

UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Ernest Gonzalez; Ernesto Gonzalez

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

United States District Judge for the Western 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 Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Narcotics and Dangerous Drug  
Section

145 N Street, Northwest

Suite 2E300

Washington, DC 20002

Residence:

Plano, Texas

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

1962; San Antonio, Texas

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.

1991 – 1993, Thurgood Marshall School of Law; J.D., 1993

1981 – 1987, The University of Texas at San Antonio; B.B.A., 1987

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.

2023 – present  
United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Narcotics and Dangerous Drug  
Section  
145 N Street, Northwest  
Suite 2E300  
Washington, DC 20002  
Senior Attorney Advisor

2003 – 2023  
United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas  
101 East Park  
Suite 500  
Plano, Texas 75074  
Chief of Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) section for the  
Eastern District of Texas (2022 – 2023)  
Lead Assistant United States Attorney in the OCDETF section (2017 – 2022)  
Assistant United States Attorney (2003 – 2023)

2000 – 2003  
United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas  
111 East Broadway  
Del Rio, Texas 78840  
Assistant United States Attorney (OCDETF section)

2000  
Texas Attorney General's Office  
300 West 15th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Assistant Attorney General IV/Special Assistant United States Attorney at the United  
States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas

1994 – 2000  
Bexar County District Attorney's Office  
300 Dolorosa  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Assistant District Attorney

1987 – 1991  
Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital  
7700 Floyd Curl Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78229  
Senior Accountant

1978 – 1987  
West Coast Produce Company

750 Merida  
San Antonio, Texas 78207  
Accounting Clerk

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

I did not serve in the military. I registered for the 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.

Mesquite Police Department Narcotic Unit Outstanding Contribution Award (2023)

DEA Outstanding Performance Award – “Trap Mansion case” (2023)

FBI Texoma Criminal Enterprise Task Force Outstanding Performance Award (2023)

Homeland Security Investigations National Aviation Trafficking Investigation Award (2023)

Office of National Drug Policy U.S. Interdiction Coordinator Award for Special Recognition Counter Narcotics Force Enabler (2022)

Eastern District of Texas OCDETF Award for Outstanding Performance (2021)

FBI Outstanding Prosecutive Skills and Assistance to the FBI Award (2021)

FBI Outstanding Recognition and Prosecution of Transnational Criminal Organization Award – “Tyton Hester case” (2021)

Homeland Security Investigations Outstanding Performance Award – “Debra Mercer case” (2021)

JTF-1 National Aviation Trafficking Initiative (NATI) USIC Award – Detection and Monitoring (2019)

Eastern District of Texas Exemplary Performance in 959 Investigations and Transnational Crimes prosecutions (2019)

FBI Outstanding Prosecutive Skills and Assistance to the FBI Award (2019)

National Association of Former United States Attorney’s Exceptional Service Award

(2016)

Texas Lawyer Magazine Exceptional Minority Attorney Award (2015)

Texas Department of Public Safety Director's Award (2013)

Executive Office for the United States Attorney's Director's Award (2011)

Texas Department of Public Safety Certificate of Appreciation (2010)

National Association of Former United States Attorney's Exceptional Service Award (2010)

DEA Certificate of Appreciation – "Cinco Dedos case" (2009)

DEA Certificate of Appreciation – "Moola Zoola case" (2007)

DEA Certificate of Appreciation (2006)

DEA Outstanding and Meritorious Contributions Award "La Compania case" (2004 – 2006)

United States Attorney's Performance Awards (2000 – 2023)

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.

National Hispanic Bar Association (2023)

National Mexican American Bar Association (2023)

Texas State Bar Association (1994 – present)

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.

Texas, 1994

There have been no lapses in membership.

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

special admission to practice.

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2004  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia, 2023  
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, 2004  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, 2014  
United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, 2000

There have been no lapses in membership.

**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.

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) (2020 – 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, the organization listed above does not currently discriminate nor did it formerly discriminate 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 four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

None.

- b. Supply four (4) 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 four (4) 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 four (4) 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.

March 6, 2020: Speaker, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Dallas Chorizo and Menudo meeting, Dallas, Texas. I spoke to the group about the problem of illegal drugs such as fentanyl and methamphetamine entering the United States from Mexico. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for LULAC is West Twelfth Street, Dallas, Texas 75208.

June 12 – 14, 2019: Participant, *the second Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO) Working Group*, Cartagena, Colombia. The mission of the working group was to engage in specialized training and to develop joint strategies and best practices to dismantle the transnational criminal organizations that threaten the United States, Mexico, and Colombia. The meeting was sponsored by the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT). I participated in question-and-answer panels. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for OPDAT is 950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington DC 20530.

August 18 – 20, 2018: Participant, *the first Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO) Working Group*, Mexico City, Mexico. The mission of the working group was to engage in specialized training and to develop joint strategies and best practices to dismantle the transnational criminal organizations that threaten the United States, Mexico, and Colombia. The meeting was sponsored by OPDAT. I participated in question-and-answer panels. I have no notes, transcript, or

recording. The address for OPDAT is 950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington DC 20530.

- 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 four (4) copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

*WFAA Dallas Investigative Report – Broken Trust*, ABC - 8 WFAA (Dallas, TX), June 28, 2023. Video available at <https://www.wfaa.com/video/news/special-reports/onalaska/broken-trust-the-onalaska-drug-plane-scandal/287-f9b28f63-b5d2-4d9c-8b0c-edc0fbe39f52>.

Tanya Eiserer & Mark Smith, *In Landmark Case, Trust Company Owner Convicted*, ABC - 8 WFAA (Dallas, TX), May 3, 2023. Copy supplied.

Tanya Eiserer & Mark Smith, *WFAA Dallas Investigative Report – A fugitive, a \$350M fraud case, a lot of airplanes and one tiny town*, ABC - 8 WFAA (Dallas, TX), February 27, 2023. Copy supplied.

*American Greed – Drunk with Power*, CNBC, February 21, 2023. Video available at <https://youtu.be/c-BrAOTIY7k?si=nUGIV-IuOvegS-bQ>.

Katy Vine, *An otherwise ordinary day*, Texas Monthly, December 2022. Copy supplied.

Chacour Koop, *Why were planes registered in a Texas town with no airports? It's about drugs, feds say*, Star-Telegram, March 2, 2021. Copy supplied.

Tanya Eiserer & Mark Smith, *WFAA investigation spurs federal probe that*, ABC - 8 WFAA (Dallas, TX), February 26, 2021. Copy supplied.

*Narco Wars – Rise of the Narco Army*, National Geographic, January 21, 2021. Video available at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/tv/shows/narco-wars/episode-guide/season-01/episode-06-rise-of-the-narco-army/vdka21777516>.

Ginger Thompson, *How the U.S. Triggered a Massacre in Mexico*, ProPublica, June 12, 2017. Copy supplied.

Guillermo Contreras & Kate Carlson, *Mass killing by the Zetas is described; Witness says more than 300 slain*, San Antonio Express News, July 13, 2016. Copy supplied.

Jason Trahan, *Dallas is stop for Italy bound drugs Mexican operatives unloading cocaine to Mafia overseas*, DallasNews.com, April 21, 2009. Copy supplied.

Tiara M. Ellis, *Charges filed in ID theft Frisco: Man accused of money laundering, wire fraud in global scam*, DallasNews.com, November 23, 2006. Copy supplied.

Jason Trahan, *Suspected drug ringleader pleads guilty, Lugo ran cocaine into Dallas area for the Juarez Cartel*, DallasNews.com, September 17, 2005. Copy supplied.

Laila Fadel, *Worker at ranch accepts plea deal*, Star-Telegram, April 20, 2005. Copy supplied.

Leila Fadel, *Ranch will house 3 restaurants*, Star-Telegram, January 14, 2005. Copy supplied.

*Longtime County Commissioner gets nine years on drug charge*, Associated Press, December 15, 2001. Copy supplied.

Kate Hunger, *Drug arraignment set for Zavala pair; Officials face fed conspiracy charges*, San Antonio Express News, December 11, 2001. Copy supplied.

Kate Hunger, *Escort service owner enters prostitution plea*, San Antonio Express News, October 13, 1999. Copy supplied.

Kate Hunger, *Man gets 15 years in friend's shooting*, San Antonio Express News, September 1, 1999. Copy supplied.

Kate Hunger, *Jury hands killer probation, fine*, San Antonio Express News, June 23, 1999. Copy supplied.

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

I have not held judicial office.

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

- i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials: \_\_\_\_\_%  
bench trials: \_\_\_\_\_% [total 100%]

- ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings: \_\_\_\_\_%

criminal proceedings: \_\_\_\_% [total 100%]

- 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.

None.

- 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.

None.

**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 have never served as a clerk to a judge.

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

I have never been a solo practitioner.

- 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;

1994 – 2000

Bexar County District Attorney's Office  
101 West Nueva Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Assistant District Attorney

2000

Texas Attorney General's Office  
300 West 15th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Assistant Attorney General IV/Special Assistant United States Attorney

2000 – 2003

United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas  
111 East Broadway  
Del Rio, Texas 78840  
Assistant United States Attorney

2004 – 2023

United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas  
101 East Park Boulevard  
Suite 500  
Plano, Texas 75074  
Assistant United States Attorney

2023 – present

Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Narcotics and Dangerous Drug  
Section  
145 N Street, Northwest  
Suite 2E300  
Washington, DC 20002  
Senior Attorney Advisor

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

I have not served as a mediator or arbitrator 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.

I began my legal career at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office in San Antonio, Texas. Starting in the County Court, I prosecuted misdemeanor crimes, from driving while intoxicated to assault, eventually ascending to the felony District Courts, where my responsibilities expanded to encompass cases ranging from aggravated assault to capital murder. My role as an Assistant District Attorney required the meticulous review and examination of cases for evidence sufficiency, collaboration with state and local law enforcement agencies, presentation of cases to the grand jury for indictment, and extensive trial advocacy. I carried a substantial docket and tried hundreds of cases before a jury.

In 2000, I joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas in Del Rio. My portfolio in this capacity predominantly comprised immigration and narcotics violations.

In 2003, I joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas in Plano. Here, I managed the largest docket in the Eastern District and the entire United States, with over 900 defendants under my purview. As a member of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), I assumed the roles of Chief for the OCDETF section and Lead Prosecutor for the Eastern District of Texas OCDETF section.

In these leadership capacities, I oversaw a team of Assistant United States Attorneys, directing the prosecution of both domestic and international OCDETF cases. My responsibilities extended to prosecuting non-OCDETF criminal cases involving violent crimes or firearms, extraditing, and prosecuting foreign defendants, and representing the Eastern District of Texas in Central and South America.

Furthermore, I took on the challenge of prosecuting international and maritime drug traffickers, collaborating closely with federal and foreign law enforcement agencies. Notably, my role required extensive travel to represent the Eastern District of Texas in various international forums. Additionally, I presented cases to the federal grand jury for indictment, conducted legal research, drafted legal briefs and memoranda, and presented oral arguments before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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

As a prosecutor for my entire legal career, I have represented the State of Texas or the United States in large and complex multi-defendant domestic and international criminal cases.

- 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.

As an Assistant District Attorney, I appeared in court daily. As an Assistant United States Attorney, I appeared in court several times per week initially, with my appearances becoming less frequent as I took on more supervisory roles.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

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

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- |                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. civil proceedings:    | 0%   |
| 2. criminal proceedings: | 100% |

- 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.

Over the course of my 29-year career as a prosecutor, I have tried more than 250 jury trials, culminating in verdicts. This includes more than 120 state jury trials and more than 135 federal jury trials. I was lead counsel along with a co-counsel for 95 percent of the cases presented before a jury and was co-counsel for the remaining 5 percent of the cases presented before a jury.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. jury:     | 99% |
| 2. non-jury: | 1%  |

- e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply four (4) 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 practiced 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. *United States v. Valencia-Aristizabal et al.*, 4:19cr277 (E.D. Tex) (Mazzant, J.)

I am the lead counsel for the United States in the prosecution of the Galindo-Gallegos Transnational Criminal Organization (TCO). I supervise and provide strategic advice to the investigative team that indicted and is prosecuting over 60 defendants from this TCO. I presented this case to the grand jury and have argued for pretrial detention on most of the defendants who have been arrested. This comprehensive investigation targeted Mr. Galindo-Gallegos, the orchestrator of the Galindo-Gallegos TCO, known for its extensive network encompassing lead coordinators, distribution cells, laboratory operators, brokers, and couriers. Galindo-Gallegos collaborates closely with family members, notably his son, Mr. Gallegos Jr. (Gallegos), who independently operates a sub-drug trafficking organization.

The Galindo-Gallegos TCO is responsible for transporting multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamine, and heroin from Durango, Mexico, to the United States. Since October 2016, investigators have apprehended numerous co-conspirators, shedding light on the inner workings of the TCO. The investigation unveiled a significant drug distribution network spanning across the United States.

Debriefings with co-conspirators revealed that Galindo-Gallegos serves as the primary source of supply for illegal drugs reaching United States-based distributors. Subsequent distribution involves a network of distributors across the country. Notably, this case has resulted in the largest seizure of fentanyl in the United States to date, with more than 2 million fentanyl-laced pills seized. The investigation further identified independent couriers operating distribution cells and stash houses across the United States.

The Galindo-Gallegos DTO also purchased high-caliber firearms with drug proceeds, subsequently importing them to Mexico for distribution to members of the Sinaloa Cartel. Presently, Galindo-Gallegos, Gallegos, and five other defendants are fugitives in Mexico. I have prepared and submitted provisional arrest warrants and requests for extradition for the fugitives who are hiding in Mexico. More than 60 defendants associated with the Galindo-Gallegos TCO have been arrested and are pending trial or sentencing.

Representation Dates: 2016 – present

Co-Counsel

Colleen Bloss  
United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Texas  
101 East Park Boulevard  
Suite 500  
Plano, TX 75075  
(903) 618-9880

Counsel for Defendants

Eva Judith Arellano (for Mr. Vallejo-Iracheta)  
8035 East R.L. Thornton Freeway  
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(972) 707-7773

Cynthia M. Barbare (for Ms. Vaughn)  
8344 East R.L. Thornton Freeway  
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(214) 207-7264

Micah Shawn Belden (for Mr. Gallardo-Luna)  
711 North Travis Street  
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Clark E. Birdsall (for Mr. Gallardo-Luna)  
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Glenn A. Brenner (for Mr. Corral Reyes)  
603 Munger Avenue  
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Dallas, TX 75202  
(972) 212-7124

Timothy Edward Brown (for Mr. Camarillo)  
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Sherman, TX 75090  
(818) 500-5553

Jim Burnham (for Mr. Cortez-Sanchez)  
6116 North Central Expressway  
Suite 515

Dallas, TX 75206  
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1965 Fort Worth Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75208  
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Garland Don Cardwell (for Mr. Castro)  
123 South Travis Street  
Sherman, TX 75090  
(903) 893-8161

William David Cox III (for Mr. Garcia)  
325 North Saint Paul Street  
Suite 2100  
Dallas, TX 75201  
(214) 220-3111

Darlina Carla Crowder (for Mr. Ramirez)  
7950 Legacy Drive  
Suite 360  
Plano, TX 75024  
(214) 544-0061

Thomas Anthony D'Amore (for Mr. Martinez-Gonzalez)  
4144 North Central Expressway  
Suite 250  
Dallas, TX 75204  
(214) 821-1919

Leigh Warren Davis (for Mr. Ornelas)  
1901 Central Drive  
Suite 708  
Bedford, TX 76021  
(817) 868-9500

Neal Andrew Davis (for Mr. Ramos)  
1545 Heights Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713) 227-4444

Rafael De La Garza II (for Mr. Marquez)  
3941 Legacy Drive  
Suite 204-A192  
Plano, TX 75023

(972) 351-2769

Colleen Dunbar (for Mr. Ovalle)  
3141 Hood Street  
Suite 100  
Dallas, TX 75219  
(214) 535-9935

Olegario Corral Estrada (for Ms. Robles-Deras)  
5224 W. Jefferson Boulevard  
Dallas, TX 75211  
(214) 331-4400

Marc Joseph Fratter (for Ms. Del Fin-Villarreal)  
101 East Park Boulevard  
Suite 355  
Plano, TX 75074  
(214) 471-3434

Carlos Hervey Gomez (for Ms. Lopez)  
777 Main Street  
Suite 600  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 476-7233

Phillip Paul Gomez (for Ms. Lopez)  
2704 Valley View Lane  
Farmers, Branch, TX 75234  
(469) 522-1600

Stephen James Green (for Mr. Sakotic)  
8350 North Central Expressway  
Suite 19th Floor  
Dallas, TX 75206  
(214) 600-7255

Linda Guadarrama (for Mr. Olivares)  
1300 West Lynn Street  
Suite #115  
Austin, TX 78703  
(512) 669-3700

Taly Haffar (for Mr. Sakotic)  
8150 North Central Expressway  
Dallas, TX 75214  
(214) 734-2124

Matthew Dexter Hamilton (for Mr. Montesinos-Morales)  
123 West Houston Street  
Sherman, TX 75090  
(903) 892-8500

Phillip Michael Hawk, Jr. (for Mr. Quezada-Flores)  
5999 Custer Road  
Suite 110-111  
Frisco, TX 75035  
(972) 438-4357

Roger E. Haynes (for Mr. Suarez-Osoria)  
3300 Oak Lawn Avenue  
Suite 700  
Dallas, TX 75219  
(214) 526-3300

John Michael Helms, Jr. (for Mr. Sibrian)  
8100 John W. Carpenter Freeway  
Suite 200  
Dallas, TX 75247  
(469) 951-8496

Frank Warren Henderson (retired) (for Mr. Valencia-Aristizabal)  
600 East Taylor Street  
Suite 400  
Sherman, TX 75090  
(903) 892-4448

Jeffery Kearney (for Mr. Sakotic)  
3100 West 7th Street  
Suite 420  
Fort Worth, TX 76107  
(817) 336-5600

Camille M. Knight (for Ms. Chavez-Alonso)  
900 Jackson Street  
Suite 430  
Dallas, TX 75202  
(214) 871-1133

Steven Ryan LaFuente (for Mr. Pedraza)  
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2. *United States v. Mercer-Ewin*, 4:20 cr212 (E.D. Tex.) (Mazzant, J.)

Since 2019, I have been the lead counsel for the United States in this prosecution. In this case, I devised a strategy of telephonic intercepts, undercover operations, and financial probes that ultimately uncovered evidence on the organization's leadership in the United States and Guatemala. I put together a team of different agencies to investigate this case which included Homeland Security Investigations, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Department of Commerce, and various foreign law enforcement and regulatory agencies in Central and South America.

The investigation uncovered a network of third-party airplane brokers and title companies in the United States collaborating with illicit entities, including narcotics trafficking organizations. The primary objective was to facilitate trade-based money laundering and the trafficking of narcotics through the purchase and sale of aircraft.

This intricate probe revealed that identified DTOs were associated with transporting multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine. Confidential sources indicated that these organizations utilized aircraft to transport large quantities of cocaine from South American countries like Colombia and Venezuela to Central American countries such as Guatemala and Belize. Subsequently, land transportation was employed to traffic narcotics from the interior of Mexico to areas closer to the United States border, with the destination being U.S. markets. I coordinated and worked closely with investigators and prosecutors in Colombia and Guatemala and coordinated a united front to combat this type of drug trafficking.

Defendant Mercer, through her companies, including Aircraft Guaranty Corporation (AGC), was implicated in a scheme to obfuscate the Export Administration regulation. This involved enabling foreign entities, not meeting FAA citizenship requirements, to register aircraft in the United States. Mercer and co-conspirators violated various criminal statutes, including conspiracy to commit wire fraud, bank fraud, money laundering, and narcotics trafficking.

The defendants exploited their status as U.S. citizens to execute a three-part scheme that facilitated international drug trafficking. This included violating FAA and Department of Commerce regulations to register aircraft in the U.S., concealing true ownership and exportation. When law enforcement seized registered aircraft laden with drugs, defendants deregistered or transferred ownership. Finally, the defendants engaged in layered aircraft sales transactions to conceal the movement of illicit proceeds, participating in a complex third-party money laundering scheme.

Several illegally registered and exported aircraft were utilized by transnational criminal organizations in countries like Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. The investigation exposed drug distribution networks'

preference for smuggling cocaine from source countries using private aircraft, acquired through trade-based and third-party money laundering schemes.

The illicit proceeds, estimated by law enforcement to quadruple upon reaching the U.S. market, were then transported as bulk cash from the U.S. to Mexico. This was accomplished by various means and involved purchasing more aircraft and cocaine. To conceal their illegal activity, the defendants exported aircraft to foreign countries without filing Electronic Export Information. Aircraft were maintained in these foreign countries, occasionally sold without payment of taxes, or reporting changes of ownership, aligning with AGC's advertised business model.

Foreign governments seized several U.S.-registered aircraft containing multi-ton shipments of cocaine. FAA records revealed that these aircraft were held in trust by AGC for the benefit of foreign entities. Notably, one aircraft was sold to a convicted drug trafficker associated with the Sinaloa cartel and registered to AGC. Through my team's efforts, AGC is no longer in operation.

In January 2023, Ms. Mercer faced trial in Sherman, Texas. I organized the presentation of the case to the jury and coordinated the logistics for getting more than 20 critical witnesses from foreign countries (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, and Colombia). I handled the questioning of the lead investigators and witnesses and presented the closing argument. After a month-long trial, Mercer was found guilty of two counts of drug trafficking, one count of money laundering, and one count of wire fraud. Sentencing will occur later this year.

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3. *United States v. Boulden et al.*, 4:20cr382 (E.D. Tex.) (Jordan, J.)

In my capacity as lead counsel for the United States, I oversaw a case that charged 136 individuals with a range of offenses including conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce, interference with interstate commerce, use or brandishing of a firearm during a crime of violence, conspiracy to transport stolen property in interstate or foreign commerce, conspiracy to commit mail fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

As the lead counsel for the United States, I brought together a multi-agency effort involving federal, state, and local law enforcement. I crafted an investigative plan that included subpoenas, financial analysis, search warrants, audio recorded meetings, and the use of several cooperating witnesses wearing a wire. This intricate case revolved around

the prosecution of members belonging to a multi-layered criminal organization, orchestrating the theft of personal electronics—cell phones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches—in the North Texas area. These stolen items were then exported overseas for resale. The organization was comprised of runners, suppliers, device traffickers, and exporters. Some defendants engaged in armed robberies, while others employed various fraud and identity theft schemes to pilfer electronics.

Beginning in late October 2020, a series of armed takeover-style robberies occurred at AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon retail cell phone stores in the Dallas area. A total of 23 armed takeover robberies were committed or attempted across various locations in Texas, resulting in an estimated loss exceeding \$750,000. In December 2020, four individuals from the robbery crew were arrested following an armed robbery at an AT&T cell phone store in Fort Worth, Texas. The subsequent investigation linked these individuals to Global One Wireless, a Dallas-based cell phone business. The owners of Global One Wireless, operating through a parent corporation, RJ Telecom, facilitated the sale of stolen products abroad by shipping merchandise to foreign import companies in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Hong Kong.

The conspirators employed various methods, including compromised store employees, to activate phones using fake identities or fraudulently adding lines to legitimate customer accounts. Additional schemes involved using fake and legitimate identity information to swap SIM cards, enabling the defendants to verify banking information through text messages and withdraw funds from customer accounts.

The illicit operation resulted in nearly \$100 million worth of products sold to foreign importers, with approximately 20,000 products acquired through identity theft. The overall estimated losses exceeded \$150 million.

To date, more than 120 individuals have been arrested, and law enforcement officials have seized more than \$16 million in assets, including cash, bank accounts, real estate, and stolen goods recovered from a warehouse. One hundred of the defendants have pled guilty to one or several charges, with no defendant opting for trial. Sentences in this case have ranged from 3 years of probation to 180 months of imprisonment.

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4. *United States v. Brown*, 4:21cr152 (E.D. Tex.) (Kernodle, J.)

In my role as the lead prosecutor for the United States, I directed the prosecution of a violent home invasion robbery where a victim was seriously and permanently injured. I coordinated the efforts of a multi-agency investigation and supervised and gave advice as to the collection and safeguarding of vital evidence. On October 3, 2020, Deputies of the Grayson County Sheriff's Office responded to a robbery at the Dollar General in Tom Bean, Texas. Dispatch relayed that an armed male, masked, had robbed the store, and fled in a dark passenger car on Highway 11. Assisting Officers of the Tom Bean Police Department apprehended a possible suspect, Mr. Holt, near Highway 11.

The next day, Investigators from the Sherman, Texas Police Department received information about Mr. Holt's arrest from other investigators with the Grayson County Sheriff's Office. Holt, implicated in the Dollar General robbery, became a person of interest in other Sherman and nearby county robberies. Investigators sought additional details from Tom Bean Officers, leading to the discovery of a black ski mask near Holt's arrest location. In a subsequent interview, Holt revealed that Mr. Black and Mr. Brown were involved in the Dollar General robbery.

During the investigation, a Facebook video posted by Black showed Brown wearing a mask, corroborating their involvement. On October 21, 2020, surveillance at a residence in Sherman, Texas, known to be frequented by Brown and Black led to their arrest. Brown was taken into custody without incident and the residence was searched. A search of the residence uncovered a loaded tan 9mm pistol, matching the description provided

by Holt.

With the evidence seized from the search at the residence in Sherman, Texas, investigators were then able to link Holt, Brown, and Black to a series of store and fast-food restaurant robberies and to a home invasion on October 13, 2020, in Tarrant County, Texas, where the victims were held hostage, and their son was shot in the stomach and arm. The investigation further connected Brown and Black to the incident through DNA analysis, matching Brown to the DNA found as evidence from the home invasion. A tan Canik Model TP9 9mm handgun found during the search of the residence in Sherman was linked to the bullet removed from the victim's arm. Subsequent DNA analysis identified Black as the source of the DNA on the handgun grips and trigger.

In February 2023, Black went to trial, and the jury convicted him on all counts. As the lead prosecutor for the United States, I played a pivotal role in presenting the evidence that led to the conviction. I handled the voir dire, opening statements, questioned the primary witnesses, introduced the DNA evidence, and presented the closing argument for the United States. The defendant now faces a sentence of 10 years to life and will be sentenced later this year. Brown pled guilty to a recommended sentence of 360 months and Holt pled guilty to a recommended sentence of 180 months.

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5. *United States v. Majors et al.*, 4:19cr021 (E.D. Tex.) (Mazzant, J.)

As lead counsel for the United States, I prosecuted a FBI investigation involving the kidnapping and robbery of an 83-year-old victim in Colorado by a family of criminals from Colorado and Oklahoma. I led a multi-agency investigation that included federal, state, and local law enforcement. I crafted an investigative plan that included subpoenas, financial analysis, search warrants, use of cooperating co-defendants and telephone intercepts. The case concluded with guilty pleas from all defendants, resulting in sentences ranging from 180 to 540 months of imprisonment.

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6. *United States v. Banks et al.*, 4:18cr131 (E.D. Tex.) (Jordan, J.)

As the lead prosecutor representing the United States in this case involving a series of strong-arm robberies, I oversaw proceedings related to a conspiracy spanning from 2017 to 2019. I supervised and directed the investigative efforts of several law enforcement agencies. The criminal activities at issue extended beyond the Eastern District of Texas, encompassing cities such as Plano, Allen, McKinney, and Texarkana. Furthermore, the suspects were implicated in robberies across various locations in Texas, as well as in Georgia, North Carolina, Missouri, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, and Tennessee. As lead prosecutor, I ensured that evidence collected in other states was lawfully seized and properly preserved for admissibility later if necessary. The estimated losses incurred by financial institutions due to these criminal actions were approximately \$2,779,000. The suspects were identified as affiliated with a criminal gang based in the 5th Ward area of Houston known as the Money Street Market Gang, or MSMG.

In August 2018, a federal grand jury indicted 27 individuals on charges of conspiracy to commit robbery, interfering with interstate commerce, and robbery interfering with interstate commerce. The charges resulted in guilty pleas from all defendants. Subsequently, sentences ranging from 135 to 240 months of imprisonment were imposed.

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7. *United States v. Donado et al.*, 4:18cr144 (E.D. Tex.) (Mazzant, J.)

This case started with an investigation initiated in 2015, as United States and Colombian law enforcement authorities collaborated to scrutinize a DTO masterminded and led by Ms. Donado; her husband, Mr. Gallego; and Mr. Gomez. The investigation revealed the DTO's involvement in large-scale cocaine trafficking operations, encompassing the transportation of cocaine from Central and South America to destinations such as the United States, the Dominican Republic, and Europe. As the lead prosecutor for the United States, I supervised a team of investigators in the United States and Colombia. This case was an OCDETF case, investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (Dallas, Texas; Cartagena, Colombia; and Bogota, Colombia offices), Internal Revenue Service, and prosecutors and investigators in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. I devised a plan to identify the structure and dismantle the DTO with the use of wire intercepts, cooperating witnesses, drug seizures in Colombia and the United States and extraditions to the United States. I also organized a coordinated takedown in Colombia targeting the leaders of the DTO. Only one defendant has not been extradited. Mr. Gomez is serving a sentence in Colombia and will be extradited after he completes his sentence in Colombia. Sentences for the 10 defendants who have been extradited in this case have ranged from 78 to 240 months.

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8. *United States v. Minota et al.*, 4:16cr46 (E.D. Tex.) (Mazzant, J.)

As the lead prosecutor for the United States, I spearheaded the prosecution of multiple substantial international maritime violation cases. The defendants in these cases were intricately involved in the illicit importation of significant quantities of cocaine from

Colombia and Ecuador, employing various vessels such as go-fast boats, semi-submersibles, and fishing boats. As the lead prosecutor, I directed the efforts of a multi-agency group of investigators which included the Drug Enforcement Administration (Dallas, Texas; Cartagena, Colombia; and Bogota, Colombia), Homeland Security Investigations, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, prosecutors, and investigators from Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. Working closely with my team, I was able to devise a strategy whereby I could leverage the extraterritorial reach afforded by international maritime laws of the United States and the collaborative agreements in place with nations such as Colombia and other Central American countries.

This judicial endeavor effectively curtailed the inflow of thousands of kilograms of cocaine into the United States and Mexico. The prosecution's success in navigating the complexities of international maritime law and leveraging diplomatic agreements underscored the commitment to safeguarding national interests and upholding the rule of law on a global scale. Sentences in this case ranged from 120 to 360 months of imprisonment.

Representation Dates: 2015 – 2022

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9. *United States v. Trevino et al.*, 4:12cr19 (E.D. Tex.) (Crone, Jordan, JJ.)

I served as lead counsel for the United States in this prosecution of members of one of the most dangerous cartels in Mexico, which led to the indictment of the leaders of the Zeta Cartel. The Zeta Cartel was importing and distributing \$4 million worth of drugs in the Dallas metroplex on a weekly basis. The Zeta Cartel was also purchasing large quantities of high caliber firearms in the United States and importing the firearms into Mexico, where it perpetrated extensive and extreme violence against its rival cartels and the general public. As lead prosecutor for the United States, I worked closely with a multi-agency group of domestic and international investigators. I devised a strategy of wiretaps, undercover operations, financial probes, seizures domestically and internationally, extraditions, use of cooperating co-defendants, subpoenas and several coordinated takedowns in the United States, Mexico, and Colombia. This case had a significant impact in the Dallas metropolitan area and the United States because it reduced the quantity of illegal drugs available for distribution and ultimately led to the capture of its leaders and the downfall of the Zeta Cartel. One hundred and seventy-six defendants were indicted both in the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia.

This case was unique in that we were able to establish the entire chain of distribution from seizures on the streets of Dallas to laboratories in the jungles of Colombia. One defendant went to trial and was convicted and sentenced to 360 months in prison. On September 13, 2021, one of the Zeta Cartel's upper management members was sentenced to life imprisonment at the federal courthouse in Plano, Texas. Six other high-level members were sentenced to 480 months in 2023. Other sentences have ranged from 120 months to life imprisonment.

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10. *United States v. Arbuckle*, 4:06cr198 (E.D. Tex.) (Schnieder, J.)

In my role as the lead prosecutor for the United States, I directed the prosecution of a groundbreaking case that centered on the laundering of millions of dollars through eBay accounts spanning both Europe and the United States. Notably, this case marked a pioneering effort in 2007, as it was the first prosecution of an individual who had been utilizing debit cards for the extensive international laundering of substantial sums of money. The defendant employed eBay accounts acquired from Russian hackers, linking these accounts to his own company, which managed debit card access accounts. Through this intricate scheme, the defendant illicitly siphoned off millions of dollars from

unsuspecting victims.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration-Dallas with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Texas Department of Public Safety, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, and the Frisco, Texas Police Department. I coordinated this team of federal, state, and local investigators. I responded to numerous pre-trial motions filed by the defendant and prepared witnesses for trial and submitted all filings prior to trial. On the day of trial, the defendant pled guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. The defendant was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment followed by a term of five years of supervised release after imprisonment.

Representation Dates: 2006 – 2008

Co-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.)

In my capacity as a prosecutor within the United States Department of Justice, I have actively engaged in the mentorship of prosecutors within the Eastern District of Texas. Throughout my 23-year tenure as a federal prosecutor, my training involvement has spanned diverse areas such as trial advocacy, cross-examination techniques, witness preparation, utilization of cooperating defendants, wire intercepts, immigration matters, firearms cases, and various other legal topics. I am also actively engaged in the Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) program, which has involved providing legal instruction and training to prosecutors in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia.

Furthermore, from February to August 2023, I served as Resident Legal Adviser (RLA) for the Department of Justice at the United States Embassy in Guatemala City, Guatemala. In this capacity, I functioned as a liaison between law enforcement and prosecutors in both the United States and Guatemala. As RLA, my responsibilities extended to providing counsel to the ambassador on legal matters of interest to the Department of Justice, as well as offering assistance on any other legal issues of concern to the ambassador.

I have not performed lobbying activities 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 four (4) copies to the committee.

None.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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 Financial Disclosure Report and will 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.

If confirmed, I will continue to recuse myself from any case in which I or an immediate family member has a financial interest, as well as any case involving a party I prosecuted. Otherwise, no family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, or financial arrangements are likely to present actual or potential conflicts of interest for me.

- 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 would continue to resolve any potential conflict of interest by adhering to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, 28 U.S.C. § 455, and all applicable policies and procedures of the United States Courts.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

Throughout my legal career, I have exclusively served the community as both a state and federal prosecutor. While I haven't directly represented indigent clients due to potential conflicts, I have remained dedicated to supporting the disadvantaged within my community. I actively engage in volunteer work, collaborating with local organizations such as my church and food bank. This commitment extends to participation in food drives, meal preparation initiatives, and the orchestration of clothing and food collections. Furthermore, I contribute my time and effort to annual community events, such as the Thanksgiving meal sponsored by local businesses, exemplifying my ongoing commitment to community service and humanitarian projects.

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 May 27, 2022, I submitted an application to the judicial screening committee for Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz. On March 17, 2023, I interviewed with the screening committee. On May 5, 2023, I interviewed with Senator Cornyn. On May 10, 2023, I interviewed with Senator Cruz. On May 25, 2023, I was notified that Senators Cornyn and Cruz had submitted my name to the White House as a potential candidate for nomination. On August 2, 2023, the White House Counsel's Office informed me that Senators Cornyn and Cruz had recommended me as a potential candidate for nomination. On August 8, 2023, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office, who informed me on October 26, 2023, that I would be moving forward in the selection process. Since then, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice. On December 19, 2023, the President announced his intent to 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.