

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Nancy Lee Maldonado

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

United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit

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 District Court
Dirksen Federal Building
219 South Dearborn, Room 1956
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Residence: Chicago Metropolitan Area, Illinois

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

1975; Skokie, Illinois

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.

1998 – 2001, Columbia Law School; J.D., 2001

1993 – 1997, Harvard College; A.B. (*cum laude*), 1997

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.

2022 – present
United States District Court

Dirksen Federal Building
219 South Dearborn, Room 1956
Chicago, Illinois 60604
District Judge

1997 – 1998; 2003 – 2022
Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C.
325 North LaSalle Drive, Suite 350
Chicago, Illinois 60654
Partner (2010 – 2022)
Associate (2003 – 2009)
Paralegal (1997 – 1998)

2018 – 2022
Heaven Meets Earth
2746 Central Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Yoga Instructor

2019
Claretian Missionaries Service Corporation
205 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Yoga Instructor

2001 – 2003
United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Law Clerk to the Honorable Rubén Castillo

Summer 2001
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP
155 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Summer Associate

Summer 2000
Mayer Brown LLP
71 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Summer Associate

Summer 2000
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
919 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Summer Associate

Summer 1999

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos
Jirón Pachacútec 980 Jesus Maria
Lima, Perú
Law Student Fellow

Other affiliations (uncompensated unless otherwise indicated):

2019 – 2022

Illinois State Police Merit Board
531 Sangamon Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62702
Board Member

(Pursuant to 20 ILCS § 2610/5, I received a daily stipend for my work on the Board; I received no other compensation for my Board service.)

2019 – 2022

Apna Ghar (Our Home)
4350 North Broadway, Second Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60613
Board of Directors, Member

2005 – 2022

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
100 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Board of Directors, President (2015)
Board of Directors, Vice President (2014)
Board of Directors, Treasurer (2013)
Board of Directors, Member (2005 – 2022)

2019

Chicago Yoga Project
2746 Central Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Board of Directors, President (2019)
Board of Directors, Member (2019)

2003 – 2009

La Casa Norte
3533 West North Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60647
Board of Directors, Secretary (2004)
Board of Directors, Member (2003 – 2009)

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 was not required to register for the selective service.

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

Puerto Rican Arts Alliance Felisa Rincón de Gautier Legal Trailblazer Award (2023)

Cook County State's Attorney Phenomenal Woman Award (2023)

Illinois Latino Judges Association Trailblazer Award (2022)

Harvard Law School, Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow (2019 – 2020)

Leadership Greater Chicago, Fellow (2019)

Crain's Chicago Business, Chicago's Notable Minority Lawyers (2018)

American Bar Foundation, Fellow (2017 – 2022)

Hispanic Lawyers' Association of Illinois, Mentor of the Year (2007)

Columbia Law School

Stone Scholar (1999 – 2001)

Columbia Human Rights Law Review

Managing Editor (2000 – 2001)

Student Editor (1999 – 2000)

Columbia Human Rights Internship (1999)

Harvard College

Graduated *Cum Laude* (1997)

Awarded *Magna Cum Laude* for Senior Thesis (1997)

Dean's List (1993 – 1997)

Rockefeller Center Travel Grant for Latin American Studies (1996)

Harvard Foundation Award, Honorable Mention (1994)

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.

American Bar Association

Chicago Bar Association

Federal Bar Association

Hispanic Lawyers' Association of Illinois

Judiciary Committee (2002 – 2003 (approximately))

Latina Commission (2020 – 2022)

Latina Lawyers' Committee (2001 – 2003 (approximately))

Hispanic National Bar Association

Task Force on Puerto Rico (2016)

Illinois State Bar Association

National Employment Lawyers' Association

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (2022 – present)

Information Technology Committee (2024 – 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.

Illinois, 2001

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 Seventh Circuit, 2012

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 2003

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, 2021

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.

Apna Ghar (Our Home) (2019 – 2022)

Board of Directors, Member (2019 – 2022)

Resource Development Committee (2019 – 2020)

ARISE Legal Advisory Board (2015 – 2022)

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (2005 – 2022)

Board of Directors, President (2015)

Board of Directors, Vice President (2014)

Board of Directors, Treasurer (2013)

Board of Directors, Member (2005 – 2022)

Executive Committee

Chair (2014 – 2015)

Co-Chair (2013 – 2014)

Member (2013 – 2016)

Finance Committee

Chair (2013 – 2014)

Member (2013 – 2020)

Gala Host Committee (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)

Governance Committee (2019 – 2022)

Chicago Yoga Project (2019)

Board of Directors, President (2019)

Board of Directors, Member (2019)

La Casa Norte (2003 – 2009)

Board of Directors, Secretary (2004)

Board of Directors, Member (2003 – 2009)

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

12. Published Writings and Public Statements:

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

Illinois Law on Criminal Record and Arrest History, ARISE Workers' Rights Manual (2015). Copy supplied.

- 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.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, my name is listed on the following annual reports. I did not draft, edit, or participate in any way in the reports' creation, and the Board was not asked to vote on or approve their contents.

Until Victory is Won, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (2020). Copy supplied.

Celebrating 50 Years: 1969 – 2019, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (2019). Copy supplied.

The March Continues: 2015 – 2016 Highlights, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (2016). Copy supplied.

Celebrating 45 Years on the March Toward Justice, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (2014). Copy supplied.

2012 – 2013 Highlights, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (2013). Copy supplied.

As a member of the Board of Directors of Apna Ghar, my name is listed on the following report. I did not draft, edit, or participate in any way in the report's creation, and the Board was not asked to vote on or approve its contents.

Annual Report, Apna Ghar (2019). Copy supplied.

- 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.

I have searched my files, electronic and otherwise, in an effort to locate all materials responsive to this question. I have located the materials listed below, but it is possible that there are a few that I have been unable to identify.

On May 11, 2022, I testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding my nomination to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Video available at <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/05/11/2022/nominations>, and responses to written questions supplied.

Between July 2019 and July 2022, I served on the Illinois State Police Merit Board. As a Board member, I attended regular Board meetings where I often spoke and voted on personnel-related and other Board matters. The Board's meeting minutes are available at <https://www.illinoistrooper.com/index.php/board-meetings>. I have reviewed all the written minutes from July 2019 to July 2022, and as a matter of practice, none of the minutes specify which Board member made a motion or note any specific statements made by Board members. The open session of the Board's meetings is open to the public, and they were recorded during the pandemic. I requested and reviewed those recordings from 2020 and 2021, which are available to the public upon request, and I made a motion or substantive statement during the open session of the January 19, 2021, and March 12, 2021, Board meetings only. Videos supplied.

Letter from Latinx Alumni of Columbia Law School to Senators Durbin, Grassley, McConnell, and Schumer in Support of the Nomination of Myrna Perez to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (Sept. 8, 2021). Copy supplied.

Letter from Attorneys to Senators Durbin and Grassley in Support of the Nomination of Candace Jackson-Akiwumi to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (Apr. 26, 2021). Copy supplied.

Public Comment (submitted via electronic mail) supporting the reinstatement of the Village Commissions on Human Relations and Housing (July 28, 2020). My July 28, 2020 public comments were later summarized at a Village Board meeting (Oct. 13, 2020). Minutes supplied.

Statement on Police Brutality and Public Demonstrations, Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C. (June 2020). While I did not draft the statement, I, along with all the shareholders in the partnership, approved the statement for publication. Copy supplied.

Letter from Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Opposition to the Nomination of Senator Jefferson Sessions to Serve as Attorney General of

the United States (Jan. 9, 2017). Copy supplied.

- 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.

January 29, 2024: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

October 16, 2023: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

September 20, 2023: Panelist, Judges' Pet Peeves: Advocacy Approaches That Work, and Those That Don't, Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law Associates Committee's Eleventh Annual Judges' Panel, Chicago, Illinois. The panel included four sitting judges who offered practice tips to lawyers. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. I could not locate any mailing address for the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law.

September 18, 2023: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

August 24, 2023: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

August 23, 2023: Panelist, Northern District Practice for New Lawyers and Lawyers-to-Be, Federal Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois. The panel provided practice advice to junior lawyers and law students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Federal Bar Association is P.O. Box 1200, Chicago, Illinois 60690.

July 14, 2023: Response, Investiture Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

July 11, 2023: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

June 8, 2023: Panelist, Meet the New Northern District Judges, Federal Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois. The panel introduced four new district judges and fielded questions from a moderator and bar members about our experiences on the bench and effective advocacy tips. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Federal Bar Association is P.O. Box 1200, Chicago, Illinois 60690.

April 28, 2023: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

April 1, 2023: Keynote speaker, 20th Annual Illinois Latino Law Student Association Forum, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke to law students and aspiring law students (college and high school) in a mentoring-style speech. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the DePaul Latino Law Student Association is 25 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

March 23, 2023: Acceptance speech, Cook County State's Attorney Phenomenal Woman Award, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

March 23, 2023: Acceptance speech, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance Felisa Rincón de Gautier Legal Trailblazer Award, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

February 16, 2023: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

January 13, 2023: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

December 1, 2022: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

November 7, 2022: Presiding Judge, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

October 31, 2022: Speaker, Fireside Chat with Judge Nancy Maldonado CLS '01, Columbia University Club of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about my career and path to the bench. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. I could not locate a mailing address for the Columbia University Club of Chicago.

October 27, 2022: Speaker, Celebrate Herstory: An Evening in Celebration of the Hon. Nancy Maldonado, Co-hosted by Dykema Gossett PLLC, the Illinois Latino

Judges Association, and the Hispanic Lawyers' Association of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. I was interviewed about my background and path to the bench. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Dykema Gossett PLLC is 10 South Wacker Drive #2300 Chicago, Illinois 60606; the address for the Illinois Latino Judges Association is 20 South Clark Street, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60603; and the mailing address of the Hispanic Lawyers' Association of Illinois is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

July 29, 2022: Acceptance speech, Illinois Latino Judges Association Trailblazer Award, Chicago, Illinois. I made a brief acceptance speech. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Illinois Latino Judges Association is 20 South Clark Street, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

October 3, 2020: Guest Lecturer, Emotional Distress Claims and Damages from a Practitioner's Perspective, Employment Discrimination Class, Northwestern Law School (virtual). Video supplied.

October 1, 2020: Moderator, Mindfulness for Lawyers in the Time of a Pandemic, Hispanic Lawyers' Association of Illinois (virtual). Notes supplied.

December 6, 2019: Panelist, Low Wage Workers: Challenges of Representing Them, and Defending Against Their Claims, Institute for Law and the Workplace Employment Law Conference, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

November 13, 2019: Presenter, Negotiation Workshop, Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about successful negotiation strategies. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement is 159 North Sangamon Street, Suite 200, Chicago, Illinois 60607.

October 2 – 4, 2019: Panelist, Public Interest Career Paths, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. As a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School, I met with students individually and with student groups to discuss public interest career paths, including my own. I also recall speaking at three or four events—hosted by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, the First Class Law Students Association, La Alianza, and the Office of Public Interest Advising—about various career options in public interest law. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings, except with respect to the Office of Public Interest Advising event, for which notes are supplied. The address for Harvard Law School is 1563 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138.

April 10, 2019: Keynote Speaker, Annual Banquet, Northwestern Latino Law Students Association, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

October 10, 2017: Speaker, Annual Meeting, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for

Civil Rights, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

July 30, 2015: Presenter, Annual Meeting, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

February 27, 2015: Presenter, History of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Northwestern Law School, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about the history of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and some of the key cases the organization has litigated. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Northwestern Law School is 375 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

2005 – 2007 (specific dates unknown): I spoke at a few Latino Law Student Association events at Chicago-Kent Law School and another Chicago-area law school (I cannot recall which). The remarks were generally motivational in nature. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for Chicago-Kent Law School is 565 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661.

2004 – 2005 (specific date unknown): Panelist, Tips for Legal Writing, Communications and Legal Reasoning Class, Northwestern Law School, Chicago, Illinois. On one occasion, I offered tips on effective legal writing to first year law students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Northwestern Law School is 375 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

- 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.

A lifelong 'peacemaker,' Maldonado applies skills to federal trial court, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin (July 31, 2023). Copy supplied.

Know Your Rights, Univision (May 18, 2016). I am unable to locate a copy, but press coverage is supplied.

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Announces New Executive Director, Daily Southtown (Nov. 12, 2015) (reprinted in multiple sources). Copy supplied.

A Firm With a Mission, Chi. Law. Mag. (Jan. 2009). Copy supplied.

Hispanic All-Stars Awards, Univision (May 28, 1993). I am unable to locate a copy, but press coverage is 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.

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

I have presided over one civil case that went to verdict after a jury trial.

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

jury trials:	100%
bench trials:	0%

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

civil proceedings:	100%
criminal proceedings:	0%

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

See attached list of citations.

- c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).

1. *Richardson v. Kharbouch*, No. 19 CV 02321, 2024 WL 50374 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 4, 2024); 2023 WL 2711480 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 30, 2023).

This was a copyright infringement action brought by a young music producer, Mr. Richardson, against a well-known hip-hop artist Mr. Kharbouch, who performs under the name French Montana. Mr. Richardson alleged that one of Mr. Kharbouch's songs infringed on Mr. Richardson's sound recording copyright in his own original recorded piece of music. When the case was reassigned to me in October 2022, it had pending cross motions for summary judgment, which I ruled upon. I granted Mr. Kharbouch's motion in large part, limiting the temporal scope of Mr. Richardson's claims and limiting him to one claim of statutory damages. I also denied Mr. Richardson's motion, finding that he had failed to establish actual copying as a matter of law. In ruling on the motion, I determined that the parties had overlooked a key issue as to whether Mr. Richardson could pursue his claim at all, because he had only registered a "sound recording" copyright, and not a "musical composition" copyright, and therefore had more limited exclusive rights under the Copyright Act. After giving the parties an opportunity to resolve the case after my first summary judgment ruling, I ordered

supplemental summary judgment briefing, and ultimately granted a motion for summary judgment by Mr. Kharbouch. I concluded, based on the relevant caselaw, that because Mr. Richardson had registered only a sound recording copyright, he could only establish infringement by demonstrating direct duplication or sampling of his recording. While Mr. Richardson came forward with evidence of similarity in the underlying compositions, his sound recording registration meant he did not have the exclusive rights in that composition, and he failed to come forward with any evidence demonstrating that the recording itself was duplicated or sampled. I thus concluded Mr. Kharbouch was entitled to judgment. The case involved novel issues of the standards of proof for sound recording infringement actions, as there was no controlling Seventh Circuit precedent. Mr. Richardson's appeal of my ruling is pending.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Tyase Hasan
Law Office of Tyase H. Hasan
20650 South Cicero Avenue #2102
Matteson, IL 60443
(312) 468-7280

Counsel for Defendant:

Dariush Ghaffar Adli
Adli Law Group PC
700 South Flower Street
Suite 1220
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 623-6546

2. *Baxter International, Inc. v. CareFusion Corporation et al.*, No. 15 CV 09986 (N.D. Ill. 2023)

This was a complex patent infringement case in which Baxter alleged that CareFusion infringed certain of Baxter's patents in medical infusion pump technology. This case was reassigned to me in November 2022 after the prior presiding judge recused herself. I presided over pretrial proceedings, including a number of highly-contested disputes related to the evidence that Baxter would be allowed to present with respect to damages. The prior judge had excluded Baxter's damages expert, and the parties disputed whether Baxter should be allowed to use previously-disclosed fact witnesses to prove their claimed damages, which they alleged were in excess of \$90 million. I allowed the parties to conduct supplemental damages discovery, but only with fact witnesses that had been previously disclosed and deposed in the case. After supplemental discovery, the case was set for trial in March 2024, and I granted the defendants' request to brief motions in limine on damages far in advance of trial in order to provide the parties clarity for their trial preparation and respective evaluations of the case. At a lengthy hearing in November 2023, I resolved the majority of the parties'

motions in limine on the record. The motions centered on the kinds of evidence Baxter would be allowed to put forward to establish the value of a hypothetical license for its patent, such as evidence of allegedly comparable licenses, and testimony from witnesses as to the value of the invention. I excluded some of Baxter's proposed evidence and testimony related to comparable licenses and allowed CareFusion to present certain evidence as to the recall of Baxter's products. Shortly after the hearing, the parties engaged in further settlement negotiations and ultimately settled the dispute in December 2023.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Julianne Marie Hartzell
Marshall, Gerstein & Borun
233 South Wacker Drive
6300 Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 474-6300

Counsel for Defendants

Omar Khan
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
7 World Trade Center
New York, NY 10007
(212) 937-7352

Kurt J. Niederluecke
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
60 South 6th Street, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 492-7000

3. *United States v. Ware and Reed*, No. 22 CR 126 (N.D. Ill. 2023)

This was a criminal case involving two defendants charged under the felon dispossession statute with unlawfully carrying firearms on a Chicago Transit Authority train after midnight wearing ski masks; both fled from the police when stopped. Both defendants pled guilty, and I sentenced them in November and December 2023 to terms of imprisonment of 30 and 38 months respectively. The sentences involved balancing criminal histories and the defendants' young ages and other mitigating factors with the serious nature of the crime. One of the defendant's cases involved a novel issue of whether he was entitled to a downward departure based on the recently-approved U.S. Sentencing Commission amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines, which allow for a downward departure if the defendant's prior criminal history points were assessed for marijuana possession. I declined to allow the downward departure because the quantity and packaging (i.e. "baggies") of marijuana involved did not suggest the defendant was engaged in simple possession.

Counsel for the United States:

Saurish Appleby-Bhattacharjee (Reed sentencing)
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
161 North Clark Street
Suite 4300
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 602-5000

Saqib Mohammad Hussain (Ware sentencing)
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-1414

Counsel for Defendant Reed:

Holly Nicole Blaine
Blaine & Vanzant, LLP
922 Davis Street
Evanston, IL 60201
(312) 788-7584

Counsel for Defendant Ware:

Anthony Joseph Sassan
Patton & Ryan, LLC
330 North Wabash Avenue
Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 261-5184

4. *In re Abubakar*, No. 23 CV 05099, 2023 WL 6392307 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 30, 2023)

Mr. Abubakar, a presidential candidate in Nigeria's February 2023 presidential election and a former Vice President of Nigeria, initiated this case under 28 U.S.C. § 1782 seeking to compel Chicago State University ("CSU") to produce records for use in a foreign proceeding. Specifically, Mr. Abubakar sought an order directing CSU to produce certain documents and testimony related to Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the declared winner of the February 2023 Nigerian presidential election. Mr. Abubakar had challenged the validity of President Tinubu's election in Nigerian courts on a number of grounds, including a claim that President Tinubu submitted a forged diploma stating that he graduated from CSU. Mr. Abubakar therefore sought records and testimony from CSU related to President Tinubu's diploma, contending that the discovery was needed to support his challenge to the election in the Nigerian courts. I was assigned this case after it was filed and referred Mr. Abubakar's petition to a magistrate judge for an initial

ruling. The magistrate judge issued a ruling recommending the grant of Mr. Abubakar's petition for discovery, and President Tinubu objected to the ruling and filed an emergency request that I review the magistrate judge's decision. The case involved the novel procedural question of whether the magistrate judge's ruling was a "final dispositive order" and novel questions of whether the requested discovery was able to be used in the foreign proceedings. Further, due to pending Nigerian court deadlines that might effectively moot the petitioner's request, I issued a written decision two days after briefing was complete. I ultimately upheld the magistrate judge's decision and ruled that CSU should produce the requested discovery to Mr. Abubakar over President Tinubu's objection.

Counsel for Petitioner Abubakar:

Alexandre de Gramont
Dechert LLP
1900 K Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 261-3300

Counsel for Respondent CSU:

Michael D. Hayes
Husch Blackwell LLP
120 South Riverside Plaza
Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 655-1500

Counsel for Intervenor President Tinubu:

Victor Henderson
Henderson Parks, LLC
140 South Dearborn Street
Suite 1020
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 262-2900

5. *Brinson v. Eagle Express Lines, Inc.*, No. 18 CV 3733, 2023 WL 6312400 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 28, 2023)

This is a civil case where a truck driver brought claims for sexual harassment and retaliation against his employer under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Mr. Brinson alleged that he was sexually harassed by another driver, and that his employer, Eagle Express, did nothing to address the harassment. Brinson further claimed that Eagle Express retaliated against him by terminating him after he got into a confrontation with the other driver about the harassment. The case was reassigned to me after I was sworn in, and I ruled on the pending motion for summary judgment. Eagle Express moved for summary judgment on the grounds

that Brinson could not establish that any harassment was severe or pervasive or on the basis of sex because the other driver was male, and further that his retaliation claim failed because he was disciplined for the legitimate reason of getting into a confrontation with the allegedly harassing co-worker. I ultimately granted summary judgment for Eagle Express on the retaliation claim because Brinson abandoned the claim in his briefing and further because I found that Brinson had not come forward with sufficient evidence to challenge Eagle Express's explanation that it terminated him for violating the employer's workplace conduct policy when he got in a dispute with the other employee. I otherwise denied summary judgment, finding that Brinson had come forward with sufficient evidence for a jury to find that the other employee had harassed him on the basis of sex, that the harassment was severe and pervasive, and that Eagle Express could be liable. The case is set for a jury trial on April 29, 2024.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Michael T. Smith
Michael T. Smith & Associates
10 North Martingale Road
Suite 400
Schaumburg, IL 60173
(847) 466-1099

Counsel for Defendant:

Joseph K. Nichele
Emmet Charles Fairfield
Ronald J. Broida
Broida and Nichele, Ltd.
1250 East Diehl Road
Suite 108
Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 245-1515

6. *Su v. Fensler*, No. 22 CV 01030, 2023 WL 5152640 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 10, 2023)

This is an enforcement action under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") by the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor against ten defendants for allegedly violating their fiduciary duties and engaging in prohibited transactions in violation of ERISA as part of their operation of the United Employee Benefit Fund Trust (the "Fund"). The Fund uses contributions to purchase life insurance policies on behalf of participating employees who are members of the National Production Workers Union Local 707. This case was reassigned to me when I was sworn in, and I have presided over the initial phases of the case, which included a motion by the Secretary for preliminary injunctive relief to remove two of the defendants (Messrs. Fernandez and Meyers) as trustees of the Fund and to install an independent fiduciary to oversee the Fund and its assets during the litigation based on allegations that the trustees were

depleting Fund assets by approving unreasonable attorney's fees. I granted the Secretary's motion and installed an independent fiduciary, a decision that Messrs. Fernandez and Meyers are currently appealing after I granted in part their motion to reconsider provisions of the injunction order and removed the provisions of the order that had required them to reimburse the Fund for the independent fiduciary's expenses prior to a finding of liability. I am currently overseeing discovery as well as, at the parties' request, mediating efforts to resolve the claims against certain defendants.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Aaron Wenzloff
Kevin Wilemon
U.S. Department of Labor
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 844
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 596-5437 (Wenzloff)
(312) 353-6973 (Wilemon)

Counsel for Defendants Fernandez and Meyers:

Christopher Rillo
Baker Botts LLP
101 California Street
Suite 3200
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 291-6257

Counsel for Defendant United Employee Benefit Fund Trust:

J. Graham Matherne
Wyatt Tarrant & Combs LLP
333 Commerce Street
Suite 1400
Nashville, TN 37201
(615) 251-6675

Counsel for the remaining seven defendants have separate counsel who I am not listing here because their activity before me has been limited to appearing at status hearings.

7. *Northwestern University v. City of Evanston*, No. 00 CV 07309 (N.D. Ill. 2023)

This was a civil case brought by Northwestern University against the City of Evanston in 2000 challenging the City's designation of a historic district and the accompanying ordinance under the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the 14th Amendment. The parties resolved the suit in 2004 by consent decree, which provided for the establishment of a special committee, comprised of

University representatives, community representatives, and an Alderman, to consider issues relating to construction and land use on certain historic district properties. In 2023, the City moved to modify the consent decree on the grounds of mistake to insert language that would in effect remove discussion of a controversial redevelopment project from the special committee's purview. After briefing and granting a motion to intervene from a special committee member, I declined to redraft the consent decree's language on the record before me, finding that its language was unambiguous.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Priya Harjani
Northwestern University
633 Clark Street
Evanston, IL 60208
(847) 491-5573

Counsel for Defendant:

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314 North Loomis
Suite G2
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 259-2556

Counsel for Intervenor:

David E. Schoenfeld
Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP
111 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 704-7700

8. *Hill v. City of Harvey et al.*, No. 17 CV 04699 (N.D. Ill. 2023)

This is a civil case involving claims for unlawful pretrial detention under the Fourth Amendment and malicious prosecution under state law. Mr. Hill alleged that two Harvey police officers wrongfully arrested him for attempted murder charges without probable cause after they allegedly coerced and fabricated witness identifications. This case was reassigned to me when I was sworn in; the previous judge had denied summary judgment and the case had a pretrial order deadline. Upon reassignment, the parties moved to vacate the impending pretrial deadline, which I reset, and I also set the case for trial. I then presided over the case for pretrial proceedings and trial. As part of the pretrial proceedings and during trial, I ruled on a number of evidentiary issues, including disputes over whether to allow the admission of certain police records and third-party written statements, whether to allow Mr. Hill to introduce evidence from his underlying criminal case, and whether to allow a key witness to have his testimony presented via deposition. I ordered the exclusion of certain third-party statements as

hearsay and allowed Mr. Hill to present evidence related to his criminal case and to present certain witness testimony via deposition. The jury trial resulted in a verdict for Mr. Hill for \$3,000,000 in compensatory damages against all defendants, and \$2,500 in punitive damages against one officer. The case is currently in the post-trial motion phase.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

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Dylan Brown
Patrick Solon
Vitale, Vickrey, Niro, Solon & Gasey LLP
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Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 236-0733

Counsel for Defendants:

Kathleen Kunkle
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Jeffrey Grossich
The Sotos Law Firm
141 West Jackson Boulevard #1240A
Chicago, IL 60604
(630) 735-3300

9. *Lietzow v. Vill. of Huntley*, No. 17 CV 05291, 2023 WL 2954989 (N.D. Ill. Apr. 14, 2023)

Mr. Lietzow brought civil rights claims against the Village of Huntley and several individual police officers for allegedly violating his Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable seizures and for unlawfully arresting and detaining him without probable cause. Mr. Lietzow alleged that the defendant officers illegally entered his home without consent and arrested him for domestic battery and resisting arrest without probable cause. The Village and defendant officers argued that they had consent from Mr. Lietzow's wife to enter his home and had probable cause to believe Mr. Lietzow had committed a crime because they had been dispatched to the scene based on a 911 call from a neighbor, in which the neighbor stated that Mr. Lietzow had attempted to choke his wife. The case was reassigned to me after I was sworn in, and I presided over the case for the summary judgment phase. I ultimately granted summary judgment to the defendants on Lietzow's Fourth Amendment and unlawful detention claims and declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Mr. Lietzow's remaining state

law claims. The case involved a somewhat novel question of whether Mr. Lietzow's objection to the officers' entry, as they were attempting to enter a door inside the garage into the home, overrode the wife's initial consent for the officers to enter. Mr. Lietzow additionally argued that his wife never provided voluntary consent. I concluded, however, based on the record at summary judgment, that reasonable officers in defendants' position would have believed they had consent to enter the home, based on the wife's responses to the officers' questions and the fact she opened the garage door for them. I further concluded that the officers had a reasonable basis to believe that Mr. Lietzow had committed a crime, based on the neighbor's statements on the 911 call that Mr. Lietzow had tried to choke his wife, and the wife's statements and appearance when she was interviewed by officers. Mr. Lietzow appealed my ruling, but the parties later stipulated to dismissal of the appeal.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

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6262 Kingery Highway
Willowbrook, IL 60527
(630) 329-3535

Richard J. Dvorak
Dvorak Law Offices, LLC
1 Walker Avenue
Suite 204
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
(312) 593-7146

Counsel for Defendant:

Kathleen Kunkle
Ancel Glink Diamond Bush DiCianni & Krafthefer PC
140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 782-7606

10. *Nelson v. Generations at Applewood, LLC et al.*, No. 19 CV 04639 (N.D. Ill. 2022)

This was an employment discrimination and retaliation case brought under the Civil Rights Act of 1866, 42 U.S.C. § 1981. Ms. Nelson is an African-American woman who alleged race discrimination by her supervisor at the nursing home where she was employed. The case was reassigned to me after I was sworn in with a pending motion for sanctions and a trial date. In the motion for sanctions against plaintiff's counsel, defendants maintained that plaintiff's counsel engaged in misconduct during Ms. Nelson's virtual deposition, including whispering to her how she should respond to questions and passing her notes during her testimony.

I held a hearing on the motion for sanctions in December 2022, and I granted the motion in a lengthy oral ruling. I concluded that plaintiff's counsel had engaged in misconduct by coaching a witness during the video deposition and ordered the sanctions of barring counsel from the courtroom during the scheduled April 2023 trial, as well as ordering him to pay defendants' attorney's fees for bringing the motion. At the same time, the video-recorded deposition displayed incivility on the part of defense counsel taking the deposition, which I also noted with strong disapproval in my oral ruling. The parties eventually settled the matter in the weeks before the trial.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

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Voelker Litigation Group
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(312) 870-5430

Randall B. Gold
Fox & Fox, S.C.
111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 2600
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Counsel for Defendants:

Ryan T Benson
O'Hagan Meyer, LLC
One East Wacker Drive
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Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 422-6100

- d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.

1. *Richardson v. Kharbouch*, No. 19 CV 02321, 2024 WL 50374 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 4, 2024)

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Tyiasse Hasan
Law Office of Tyiasse H. Hasan
20650 South Cicero Avenue #2102
Matteson, IL 60443
(312) 468-7280

Counsel for Defendant:
Dariush Ghaffar Adli
Adli Law Group PC
700 South Flower Street
Suite 1220
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 623-6546

2. *In re Abubakar*, No. 23 CV 05099, 2023 WL 6392307 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 30, 2023)

Counsel for Petitioner Abubakar:
Alexandre de Gramont
Dechert LLP
1900 K Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 261-3300

Counsel for Respondent CSU:
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Husch Blackwell LLP
120 South Riverside Plaza
Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 655-1500

Counsel for Intervenor President Tinubu:
Victor Henderson
Henderson Parks, LLC
140 South Dearborn Street
Suite 1020
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 262-2900

3. *Brinson v. Eagle Express Lines, Inc.*, No. 18 CV 3733, 2023 WL 6312400 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 28, 2023)

Counsel for Plaintiff:
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Michael T. Smith & Associates
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(847) 466-1099

Counsel for Defendant:
Joseph K. Nichele
Emmet Charles Fairfield
Ronald J. Broida
Broida and Nichele, Ltd.
1250 East Diehl Road
Suite 108
Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 245-1515

4. *Wilim v. Mondelez Glob. LLC*, No. 21 CV 06855, 2023 WL 6471999 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 27, 2023)

Counsel for Plaintiff:
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Sheehan & Associates
60 Cuttermill Road
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Great Neck, NY 11021
(516) 268-7080

Counsel for Defendant:
Dean Nicholas Panos
Jenner & Block LLP
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Chicago, IL 60654
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Alexander Smith
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Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 239-2262

5. *Su v. Fensler*, No. 22 CV 01030, 2023 WL 5152640 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 10, 2023)

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Aaron Wenzloff
Kevin Wilemon
U.S. Department of Labor
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(312) 353-6973 (Wilemon)

Counsel for Defendants Fernandez and Meyers and former counsel for the Fund:

Christopher Rillo
Baker Botts LLP
101 California Street
Suite 3200
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 291-6257

I am listing only counsel who argued at the preliminary injunction hearing that led to the injunction order.

6. *Lietzow v. Vill. of Huntley*, No. 17 CV 05291, 2023 WL 2954989 (N.D. Ill. Apr. 14, 2023)

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Loren Jones
Dvorak Law Offices, LLC
6262 Kingery Highway
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(630) 329-3535

Richard J. Dvorak
Dvorak Law Offices, LLC
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(312) 593-7146

Counsel for Defendants:

Kathleen Kunkle
Ancel Glink Diamond Bush DiCianni & Krafthefer PC
140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 782-7606

7. *Sims v. United States*, No. 20 CV 03993, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 56442 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 31, 2023)

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Debra Davy
1413 West Elmdale
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Chicago, IL 60660
(847) 414-4946

Patrick J. Condrón

Susan E. Loggans & Associates
180 North LaSalle Street
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Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 201-8600

Counsel for Defendant:

Valerie Rebecca Ready
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street
5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-8694

8. *Branham v. TrueAccord Corp.*, No. 22 CV 00531, 2023 WL 2664010 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 28, 2023)

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Richard J Meier, IV
351 Adela
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(312) 498-4210

Counsel for Defendant:

Nicole Marie Strickler
Katherine Maria Saldanha Olson
Messer Strickler Burnette, Ltd.
142 West Station Street
Barrington, IL 60010
(312) 334-3442

9. *McVay v. Obaisi*, No. 18 CV 6244, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 51052 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 27, 2023)

Plaintiff McVay was pro se.

Counsel for Defendants:

Matthew H Weller
Cassiday Schade LLP
222 West Adams Street
Suite 2900
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 641-3100

10. *Am. Male & Co. v. Owners Ins. Co.*, No. 21 CV 02595, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 52099 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 27, 2023)

Counsel for Plaintiff:

Larry Amoni
Amoni Law Offices, P.C.
1975 West Downer Place, Suite 301
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 264-2020

Counsel for Defendant:

Lori McAllister
Dykema Gossett PLLC
201 Townsend Street, Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 374-9100

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

To the best of my knowledge, based on a review of my records and legal databases, certiorari has not been requested or granted in any of my cases.

- f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

To the best of my knowledge, based on a review of my records and legal databases, my decisions have never been reversed by a reviewing court, nor have my judgments been affirmed with significant criticism of my substantive or procedural rulings.

- g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.

As a judge, I have been associated with approximately 963 cases on the CM/ECF system. I estimate that I have issued over 250 substantive written decisions in these cases. Of these substantive decisions, approximately 10 percent have been published on Westlaw or Lexis, with the remaining 90 percent entered directly on the dockets, which are available in the electronic case management system maintained by the Northern District of Illinois, as well as publicly on PACER.

- 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.

Miller v. Mascillino, No. 15-CV-11746, 2023 WL 6276526 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 26, 2023)

Lietzow v. Vill. of Huntley, No. 17 CV 05291, 2023 WL 2954989 (N.D. Ill. Apr. 14, 2023)

McVay v. Obaisi, No. 18 CV 6244, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 51052 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 27, 2023)

- i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

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

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

- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;
- b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

The Northern District of Illinois does not maintain an automatic recusal system. Instead, I make recusal decisions on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Code of Conduct for United States Judges and 28 U.S.C. § 455.

I have only been asked by one litigant to recuse myself from a matter:

Gray v. Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc., No 23 CV 11441. A pro se plaintiff has twice requested that I recuse myself after I issued several orders denying his requests for emergency injunctive relief and to refer his criminal claims to federal law enforcement, claiming that I had demonstrated bias towards him. I consulted the rules for recusal under 28 U.S.C. § 455 and the applicable case law and denied the plaintiff's request to

recuse. I determined, based on the applicable law, that the fact that plaintiff disagreed with my rulings did not provide grounds for questioning my impartiality such that would support recusal. Further, I reviewed my prior rulings and found no errors in law or fact that would have been grounds for a different result, as plaintiff had requested relief that was not available. There were therefore no grounds from which my impartiality could reasonably be questioned such that recusal was required under 28 U.S.C. § 455.

Apart from the above matter, I have recused myself *sua sponte* on 16 occasions:

Pullen v. Lopez et al., No. 21 CV 01016. I recused myself because my former law firm represented one of the parties in the case.

Thornley v. Garcia et al., No. 21 CV 01922. I recused myself because the case involved the Illinois State Police Merit Board as a party, and I served on that board prior to being a judge.

I recused myself in the following cases because I owned stock in one of the parties or an affiliate thereof:

Fedorova v. Bank of America, N. A. et al., No. 22 CV 03486

Koerner v. Santander Bank, N.A. et al., No. 20 CV 522

Marsh et al. v. CSL Plasma Inc., No. 19 CV 07606

Parker v. TransUnion LLC et al., 22 CV 01731

Parker v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc. et al., 22 CV 01768

Bueno v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc., 1:22 CV 00617

Woeso v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc. et al., 22 CV 03297

Nestle Healthcare Nutrition, Inc v. Xcel Med, LLC, No. 19 CV 08225

Garner v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc., et al., No. 23 CV 04932

Adams v. Experian, No. 23 CV 03246

Hash v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc., No. 22 CV 07009

McCoy v. National Railroad Passenger Corporation et al., No. 22 CV 03133

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen v. National Railroad Passenger Corporation d/b/a Amtrak, No. 21 CV 06281

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.

Between July 2019 and July 2022, I served on the Illinois State Police Merit Board. I was appointed to that position by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker on July 29, 2019, for a six-year term ending in March 2023. I have had no unsuccessful candidacies for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

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

I have never held a membership or office in or rendered services to any political party or election committee, and I have not held a position in a political campaign. I have, however, participated in a couple of political activities. Specifically, in 2018, I volunteered for Sol Flores' primary campaign to represent Illinois' Fourth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives; I canvassed voters, did phone-banking, and co-hosted a fundraiser. In 2004, I also co-hosted a fundraiser for then-United States Senate candidate Barack Obama.

16. Legal Career: Answer each part separately.

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

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

From 2001 to 2003, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Rubén Castillo on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

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

I have never practiced law alone.

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

2003 – 2022
Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C.
325 North LaSalle Drive, Suite 350
Chicago, Illinois 60654
Associate (2003 – 2009)
Partner (2010 – 2022)

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

I have never served as a mediator or arbitrator.

b. Describe:

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

Following my clerkship, I joined Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C., where I worked my entire career before joining the bench. At the firm, my practice was focused largely on representing plaintiffs in employment, civil rights, and fraud cases. I also regularly counseled non-profit entities on employment and other matters. And I worked with state and local governments as a monitor and special assistant attorney general.

As an associate, I spent the majority of my time representing classes of farmworkers in wage and hour cases, individual clients in harassment and discrimination matters, and not-for-profit and health care entities in employment and other disputes. In the mid-to-late 2000s, I began litigating whistleblower cases under federal and state false claims statutes, and in the early 2010s, I served as a Special Assistant State's Attorney to Cook County investigating fraud alleged by a whistleblower. In all of these matters, I played a key and substantive role. For instance, I researched and drafted numerous briefs, took and defended various depositions, contributed to legal strategy, helped resolve discovery disputes, argued motions in both federal and state court, negotiated settlements, and second-chaired two jury trials.

As a partner, I continued to work on the same types of cases, with the addition of monitoring, consumer protection, and other work for governmental entities in recent years. I not only continued to perform substantive work, but also managed (alone or with my law partners) case teams. In addition, I served as lead trial counsel in a 12-day trial. Moreover, I became go-to counsel for several non-profit entities.

Further, between 2018 and 2022, I served as a consent decree monitor in two cases brought by the Illinois Attorney General. In this role, I worked with defense counsel and the Attorney General's office to ensure that defendants abided by the terms of their consent decrees, including by reviewing documents, reports, and trainings, conducting site visits, and interviewing employees. In 2021, I was also appointed by the Illinois Attorney General to serve as a Special Assistant Attorney General investigating consumer fraud. Additionally, starting in 2021, I participated in the legal team representing two other governments investigating environmental contamination within their borders.

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

During my legal career, I have represented individuals, non-profit organizations, health care entities, and governments in all manner of cases, particularly employment, civil rights, and fraud matters.

- 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.

Throughout my legal career, approximately 75 percent of my practice was in litigation; the remainder primarily involved pre-suit representation and counseling of clients on various legal matters. Since early on in my career, I appeared in court regularly, approximately once per month on average, and sometimes more frequently as my docket required.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 - 1. federal courts: 65%
 - 2. state courts of record: 10%
 - 3. other courts: 0%
 - 4. administrative agencies: 25%
- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 - 1. civil proceedings: 99%
 - 2. criminal proceedings: 1%

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

I have tried three cases to verdict, judgment, or final decision. I was lead or sole counsel in two bench trials, and second chair for one jury trial. I also second-chaired another jury trial, though the case settled in the midst of our case-in-chief.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:
 1. jury: 33%
 2. non-jury: 67%

- 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 did not practice 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. *Abreu v. City of Chicago*, No. 19-CV-2161 (N.D. Ill.) (Pallmeyer, Harjani, JJ.)

Mr. Abreu, a Puerto Rican bricklayer whom I represented, alleged he experienced a hostile work environment and retaliation based on race and national origin at the City of Chicago's Department of Water Management. Mr. Abreu alleged that his supervisor harassed him by regularly calling him racial and ethnic slurs and attempted to push him into a six-foot hole on a job site. After he filed his federal complaint, Mr. Abreu also alleged he experienced retaliation. Mr. Abreu brought claims against the City under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 1981, the Fourteenth Amendment, the Illinois Human Rights Act, and the Illinois Civil Rights Act.

Following the City's failed attempt to dismiss Mr. Abreu's *Monell* claim and extensive discovery, the City moved for partial summary judgment, which the Court granted as to the retaliation claim but denied as to the remaining claims. The case settled shortly before trial. Between 2017 and 2022, I served as the primary supervising partner, overseeing key aspects of the litigation, from intake to pre-trial preparations. I guided litigation strategy, edited briefs, and assisted with discovery. Moreover, I supported the junior attorney acting as lead counsel to help him develop courtroom experience, including by assisting him in preparing for court hearings.

Co-counsel:

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2. *Brighton Park Neighborhood Council v. Berrios*, No. 2017 CH 16453 (Cook Cty. Cir. Ct.) (Gamrath, J.)

Three community organizations—Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Logan Square Neighborhood Association, and South Suburban Housing Center—sued the Cook County Assessor, alleging that its residential property tax assessment system discriminated against Black and Latino property owners. The plaintiffs alleged that the Assessor shifted tax burdens from property owners in majority-White neighborhoods to property owners in majority-Black and Latino neighborhoods. The plaintiffs brought claims under the Illinois Civil Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Fair Housing Act. As a senior member of the plaintiffs' legal team from 2017 to 2019, I was involved in developing the legal theories in the case, evaluating statistical data, drafting and editing pleadings, and successfully defending against a motion to dismiss on standing and other grounds. After the suit was filed, a new Cook County Assessor was elected, leading to tax assessment reforms and voluntary dismissal of our claims.

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3. *Martin v. F.E. Moran Inc.*, No. 13-cv-3526 (N.D. Ill.) (Kendall, Valdez, JJ.)

Three African-American sprinkler fitters sued their former employer, alleging that the defendant terminated them and failed to rehire them because of their race, and segregated them on jobs with minority hiring requirements. The plaintiffs brought claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 42 U.S.C. § 1981. The case proceeded from significant discovery, through dispositive motions practice, to a bench trial, after which the district court ruled for the defendant. 2018 WL 1565597 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 30, 2018). From 2013 to 2018, I served as the plaintiffs' lead counsel, handling various important aspects of the case. For instance, I drafted the plaintiffs' successful opposition to the defendant's motions to dismiss. 2014 WL 5421021 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 24, 2014). I also successfully opposed the defendant's motions to exclude the plaintiffs' expert witnesses, 2017 WL 1105388 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 24, 2017), and for summary judgment, 2017 WL 1316255 (N.D. Ill. Apr. 10, 2017). Additionally, I served as lead counsel at trial, presenting argument and examining and cross-examining witnesses, among other things.

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4. *Stuart v. Local 727, Int'l Bhd. of Teamsters*, No. 13-cv-9262 (N.D. Ill.) (Shadur, Chang, Cox, JJ.), No. 14-1710 (7th Cir. 2014) (Posner, Rovner, Hamilton, JJ.)

Ms. Stuart sued the defendant union for failing to refer her for driving jobs on television and movie sets because of her sex. Ms. Stuart alleged that all members of the union's movie and trade show division were men and that jobs were referred by word of mouth, leading to the complete exclusion of women from on-set driving jobs. Ms. Stuart brought claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The district court *sua sponte* dismissed the case, believing it to be untimely, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit reversed. 2014 WL 1089117 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 18, 2014), *rev'd*, 771 F.3d 1015 (7th Cir. 2014). Following discovery, the parties settled the case. From 2011 to 2018, I served as co-counsel for Ms. Stuart. In that capacity, I investigated Ms. Stuart's allegations (including initiating and reviewing FOIA requests to third parties), assisted in drafting her charge filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), responded to EEOC inquiries, and helped litigate her federal suit both in the district court and on appeal.

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5. *United States ex rel. Yannacopoulos v. Gen. Dynamics*, No. 03-C-3012 (N.D. Ill.) Gettleman, Denlow, JJ.), No. 09-3037 (7th Cir.) (Bauer, Sykes, Hamilton JJ.)

Mr. Yannacopoulos brought suit under the False Claims Act, alleging fraud by two defense contractors in the U.S.-funded sale of fighter jets to Greece under the Foreign Military Sales program. After significant discovery and various dispositive motions, the district court granted summary judgment for the defendants, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed. 2007 WL 495257 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 13, 2007); 2007 WL 1597670 (N.D. Ill. May 31, 2007); 636 F. Supp. 2d 739 (N.D. Ill. 2009), *aff'd*, 652 F.3d 818 (7th Cir. 2011). From 2005 to 2011, I served as counsel for Mr. Yannacopoulos. In that capacity, I helped prepare for depositions, briefed discovery motions, worked with experts in foreign military sales, responded to multiple motions for summary judgment, and helped brief the case on appeal.

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6. *E.E.O.C. v. James L. Orrington, D.M.D. Ltd.*, No. 07 C 5317 (N.D. Ill.) (Dow, Mason, JJ.)

A group of dental office employees alleged that their employer subjected them to sexual and religious harassment and retaliation. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) filed suit on behalf of the employees under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and my clients (ten individuals) intervened in the case. The case settled by consent decree after extensive discovery. From 2005 to 2009, I served as co-counsel for the intervenors. In that role, I had primary responsibility from client intake to settlement, including drafting charges (including amended charges when retaliation ensued); working closely with the clients, the EEOC investigator, and later the EEOC attorneys; drafting pleadings; responding to discovery; taking and defending depositions; and negotiating settlement alongside the EEOC.

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7. *Ortega v. Leslie Farms*, No. 03 1417 (San Diego Cty. Sup. Ct.) (Orfield, J.)

Migrant farmworkers brought claims under the California Labor Code and Wage Orders alleging that the defendants failed to pay them overtime wages and statutory waiting time penalties, failed to provide them mandatory paid rest breaks, and failed to provide them itemized statements correctly recording their hours worked. Following extensive discovery, the parties settled the case. From 2004 to 2008, I was the lead associate for the plaintiffs and class. In that capacity, I was heavily involved in written and oral discovery, including responding to discovery and presenting the clients for deposition, and evaluating the documents produced by the defendants.

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8. *Hernandez v. Kovacevich "5" Farms*, No. 04 5515 (E.D. Cal.) (Wanger, J.)

Seasonal farmworkers who harvested grapes and other crops for the defendants alleged that they were required to work off-the-clock prior to their shifts, among other violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act and the California Labor Code and Wage Orders. The plaintiffs moved for class certification, which the district court granted. 2004 WL 3745224 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 2, 2004). Thereafter, the parties settled the case, with significant compensation for named plaintiffs and the class. 2005 WL 8176332 (E.D. Cal. July 14, 2005); 2005 WL 2435906 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 30, 2005). From 2003 to 2005, I was the associate representing the named plaintiffs and the class of agricultural workers. In that role, I handled client communications (mostly in Spanish) from the start, took and defended my first depositions (including of the class representatives and key supervisors), helped secure a protective order when the putative class was intimidated by the employer, contributed to developing legal strategy, and played a significant role in securing class certification and the multimillion dollar settlement for the class.

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9. *Campillo v. Kind*, No. 2001-L-014771 (Cook Cty. Cir. Ct.) (Burr, J.)

Mr. Campillo was a teenage boy who went into kidney failure after a fax of his medical results that would have flagged kidney failure was lost at a physician's office. He brought claims for negligence against a physician and a medical center, and the defendants asserted contributory negligence. Following a multiday trial, the jury ruled for the defendants. I came into the case in 2004 to serve as second chair for the plaintiff in connection with the jury trial in 2005. As second chair, I assisted in all aspects of trial preparation, including drafting and arguing motions *in limine* and jury instructions and preparing witness examination outlines. I also examined both lay witnesses and an expert witness at trial.

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10. *Vergara v. City of Waukegan*, No. 04 C 6586 (N.D. Ill.) (Shadur, Mason, Cox, JJ.),
No. 09-1165 (7th Cir.) (Clevert, Manion, Williams, JJ.)

Residents of the City of Waukegan alleged that the City, the mayor and the police chief violated their First Amendment rights by denying them entry to a city council meeting, retaliating against them, and applying an assembly ordinance to them in an unconstitutional manner because of their opposition to a City towing ordinance. After extensive discovery, the district court granted in part and denied in part the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment, including granting summary judgment to two of the plaintiffs and denying the City officials' claims of qualified immunity. 590 F. Supp. 2d 1024 (N.D. Ill. 2008). The mayor and police chief both appealed the denial of qualified immunity, which was affirmed as to two of the three plaintiffs' claims. 665 F.3d 860 (7th Cir. 2011). The case settled after remand to the district court. I participated in discovery (written and oral), client management, briefing motions, including on cross-motions for summary judgment, briefing on appeal, and negotiating the settlement.

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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 addition to the cases I litigated in court, I represented scores of individuals in employment and civil rights matters that I resolved pre-suit or during administrative proceedings through confidential settlement agreements. I was also involved in various other legal activities. For instance, starting in the mid-2000s continuing through 2022, I counseled many not-for-profit entities on employment-related matters, including policy review, training, and advising on discipline and terminations. Further, from 2018 through 2022, I served as a monitor of consent decrees resolving employment cases brought by the Illinois Attorney General.

At my firm, I played a significant role in hiring and managing associates and staff, and in managing the summer associate program. I was also involved in mentoring and training associate attorneys at my firm. My mentoring experience has extended beyond my firm to the Hispanic legal community (I was awarded the Mentor of the Year award by the Hispanic Lawyers' Association of Illinois in 2007). In 2019, I was selected to mentor law students at Harvard Law School as part of the Wasserstein Public Interest Fellowship.

As a judge, I was appointed by the Chief Judge to serve on the Northern District of Illinois Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and the Information Technology Committee.

I have not performed any 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, other than I offer a complimentary yoga class to the judges in my building on a weekly basis (schedules permitting).

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.

I recuse myself from all matters involving my former firm, Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C., or its attorneys. I also recuse myself from all matters involving clients I personally represented, companies in which I own stock, or entities with which I have been affiliated. I am not aware of any other persons, parties, categories of litigation, or financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts of interest. Should any actual or potential conflicts of interest arise, I adhere to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, the rules and standards set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 455, and any other applicable principles governing recusal.

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

I would continue to address any actual or potential conflicts of interest by applying the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, the rules and standards set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 455, and any other relevant ethical canons or rules.

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.

The vast majority of my legal career as a lawyer was dedicated to representing disadvantaged individuals, most often bringing claims under fee-shifting statutes, and also representing not-for-profit entities that serve disadvantaged communities. In addition, I represented several clients pro bono, including in two prisoners' rights cases alleging inadequate medical care and poor prison conditions. Moreover, I provided pro bono legal assistance to non-profits, including working on the initial by-laws of La Casa Norte, an organization serving youth and families confronting homelessness, and setting up the non-profit Chicago Yoga Project, an organization aimed at promoting non-violence through yoga classes and yoga teacher training. And early in my career (approximately 2002 to 2004), I served as a volunteer attorney with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, providing legal advice to disadvantaged clients.

In addition to this legal work, I have been actively involved in the community in other ways. For instance, I have been a member of a local parish since 2014. Between 2014 and 2018, I taught weekly religious education classes to first graders, and served as a substitute teacher for multiple grades through 2022. The parish is diverse with a large Spanish-speaking membership, and I enjoyed working with both English- and Spanish-speaking parents in their children's religious education and in creating inclusive lesson plans.

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 January 25, 2024, I received a phone call from Senator Durbin's office inquiring about my interest in the Seventh Circuit vacancy. On January 26, 2024, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office regarding possible nomination to the Seventh Circuit. Since January 29, 2024, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice. On February 21, 2024, 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.