalena Silva Banuelos*, 3:22-CR-00428-M, (N.D. Tex.), Judge Barbara Lynn, Dates of representation: 2022 – 2023.

I represented the United States in the prosecution of Magdalena Silva Banuelos for fentanyl distribution that resulted in an overdose death. Silva Banuelos was an Albuquerque mother who put her two sons, ages 8 and 10, on a flight from Albuquerque to Dallas Love Field to meet their father. Before putting them on the flight, Silva Banuelos concealed deadly fentanyl in her children's luggage. The fentanyl was to be delivered to her ex-husband when the boys landed in Dallas. As soon as the children landed, they were united with their father at the arrival gate. While still inside the airport terminal, the father retrieved the fentanyl from his sons' luggage, and the three walked to the nearest bathroom. Inside the bathroom, the father went into a stall and ingested a small amount of fentanyl and immediately overdosed. The victim's two sons were waiting outside the bathroom stall steps away from their father as he died. Banuelos pled guilty and was sentenced to 144-months' imprisonment.

<u>Opposing counsel:</u>

Carolyn A. Hill
4144 N. Central Expressway, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75204
(214) 418-3867

5. *United States v. Quintaveus Williams*, 3:20-CR-00260-X, (N.D. Tex.), Judge Brantley Starr, Dates of representation: 2022 – 2023.

I represented the United States in the prosecution of Quintaveus Williams. Williams was a nine-time convicted felon with a very violent past. Williams was charged with federal firearms charges that was the result of him shooting at his ex-girlfriend and her children while they stood in their front yard. While Williams waited in pre-trial detention to face his federal charges, he attempted to threaten witnesses against him using the telephones in the jail facility. The matter proceeded to trial, but as jury selection began, Williams elected to plead guilty to the firearms charges and an obstruction of justice charge. He was sentenced to a term of 180 months imprisonment.

<u>Co-counsel:</u>

John Kull, Assistant United States Attorney

United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Texas
1100 Commerce Street, Third Floor
Dallas, Texas 75242
(214) 659-8738

Opposing counsel:

Phillip A. Linder
3300 Oak Lawn, Suite 700
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 252-9900

6. *United States v. Francisco Gomez Munoz*, 3:22-CR-00442-B, (N.D. Tex.), Judge Ada Brown, Dates of representation: 2022 – 2023.

   I represented the United States in the prosecution of Francisco Gomez Munoz. Gomez Munoz was an illegal alien from Mexico who was living in the United States and working for a Mexican cartel as a cook and distributer of massive amounts of Mexican methamphetamine. He had been distributing these drugs in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex for nearly four years when he came on the radar of the DEA. Gomez Munoz's conduct was extremely egregious as he set up an extensive methamphetamine conversion lab in a quiet Dallas neighborhood where numerous families resided. In addition to the dangerous lab, Gomez Munoz also stored a significant amount of finished product in his home and possessed an arsenal of firearms to protect it. Gomez Munoz pled guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.

   Opposing counsel:

   Alberto Herrera
   3198 Royal Lane, Suite 211
   Dallas, Texas 75229
   (469) 855-2693

7. *United States v. John Roberts*, 3:16-CR-00199, (M.D. Tenn.), Judge Roger Hugh Lawson, Jr. (visiting judge from M.D. Ga.), Dates of representation: 2017.

   John Roberts lived in Clarksville, Tennessee, a town outside the gates of the United States Army installation at Fort Campbell. Fort Campbell is home to the 101st Airborne Division and the 5th Special Forces Group. Roberts devised a plan where he and his business partner encouraged soldiers, particularly ones they knew to be addicted to opioids, to break into various places on base and steal sensitive military equipment. The stolen equipment would typically be the following highly protected items: machine gun parts, grenade-launcher sights, rifle scopes, sniper telescopes, military-grade binoculars, thermal scopes, body armor plates, advanced combat communication devises and special forces helmets. After the soldiers delivered the stolen equipment to Roberts, he would purchase the items in cash well below their value. Because the soldiers needed easy cash to supply their drug habits, Roberts was able to keep a steady stream of stolen equipment coming for approximately three years.

After receiving the stolen military equipment, Roberts listed it all on eBay and sold it to anonymous domestic and international buyers in places like Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Mexico. Roberts was indicted for conspiracy to steal military equipment, wire fraud, violations of the Arms Export Control Act, and violations of the International Trafficking in Arms Regulations ("ITAR"). After a week-long trial, Roberts was found guilty of every count. Roberts was sentenced to fifteen years in federal prison and ordered to pay $4.2 million in restitution.

For the successful prosecution of this case, my co-counsel and I were awarded the HSI Director's Award for Outstanding Counter-Proliferation Investigation in 2017. This award recognizes exceptional work in HSI's Counter-Proliferation Investigations program, which targets the illegal trafficking or export of weapons of mass destruction materials, military equipment and technology, and firearms and ammunition. We were also awarded the United States Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in 2018. This award was given for outstanding achievement and selfless service for the successful prosecution of eight individuals in a major larceny investigation that also resulted in the recovery of over $1.5 million of stolen military equipment.

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8. *United States v. Steven Lee Oakes, et al.*, 14-CR-14046, (S.D. Fla.), Judge Jose E. Martinez, Dates of representation: 2015.

In early 2014, I was tasked with creating a local/federal partnership with several of the most rural counties in the Southern District of Florida. The United States Attorney was concerned about law enforcement reports indicating that Mexican methamphetamine had made its way into South Florida and was having a devastating impact on the two most rural counties, Okeechobee County and Highlands County. I met with the Sherriff of Okeechobee County, and he asked for help prosecuting Steven Lee Oakes, the largest distributor of methamphetamine in the history of Okeechobee County. According to the Sheriff, Oakes' distribution activities resulted in many deaths in his community for over a decade.

I requested and received support from the local DEA office to begin investigating Oakes. I also obtained additional support from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force, the Okeechobee Police Department, the Highlands County Sherriff's Department, the Glades County Sheriff's Department, the St. Lucie County Sherriff's Office, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. My next step was getting the investigation approved as an OCDETF case within the Department of Justice so that agents working on the case could receive the additional funding needed to fully investigate Oakes and dismantle his entire distribution operation. The August 28, 2015, take-down was described by local leaders as the largest methamphetamine distribution takedown in the history of Okeechobee County.

The multi-agency partnership created with this investigation resulted in the federal indictment of Oakes and 14 of his top methamphetamine distributors. Twenty-nine additional lower-level offenders were also turned over to the state for prosecution as result of the team's work. Oakes and all fourteen other co-defendants who worked as a part of his drug trafficking organization pled guilty. Oakes was sentenced to 300 months' imprisonment.

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9. *United States v. Santiago Gonzalez,* 13-CR-60034, (S.D. Fla.), Judge William J. Zloch, Dates of representation: 2013.

Santiago Gonzalez was a Coral Springs, Florida fire fighter/paramedic who, during his off-duty time, hired himself out to South Florida drug traffickers to conduct armed robberies of either large amounts of cash or large amounts of cocaine that would be exchanged in high-level drug transactions. Federal authorities received information from a confidential informant that Gonzalez claimed to be involved in numerous armed kidnappings and robberies of South Florida drug traffickers and the murders of a wealthy Hungarian couple, Frank Griga and Krisztina Furton, and the disposal of their bodies in the Florida Everglades in 1995. These gory murders were featured in the movie "Pain and Gain," starring Mark Wahlberg and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. The couple's dismembered bodies were found stuffed into a 55-gallon oil drum and dumped in a canal near the Everglades in Miami-Dade County. Their severed heads, with their teeth pulled out to make identification difficult, were found near Interstate 75 in Broward County, Florida.

To verify that Gonzalez was committing these types of activities, a decision was made to have the confidential informant wear a recording device to verify whether Gonzalez would confirm his past criminal conduct. Gonzalez made numerous admissions regarding his criminal past, and the confidential informant recorded them. Therefore, a plan was devised by ATF agents where Gonzalez was offered a job providing armed security for a man he thought was a drug trafficker. Gonzalez agreed to provide armed protection for the delivery of sixty-seven pounds of cocaine on four occasions at various locations in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The man Gonzalez was employed by was working undercover at the direction of federal agents. The cocaine exchanged during the transactions was fake, and all the meetings where Gozalez provided armed protection were recorded.

After the fourth meeting, Gonzalez was arrested and charged with federal drug and gun charges. Gonzales pled guilty and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

Opposing counsel:

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10. *United States v. Charles Neuringer,* 12-CR-60237, (S.D. Fla.), before the Honorable William P. Dimitrouleas, Dates of representation: 2012.

South Florida was the epicenter of the "pill mill" crisis between 2008 and 2011, which began with the introduction of OxyContin and the encouragement of doctors to treat pain more aggressively in the mid-1990s. Pill mill activity surged in South Florida at this time with thousands of people traveling there from Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee on what became known as the Oxy Express. With a combination of lax regulations and a flood of prescription opioids, a boom was created in South Florida that resulted in a large number of unscrupulous pain clinics that funneled millions of pills onto the black market.

One of the most egregious of the South Florida pill mills was Coast-to-Coast Health Care Management in Deerfield Beach, located in Broward County, Florida. Dr. Charles Neuringer was a staff physician at Coast-to-Coast from January 22, 2010, until December 16, 2010. Dr. Neuringer was a retired urologist with zero pain management experience who answered an advertisement on Craigslist for employment with Coast-to-Coast. The owner of the clinic agreed to pay Dr. Neuringer $75.00 for every patient he saw along with 10% of all profits made from all the prescriptions written by him that were also filled at Coast-to-Coast.

During his time at Coast-to-Coast, Dr. Neuringer distributed and dispensed massive amounts of oxycodone not prescribed for a legitimate medical purpose nor in the usual course of professional practice. Dr. Neuringer's practice was to prescribe high enough amounts of oxycodone to keep his addicted patients happy and loyal, but also low enough to avoid scrutiny from law enforcement. Dr. Neuringer was also aware that the patients he prescribed to had been recruited to the clinic from faraway states with the assurance he would prescribe them the highest amounts of opioids possible. The clinic and Dr. Neuringer's financial success was built around his willingness to prescribe pain medicine at the highest levels.

As a result of this unlawful practice, in the approximately 140 total days that Dr. Neuringer saw patients at Coast-to-Coast in 2010, he conducted 5,669 patient examinations, averaging 40.5 patient visits per day. On four of those days, Neuringer saw 70 patients, while his top one-day number tallied 80 patients. Not surprisingly, in 2010, Dr. Neuringer was one of the top prescribers of opioids in the nation; all illegitimate. During this same period, Dr. Neuringer was paid approximately $476,988.00 that all constituted proceeds of his unlawful drug trafficking activities.

Dr. Neuringer pled guilty to federal narcotics charges and was sentenced to 21 months in federal prison. Neuringer was also required to forfeit to the United States all $476,988.00 he made while employed by Coast-to-Coast.

This case was one of the earliest prosecutions in the Southern District of Florida that targeted doctors who were dispensing and distributing opioids outside the scope of professional practice and not for a legitimate purpose.

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.)

As the First Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, in addition to overseeing the litigation of the office, I am also responsible for assisting the United States Attorney in developing the overall strategy and priorities of the office and the hiring of legal talent. In addition, I also supervise the district's Criminal, Civil, Appellate Chiefs, and the Administrative Officer.

In November 2017, I became the Criminal Chief for the Southern District of Mississippi. One of the first assignments was to tackle the City of Jackson's excessive violent crime. The year before I arrived, Jackson, Mississippi was ranked as the 6th deadliest city in America with a violent crime rate that was 204% higher than the national average. In December 2017, my office launched Project EJECT. Project EJECT was a United States Attorney Office initiative under the Department of Justic's Project Safe Neighborhoods Program. It was a multi-disciplinary approach to fighting and reducing violent crime through prosecution, prevention, re-entry and awareness. EJECT stood for "Empower Justice Expel Crime Together." The Project EJECT Task Force consisted of local, state and federal agents and federal prosecutors, who worked directly with the Jackson Police Department in a targeted and prioritized manner. I was assigned to plan, facilitate, and implement this project daily. All prosecutors in the office's Criminal Division were assigned cases from this project including carjacking, business burglaries, illegal gun possession, drugs, and violent crime in aid of racketeering. In Project EJECT's first year, the City of Jackson saw a 50% reduction in carjackings alone, and the overall crime rate fell by 7%. Because of this ground-breaking, collaborative, and innovative work to reduce crime, Project EJECT was recognized and awarded as one of only two Outstanding Overall Partnership/Task Forces by the Department of Justice among all 94 United States Attorney's Offices throughout the country in 2018.

In August 2019, HSI and ICE conducted a massive worksite enforcement operation on seven chicken processing plants in central Mississippi. The year-long investigation was conducted in partnership with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi and was considered the largest single-state worksite enforcement action in our nation's history. On August 7, 2019, agents executed multiple criminal and administrative search warrants at seven locations across central Mississippi to collect evidence of federal crimes. While these warrants were executed, ERO officers detained approximately 680 illegal aliens working in the various chicken processing facilities that were under investigation. As a result of this operation, 119 illegal aliens were prosecuted for federal crimes ranging from illegally misusing stolen social security numbers of American citizens, to fraudulently claiming to be a United States citizen, to falsifying immigration documents, to reentering the United States after having previously been deported or removed. The other 561 illegal aliens were placed into removal proceedings in federal immigration courts. As Criminal Chief, I was assigned to provide support and to assist in the planning of the operation's criminal investigation. I also reviewed all criminal search warrants that were presented to the Court during the investigation, personally presented all 119 criminal indictments to the grand jury (for later assignment to prosecutors within the criminal division) and was present monitoring the central processing site to field all questions of criminal law that occurred on the day of the arrests. This operation was significant in size and scope.

During the time I was the Criminal Chief in the Southern District of Mississippi, I had the privilege of being selected to represent Criminal Chiefs for all U.S. Attorney's Offices in the Fifth Circuit on the Department of Justice's Criminal Chief's Working Group in Washington, D.C. from 2018 to 2019.

While prosecuting pill diversion cases in South Florida, I had the privilege of attending and representing prosecutors from the Southern District of Florida in a three-day training at the DEA's Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The course was the first of its kind nationally, where a DEA Special agent, a DEA Diversion Investigator, and a federal prosecutor participated together as a team to better understand how to best investigate and prosecute pill diversion cases.

As a criminal defense attorney, I served as the client's legal advocate and guided them through the justice system ensuring that their constitutional rights were protected. As a Guardian Ad Litem/Child Advocate, I represented child victims of abuse and neglect in court proceedings as an advocate and voice in not only protecting children but also helping determine issues that were paramount to their best interests.

I have not performed any lobbying activities.

19. **<u>Teaching</u>**: 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.

In January of 2007, I co-taught *Trial Practice* at Mississippi College School of Law. This class was designed to instruct third year law students on every aspect of trial work from *voir dire* through closing arguments. I no longer have a copy of the syllabus.

20. **<u>Deferred Income/ Future Benefits</u>**: 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.

Because of my federal government service, I will be entitled to receive a pension under the Federal Employees Retirement System.

21. **<u>Outside Commitments During Court Service</u>**: 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 do not have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment in the future.

22. **<u>Sources of Income</u>**: 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 Financial Disclosure Report and supplement this Questionnaire with a copy of that 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.

Cases most likely to implicate conflict questions would be those related to my service as an attorney within the Department of Justice. To determine whether I would need to recuse, I would consult 28 U.S.C. § 455(a) & (b)(3), Canon 3C of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and all other applicable rules or canons. I would also consult any judicial decisions or Judicial Conference opinions addressing similar factual circumstances as those raised in the particular case. I will evaluate any other real or potential conflict, or a relationship that could give rise to an appearance of conflict, on a cases-by-case basis and take appropriate action, 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 of interest by reference to 28 U.S.C. § 455, all applicable canons of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and any and all other laws, rules, practices, and procedures governing circumstances relating to real or potential conflicts of interest.

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.

For most of my professional career, I have worked for the Department of Justice. Because of my positions with the Department, I generally have been restricted from engaging in the practice of law on behalf of any entity other than the federal government.

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 October 2025, Senators Cornyn and Cruz announced on their websites they were accepting applications for Texas judicial vacancies. I submitted an application for a judicial position on November 13, 2025. I was invited to interview with Texas' Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee (FJEC) on January 9, 2026. This committee subsequently recommended me to the two Senators, with whom I interviewed on February 24, 2026. I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office on April 2, 2026. Since then, I have been in contact with officials from the White House Counsel's Office and the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy regarding the nomination. On August 18, 2026, President Trump called me to inform me that he planned on nominating me for a position on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

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, COURTNEY LEIGH COKER, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

August 14, 2026
(DATE)

C L. Coker
(NAME)

Ashley Celeste Jacques
(NOTARY)

ASHLEY CELESTE JACQUES
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
ID# 128586706
EXPIRES 1-25-2029