

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Serena Raquel Murillo

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

United States District Judge for the Central District of California

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.

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 133
210 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Residence: Altadena, California

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

1970; Pomona, California

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.

1993 – 1996, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles; J.D., 1996

1989 – 1993, University of California, San Diego; B.A., 1993

1988, Brown University; no degree received

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.

2015 – present
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 133
210 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Judge

2018 – 2019
California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three
Ronald Reagan Courthouse
312 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Associate Justice *pro tem*

2022 – present
University of Southern California Gould School of Law
699 West Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90089
Lecturer in Law

2022
University of California, Irvine School of Law
401 East Peltason Drive, Suite 1000
Irvine, California 92697
Lecturer in Law

1997 – 2014
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, California 90012
Deputy District Attorney

1997
McNicholas & McNicholas
10866 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90024
Associate Attorney

1996
Shernoff, Bidart, and Echeverria (Formerly Darras)
600 Indian Hill Boulevard
Claremont, California 91711
Post-Bar Clerk (1996)

Summer 1995
MacDonald Hoague and Bayless

705 2nd Avenue, Suite 1500
Seattle, Washington 98104
Summer Associate

1994 – 1995
Loyola Center for Conflict Resolution
919 Albany Street
Los Angeles, California 90015
Facilitator

Summer 1994
Camden Regional Legal Services, Farmworker Division
(The organization has ceased operating.)
530 Cooper Street
Camden, New Jersey 08102
Intern

Summer 1993
Nordstrom
Montclair Plaza
(This business has ceased operating at this location.)
5015 Montclair Plaza Lane
Montclair, California 91763
Retail Clerk

Summer 1993
Nordstrom
University Town Center
4401 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, California 92122
Retail Clerk

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

I have not served in the military. I was not required to register for the selective service.

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

Mexican American Bar Association, Carlos R. Moreno Judicial Excellence Award (2023)

Hollenbeck Youth Center, Amigo de los Niños Award (2019)

California Chief Justice Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership to the Judicial Branch (2018)

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 have searched my files and electronic databases to identify all information responsive to this question. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, listed below are the bar associations and legal professional societies in which I am or have been a member, as well as the titles and dates of any offices I have held and committees on which I served, with approximate dates. There may, however, be other groups, offices, or committees that I have been unable to recall or identify.

American Inns of Court, Criminal Justice Inn (2013 – 2018)
Executive Board (2016 – 2018)

Association of Deputy District Attorneys (1998 – 2014)

California Chief Justice Pretrial Detention Reform Workgroup (2016 – 2017)

California Chief Justice Pretrial Release Operations Workgroup (2018 – 2019)

California Judges Association (2015 – present)
The Bench Magazine Editorial Board (2019)

California Latino Judges Association (2015 – present)
Endorsement Committee (2022 – present)

California State Bar, Judicial Nominees Evaluation Committee (2003 – 2007)

Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (1997)

California Women Judges (2023 – present)
President-Elect (2023 – present)

Judicial Council of California
Criminal Law Advisory Committee (2017 – present)
Vice-Chair (2024 – present)
Criminal Law Curriculum Committee (2018 – 2019)

Latina Lawyers Bar Association (2008)

Latino Prosecutors Association (2002 – 2009)

Latino Prosecutors Foundation (2003 – 2009)

Latino Judicial Officers Association (2015 – present)
Co-Chair (2020 – 2024)

Los Angeles Superior Court
Executive Committee (2023 – present)
Bail Committee (2017 – present)
Community Outreach Committee (2017 – 2020)
Judicial Mentor Committee (2020 – 2022)
Domestic Violence Committee (2017 – 2018)
Research Attorney Committee (2021 – 2022)

Los Angeles Superior Court Judicial Education Governing Committee (2018 – present)
Chair (2022 – present)
Criminal Law Subcommittee (2018 – 2019)
Civil Law Subcommittee (2019 – 2022)

Mexican American Bar Association (2007 – present)

National Association of Women Judges (2019 – 2020)

Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (2002 – 2003)

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

- a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

California, 1996

There have been no lapses in membership, although, because I am currently serving as a Superior Court Judge, I am not considered a licensee of the California State Bar while in office.

- 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.

Because I am a Superior Court Judge, I am not presently admitted to practice in any court. Prior to being sworn in as a judge, however, I was admitted, with no lapses in membership, to practice in the following courts:

United States Supreme Court (2014)
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (2013)

United States District Court for the Central District of California (1996)
California State Courts (1996)

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.

I have searched my files and electronic databases to identify all information responsive to this question. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, listed below are the professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, in which I am or have been a member, as well as the titles and dates of any offices I have held and committees on which I served, with approximate dates. There may, however, be other organizations, offices, or committees that I have been unable to recall or identify.

American Youth Soccer Organization (2010 – 2014)
Head Soccer Coach (2010 – 2012)
Team Parent (2012 – 2014)

Gerrish Swim and Tennis Club, Altadena, California (2015 – 2018)

Hollenbeck Youth Center & Inner-City Games, Los Angeles (2008 – 2014)
Community Advisor (2008 – 2014)
Chair, Tree Lighting Ceremony (2009 – 2013)
Chair, Basketball Tournament (2009)
Chair, Dodger Salute Kick-Off Luncheon (2009)

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels, Volunteer (1997)

YMCA La Crescenta, California (2012)
Youth Basketball Coach

- 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 these organizations currently discriminates or formerly discriminated based on 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.

Milestones in Hispanic Legal History in California, Judicial Council of California, September 16, 2024. Copy supplied.

Warrant Searches, Los Angeles Daily Journal, July 29, 2024. Copy supplied.

California Judges Benchbook, Domestic Violence Cases in Criminal Court, Criminal Protective Orders Bench Card (Cont. Ed. Bar 2023). Copy supplied.

Mistrials and Good Cause to Excuse Jurors, Los Angeles Daily Journal, July 25, 2022. Copy supplied.

California Judges Benchbook, Domestic Violence Cases in Criminal Court, Chapters 3, 4 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2021). Copy supplied of 2017 edition.

We the People: 100 Years of Perspective on the 19th Amendment, Los Angeles Daily Journal, Sept. 17, 2020. Copy supplied.

California Judges Benchbook, Search & Seizure, Chapter 7 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2020). Copy supplied.

California Judges Benchbook, Domestic Violence Cases in Criminal Court, Chapters 3, 4 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2020). Copy supplied of 2017 edition.

California Judges Benchbook, Search & Seizure, Chapter 7 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2019). Copy supplied of 2020 edition.

California Judges Benchbook, Domestic Violence Cases in Criminal Court, Chapters 3, 4 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2019). Copy supplied of 2017 edition.

The Great Bail Shakeout, The Bench Magazine, Summer 2018. Copy supplied.

California Judges Benchbook, Search & Seizure, Chapter 7 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2018). Copy supplied of 2020 edition.

California Judges Benchbook, Domestic Violence Cases in Criminal Court, Chapters 3, 4 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2018). Copy supplied of 2017 edition.

California Judges Benchbook, Domestic Violence Cases in Criminal Court, Chapters 4 (Cont. Ed. Bar 2017). Copy supplied.

California's NEW Electronic Communications Privacy Act, What Every Judge Needs to Know, The Bench Magazine, Summer 2016. Copy supplied.

Why I Want to be a Judge, League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, April 8, 2014. Copy supplied.

During my judicial campaigns for election to the Los Angeles Superior Court, I published a website, www.murilloforjudge.com, which was removed at the conclusion of my campaign. I do not have a copy of its contents.

- 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.

Based upon my recollection and a thorough review of my files and searches of publicly available databases, I have identified the following responsive material. There may, however, be other materials that I was unable to recall or identify.

Pretrial Detention Reform, Recommendations to the Chief Justice, Pretrial Reform Working Group (Oct. 2017). 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.

Based upon my recollection and a thorough review of my files and searches of publicly available databases, I have not identified any responsive materials, but there may be materials that I have been unable to identify.

- 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.

Based upon my recollection and a thorough review of my files and searches of publicly available databases, I have identified the following responsive listings, but it is possible that there are a few that I have been unable to identify.

September 7, 2024: Panelist, “Racial Justice Act Update,” California Judges Association. I taught a continuing judicial education course on how to apply new statutory requirements under the California Racial Justice Act (RJA) and recent case law to writs of habeas corpus. The RJA is a series of amendments to the state penal code passed by the state legislature that allow people charged with or convicted of a crime to raise issues of bias or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin in their cases. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the California Judges Association is 2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150, Sacramento, California 95833.

July 9, 2024: Lecture, “Habeas Corpus Part I in the Context of the Racial Justice Act,” Los Angeles Superior Court, Judicial Education Seminars (virtual). I taught a segment on what standards to apply to petitions for writs of habeas corpus in the context of the RJA. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

May 9, 2024: Panelist, “Racial Justice Act: Background, Recent Authority, and Application,” California Judicial Council Center for Judicial Education and Research, Criminal Law Curriculum Committee, (virtual). I served as a panelist on a course that provided an overview of the RJA. My segment focused on the interpretation of discovery rules. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

March 19, 2024: Panelist, “The Racial Justice Act: Background and Application,” San Diego Superior Court, Judicial Education Committee (virtual). I served as a panelist and provided an overview of the RJA. My segment focused on the interpretation of discovery rules. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the San Diego Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the San Diego Superior Court is 1100 Union Street, San Diego, California 92101.

January 8 – 12, 2024, Faculty, Team Leader, “*Primary Assignment Orientation for Criminal Judges*,” California Judicial Council’s Center for Judicial Education and Research. I developed and taught a five-day judicial education course of study for California judges newly assigned to the criminal division. I have been teaching it

since January 2020. The course focuses on legal issues that arise at each stage of a criminal case. I primarily teach the segments focused on the Lifecycle of a Criminal Case, Pretrial Release, Search and Seizure, and Search Warrants. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

December 8, 2023: Lecturer, “Advanced Fourth Amendment Issues: Search Warrants,” California Judicial Council’s Center for Judicial Education and Research, Law Institute (virtual). I designed and taught this virtual judicial education course for California trial court judges. The course taught participants how to analyze search warrants for electronic evidence, specifically reverse location and cell site simulator warrants within the meaning of the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

December 6, 2023: Panelist, “The Racial Justice Act: Background and Application Webinar,” California Judicial Council’s Criminal Justice Services (virtual). I served as a panelist and provided judicial education through an overview of the RJA. My segment focused on the interpretation of discovery rules. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

December 5, 2023: Panelist, “What is Bail,” Los Angeles County Bar Association (virtual). I spoke about changes in the law of pretrial release in light of a series of new opinions by the California Supreme Court. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the Los Angeles County Bar Association is 444 South Flower Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90071.

November 14, 2023, Panelist, “Pathbreaking Latinas and their Path to the Bench,” Hispanic National Bar Association’s (HNBA) Litigation & Dispute Resolution Section (virtual). I spoke on a panel about my path to the bench. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the HNBA’s Litigation & Dispute Resolution Section is 2020 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 279, Washington, DC 20006.

October 27, 2023: Panelist, “*The Court’s New Pre-Arrest Release Protocol (PARP)*,” Los Angeles Superior Court Criminal Division Bench Seminar. I developed and taught this judicial education course for Los Angeles Superior

Court judges assigned to the criminal division. The hour-long course focused on changes to the court's bail schedules and how to use them. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

October 26, 2023: Honoree, Mexican American Bar Association, Carlos Moreno Judicial Excellence Award, Los Angeles, California. I spoke about my family's support in pursuing higher education. Notes supplied.

October 19, 2023: Panelist, "The Racial Justice Act: Background and Application," California Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Research, Appellate Justice Institute. I served as a panelist and provided an overview of the RJA. My segment focused on the interpretation of discovery rules. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

March 20, 2023: Panelist, "Implicit Bias: Fireside Chat with LA Superior Court Judges." Los Angeles County Bar Association (virtual). Judges on the panel discussed implicit bias they had witnessed in the courtroom and suggested strategies for combating it. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Los Angeles County Bar Association is 444 South Flower Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90071.

March 7 – 8, 2023: Faculty, "Bench Success, Judicial Excellence and Service on the Los Angeles Superior Court," Los Angeles Superior Court, Judicial Education Seminars. I developed and taught this orientation program for recently appointed and elected bench officers to the Los Angeles Superior Court. The course offers training on ethics, demeanor, and specific legal education on issues most likely to emerge when judges are new to the bench. This course is offered two to three times annually. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

July 26, 2022: Faculty, "*Fourth Amendment, Search & Seizure*," California Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Research, B.E. Witkin Judicial College. I designed and taught this course which outlined the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and taught bench officers how to analyze the merits of a motion to suppress evidence. I have taught this course annually since 2017. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

July 25, 2022: Faculty, "How to handle A.B. 3070 and Wheeler-Batson Motions," California Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Research, B.E. Witkin Judicial College. I developed and taught this course which outlined a new state statute, California Code of Civil Procedure section 231.7, which changed the way peremptory challenges may be utilized by lawyers during jury selection. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

December 9, 2022: Lecturer, "Managing Peremptory Challenges in 2022," California Judicial Council, Center for Judicial Education and Research, Criminal Law Institute (virtual). I taught this course outlining a state statute that had recently gone into effect, California Code of Civil Procedure section 231.7, which changed the way peremptory challenges could be utilized by lawyers during jury selection. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

June 15, 2022: Speaker, American Board of Trial Advocates, Los Angeles Chapter (LA-ABOTA) Installation of Officers, Los Angeles, California. I was the guest speaker and swore in the incoming executive board. Notes supplied.

May 7, 2022: Mistress of Ceremonies, Investiture of Tiana J. Murillo, Los Angeles, California. I recall discussing my sister's achievements along her path to the bench. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

March 17, 2022: Lecturer, "Managing Peremptory Challenges in 2022," San Diego Superior Court, Judicial Education Committee (virtual). I taught this judicial education course for California trial court judges. The course outlined how to apply a recently enacted state statute, California Code of Civil Procedure section 231.7, which changed the way peremptory challenges may be utilized by lawyers during jury selection. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the San Diego Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

January 31, 2022: Panelist, "Episode 28: Attorney Advocates," Visible Voices Podcast, with Joanne Epps, Provost, Temple University (virtual). Recording available at <https://www.boomplay.com/episode/5389970>.

January 29, 2022: Panelist, "Phoenix Rising," Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association (SCCLA), Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers

Alliance (APAWLA), and Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA) (virtual). I spoke about my path to becoming an attorney and judge. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for SCCLA is P.O. Box 71114, Los Angeles, California 90071.

December 14, 2021: Panelist, “Brown Bag Speaker Series, Meet the Personal Injury Hub Judges,” Los Angeles County Bar Association (virtual). I spoke about practices in the personal injury hub of the Los Angeles Superior Court. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Los Angeles County Bar Association is 444 South Flower Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90071.

December 7, 2021: Panelist, “Addressing Bias Driven Incivility,” Los Angeles County Bar Association (virtual). I spoke about how hostile interactions can disrupt orderly proceedings in the courtroom. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Los Angeles County Bar Association is 444 South Flower Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90071.

June 2021, Panelist, “Desperately Seeking *Juezes*,” Mexican American Bar Association (virtual). The panel was about mentorship opportunities available through the Latino Judicial Officers Association. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Mexican American Bar Association is 1150 South Olive Street, Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90015.

March 6, 2021, Speaker, Mexican American Bar Association, Installation of Officers (virtual). I swore in the incoming executive board and offered congratulatory remarks. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Mexican American Bar Association is 1150 South Olive Street, Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90015.

February 17, 2021: Panelist, “Unscripted Conversations on Diversity and Inclusivity Part 2: What It Means to Us On and Off the Bench,” California Judges Association (virtual). I spoke on a panel about my path to the bench, my family’s experience as farm workers in California’s central valley, and the impact this had on my ability to navigate law school and a legal career. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the California Judges Association is 2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150, Sacramento, California 95833.

January 21, 2021: Moderator, “The Intricacies of a Peaceful Transition of Power,” Los Angeles County Bar Association, Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-FTP8s1rA8>.

December 8, 2020: Panelist, “19th Amendment Speaker Series celebrating Women’s Right to Vote, Voices from the Bench: An examination of Diversity and Inclusion in the Courts,” with the National Association of Women Judges, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles County Bar

Association (virtual). Recording available at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/voices-from-the-bench-an-examination-of/id1535719819?i=1000501745900>.

October 19, 2020: Moderator, “19th Amendment Speaker Series celebrating Women’s Right to Vote,” “California State Senator Hanna Beth Jackson on Leadership, Elections and Speaking Without Fear,” with the National Association of Women Judges, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles County Bar Association (virtual). Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uTTKAwPZTM>.

August 3, 2020: Panelist, “Dean’s Centennial Speaker Series: Diversity on the Bench,” Loyola Law School (virtual). Recording available at <https://www.lls.edu/thellsdifference/llsat100/deansdistinguishedspeakerseries/>.

July 14, 2020: Lecturer, “Risk Assessments 101,” California Judicial Council’s Center for Judicial Education and Research, Criminal Justice Services (virtual). I designed and taught this judicial education course for California trial court judges. The course compared pretrial risk assessment tools, outlined their differences and explained how scores are interpreted by each tool. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

January 30, 2020, Lecturer, “*Pretrial Detention and the Process Formerly Known as ‘Bail’: How it Works, Why it Might Change, and How it Could Affect the Court of Appeal*,” California Judicial Council’s Center for Judicial Education and Research, Appellate Justice Attorneys Institute. I developed and taught this one-hour judicial education course for the California Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Justices’ research attorneys. The course addressed issues that may arise in reviewing courts in light of changes in California law on pretrial release after the case of *In re Humphrey*, 19 Cal. App. 5th 1006, 228 Cal. Rptr. 3d 513 (2018). I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

November 6, 2019: Panelist, “The Path to Become a Judge and a Career in Public Service,” Loyola Law School’s Public Service Institute. I spoke on a panel about my path to the bench. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address of Loyola Law School, Los Angeles is 919 Albany Street, Los Angeles, California 90015.

September 13, 2019: Honoree, Hollenbeck Youth Center, Amigo de los Niños Award, Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles, California. I spoke about the role of sports in pursuing a career in the law. I have no notes, recordings or transcripts. The

address for the Hollenbeck Youth Center is 2015 1st Street, Los Angeles, California 90033.

October 22, 2018: Lecturer, "In re Humphrey and Bail Reform," California Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Research, Appellate Justice Institute. I developed and taught this judicial education course for the California Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Justices. The course addressed issues that may arise in reviewing courts in light of changes in California law on pretrial release after the case of *In re Humphrey*, 19 Cal. App. 5th 1006, 228 Cal. Rptr. 3d 513 (2018). I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the California Judicial Council, they are not provided. The address for the California Judicial Council is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

October 3, 2018: Panelist, "Perspectives on the Safety and Justice of Money Bail," National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida. I spoke about my work on the California Pretrial Detention Reform Workgroup commissioned by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement is P.O. Box 20851, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220.

May 10, 2018: Speaker, "Overview of Bail after *In re Humphrey*," the Los Angeles Criminal Justice American Inns of Court. I spoke about changes to how judges analyze pretrial release decisions considering the then-current case authority published by the California Court of Appeal. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Los Angeles Criminal Justice American Inns of Court is 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 770, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

January 30, 2018: Moderator, "*Electronic Evidence Roadshow*," Los Angeles Superior Court. I moderated a course taught by an expert at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory regarding how digital evidence in criminal investigations is collected and utilized. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

April 25, 2017: Lecturer, "Bail, Orders, and Guns: Pre- and Post-Trial Issues in Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases," Los Angeles Superior Court, Judicial Education Seminars. I designed and taught this one-hour judicial education course for Los Angeles Superior Court judges assigned to the misdemeanor criminal division to assist them in determining appropriate pretrial release conditions, firearm orders, and criminal protective orders. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

October 28, 2016: Lecturer, "Search & Seizure, Warrants for Electronic Evidence," Los Angeles Superior Court Criminal Division Bench Seminar. I designed and taught this one-hour judicial education course for Los Angeles Superior Court judges assigned to the criminal division. The course taught participants how to analyze search warrants for electronic evidence within the meaning of the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which had gone into effect that year. I used a series of PowerPoint slides for these presentations, but because these materials are internal to the Los Angeles Superior Court, they are not provided. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

October 4, 2016: Panelist, "The Judicial Appointments Process," John M. Langston Bar Association, Mexican American Bar Association, Loyola Law School Los Angeles. I spoke about the role of the California State Bar's Judicial Nominees Evaluation Committee in judicial appointments. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address of Loyola Law School Los Angeles is 919 Albany Street, Los Angeles, California 90015.

May 26, 2016: Speaker, "An Examination of California's New Electronic Communications Privacy Act," the Los Angeles Criminal Justice American Inns of Court. I spoke about changes to how judges must analyze search warrants for electronic evidence in light of the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which had gone into effect that year. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Los Angeles Criminal Justice American Inns of Court is 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 770, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

December 15, 2015: Speaker, Swearing in Ceremony for students who passed the bar examination, University of La Verne School of Law, Ontario, California. I have no notes, recordings or transcripts, but press coverage is supplied. The address of the University of La Verne School of Law is 320 East D Street, Ontario, California 91764.

January 5, 2015: Speaker, Investiture of Serena R. Murillo, Los Angeles, California. I recall thanking everyone who had a role in helping me along my path to the bench. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the Los Angeles Superior Court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles 90012.

2008 – 2023 (specific dates unknown): Los Angeles County Bar Association's (LACBA) High School Mentoring Program at Woodrow Wilson High School, Los Angeles, California. I have spoken to students at Woodrow Wilson High School informally on many occasions over the years as part of this pipeline program that brings lawyers and judges together with high school students, to provide advice and support for the students in applying to college and to encourage them to pursue careers in the law. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address

for the Los Angeles County Bar Association is 444 South Flower Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, California 90071.

2007 (specific date unknown): Panelist, "How to Become a Judge," Mexican American Bar Association, Los Angeles, California. I spoke on a panel about the role of the California State Bar's Judicial Nominees Evaluation Committee in judicial appointments. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The Mexican American Bar Association address is 1150 South Olive Street, Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90015.

Since 1995, I have given various talks at local middle and high schools about my background and career. I have spoken at many schools in Los Angeles County, but I am unable to identify the specific dates. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings.

- 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.

Antoine Abou-Diwan, *Leadership Academy Helps Judges Advance Mission* DAILY J. (Sept. 9, 2024). Copy supplied.

Briana Munoz, *Chino sisters are Los Angeles County Superior Court judges*, CHINO VALLEY CHAMPION (June 25, 2022). Copy supplied.

Alisa Balian, *Striving to Include Everyone in the Justice System: Serena Murillo*, MAYFIELD CRIER (Feb. 25, 2022). Copy supplied.

Claudia Palma, *For These Pasadena Students, the People Versus Harry Potter Played Out in a Real Courtroom on Thursday*, PASADENA STAR NEWS (Aug. 28, 2017). Copy supplied.

L.J. Williamson, *Serena R. Murillo, Los Angeles Judge Serena R. Murillo Believes in Imbuing Others with the Power of the Constitution*, DAILY J. (Feb. 11, 2016). Copy supplied.

Kenneth Ofgang, *Deputy District Attorney Serena Murillo Says She Will Take a Second Shot at Election to the Bench*, METRO. NEWS (Jan. 21, 2014). Copy supplied.

Sherri Okamoto, *Judicial Elections: Los Angeles Superior Court Office No. 69, Family Law Commissioner and Criminal Prosecutor Square Off for Judgeship*. METRO. NEWS (Apr, 15, 2008). Copy supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including

positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

Since January 2015, I have served as a Superior Court Judge on the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles County. I was elected by the voters of Los Angeles County in June 2014, and I took the oath of office on January 5, 2015. The Superior Court of California is a court of general jurisdiction. I was appointed by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to serve as an Associate Justice *pro tem*, on the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three from December 2018 until May 2019. The California Court of Appeal is an intermediate appellate court that reviews decisions made by the superior courts. I was appointed by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to serve as a Judge in the Los Angeles Superior Court Appellate Division from September 2020 until December 2020. In 2021, I was elected without opposition to a successive six-year term as a Superior Court judge.

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

I have presided over several hundred traffic infraction matters, many of which were resolved through a bench trial. I have also presided over hundreds of civil small claims matters, many of which were resolved through a bench trial.

I have presided over approximately 55 jury trials in civil, felony, and misdemeanor matters.

The percentages below reflect only civil, misdemeanor, and felony matters that went to trial or judgment. Because of their volume, traffic infraction and small claims matters have been excluded.

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

jury trials:	99%
bench trials:	1%

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

civil proceedings:	1%
criminal proceedings:	99%

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

As a Superior Court Judge in the Criminal Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court, the vast majority of my decisions are issued from the bench in open court and recorded verbatim in the reporter's transcript as well as in summary form in the clerk's minute order. Moreover, all of my written decisions are unpublished.

As a Superior Court Judge in the Civil Division, I presided over a high-volume law and motion calendar for nearly three years. I would estimate that I have issued thousands of written decisions, none of which are published or citable. Similarly, as a Judge in the Appellate Division, I issued numerous opinions, none of which are published or citable.

The Los Angeles Superior Court does not maintain any readily accessible database of my written decisions. Instead, case files are stored in the Los Angeles County Superior Court's case management system as individual determinations since they are not binding on any party other than those involved in the litigation.

As an Associate Justice *pro tem*, I authored the following opinions:

People v. Ortiz, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 1784.

People v. O'Neal, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 3741.

Powell v. County of L.A., 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 3253.

People v. Lyons, 2018 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 8833.

People v. DeJesus, 37 Cal. App. 5th 1124 (2019).

- 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. *People v. Samaniego*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA511590-01.

I presided over a jury trial in this first-degree murder case in which the state alleged that the defendant killed the victim with a handgun. Before trial, the prosecution sought to introduce evidence that the motive for the shooting was related to criminal street gang activity. I presided over pretrial motions, including granting the prosecution's motions to admit this evidence, jury selection, the trial, post-conviction motions, and sentencing. My decisions in this case are recorded by minute orders prepared by the courtroom judicial assistant and by formal orders after a hearing signed by the court. The defendant was convicted of first-degree murder on May 17, 2024. On October 21, 2024, I sentenced the defendant to 25-years to life in prison.

Counsel for the People:

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210 West Temple Street, 17th Floor
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(213) 257-2024

Counsel for the Defense:

Krista Ocon

Office of the Alternate Public Defender
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Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-6626

2. *People v. Wooden*, Los Angeles Court Case No. BA510095-01.

The defendant was charged with second-degree commercial burglary and felony vandalism after police responded to a silent alarm at a tire store in the city of Los Angeles. When officers arrived that evening, they observed two figures with flashlights inside the store. When they identified themselves as officers, one person fled and the other hid inside the business. Officers entered the business but were unable to locate the hiding suspect. There was extensive damage to the store, tools were missing, and a glass door was shattered. The next morning, as employees began searching the vehicles inside the business for missing tools, they opened the trunk of a car and found the defendant. On May 22, 2024, the case was sent to me for trial. I presided over the in limine motions, jury selection, trial and sentencing. On June 5, 2024, the defendant was convicted by the jury on all counts. On August 12, 2024, I sentenced the defendant to two years in prison. My decisions in this case are recorded by minute orders prepared by the courtroom judicial assistant.

Counsel for the People:

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Counsel for the Defendant:

Shahan Levon Boghigian
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Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-2811

3. *Prospect Park, LLC, et al. v. Banks, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV34645.

Plaintiffs Prospect Park, LLC, and Kwatinetz filed a complaint against defendants Banks and Lasagna Girl, LLC alleging causes of action for breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, interference with contractual relations, defamation, trade libel, stalking, invasion of privacy, and civil extortion. The complaint alleges that Kwatinetz, the founder and manager of music production company Prospect Park, LLC, signed Banks, a recording artist, to his music label in 2014. Prospect Park distributed Banks's 2014 album "Broke with Expensive

Taste,” but dropped Banks as a client due to alleged erratic behavior and refusal to engage in basic promotion of her album. Banks and Lasagna Girl claimed they had a right to receive more royalties from “Broke with Expensive Taste.” Defendants filed a cross-complaint against plaintiffs alleging causes of action for breach of contract, fraud and deceit, breach of fiduciary duty, declaratory relief, and negligence. The cross-complaint alleged that Prospect Park, as part of its general policies and practices applicable to all or most of its artists, consistently and purposefully failed to timely account to and pay artists, understated the amount of money due to artists, failed and refused to permit proper audits of artists’ accounts, took improper expenses and failed to provide artists with back-up for expenses with full knowledge that such activities are in breach of its contractual and other obligations to the artists with the purpose and intent of retaining as much additional profit as possible. I presided over motions to amend the complaint in July 2023 and continued the trial in October 2023. In November 2023, shortly after issuing the orders, another judge took over the case because I transferred to the Criminal Division.

Counsel for Plaintiffs:

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(310) 556-3501

Counsel for Defendants:

Leslie Ann Boyce
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Santa Monica, California 90401
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4. *Rodriguez, et al., v. Altamed Medical and Dental Group Boyle Heights, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV41155. Copy supplied.

Plaintiffs Rodriguez and Ceballos, a minor represented by his guardian ad litem, filed a complaint against approximately 50 defendants, including hospitals, doctors, and imaging providers, alleging professional negligence. This case arose from the allegation that the defendants provided substandard care during the labor and delivery of Rodriguez’s son, based on inaccurate estimates of the infant's weight. Rodriguez claimed that the denial of her request for a cesarean section led to permanent physical and neurological injuries. In October 2023, I presided over hearings for several motions for summary judgment or summary adjudication to determine whether the defendants’ care and treatment of the plaintiffs adhered to community standards as described by various expert witnesses. I denied motions filed by Dr. Beckerman and Sono Imaging Mobile Services, L.L.C and granted a motion filed by Dr. Luckey. In November 2023, shortly after issuing the orders, another judge took over the case because I transferred to the Criminal Division.

Counsel for Plaintiffs:

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Garrett R. Chambers
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Counsel for Defendant Dr. Beckerman:

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Nora J. Hite
Kelly, Trotter & Franzen
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Counsel for Defendant Dr. Luckey:

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Stephen A. Diamond
Reback, McAndrews & Blessey, LLP
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Counsel for Defendant Sono Imaging Mobile Services, LLC:

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Elizabeth A. Flatley
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5. *Thompson Team Real Estate v. Gutierrez, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV40518. Copy supplied.

This case stems from a real estate transaction wherein a real estate broker, Thompson Team Real Estate, Inc., was hired by defendants Gutierrez and Ioda to represent them in a real estate transaction involving two properties located in Redondo Beach, California. On March 23, 2023, plaintiff filed a second amended complaint alleging four causes of action for fraud, conversion, receipt of stolen property and restitution. The complaint alleged that it is custom and practice in the real estate market for real estate brokers and developers to work together on development projects by having the brokers represent the developer on the purchase of a development property. The broker would convey or transfer its commission on the purchase to the developer in exchange for the developer committing to list the sale of the development with the broker upon completion of the development. Plaintiff had represented defendants as their broker in the purchase of the two properties at issue. According to plaintiff, for each of the two sales they forwarded to defendants the commission they earned from the seller of each property pursuant to the residential purchase agreement. Defendants stated an intent to subdivide each property and develop townhomes. According to plaintiff, the defendants represented that if plaintiff transferred, assigned, or conveyed its commission earned in the purchase of each property, defendants would list the newly developed structures with plaintiff for sale. Plaintiff did transfer its commissions to defendants who developed the two properties. However, plaintiff alleged that defendants' representations regarding the development of the properties were false in that the defendants intended to keep the homes themselves to rent out for their own profit. Plaintiff alleged that defendants knew their representations were false and intended for plaintiff to rely on them in giving them its commissions on both properties. Plaintiff sought to recover \$68,125 in damages plus interest. I heard the demurrer on this matter filed by defendants as to the plaintiff's second amended complaint. On July 21, 2023, I sustained the demurrer without leave to amend and entered judgment for defendants after order of dismissal of the second amended complaint on September 12, 2023.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

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Lipow & Harris
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(818) 905-0507

Counsel for Defendants:

Stephen B. Goldberg
Spierer, Woodward, Corbalis & Goldberg

707 Torrance Boulevard, Suite 200
Redondo Beach, California 90277
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6. *Pine Valley Inc. v. Ajinomoto North America Inc., et al*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC551112.

I presided over this matter in 2023, although it began long before my involvement. The case originated from a 2014 complaint filed by plaintiff Pine Valley, Inc. against defendants Ajinomoto North America, Inc., Ajinomoto Frozen Foods, U.S.A, Inc., and Trader Joe's Company alleging causes of action which included breach of written contract and intentional interference with prospective economic advantage. On January 28, 2016, plaintiff won a jury verdict against defendants Ajinomoto North America, Inc. and Ajinomoto Frozen Foods, U.S.A, Inc. The jury found, among other things, that defendants willfully and maliciously misappropriated plaintiff's trade secret for frozen-chicken fried rice and frozen-vegetable fried rice. In addition, the court found that a reasonable royalty to be paid by defendants to plaintiff was appropriate. Plaintiff and defendants stipulated to a royalty percentage of gross sales from the trade secrets sold and to be sold by defendants starting from January 28, 2016. On November 10, 2016, the court issued an order, which provided in relevant part that defendants would not be required to pay the royalty when the trade secrets cease to exist. On February 28, 2017, the court entered judgment against defendants, which included the royalty payments. On May 11, 2017, the parties filed appeals. The defendants' appeal challenged a number of issues, including the plaintiff's royalty award. On April 9, 2019, the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's judgment against defendants as to all causes of action, including the royalty award. On March 13, 2023, the court appointed a discovery referee to conduct post-judgment discovery as to whether defendants misappropriated plaintiff's trade secrets regarding other products. Subsequent to that ruling by the prior judge, the parties filed motions for reconsideration of three orders issued by a prior judge, specifically, orders appointing a discovery referee, denying judgment debtor's request for stay, and a motion for an order to change the minute order to clarify who should bear the cost of paying the discovery referee. In July 2023, I took judicial notice of a number of prior exhibits and heard argument from both sides in order to rule on the motions. I denied the motion for reconsideration, finding that there were no circumstances warranting reconsideration as the prior court had addressed the request for stay and appointment of a discovery referee, and because no reasons were presented justifying a stay of post-judgment discovery proceedings. In October 2023, I heard motions to disqualify the discovery referee, to appoint Pro Hac Vice counsel on behalf of the Receiver, and to appoint staff and counsel for the receiver. In November 2023, another judge took over the case because I transferred to the Criminal Division.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Gary Keith Salomons

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(818) 304-8440

Counsel for Defendants:

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Los Angeles, California 90067
(213) 680-8500

Paris Sanders
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(310) 552-4348

7. *People v. Gallup*, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 3707.

A jury convicted defendant and appellant Gallup of the first-degree murder of his wife with a gun. I sat as an associate justice *pro tem* and, along with two other justices, presided over the appeal. The appellant contended that the trial court erred in finding him competent to stand trial after an earlier court trial on competence. He also asserted there was no adequate waiver of his right to a jury trial on competence, and that the prosecution should have renewed its plea offer of 14 years on a manslaughter charge after the trial court found him competent. We found no error and affirmed the appellant's conviction. The unpublished opinion was issued on May 30, 2019.

Counsel for Defendant and Appellant:

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(213) 468-8434

Arthur William Bartz, Jr.
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San Pedro, California 90732
(310) 316-6655

Counsel for the Plaintiff and Respondent:

David W. Williams
United States Attorney's Office
312 North Spring Street

Los Angeles, California 90012
(Current phone number unavailable)

8. *People v. Bannon*, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 1649.

A jury convicted the defendant of eight felony sex crimes. The trial court sentenced the defendant to a determinate 10-year term, and an indeterminate term of 60 years to life. I sat as an associate justice *pro tem* and, along with two other justices, presided over the appeal. The defendant and appellant argued that the trial court violated his right to due process and a fair trial when the court denied his motion to sever, admitted evidence of a prior sexual offense, erroneously instructed the jury, and allowed expert testimony on rape trauma syndrome. The court affirmed the judgment of the trial court. The unpublished opinion was issued on March 8, 2019.

Counsel for Defendant and Appellant
Daniel G. Koryn (deceased)

Counsel for the Plaintiff and Respondent:
Kathy S. Pomerantz
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300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 269-6102

9. *Patterson v. Indigo Sky, Inc.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC579313.

This case stemmed from a claim that during the administration of cosmetic services, the plaintiff suffered a specified bodily injury due to the negligence of the defendants. I presided over the jury trial and *in limine* motions. Medical experts for both sides testified as to the damage and its lasting effects on the plaintiff. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff on November 8, 2016. My decisions in this case are recorded by minute orders prepared by the courtroom judicial assistant. The parties settled after the trial.

Counsel for Plaintiff:
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(818) 222-9720

Counsel for Defendants:
Ted R. Crisler
Law Office of Eric G. Anderson

1851 East 1st Street, Suite 750
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(714) 256-7616

10. *Rodriguez v. Ramirez*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC566564.

I presided over this civil jury trial stemming from personal injuries suffered by the plaintiff following a traffic accident involving a commercial truck and his motorcycle. The plaintiff presented evidence including a reconstruction of the accident and testimony regarding damages. The jury returned a defense verdict on August 24, 2016. My decisions in this case are recorded by minute orders prepared by the courtroom judicial assistant.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

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Nordean Law, APC
245 Fischer Avenue, D1
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Counsel for Defendant:

Jeff Braun
Kendall Craver
McNeil, Tropp & Braun
4695 Macarthur Court, Suite 800
Newport Beach, California 92660
(949) 259-2890

- 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. *People v. Ortiz*, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 1784.

Counsel for the Appellant and Defendant Alford:

Matthew Alger
P.O. Box 1319
Erie, Colorado 80516
(559) 658-6500

Counsel for the Appellant and Defendant Ortiz:

Vanessa Place
1950 West Corporate Way, PMB 66416
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Counsel for the People and Respondent:
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2. *People v. DeJesus*, 37 Cal. App. 5th 1124 (2019).

Counsel for the Appellant and Defendant:
Ruzanna Poghosyan
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Counsel for the People and Respondent:
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3. *Powell v. County of L.A.*, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 3253.

Counsel for the Appellant and Plaintiff:
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(818) 340-1950

Counsel for the Respondent and Defendant:
Larry D. Stratton
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4. *People v. O'Neal*, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 3741.

Counsel for the Appellant and Defendant:
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(213) 243-0300

Counsel for the Respondent and Defendant:

Rene Judkiewicz
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5. *Rodriguez, et al., v. Altamed Medical and Dental Group Boyle Heights, et al.*,
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV41155. Opinion previously
supplied in response to Question 13c.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

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Elizabeth A. Flatley
Poliquin & DeGrave LLP
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6. *IHeartMedia + Entertainment, Inc. v Special Entertainment Events, Inc. et al.*,
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV41091. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiffs:

Marta E. Roza
Herzlich, Blum & Roza, LLP
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(818) 783-8991

Counsel for Defendants:

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A. Singer & Associates, Inc.
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Somis, California 93066
(805) 375-2010

7. *Thompson Team Real Estate, Inc. v. Gutierrez, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior
Court Case No. 21STCV40518. Opinion previously supplied in response to
Question 13c.

Counsel for Plaintiffs:

Jeffrey A. Lipow
Lipow & Harris
27943 Seco Canyon Road, No. 309
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Counsel for Defendants:

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8. *Pine Valley Inc. v. Ajinomoto North America Inc., et al*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC551112. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiff:

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Counsel for Defendants:

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9. *Abusamra-Pixler, et al. v. U-Haul International Inc, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC631370. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Plaintiffs:

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Counsel for Defendant GEICO:

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10. *Kim v. Rowling*, Los Angeles Superior Court, Appellate Case No. BV033262. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Appellant:

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(213) 252-3873

Counsel for Respondent:

Joezen Callos
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667 West Avenue J
Lancaster, California 93534
(661) 525-5050

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

I do not know of any 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.

I do not know of any such 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.

As a Superior Court Judge in the Criminal Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court, the vast majority of my decisions are issued from the bench in open court and recorded verbatim in the reporter's transcript as well as in summary form in the clerk's minute order. Moreover, all of my written decisions are unpublished. As a Superior Court Judge in the Civil Division, I presided over a high-volume law and motion calendar for nearly three years. I would estimate that I have issued thousands of written decisions, none of which are published or citable. Similarly, as a Judge in the Appellate Division, I issued numerous opinions, none of which are published or citable.

The Los Angeles Superior Court does not maintain any readily accessible database of my written decisions. Instead, case files are stored in the Los Angeles County Superior Court's case management system as individual determinations since they are not binding on any party other than those involved in the litigation.

As an Associate Justice *pro tem*, I was part of a three-justice panel that issued approximately 20 unpublished appellate opinions and the following unpublished opinions which I authored:

People v. Ortiz, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 1784.

People v. O'Neal, 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 3741.
Powell v. County of L.A., 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 3253.
People v. Lyons, 2018 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 8833.

Unreported appellate opinions from the Court of Appeal are stored in the court's online database at <https://appellate.courts.ca.gov/district-courts/2dca>, and through legal websites such as Lexis and Westlaw.

- 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 have not issued any significant written opinions on federal or state constitutional issues.

- 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 not sat by designation on any 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.

California Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) § 170.6 allows for any party or attorney to an action to file a peremptory challenge against any judicial officer. No showing of actual bias need be made under CCP § 170.6. (A different section of the CCP, § 170.1, governs challenges for cause.) Recusal under CCP § 170.6 is mandatory if the proponent of the motion meets the procedural standards set forth under that section. I am unaware of the number of peremptory challenges that

have been filed against me, as no list is maintained of those challenges. In my service as a Superior Court Judge, I have never been asked to recuse myself for cause pursuant to CCP § 170.1. I have, however, recused myself sua sponte on a few occasions.

I recused myself from a motion for resentencing in the *People v. Don Sam Ha*, Case No. XNEGA020922-05, and in *Martinez v. City of Los Angeles*, Case No. 20STCV26314, in the Los Angeles Superior Court due to personal friendships with the prosecuting attorney in the former and counsel for a party in the latter.

I recused myself in the following Los Angeles Superior Court cases because a litigant was represented by my former employer, the law firm McNicholas & McNicholas: *Doustar v. Elchibegian*, Case No. BC698210; *Higgins v. Doe Gardeners*, Case No. 20STCV18156; *Rosales v. Delta Airlines, Inc.*, Case No. 20STCV05062.

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.

Aside from serving as a Superior Court judge, I have not held public office. I ran for an elected judicial office in 2008 but was unsuccessful in that election.

- 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 searched my files and electronic databases in an effort to identify all information responsive to this question. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, listed below are all of the instances in which I played any role in a political campaign. There may, however, be other such instances that I have been unable to recall or identify.

I have not been a member or held office in any political party or election committee.

In November 2009, I helped coordinate a campaign event for then-San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris in her campaign to become California Attorney General.

Finally, I conducted my own election campaign in 2008 and 2014 for the nonpartisan position of Los Angeles Superior Court Judge. As such, I developed a campaign website and conducted fundraising.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

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

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

I have not served as a clerk to a judge after graduating from law school.

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

I have not practiced law alone.

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

1996

Shernoff, Bidart and Echeverria (formerly Darras)
600 South Indian Hill Boulevard
Claremont, California 91711
Post-Bar Clerk

1997

McNicholas & McNicholas
10866 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90024
Associate Attorney

1997 – 2014

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Deputy District Attorney

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

I have not 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.

From approximately August 1996 until December 1996, I worked as a temporary post-bar attorney at Shernoff, Bidart, and Darras (now Echeverria). I primarily assisted attorneys in preparing and responding to discovery requests.

From January to November 1997, I worked as an associate attorney at McNicholas & McNicholas. I represented plaintiffs in various personal injury cases. My duties involved all phases of pre-trial discovery, case management, and motion practice.

From November 1997 to 2014, I worked as a Deputy District Attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA). For the first year, I managed a caseload of misdemeanor criminal trial matters in three different area courts in Los Angeles County. My duties included managing all aspects of criminal litigation from arraignment through jury trial and sentencing.

From 1998 to 1999, I was assigned to a juvenile court where I was responsible for litigating juvenile criminal matters. I managed all aspects of the litigation including meeting with victims and witnesses, conducting adjudications, and hearings to determine whether a juvenile offender was suitable for prosecution in the juvenile court.

From 1999 to 2005, I managed felony criminal matters in a central trials unit of the criminal justice center in downtown Los Angeles. For two years, I was assigned as a Domestic Violence Coordinator where I primarily litigated all aspects of cases involving intimate partner violence. For the remaining years, I prosecuted various criminal cases ranging from theft offenses to homicide matters.

From 2005 to 2010, I worked in a specialized unit prosecuting white-collar crime in what was known as the Major Fraud Division (now the White-Collar Crime Division). There, I investigated and vertically prosecuted theft, embezzlement, tax, and securities fraud where the loss in question exceeded \$300,000.

From 2010 to 2014, I moved to a different specialized unit where I managed legal appeals on behalf of the prosecution in cases that had been appealed to a higher court from the Los Angeles Superior Court. In the Appellate Division of the LADA, I prosecuted criminal appeals in the Los Angeles Superior Court's Appellate Division, felony writs for prohibition

or mandate in the California Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court, federal petitions for writ of habeas corpus in the United States District Court for the Central District of California and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I was specially assigned those writs of prohibition and mandate pertaining to civil commitment hearings of people designated as sexually violent predators, and I also offered officewide legal education and analyzed new legislation and case authority on behalf of the District Attorney.

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

During the time I served as a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney from 1997 to 2014, my clients were the People of the State of California. I did not represent individual clients. My area of specialization included domestic violence crimes from approximately 2003 to 2005, white-collar crime from 2005 to 2010, and handled appellate litigation on behalf of the District Attorney's Office from 2010 to 2014.

As a civil practitioner, my clients were individuals harmed in consumer-oriented 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.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- 1. federal courts: <1%
 - 2. state courts of record: 99%
 - 3. other courts: 0%
 - 4. administrative agencies: 0%

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- 1. civil proceedings: 10%
 - 2. criminal proceedings: 90%

- 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 approximately 68 cases to verdict in state court. I was sole counsel in 66 of them.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

- 1. jury: 50%

2. non-jury:

50%

- e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply four (4) copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

I have not practiced before the Supreme Court of the United States.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

- 1. *Stanley v. Superior Court*, 206 Cal. App. 4th 265 (2012); *Stanley v. Baca*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89447 (C.D. Cal. June 6, 2013); *Stanley v. Baca*, 555 F. App'x 707 (9th Cir. 2014).

The defendant was tried for two counts of murder, for attempting to possess controlled substances for sale, and for possessing a firearm. After a jury and alternates had been sworn to hear the trial matter, the court dismissed the panel and declared a mistrial. The question presented was whether the trial court's mistrial order was justified by legal necessity or by consent, thus allowing the defendant to be tried again without violating the Double Jeopardy Clause of the United States Constitution. I represented the state as sole counsel in responding to the defendant's petition for writ of prohibition filed in the California Court of Appeal in 2012. I researched the state and federal case authority on the issue, drafted the briefing, and argued the case. I prevailed in the state appellate litigation. The court found that defense counsel had impliedly consented to the mistrial so double jeopardy principles did not preclude any further prosecution of charges against him. The defendant then filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus on the same basis as the appeal in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. In 2013, I handled the federal petition for writ of habeas corpus and prevailed in the district court. The defendant then appealed that decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I handled the appeal and argued the matter in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2013 and 2014. The Ninth Circuit vacated the district court's order and remanded the case. The court held that the trial

court's mistrial order was not supported by manifest necessity or express consent. The court was unable to determine whether the mistrial was supported by implied consent and remanded the matter to the district court to determine, after a hearing, whether the mistrial was supported by implied consent. The remaining litigation was transferred to another attorney after this hearing when I left the office to join the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Courts:

The Honorable Presiding Justice Walter Croskey
The Honorable Associate Justice Joan Dempsey Klein
The Honorable Associate Justice Patti Kitching
California Court of Appeal, Division Three

The Honorable Judge John Kronstadt
United States District Court for the Central District of California

The Honorable Magistrate Judge Stephen Hillman
United States District Court for the Central District

The Honorable Justice Harry Pregerson
The Honorable Marsha Berzon
The Honorable Morgan Christen
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Counsel for Defendant:

John Hamilton Scott (retired)
Office of the Public Defender
4144 Woodcliff Road
Sherman Oaks, California 91403
(Current phone number unavailable)

2. *People v. Stern and Eroshevich*, California Supreme Court Case No. S210545; California Court of Appeal Case No. B231411; *People v. Eroshevich*, 60 Cal. 4th 583 (2014).

Defendants were convicted of numerous charges related to providing prescription drugs to celebrity Anna Nicole Smith under false names. After their convictions, they filed motions for a new trial, claiming insufficient evidence in support of the verdicts. As to defendant Stern, the trial court, in a combined ruling, granted the motion for new trial and then held that the evidence was insufficient as a matter of law to support the verdicts. The trial court dismissed the charges against Stern and, without ruling on the merits of defendant Eroshevich's motion for new trial, dismissed the charges against her. The state appealed the court's dismissal of the charges as to both defendants. On October 18, 2012, the Court of Appeal unanimously determined that the trial court erred in granting Stern's new trial motion, as substantial evidence supported the verdict. As to Eroshevich, the court reversed the dismissal of the

charges against her and remanded the matter for a decision on her motions. Lastly, the Court of Appeal ruled that Stern could not be retried due to double jeopardy from the lower court's erroneous new trial grant, which was treated as an acquittal, while Eroshevich could be retried since her motions had not been addressed on their merits. After the opinion was filed but before the remittitur was issued, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Evans v. Michigan*, 568 U.S. 313, 133 S. Ct. 1069 (2013), holding that retrial following a court-decreed acquittal was barred under the Double Jeopardy Clause. A court's order acquitting the petitioner, although based on an error of law, prevented the state from retrying the case. However, the Court explained in its decision that "[I]f a court grants a motion to acquit after the jury has convicted, there is no double jeopardy barrier to an appeal by the government from the court's acquittal, because reversal would result in reinstatement of the jury verdict of guilt, not a new trial." The Court of Appeal asked for further briefing on the effect of the *Evans* decision. In March 2013, I took over the case and authored the letter brief to the Court of Appeal arguing that the retrial of Stern was not barred under double jeopardy principles established in the U.S. and California constitutions. On March 28, 2013, the Court of Appeal republished its opinion, with one justice agreeing with my argument by concurring in the reversals but not in the remainder of the disposition. Based upon the dissent by that justice, I authored a Petition for Review of the Court of Appeal's majority decision in the California Supreme Court. Ultimately, the California Supreme Court sided with our position, reversing the Court of Appeal's decision and ruling that Stern was not barred from retrial if the motion for a new trial was granted or dismissed on grounds other than insufficiency of the evidence.

Court:

The California Supreme Court

The California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Five
The Honorable Presiding Justice Paul Turner
Associate Justice Orville "Jack" Armstrong
Associate Justice Richard Mosk

Counsel for Defendant:

Peter Gold
5758 Geary Boulevard, #160
San Francisco, California 94121
(510) 872-6305

Janyce Keiko Imata Blair
1609 Border Avenue
Torrance, California 90501
(310) 606-9262

3. *Flores v. Superior Court*, California Supreme Court Case No. S205054; California Court of Appeal Case No. B242816.

The state initiated a commitment petition against the defendant inmate pursuant to California's Sexually Violent Predators Act (SVPA). The state, based upon concurring opinions of two designated experts determined that it was likely the defendant would engage in sexually violent behavior if released from the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. The trial court sustained the initial petition. Approximately three years after the probable cause hearing, the court ordered subsequent evaluations pursuant to California case authority. The subsequent set of expert evaluations resulted in what is commonly referred to as a "double-split," wherein the second set of evaluators no longer concurred as to whether the petitioner met the SVPA criteria. Flores initiated a petition for writ of mandate alleging the trial court was required to dismiss an SVPA petition when a second set of evaluators disagreed as to whether a petitioner met the SVPA criteria. The second question presented concerned the weight assigned to the testimony of an expert who had lost their designation from the Director of State Hospitals due to the use of invalid assessment protocols. In 2012, I managed this litigation for approximately one year, serving as sole counsel in the Court of Appeal. Ultimately, the defendant's SVPA petition was not dismissed as the California Supreme Court held in a separate case that absent material error, once a petition has been properly filed and the trial court has obtained jurisdiction, the question of whether a person is a sexually violent predator should be left to the trier of fact.

Court:

California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Seven

Counsel for Defendant:

Jack T. Weedin
6520 Platt Avenue, #419
West Hills, California, 91307
(818) 517-6650

4. *People v. Dinkins*, 2012 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 8344.

The defendant filed a petition for writ of prohibition or mandate in the California Court of Appeal following the denial of his motion to suppress evidence in the trial court. Dinkins's person and vehicle were searched following his initial arrest for trespassing on a residential property. The issue was whether the search violated the Fourth Amendment under the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Arizona v. Gant*, 556 U.S. 332 (2009), which restricted vehicular searches incident to arrest. Furthermore, the issue was complicated by the fact that the search at issue occurred prior to the decision in *Arizona v. Gant*, but the hearing was conducted after the opinion was published. From 2011 to 2012, I represented the state as sole counsel in the appellate litigation. I handled all research on the legal issue, drafted the responsive briefing, and argued the matter in the reviewing court. Ultimately, the Court of Appeal concluded that the search was constitutionally permissible as an exception to the warrant requirement and the writ petition was denied.

Counsel for Appellant:

Jonathan Edward Roberts
P.O. Box 2231
Rancho Cucamonga, California 91729
(562) 832-7311

Court:

The Honorable Justice Walter Croskey
The Honorable Justice Richard Aldrich
The Honorable Justice Patti Kitching
California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three

5. *People v. Padilla and Varela*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA285982.

The defendants, non-lawyers, were charged with grand theft and embezzlement for running a fraudulent law firm. They maintained what appeared to be a law firm by hiring bilingual office staff and attorneys recently admitted to the California State Bar for what the attorneys believed to be document editing on behalf of the firm. The attorneys edited documents and unbeknownst to them, the defendants were using the attorneys' images and State Bar Certificates to advertise and solicit business. In addition, the defendants filed and settled multiple cases using the attorneys' State Bar Numbers throughout the Los Angeles Superior Court. A victim solicited assistance from defendants in connection with a marriage dissolution. The defendants induced the victim to sign documents by verbally misrepresenting the nature of the documents to her in Spanish. These documents included escrow instructions which allowed defendants to wire themselves \$175,000 in connection with the sale of the victim's home. From 2005 to 2006, I vertically prosecuted this matter, filed the complaint, coordinated search warrants, examined witnesses, and argued pretrial release motions. I represented the state as co-counsel in the criminal litigation, which resulted in a negotiated disposition wherein the defendants admitted the charges, were placed on formal probation for five years, and ordered to make restitution to the victims.

Court:

The Honorable William N. Sterling
Los Angeles Superior Court

Co-Counsel:

The Honorable David Berger
Los Angeles Superior Court

Counsel for Defendant Padilla:

Anthony R. Garcia
Law Offices of Anthony R. Garcia
1180 Durfee Avenue, #240
South El Monte, California 91733
(626) 401-1800

Counsel for Defendant Varela:

Frank Duncan
880 West First Street, #602
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 621-4060

6. *People v. Vasquez*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA243124; California Court of Appeal Case No. B159379; California Supreme Court Case No. S128854; 136 Cal. App. 4th 1176 (2006).

The case involved the discovery of an unidentified man who had been shot to death and dumped in an alley in South Los Angeles. The police, unable to match the decedent with any Missing Person report, labeled him a John Doe. Over a year later, the investigation revealed that the victim had been killed by his cousin. The defendant was charged with first-degree murder for killing the victim over a family dispute. As sole counsel representing the state, I prepared witness family members to testify at the 2004 trial, managed inter-state subpoenas compelling witnesses to attend the trial, researched motions and evidentiary issues pertaining to aged circumstantial evidence, argued pre-trial motions, conducted witness examinations, presented the opening statement and closing argument in the trial, and argued at the sentencing hearing. The defendant was convicted by a jury of second-degree murder and sentenced to 16 years to life. There was an appeal and retrial, which I did not handle. On appeal, the conviction was reversed for an instructional error by the judge regarding self-defense. The defendant was subsequently tried a second time and was acquitted.

Court:

The Honorable Stephen Marcus (retired)
Los Angeles Superior Court

Counsel for Defendant:

Speros Maniates
2863 East Florence Avenue
Huntington Park, California 90255
(323) 582-7413

7. *People v. Vanegas*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA223163; California Court of Appeal Case No. B165475; 115 Cal. App. 4th 592 (2004).

The defendant was charged with first-degree murder for killing the victim, a pedestrian, by twice pinning him up against a light post with his truck. Both the defendant and the victim were intoxicated at the time of the homicide. In 2001, I tried this matter before a jury representing the state as sole counsel. I handled the trial preparation and researched the theories of criminal liability that needed to be presented to the jury. I offered the opening statement and closing argument, examined witnesses, researched pretrial motions and evidentiary issues, and argued at the sentencing hearing. The

defendant was convicted of second-degree murder by a jury and sentenced to 15 years to life. There was an appeal, which I did not handle. On appeal, the conviction was reversed for instructional error by the judge. The defendant ultimately pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 11 years.

Court:

The Honorable Stephen Marcus (retired)
Los Angeles Superior Court

Counsel for Defendant:

Curt Leftwich
Curt Leftwich APLC
18809 Los Alimos Street
Porter Ranch, California 91326
(818) 324-2091

8. *People v. Delgado and Martinez*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA207376.

The defendants were charged with murder and multiple counts of attempted murder in connection with three separate incidents of gang-related shootings. In the first incident, the defendants used an assault rifle to shoot at four victims from the rear passenger seat of a vehicle. In the second incident, one defendant was alleged to have murdered a rival gang member. In the third incident, one of the defendants was erroneously released from custody after being arraigned and again shot the victim of the original drive-by shooting. From approximately 2000 to 2002, I handled trial preparation, researched motions and evidentiary issues, argued pre-trial motions, conducted witness examinations, presented the opening statement and closing argument in the case, and argued at the sentencing hearing. Martinez was convicted and sentenced to 40 years to life in prison in 2002. For Delgado, the jury was deadlocked on the attempted murder charges. He was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and sentenced to six years.

Judge:

The Honorable Terry Green (retired)
Los Angeles Superior Court

Counsel for Defendants:

James Goldstein
1645 Vine Street, Apartment 809
Los Angeles, California 90028
(323) 461-2000

Mark Brandt
23901 Calabasas Road, Suite 1063
Calabasas, California, 91302
(818) 222-2257

Co-Counsel:

Halim Dhanidina, Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal (retired)
Signature Resolution
633 West 5th Street, Suite 1000
Los Angeles, California 90071
(213) 622-1002

9. *People v. Gallegos and Ayon*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA22160.

The defendants were charged with murder in connection with a plan to steal 200 pounds of marijuana. The plan failed and led to a car chase wherein one defendant, a passenger in a vehicle driven by the co-defendant, shot out of the driver's side window killing the victim in an adjacent vehicle. I represented the state as sole counsel. I handled the preliminary hearing, trial preparation, jury questionnaires, and witness preparation, and researched motions and evidentiary issues. The case was resolved through a guilty plea in 2001. Ayon, the shooter, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a sentence of 16 years to life. Gallegos, the driver, pleaded guilty to two counts of voluntary manslaughter, conspiracy to commit a crime, and firearm use and was sentenced to eight years.

Court:

The Honorable Terry Green (retired)
Los Angeles Superior Court

The Honorable Presiding Justice Tricia Bigelow, California Court of Appeal (retired),
then-Los Angeles Superior Court Judge

Counsel for Defendants:

Seymour Applebaum (retired)
Office of the Alternate Public Defender
6 Hoe Place
Paia, Hawaii 96779
(310) 666-2172

Maddon L. Cooper
347 Long Point
Long Beach, California 90803
(562) 572-0628

10. *People v. Farrington*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA216121.

The defendant was charged with second-degree robbery after he threatened and stole money from an elderly, unhoused victim. The victim had just picked up a check for state assistance when the defendant robbed him. The defendant had been previously convicted of robbery. I conducted the jury trial in this case, and managed pretrial

discovery, in limine motions, and sentencing. On July 16, 2001, the jury convicted the defendant of robbery and found the prior convictions to be true. The defendant was sentenced to 16 years in state prison.

Court

The Honorable Carlos Velarde (retired)
Los Angeles Superior Court

Counsel for the Defendant:

Ezekiel Perlo (retired)
19528 Ventura Boulevard, Number 221
Tarzana, California 91356
(Current phone number unavailable)

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.)

I have not engaged in any lobbying activities, and I have never been registered as a lobbyist.

My most significant legal activities revolve around teaching and judicial education, judicial branch-wide administration, the administration of court policies affecting access to justice, and mock trial programs.

In 2022 and 2023, I was elected to the Los Angeles Superior Court Executive Committee and currently represent the Central Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Chaired by the Presiding Judge, the Executive Committee is authorized to act for and on behalf of the judges on any matters affecting the court, such as the court's local rules, approval of bail schedules, and any issue affecting incidents as to which the judges have the power to act, other than the adoption of an amendment to the rules applicable to the Executive Committee.

Since 2022, I have chaired the Los Angeles Superior Court's Judicial Education Seminars Governing Committee. This committee is responsible for planning and implementing the court's robust education seminars. Each year, the committee offers approximately 50 seminars in all case types and subject matters of relevance and interest to judges. I have also served on the criminal and civil law sub-committees.

Since 2017, I have served the Judicial Council of California, which is the policymaking body of the California courts. I sit on its Criminal Law Advisory Committee (CLAC), which is charged with making recommendations to the council for improving the

administration of justice in criminal proceedings. The committee identifies issues and concerns confronting the judiciary in the areas of criminal procedure, practice, and case management and suggests solutions and responses. In September 2024, I was appointed as Vice-Chair of this committee.

From 2019 to 2021, I served on another Judicial Council advisory body, the Criminal Law Curriculum Committee. The primary role and responsibility of the curriculum committee was to develop a two-year education plan for criminal law, for approval by the California Center for Judicial Education and Research Advisory Council and, ultimately, the Judicial Council.

Since 2016, I have served as faculty for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research and led the team of instructors who teach orientation to criminal law for judges new to the bench. Since 2017, I have also served as faculty for the B.E. Witkin Judicial College and am qualified to teach courses on the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Since 2016, I have served as faculty and offered judicial education on new California legislation to the Orange County Superior Court, the San Diego Superior Court, the Alameda Superior Court, the California Judges Association, the American Inns of Court, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the California Center for Judicial Education and Research's Criminal Law Institute, Appellate Justice Institute, Appellate Justice Attorney Institute, and Pretrial Justice Institute.

Since 2016, I have also served on Los Angeles Superior Court committees, including the Community Outreach Committee (which coordinates and supports the efforts of the Court and its judicial officers to promote positive relations with the community through education, outreach and service), the Domestic Violence Committee (which provides a platform to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas about issues relating to restraining orders across all judicial disciplines, to investigate and suggest process improvements in restraining order cases, and to suggest educational offerings about issues relating to restraining orders), and the Bail Committee (which updates the Court's Bail Schedules, tracks and analyzes legislation that would impact the bail schedules and finalizes all changes for the schedules approved by the Executive Committee).

In 2016, I served by appointment of the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court on the Pretrial Detention Reform Workgroup, which was convened to provide analysis and recommendations for areas in which courts may identify better ways to make release decisions that will promote fairness, protect the public, and ensure court appearances. The workgroup performed a detailed evaluation and developed recommendations to meet overarching pretrial detention reform objectives.

In 2018, I served by appointment of the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court on the Pretrial Release Operations Workgroup, which was convened to examine reforms across California to help continue progress toward reform that would benefit the branch, enhance public safety, and promote the fair treatment of all who come through our

criminal justice system.

In 2016, I wrote a mock trial in collaboration with two fifth-grade school teachers to teach students about the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the importance of serving on a jury. I recruited other judges to help teach the mock trial at various elementary schools in Los Angeles County and adapted the curriculum so that Spanish-speaking students could also participate.

As a Deputy District Attorney assigned to the Appellate Division, I analyzed new legislation and case authority on behalf of the District Attorney. I also taught office-wide legal education, specifically on the Double Jeopardy Clause of the United States Constitution.

Throughout my legal career, I have volunteered to preside over many moot court programs and competitions. I have also presided over mock trials in connection with the Los Angeles Superior Court's partnership with the Constitutional Rights Foundation and have judged a round of the Greene Broillet & Wheeler National Civil Trial Competition, an invitational tournament open to all ABA-accredited law schools that have demonstrated excellence in mock trial competitions and/or demonstrated excellence in the training of law students in litigation.

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.

Advanced Criminal Procedure, Fourth Amendment, University of California Irvine School of Law, Spring 2022. This course focused on the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, with an emphasis on its implications for criminal procedure and evidence. Key topics included defining what constitutes a search or seizure, understanding the legal standards required, exploring exceptions to the warrant requirement, examining the exclusionary rule, and addressing search warrants for electronic evidence. Syllabus provided.

Torts I, Law 509, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, Fall 2022, 2023, and 2024. This course explored theories of recovery for individuals harmed by both intentional and unintentional conduct. It examined intentional torts such as assault, battery, and trespass, and theories of negligence and strict liability. Additionally, the course analyzed the social, economic, and political policies influencing the development of common law and statutory tort law. Syllabus provided for each year.

Criminal Procedure, Law 602, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law Spring 2024. This course explored leading Supreme Court cases that shaped the criminal justice process, focusing on the procedures designed to ensure fair adjudication and protect liberty and privacy interests. Rooted in the Bill of Rights, particularly the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments, the course emphasizes the constitutional principles

underpinning criminal procedure. Special attention was given to the Fourth Amendment, including its application to electronic evidence at both state and federal levels. Syllabus provided.

Criminal Law, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law Summer Law and English Program, Summer 2023, 2024. This lecture provided a comprehensive overview of criminal law, focusing on the foundational elements of criminal law, including the definition and classification of crimes, the elements required to establish criminal liability, and the various defenses available to the accused. There was no syllabus for this course.

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.

I do not have any plans, commitments or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during my service with the court.

22. **Sources of Income**: List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

When my nomination is formally submitted to the Senate, I will file my Financial Disclosure Report and will supplement this Questionnaire with a copy of that Report/See attached Financial Disclosure Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth**: Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Statement of Net Worth.

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.

A conflict of interest could arise from any matter arising from a case I handled as a Superior Court Judge. I will evaluate any real or potential conflict, or relationship that could give rise to the appearance of such a conflict, on a case-by-case basis and determine 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 would address any actual or potential conflicts of interest by applying the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, 28 U.S.C. § 455, and any other relevant laws, canons, rules, practices, and guidelines.

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.

While at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, I was not permitted to provide any pro bono legal representation to outside organizations or individuals. However, I served the community through programs at the Hollenbeck Youth Center and Inner-City Games. The organization creates opportunities for inner-city youth to participate in athletic, educational, and enrichment programs. I attended weekly meetings to plan their annual Miracle On First Street holiday celebration and parade, served food and turkeys at Thanksgiving, organized fundraising events, and coordinated support for the celebratory gatherings they hosted for the community.

I also served as a Project LEAD instructor. Project LEAD was a District Attorney-sponsored program where lawyers work with fifth-grade students in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. The curriculum focuses on the legal and social consequences of juvenile crimes, such as truancy, illicit drug use, shoplifting and vandalism. The program also teaches students techniques for resolving conflict and resisting peer pressure. I led classes with students during weekly lessons for approximately three years in local elementary schools.

Since approximately 2007, I have also volunteered to mentor students at the Woodrow Wilson High School Law Magnet through the Los Angeles County Bar Association. I have also spoken to the students about my background and the challenges I have overcome to encourage them to make good decisions and pursue higher education.

In 1997, during my first year as a civil lawyer, I volunteered to deliver food to people who were elderly or housebound through St. Vincent Meals on Wheels.

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 2021, the chair of Senator Alex Padilla's Central District of California Judicial Commission contacted me about a vacancy on the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Later that year, I applied for the position to Senator Padilla's commission. In December 2021, I was interviewed by Senator Padilla's Judicial Commission for the Central District of California. On November 20, 2023, I was interviewed by the chair of Senator Padilla's commission. On August 21, 2024, I was interviewed by the chair of Senator Laphonza Butler's Judicial Advisory Process. On August 27, 2024, the White House Counsel's Office advised me that I was being considered for an opening on the Central District of California. On August 28, 2024, I interviewed with the White House Counsel's Office. Since then, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy at the United States Department of Justice. On October 23, 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.