

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Arthur Roberts "Rob" Jones

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

United States District Judge for the Southern 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.

United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2300
Houston, Texas 77002

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

1969; New York, New York

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 – 1994, Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 1994

1987 – 1991, Indiana University, B.A. (With Distinction, and Honors in History), 1991

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.

2011 – present
U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas
Houston Division
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2300
Houston, Texas 77002

Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney (2025 – present)
Deputy Criminal Chief (2021 – 2025)
Assistant U.S. Attorney (2011 – 2021)

2002 – 2011
U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas
Laredo Division
1100 Matamoros Street, Suite 200
Laredo, Texas 78042
Assistant U.S. Attorney (2002 – 2011)

2002 – 2023
United States Air Force Reserve
Judge Advocate General's Corps
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate
 Scott AFB, Illinois (2021 – 2023)
 Travis AFB, California (2017 – 2021)
 JBSA-Lackland, Texas (2004 – 2017)
Individual Mobilization Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate
 Travis AFB, California (2019 – 2021)
Circuit Trial Counsel
 JBSA-Randolph, Texas (2002 – 2004)

1995 – 2002
United States Air Force
Judge Advocate General's Corps
Circuit Defense Counsel
 Randolph AFB, Texas (1999 – 2002),
Area Defense Counsel
 Incirlik AB, Turkey (1997 – 1999)
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate
 RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom (1995 – 1997)
Student
 Maxwell AFB, Alabama (1995)

1991 – 1993
Georgetown University Law Center
600 New Jersey Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001
Shuttle Bus Driver (1991 – 1992)
Research Assistant (1992 – 1993)

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.

1995 – 2002, United States Air Force, Major, Honorable Discharge

2002 – 2023, United States Air Force Reserve, Lieutenant Colonel (O-5), Honorable Discharge and retired.

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.

Military Awards (authorized for wear on uniform, listed in order of precedence)

Meritorious Service Medal (2002, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2021, 2023)
Air Force Commendation Medal (1997, 1999)
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (1996, 1997, 2002)
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (2002)
National Defense Service Medal (1995, 2002)
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2003)
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal (1995, 2002)
Air Force Overseas Ribbon (Short Tour) (1999)
Air Force Overseas Ribbon (Long Tour) (1997)
Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019)
Air Force Training Ribbon (1995)

Other Military Awards

Reginald C. Harmon Award, Outstanding Air Force Reserve Judge Advocate for Second Air Force (2006)

TORCH Award for outstanding contributions to Air Education and Training Command (2006)

Department of Justice/U.S. Attorney's Office

Distinguished Service Award from the Department of Justice's Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division (2019)

United States Attorney Award for exceptional performance as an AUSA, approximately 15 times between 2003 and 2025

At Indiana University:

Phi Beta Kappa (1991)
Degree conferred with distinction and honors from the Department of History (1991)
Charles W. Stoltz Prize for top American History Graduate (1991)
Arthur Metz merit-based academic scholarship (1987 – 1991)
Member of Dean's List for Academic Achievement (1987 – 1991)
Member of Honors Division (1987 – 1991)

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.

I believe I was a member of the American Bar Association for one year after I graduated from law school. I recall the ABA offered free membership for one year to new law school graduates and I think I took them up on their offer. I did not renew my membership beyond that initial year.

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.

Pennsylvania, 1994
Texas, 2006

There have been no lapses in membership.

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

Supreme Court of the United States, 2001
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2003
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, 1995
United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, 2003
Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, 1995

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.

Coastal Conservation Association (1999 – 2026 approximately)
Gun Owners of America (2025 – 2026)

- 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.

Neither of the above groups discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin.

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

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

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.

Kidnapping victims' conditions worst prosecutor has ever seen, Click2Houston.com, April 4, 2015. Copy of article available at <https://www.click2houston.com/news/2015/04/04/kidnapping-victims-conditions-worst-prosecutor-has-ever-seen/>.

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: _____ %

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:

None.

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;

None.

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

None.

- 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;

2011 – present

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Houston Division

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Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney (2025 – present)

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2002 – 2023

United States Air Force Reserve

Judge Advocate General's Corps

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

Scott AFB, Illinois (2021 – 2023)

Travis AFB, California (2017 – 2021)

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JBSA-Randolph, Texas (2002 – 2004)

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Randolph AFB, Texas (1999 – 2002)
Area Defense Counsel
Incirlik AB, Turkey (1997 – 1999)
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate
RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom (1995 – 1997)
Student
Maxwell AFB, Alabama (1995)

- 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.

None.

b. Describe:

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

My law practice has been in federal criminal litigation. When I was on active duty in the Air Force, I also practiced a limited amount of civil and administrative law, primarily during my first assignment from 1995 to 1997. From 1997 to 2002, my practice was almost exclusively criminal litigation in military courts. When I separated from the Air Force in 2002 and became an Assistant United States Attorney, my practice remained exclusively federal criminal litigation, now in civilian courts. Since 2021, I have been part of the management team in the Southern District of Texas. I was first elevated to be a supervisory attorney in the National Security and Public Corruption Section. In 2025, I became one of two Executive Assistant United States Attorneys in the office. In this position, I serve as the hiring coordinator for our office and also advise the District's prosecutors on matters related to legal and government ethics and professional responsibility.

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

For the vast majority of my practice, I have been a federal prosecutor, and my client has been the United States of America. From 1997 to 2002, I was a defense

counsel in the Air Force, and my typical clients were members of the Air Force who were accused of criminal misconduct. I also represented, as defense counsel, Air Force members who were facing administrative or other similar non-criminal disciplinary actions.

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.

My entire practice as an attorney has been in litigation and I appear in court frequently.

i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------|
| 1. | federal courts: | 100% |
| 2. | state courts of record: | 0% |
| 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.

60. In approximately half of these cases I was sole counsel. In the other half of the cases where I was not sole counsel, on approximately half of those I was chief counsel (also known as first chair), and on the other half I was associate counsel (also known as second chair).

i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----|
| 1. | jury: | 75% |
| 2. | non-jury: | 25% |

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.

None.

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. Rodolfo "Rudy" Delgado*, 4:18-CR-115 (S.D. Tex. – Houston Division) (Judge Alfred H. Bennett), 984 F.3d 435 (5th Cir. 2021) (Judges Dennis, Higginson and Willett) (Representation 2018 – 2021)

I prosecuted this case of a corrupt Texas state district judge in McAllen, Texas. Defendant Delgado was formerly a Judge of the 93rd Judicial District of Texas in Hidalgo County and served in that position since he was first elected in 2000. Noe Perez was an attorney in McAllen, Texas who regularly appeared before Delgado in criminal cases. There had long been rumors that Delgado was corrupt, but it was not until FBI agents began investigating Perez in 2016 for bribing judges that they were able to put together a case against him. Agents confronted Perez with these bribery allegations, and he admitted to bribing Delgado. Subsequently, on multiple occasions between 2016 and 2018, agents were able to make audio and video recordings of Delgado agreeing to accept cash and other things of value from Perez in exchange for making favorable rulings for Perez's clients. The investigation led to an eight-count indictment against Delgado charging him with various bribery and obstruction of justice offenses. Delgado elected to go to trial in July 2019. After an eight-day trial, the jury convicted Delgado on all counts. Perez had earlier pled guilty to bribing Delgado and testified against him at trial. The Court sentenced Delgado to 60 months in federal prison, and sentenced Perez to 24 months. The Fifth Circuit affirmed Delgado's conviction and sentence.

Co-counsel

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Guerra
U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas
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McAllen, TX 78501
956-992-9354

Peter Nothstein
U.S. Department of Justice
1301 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530
202-353-2037

Opposing counsel

Michael McCrum
1659 TX-56 W, Suite 115, PMB 487
New Braunfels, TX 78132
210-225-2285

Terry Shamsie
4002 Castle Valley Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78410-3629
361-960-6300

2. *United States v. Leatrice Malika DeBruhl-Daniels et al.*, 4:18-CR-199 (S.D. Tex. – Houston Division) (Judge Gray H. Miller (retired)), 118 F.4th 735 (5th Cir. 2024) (Judges Jones, Clement and Wilson) (Representation 2018 – 2025)

I prosecuted DeBruhl-Daniels, a corrupt Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) agent stationed in Dubai, for bribery, making false statements, and obstruction of justice. DeBruhl-Daniels' actions came to light during an FBI investigation in Houston into passport fraud, providing material support to terrorists, violations of export control laws, and various other offenses between 2015 and 2018. One of the targets of the investigation was a former Houston resident who had his United States visa revoked after he came under investigation. He returned to his home in Dubai where he met DeBruhl-Daniels, and they developed a personal and sexual relationship. DeBruhl-Daniels exploited the target's desire to get his visa by telling him she could help him obtain it in exchange for money, jewelry and sexual favors. She also told him he was under criminal investigation, and that he should not return to the United States or he would be arrested. DeBruhl-Daniels also spoke to several FBI agents in the investigation in order to obtain information regarding their investigation into her paramour, including classified information. She did not disclose her relationship with the target, she instead told the FBI agents that she wanted information because she was also investigating him. Armed with the FBI's information, she coached the target on how to respond when FBI agents traveled to Dubai to interview him. We ultimately charged six defendants in the case with a variety of crimes, and all but DeBruhl-Daniels pleaded guilty. DeBruhl-Daniels' paramour cooperated and pleaded guilty to committing passport fraud and testified against his DeBruhl-Daniels. DeBruhl-Daniels went to trial in June 2022. I tried this week-long jury trial, and the jury convicted her of one count of bribery of a public official, four counts of obstruction of justice, and seven counts of making false statements. The Court sentenced her to 108 months in prison. DeBruhl-Daniels appealed her convictions. The Fifth Circuit delayed scheduling the argument until after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *United States v. Fischer* in 2024. Based upon *Fischer*, the Fifth Circuit overturned three of the four counts of obstruction of justice. The Fifth Circuit ordered the district court to resentence her. DeBruhl-Daniels' son died by suicide just before her resentencing in February

2025. After receiving that news, and a new lower Guideline range of imprisonment due to the lesser number of counts she faced, the Court reduced her sentence to time served, approximately 31 months.

Co-counsel

Alamdar Hamdani (then-Assistant U.S. Attorney)
Bracewell LLP
711 Louisiana Street, Suite 2300
Houston, TX 77002
832-654-6478

Opposing counsel

Philip Gallagher
Federal Public Defender
440 Louisiana Street, #1350
Houston, TX 77002
713-718-4600

Kevin Cobb
Washington State Office of the Attorney General
Assistant Attorney General
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104
206-464-7744

3. *United States v. Sergio Villarreal-Barragan aka "El Grande,"* 5:10-CR-2526 (S.D. Tex. – Laredo Division) (Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo) (Representation 2010 – 2020)

I prosecuted a high-ranking leader of the Beltran-Leyva Cartel, an international drug trafficking and money laundering organization based in Mexico and headed by Arturo Beltran-Leyva (ABL) before he was killed by Mexican military in 2009. Sergio Villarreal-Barragan was ABL's top lieutenant and enforcer for the cartel, which was responsible for trafficking vast amounts of cocaine and other drugs to the United States. In 2010, the Mexican military arrested Villarreal-Barragan, and I promptly secured a grand indictment in Laredo, Texas to indict him for several drug trafficking and money laundering crimes. He was extradited to the United States and ultimately pleaded guilty to trafficking significant amounts of drugs for the ABL organization, sometimes as much as approximately 40 tons of cocaine per month, to the United States and laundering the millions of dollars in proceeds from those sales.

Opposing counsel

Scott McCrum
222 S. Flores St.
San Antonio, TX 78204-1011
210-225-4851

4. *United States v. Sandra Luz Castro*, 5:03-CR-579 (S.D. Tex. – Laredo Division) (Judge Keith Ellison), No.04-4012 (5th Cir. 2005, unpublished) (Judges Benavides, Clement and Prado) (Representation 2003 – 2005)

I prosecuted this felony tax fraud case in a week-long jury trial in Laredo in August 2003. The defendant, a Laredo tax preparer, was charged with 15 counts of federal tax fraud for knowingly preparing fraudulent United States income tax returns for her clients which would generate large refunds from the government. The refunds were typically in the thousands of dollars, of which the defendant would charge a 10% preparation fee. After a lengthy trial involving numerous witnesses and thousands of pages of documents, the jury convicted Ms. Castro on all 15 counts. The Court subsequently sentenced her to 36 months in prison, the statutory maximum, and to pay for the costs of her prosecution.

Co-counsel

Major General Dixie Morrow
107 Palo Alto
Boerne, TX 78006
850-529-5078

Opposing Counsel

Assistant Federal Public Defender Arturo Villarreal
Assistant Federal Public Defender David Castillo
1202 Houston Street
Laredo, TX 78040
956-753-5313

5. *United States v. Jaime Garcia-Gil*, 5:03-CR-652 (S.D. Tex. – Laredo Division) (Judge Filemon Vela), No. 03-41142 (5th Cir. 2005, unpublished) (Judges Reavley, DeMoss and Prado) (Representation 2003 – 2005)

I prosecuted this felony drug trafficking case during a two-day jury trial in Laredo in June 2003. The defendant was caught transporting approximately 38 kilograms of cocaine through the United States Border Patrol checkpoint on Highway 59 west of Freer, Texas. The defendant denied knowledge of the drugs. The jury convicted the defendant and the Court sentenced him to 151 months in prison. Mr. Garcia-Gil appealed the verdict and sentence. I argued the appeal before a Fifth Circuit panel sitting in Austin, Texas in February 2005. The appeal was the first time the Fifth Circuit considered a sentencing appeal after the Supreme Court ruling in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005). The main issue on appeal was whether *Booker* required a new sentencing hearing under the now-advisory guidelines. The sentencing judge had passed away by the time of the appeal. Ultimately, the Fifth Circuit ruled in the government's favor on all appellate issues and the conviction and sentence were affirmed.

Co-counsel

U.S. District Judge Diana Saldaña
1300 Victoria Street
Laredo, TX 78040
956-790-1381

Opposing Counsel

Assistant Federal Public Defender John Paul
1202 Houston Street
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956-753-5313

Rolando Garza
Webb County Attorney's Office
1110 Washington Street, Suite 301
Laredo, TX 78040
956-523-4044

6. *United States v. Cardenas Autoplex, Inc.*, 7:07-CR-483 (S.D. Tex. – Brownsville Division) (Judge Andrew Hanen) (Representation 2007 – 2008)

I prosecuted this corporate felony case in Brownsville, Texas from approximately June 2007 to May 2008. This defendant, a corporation and prominent automobile dealership in Brownsville, was charged with selling certain cars for over \$10,000.00 in cash and not reporting that transaction to the IRS as required by law. As it turned out, several of the unreported transactions in the case involved cars sold to large-scale drug traffickers. The case was one of the only times a car dealership in the United States has been prosecuted for this offense. This case received media coverage in the Rio Grande Valley. Ultimately, the corporation pleaded guilty to failing to report the transactions as charged. The Court sentenced it to five years of probation and a \$100,000.00 fine. The defendant did not appeal the case.

Opposing Counsel

Eric Reed
440 Louisiana, Suite 720
Houston, TX 77002
713-600-1800

John Patrick Smith (deceased)

7. *United States v. Jimmy Ray Frazier*, 5:03-CR-810-S (S.D. Tex. – Laredo Division) (Judge George Kazen) (Representation 2003 – 2004)

I prosecuted this felony alien smuggling trial before a jury in Laredo twice. The first trial resulted in a hung jury in July 2003. The second trial was in September 2003. The defendant was charged with transporting undocumented aliens and conspiring to do so. The evidence showed that he was part of a large alien

smuggling group who transported undocumented aliens by putting them in trunks of rental cars and driving them from Laredo to places like Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Frazier hired drivers to drive the cars so that he could claim he did not know what was going on if the driver got stopped. After the second jury found the defendant guilty on all charges, the Court subsequently sentenced him to 70 months in prison. The investigation also revealed numerous other co-conspirators, and we were able to convict most of those individuals as well. The prosecution dismantled a major alien smuggling organization operating throughout Texas.

Opposing Counsel

Oscar O. Pena
1720 Matamoros Street
Laredo, TX 78040
956-722-5167

8. *United States v. Kaan Sercan Damlarkaya*, 4:17-CR-737 (S.D. Tex. – Houston Division) (Judge Andrew Hanen) (Representation 2017 – 2023)

I prosecuted this terrorism case involving a United States citizen of Turkish descent residing in the Houston, Texas area who was attempting to travel to Syria to join ISIS and fight against the United States of America. He expressed a desire to kill Americans as part of his support of ISIS. Mr. Damlarkaya had relatives in Turkey. In 2017, he used a visit with family members in Turkey as a ruse to hide his true plans. Federal agents learned of his intent, and arrested Mr. Damlarkaya in late 2017, shortly before he boarded a plane to Turkey. Mr. Damlarkaya ultimately pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS, a designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO), and the Court sentenced him to 165 months in prison and a lifetime of supervised release.

Co-counsel

Alamdor Hamdani (then-Assistant U.S. Attorney)
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711 Louisiana Street, Suite 2300
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832-654-6478

Opposing counsel

Gary Tabakman
Law Office of Gary Tabakman
4801 Woodway Dr., Suite 300 West
Houston, TX 77056
713-429-1624

9. *United States v. Miguel Garza*, 7:22-CR-721 (S.D. Tex – McAllen Division) (Chief United States District Judge Randy Crane) (Representation 2022 – 2026); *United States*

v. Jorge Salinas, (S.D. Tex. – McAllen Division) (United States District Judge Drew Tipton) (Representation 2024 – 2026)

I prosecuted these companion public corruption cases involving a common scheme whereby a South Texas business owner who was hoping to have the City of Edinburg hire his company to do business with the city was being forced to pay bribes in order to get the Edinburg City Council to award his company the contract. FBI agents were able to investigate this scheme and determined that defendant Miguel Garza, a McAllen resident active in political circles and in contact with several members of the Edinburg City Council, had been talking to the business owner about his need to pay bribes to members of the City Council to get the contract. Agents were subsequently able to set up a series of recorded meetings involving Garza, then-Edinburg City Council member Jorge Salinas, the business owner, and others. These meetings, and other evidence, showed Garza was actively involved in the bribery scheme, and Salinas was assisting him in executing it via his position on the City Council. Garza and Salinas each pled guilty, and the Court later sentenced them to 13 months and 6 months in custody, respectively.

Co-counsel

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Guerra
U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas
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Opposing Counsel

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10. *United States v. Fred Edward Washington et al.*, 4:20-CR-13 (S.D. Tex. – Houston Division) (Judge Vanessa Gilmore) (Representation 2020 – 2024)

I prosecuted this public corruption case where illegal alien inmates pending deportation bribed a guard at the detention facility where they were being held to bring contraband into the facility. In the late summer of 2019, agents from the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General (DHS-OIG) received information that inmates being at the Montgomery Processing Center (MPC) immigration detention facility in Conroe, Texas were smuggling contraband into the facility. The investigation revealed that at least two inmates were involved

in the scheme, and that a guard employed at the MPC, defendant Fred Edward Washington, Jr., would pick up the contraband from defendant Kenesha Steele, a civilian living in Conroe, and bring it into the MPC when he came in on his shift. Washington then distributed the contraband to the inmates, defendants Sebastian Fleurisaint and Ahmed Mosbah Nassar, among potentially others. Agents conducted surveillance on September 3, 2019, and observed Washington bringing a suspicious package into the MPC when he began his shift that day. Agents confronted Washington and examined the suspicious package. The package contained a pornographic magazine, cigarettes, marijuana, and methamphetamine. Washington waived his rights and confessed to agents to smuggling in the contraband in exchange for money and told them this was the fourth or fifth time he had done so. Washington, Steele, Fleurisaint, and Nassar were each charged with a variety of bribery and contraband offenses, and each pleaded guilty to their respective role in the smuggling scheme. The Court sentenced the defendants to various terms of imprisonment ranging from 12 to 24 months.

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.)

Since my graduation from law school, I have dedicated my legal career to public service both in

the military and as a civilian federal prosecutor. In these endeavors I have always pursued justice, both as a military and civilian prosecutor, and believe these efforts to have been significant in the thousands of matters I have investigated and prosecuted. As a defense attorney on active duty in the Air Force, I worked hard to achieve the best results for my clients because my clients were people that had volunteered to serve the United States, and when they were accused of misconduct I always fought as hard as could, within the bounds of legal ethics, to get them the best possible result in each of their cases.

Beyond these things, since I have been in management of our office for the last several years and I have had the wonderful opportunity to supervise and mentor a fantastic group of federal prosecutors. This experience has been very rewarding, and these attorneys have had a tremendous amount of success during this time, and I like to think my guidance and support may have helped them in some way produce these results. Since I have been an Executive AUSA, I have also been fortunate to be in charge of our District's recruitment and hiring efforts for AUSAs. This experience has been both challenging and rewarding, and I am optimistic that my efforts in that area have helped our U.S. Attorney hire some very high-quality prosecutors who will serve the people of our District and the United States well for years to come.

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

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.

As a result of my federal service, I will be entitled to receive a pension under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Upon turning 60, I will be eligible to receive retirement pay for my Air Force service.

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

I have no such plans or commitments.

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 transmitted 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 recuse in any litigation where I have played a direct role. There are no family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest that I am aware of.

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 case-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 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 and practices governing such 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.

My entire legal career has been in public service, and a significant portion of my work has served the disadvantaged in some capacity. For all of my professional career, I have worked for either

the Department of Justice or the United States Air Force. Because of these federal positions, I generally have been restricted from engaging in the practice of law on behalf of any entity other than the federal government. I have not worked outside these public service positions in a pro bono capacity.

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 January of 2025, Senators Cruz and Cornyn from Texas announced on their respective websites they were accepting applications for judicial vacancies in Texas. I applied for such a judicial position on February 27, 2025. I was subsequently invited to interview with Texas' Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee (FJEC), and I did so on April 24, 2025. The FJEC recommended me to both Senators, with whom I interviewed on September 4, 2025. I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office on November 10, 2025. Since then, I have been in contact with officials from the White House Counsel's Office and Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy regarding the nomination.

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, ARTHUR ROBERTS JONES, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

MARCH 25, 2026
(DATE)


(NAME)

Gwendolyn D. Braxton
(NOTARY)

