

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NON-JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name:** State full name (include any former names used).
Leif Alexander Olson
2. **Position:** State the position for which you have been nominated.
United States Attorney, Northern District of Iowa, Department of Justice
3. **Address:** List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.
Office:
Iowa Department of Justice
1305 E. Walnut St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Residence:
Norwalk, Iowa
4. **Birthplace:** State date and place of birth.
1975; Tacoma, Washington
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.
University of Chicago, 1998–2001
J.D., June 2001

Trinity University, 1994–1998
B.A., June 1998

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.

August 2023–Present

Chief Deputy Attorney General, August 2023–present

Deputy Attorney General, August 2023

Iowa Department of Justice

1305 E. Walnut St.

Des Moines, IA 50319

May 2021–August 2023

Office of the Attorney General of Texas

Chief of Special Litigation, February 2023–August 2023

Special Counsel, May 2021–February 2023

P.O. Box 12548

Austin, TX 78711-2548

August 2019–January 2021

Senior Policy Advisor to the Administrator

Wage and Hour Division

U.S. Department of Labor

200 Constitution Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20210

January 2018–August 2019

Solo law practitioner

The Olson Firm PLLC

4830 Wilson Rd. #300

Humble, TX 78396

May 2017–December 2017

Senior Counsel

Cokinos Young

Las Cimas IV

900 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., Suite 425

Austin, TX 78746

April 2013–April 2017

Solo law practitioner

The Olson Firm PLLC

4830 Wilson Rd. #300

Humble, TX 78396

August 2007–April 2013

Counsel

Welsh LeBlanc LLP (f.k.a. Welsh & Chapoton LLP) (dissolved)

8 Greenway Plaza, Ste. 1150

Houston, TX 77046

February 2007–August 2007

Attorney

Hogan & Hartson LLP (n.k.a. Hogan Lovells)

609 Main, Ste. 4200

Houston, TX 77002

January 2006–August 2006

Associate

Dobrowski LLP (n.k.a. Dobrowski Stafford & Pierce LLP)

4601 Washington, Ste. 300

Houston, TX 77007

September 2003–December 2005

Associate

Fulbright & Jaworski LLP (n.k.a. Norton Rose Fulbright LLP)

1550 Lamar, Ste. 2000

Houston, TX 77010

September 2001–August 2003

Law Clerk

Judge Lynn N. Hughes

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

Bob Casey Federal Courthouse

515 Rusk

Houston, TX 77002

July 2000–August 2000; June 2001–August 2001

Summer Associate

Vinson & Elkins LLP

845 Texas, Suite 4700

Houston, TX 77002

June 2000–July 2000

Summer Associate

Locke, Liddell & Sapp LLP (n.k.a. Troutman Pepper Locke LLP)

600 Travis, Suite 2800

Houston, TX 77002

June 1999–August 1999

Summer Clerk (unpaid)

United States Attorney's Office

Northern District of Texas

Earle Cabell Federal Courthouse

1100 Commerce, Third Floor

Dallas, TX 75242

June 1998–August 1998

Server

On the Border (now closed)

225 E. Basse Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78209

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 U.S. military. I am registered for 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.

Administrator's Coin of Merit, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, 2021

Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation, 2020

Life Fellow, Houston Bar Foundation, 2020

Life Fellow, Houston Young Lawyers Foundation, 2004

President's Award of Merit, Texas Young Lawyers Association, 2013, 2014

Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas

Phi Beta Kappa, 1998
Mortar Board national honor society, 1998
Blue Key national honor society, 1998
Omicron Delta Epsilon economics honor society, 1998
Phi Alpha Theta history honor society, 1998

I attended Trinity University on a partial academic scholarship.

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.

Federalist Society
Director, Houston Lawyers Chapter, 2003–2019
Director, Iowa Lawyers Chapter, 2024–Present

Texas Young Lawyers Association
Director, 2010–2014

Houston Young Lawyers Association
Immediate Past President, 2010–2011
President, 2009–2010
President-elect, 2008–2009
Secretary, 2007–2008
Treasurer, 2006–2007
Director, 2005–2006

Houston Bar Association
Director, 2009–2010

Houston Young Lawyers Foundation
Trustee, 2007–2009

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

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

Texas, November 2001
Oregon, March 2008 (resigned)
Washington, June 2008 (resigned)
Iowa, July 2024

I got admitted in Washington and Oregon so I would be able to perform legal work for my father in a potential business opportunity. When he decided not to pursue it, I had no reason to continue even inactive membership and resigned my membership rather than continue to pay inactive-member dues each year. I have had no lapses in membership in Texas or Iowa.

- 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.

U.S. Supreme Court, October 2010

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, November 2020

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, June 2005

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, September 2023

U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, October 2021

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, March 2025

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, March 2025

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, June 2005

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, May 2009

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, January 2003

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, August 2021

I had a lapse in membership in the Fifth Circuit bar because my membership came up for renewal while the Court was transitioning to electronic notification of the need to renew. My renewal notice was either lost in the shuffle or deleted as spam. I rejoined the Court's bar as soon as I became aware my membership had lapsed. For all other courts, there have been no lapses in membership.

11. **Memberships:**

- a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

Des Moines Young Artists Theater (2024–2025)

Actor; parent volunteer

Northwest Aquatic League (2017–2019)

Volunteer official

Trinity Lutheran Church, Klein, TX (2018–2019)

Sam Houston Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

Cub Scout Pack 909

Den Leader (2017–2018)

Assistant Den Leader (2016–2017)

Assistant Webelos Den Leader (2014–2016)

Trinity Lutheran Church, Houston, TX (2005–2018)

In addition, I have made financial contributions to charitable organizations over the years. Those organizations might list me as a member by virtue of my financial contribution. I haven't listed organizations to which I only gave funds.

- b. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminate 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 my knowledge, none of these organizations discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or practical implementation of membership policies. The exception is the Boy Scouts of America, whose membership was formerly limited to boys. It is now known as Scouting America and maintains troops for boys and for girls.

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.

I have done my best to identify all books, articles, letters to the editor, editorial pieces and other published material, including through a review of my personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. Despite my searches, there may be other materials that I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

Leif Olson on Judge Denise Pratt, BIG JOLLY POLITICS, Feb. 24, 2014 (available at <https://bigjolly.com/denise-pratt-2/>). Copy supplied.

A Primary Responsibility of Lawyers, TYLA ENEWS, Feb. 2014. Copy supplied.

Editor's Column, TYLA ENEWS, Nov. 2013. Copy supplied.

Post-Judgment Motions and the Transition from Trial to Appeal, in FEDERAL COURT PRACTICE 2014, ch. 11, TexasBarCLE (2013) (updated 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019). Copies supplied.

Save Stress and Heartache With Some Simple Planning, TYLA ENEWS, Dec. 2012. Copy supplied.

Editor-in-chief, PEACE OF MIND: A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING SPECIAL KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, Texas Young Lawyers Association (2011) (revised version available at <https://tyla.org/resource/peace-of-mind-handbook>).

Avoiding Liability for Subsurface Trespass Through Hydraulic Fracture, OIL, GAS & ENERGY RES. SEC. REP., Dec. 2005, at 94.

Letter to the editor: Minorities win elections, THE TRINITONIAN (Dec. 6, 2002). Copy supplied.

Principle Demands Fidelity to the Ideals of Judicial Restraint, THE FEDERALIST FORUM, May 1, 2001.

Trinitonian tempest bids TU farewell, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 17, 1998). Copy supplied.

None of your business: Board should pick president, THE TRINITONIAN (Mar. 27, 1998). Copy supplied.

I don't like boots, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 27, 1998). Copy supplied.

A Valentine's Day mission, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 13, 1998). Copy supplied.

Sex, lies and presidents: US needs Powell, THE TRINITONIAN (Jan. 30, 1998). Copy supplied.

Let's play musical chairs, THE TRINITONIAN (Dec. 5, 1997). Copy supplied.

Tiger football is fantastic, THE TRINITONIAN (Nov. 21, 1997). Copy supplied.

Just for kicks, let's ignore soft money, THE TRINITONIAN (Oct. 10, 1997). Copy supplied.

Shut up already about the Tiger Statue, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 26, 1997). Copy supplied.

Something to think about: alcohol and parents, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 12, 1997). Copy supplied.

Help maintain the forum, THE TRINITONIAN (Aug. 1997). Copy supplied.

A time of the year like none other: Baseball season, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 25, 1997). Copy supplied.

Good education requires creation of minimum standards, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 18, 1997). Copy supplied.

Back after a hiatus: It's Amazing History Guy, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 11, 1997). Copy supplied.

No need for sexual orientation discrimination policy, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 4, 1997). Copy supplied.

Communication should be reality not just campaign issue, THE TRINITONIAN (Mar. 21, 1997). Copy supplied.

Want to improve student government? Eliminate ASR, THE TRINITONIAN (Mar. 6, 1997). Copy supplied.

UN lacks power but still worthwhile, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 21, 1997). Copy supplied.

'Civilization II' teaches important lessons, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 14, 1997). Copy supplied.

Biennial budgeting worth considering, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 7, 1997). Copy supplied.

Parallels apparent between felon and nominee, THE TRINITONIAN (Jan. 31, 1997). Copy supplied.

Ebonics an excuse for poor performance, THE TRINITONIAN (Jan. 24, 1997). Copy supplied.

Finals stress deserves reexamination, THE TRINITONIAN (Dec. 6, 1996). Copy supplied.

Cartoons may be better, but toys have lost their fun, THE TRINITONIAN (Nov. 22, 1996). Copy supplied.

Referenda and initiatives advantageous to democracy, THE TRINITONIAN (Nov. 15, 1996). Copy supplied.

SAGE not the victim of administration tyranny, THE TRINITONIAN (Nov. 8, 1996). Copy supplied.

Presidential candidates dodge questions, fail to discuss real issues, THE TRINITONIAN (Oct. 18, 1996). Copy supplied.

‘Abortion pill’ raises moral questions, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 27, 1996). Copy supplied.

ASR retreat-planning demonstrates efficient government, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 20, 1996). Copy supplied.

Parking a Complex issue, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 13, 1996). Copy supplied.

Bill the elephant, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 6, 1996). Copy supplied.

Football touts experience, pre-season All-Americans, THE TRINITONIAN (Aug. 24, 1996). Copy supplied.

Hip to the Tiger jive (with Anna K. Lazarus), THE TRINITONIAN (Aug. 24, 1996). Copy supplied.

Oilers end training tradition, THE TRINITONIAN (Aug. 24, 1996). Copy supplied.

Columnist rethinks spotlight stage events, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 19, 1996). Copy supplied.

Seventeen guilty students deserve stricter punishments, sanctions, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 12, 1996). Copy supplied.

Taking time out to eat ice cream, do laundry improves life quality, THE TRINITONIAN (Mar. 7, 1996). Copy supplied.

Columnist reviews idea of throwing his hat into the presidential campaign race, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 23, 1996). Copy supplied.

Iowa caucus proves nothing, leaves candidates neck in neck, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 16, 1996). Copy supplied.

B movies provide low-brow fun, enjoyment, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 2, 1996). Copy supplied.

Hillary’s cover-ups, lies keep her jumping from frying pan to fire, THE TRINITONIAN (Jan. 26, 1996). Copy supplied.

Clinton's refusal to sign budget goes against wishes of the American public, THE TRINITONIAN (Nov. 17, 1995). Copy supplied.

Madman's actions end life of a man of peace, THE TRINITONIAN (Nov. 10, 1995). Copy supplied.

Columnist slams verdict, THE TRINITONIAN (Oct. 13, 1995). Copy supplied.

Columnist gives an overview of the Presidential race, THE TRINITONIAN, (Sep. 29, 1995). Copy supplied.

'Showgirls' has a lot to show, but fails to deliver plot, acting (with Suzanne Perreault), THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 29, 1995). Copy supplied.

Reflections on violence and alcohol abuse beg for more responsibility, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 22, 1995). Copy supplied.

Ad hoc seen as unnecessary, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 8, 1995). Copy supplied.

Grissom voices concerns in Wednesday luncheon, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 8, 1995). Copy supplied.

Rio Rio long on wait, short on fast service, THE TRINITONIAN (Sep. 8, 1995). Copy supplied.

Adventuring on-line, THE TRINITONIAN (Aug. 26, 1995). Copy supplied.

Program Board begins year saddled with debt, THE TRINITONIAN (Aug. 26, 1995). Copy supplied.

Student organizations set goals, plan for upcoming year, THE TRINITONIAN (Aug. 26, 1995). Copy supplied.

Alleged homophobic comment constitutes reasonable politics, THE TRINITONIAN (Apr. 7, 1995). Copy supplied.

A tale from Trinity's dark side, THE TRINITONIAN (Mar. 24, 1995). Copy supplied.

Another engrossing episode of 'amazing history guy,' THE TRINITONIAN (Mar. 2, 1995). Copy supplied.

Bid day changes friends, social lives, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 17, 1995). Copy supplied.

Use of gender-inclusive language an exercise in absurdity, THE TRINITONIAN (Feb. 10, 1995). Copy supplied.

I wrote other columns as an editor of the Texas Young Lawyers Association *eNews* during my time as a director that I have not been able to locate.

I edited and wrote much of the Houston Young Lawyers Association *Pocket Parts* newsletter during the year I served as Secretary. I have not been able to locate copies of them.

- 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.

I don't recall having prepared or contributed to any such reports, memoranda, or policy statements. I have done my best to identify any such documents, including through a review of my personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. I have not found any.

- c. Supply four (4) copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

I have done my best to identify any testimony, official statements, or other communications related, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, including through a review of my personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. I have located the following:

Discussion of proposed IOWA ADMIN. CODE 653–13.17, Iowa Administrative Rules Review Committee, Apr. 8, 2024 (available at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/perma/1228202311186>; presentation at 10:16:33–10:27:20)

Discussion of proposed IOWA ADMIN. CODE 653–13.17, Iowa Board of Medicine, February 15, 2024 (not recorded)

Discussion of proposed IOWA ADMIN. CODE 653–13.17, Iowa Administrative Rules Review Committee, Jan. 8, 2024 (available at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/perma/1228202311186>; presentation at 11:11:37–11:18:46)

Discussion of proposed IOWA ADMIN. CODE 653–13.17, Iowa Board of Medicine,
November 17, 2023 (not recorded)

- 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.

I have done my best to identify transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered, including through a review of my personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. I frequently speak without notes or speak from a handwritten outline, and I particularly did so while running for judge. I did not retain those outlines. Despite my searches, there may be other materials I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

Lutheran Family Service
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Urbandale, IA
April 4, 2024

I gave a brief history of and status report on the *Planned Parenthood v. Reynolds* case that was then pending at the Supreme Court of Iowa. I spoke extemporaneously and have no outline or notes. I am not aware of transcripts or recordings. The remarks are described at <https://www.lutheranfamilyservice.org/2024/04/pdoh/>.

“The Iowa Attorney General’s Office”
Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers Annual Seminar
Des Moines, IA
February 22, 2024

I presented background on the operations of the Attorney General’s office and updates on the new initiatives being pursued under Attorney General Bird’s administration. PowerPoint supplied.

“Better Legal Writing in 30 Minutes or Less”
Iowa Attorney General’s Office Government Lawyers CLE
Des Moines, IA
October 27, 2023

This presentation gave tips busy government lawyers could use to make their legal writing crisper and more persuasive. PowerPoint supplied.

“Transitioning from Trial to Appeal”

TexasBarCLE Federal Court Practice Seminar

Austin, TX

May 31, 2019

This was a presentation of a similarly named paper, which has been supplied.

PowerPoint supplied.

“Transitioning from Trial to Appeal”

TexasBarCLE Federal Court Practice Seminar

Austin, TX

May 25, 2017

This was a presentation of a similarly named paper, which has been supplied.

PowerPoint supplied.

“Transitioning from Trial to Appeal”

TexasBarCLE Federal Court Practice Seminar

Dallas, TX

May 15, 2015

This was a presentation of a similarly named paper, which has been supplied. I do not have a copy of the accompanying PowerPoint.

“An Update on Same-Sex Marriage Litigation”

Downtown Houston Pachyderm Club

Spaghetti Warehouse

Houston, TX

January 29, 2015

This presentation described the then-current state of the Obergefell litigation, including the history of judicial and legislative consideration of same-sex marriage. PowerPoint supplied.

“Lunch Panel: Developing Your Professional Reputation”

Justice James A. Baker Guide to the Basics of Law Practice

South Texas College of Law

Houston, TX

December 12, 2014

This panel was about finding purpose in the practice of law, the benefits of adhering to the Texas Lawyers’ Creed, and potential ethical traps for young lawyers to avoid. I spoke without notes; I am not aware of press coverage, transcripts, or recordings.

“Transitioning from Trial to Appeal”

TexasBarCLE Federal Court Practice Seminar

Houston, TX

May 16, 2014

This was a presentation of a similarly named paper, which has been supplied. I do not have a copy of the accompanying PowerPoint.

“Hanging Out Your Shingle”

TexasBarCLE Success Strategies and Key Lessons for Young Lawyers Seminar

Houston, TX

February 26, 2014

This presentation discussed the basics of setting up a solo law practice and included recommendations for young lawyers to consider when doing so. I do not have notes or an outline. I don’t remember whether I used a PowerPoint as part of the presentation. If I did, I no longer have a copy.

“10 Tips for Your Practice in Federal Court”

Texas Young Lawyers Association Ten Minute Mentor

November 2013

This presentation is as described in the title. Available at <https://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/AATYLAPlayer5.asp?lEventID=489>.

“Claims for Attorneys Fees”

Texas Young Lawyers Association Ten Minute Mentor

November 2013

This presentation discussed the law governing recovery of attorneys’ fees in Texas and gave tips on how to do so. Available at <https://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/AATYLAPlayer5.asp?lEventID=490>.

“Lis Pendens in Real Estate”

Texas Young Lawyers Association Ten Minute Mentor

November 2013

This presentation discussed using and challenging lis pendens documents in Texas state court to protect property interests. Available at <https://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/AATYLAPlayer5.asp?lEventID=491>.

“Transitioning from Trial to Appeal—Post Trial Motions”

TexasBarCLE Federal Court Practice Seminar

Dallas, TX

May 24, 2013

This was a presentation of a similarly named paper, which has been supplied. PowerPoint supplied.

“Getting It In: Expert Testimony”

TexasBarCLE Success Strategies for Young Lawyers Seminar

Houston, TX

March 1, 2013

This presentation discussed how to clear the hurdles set forth in the *Daubert* standard for admissible expert testimony. PowerPoint supplied.

“Pleadings”

TexasBarCLE Federal Court Practice Seminar

Houston, TX

May 25, 2012

Judge Reece Rondon and I discussed some differences between state- and federal-court pleading standards and additional differences between civil and criminal pleadings. The discussion was based on Judge Rondon’s paper. I do not have notes or an outline. There was no PowerPoint.

Brett Busby for Justice fundraiser

Houston, TX

2012

I introduced Hon. Brett Busby for his talk at a fundraiser held for his race to retain a seat on one of the Houston courts of appeal. I have no notes or outline. I am not aware of press coverage, transcripts, or recordings.

“Subsurface Trespass Through Hydraulic Fracture”

State Bar of Texas Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Sec. Annual Meeting

Austin, TX

June 16, 2006

This was a presentation of the similarly named paper, which I have not been able to locate. I do not have a copy of the accompanying PowerPoint.

I regularly spoke at various Republican clubs and conventions during my two campaigns for judge. These speeches were largely extemporaneous; I didn’t have a prepared stump speech. An example of such a speech is available at <https://youtu.be/CCTeK0if02E>. The radio ad I recorded is available at <https://youtu.be/LIINJeZcVKE>.

I regularly spoke on various topics—such as how to find a job, study strategies, career opportunities, and public service—at Texas’s various law schools while a member of the HYL A and TYLA Boards of Directors, both solo and on panels. These were extemporaneous; I do not have notes or outlines of any of them, and I am not aware of recordings of or media coverage about them.

I spoke occasionally on panels at seminars put on for young lawyers by the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, one of which is listed above. These panels were usually about finding purpose in the practice of law, the benefits of adhering to the Texas Lawyers' Creed, and potential ethical traps for young lawyers to avoid. These were extemporaneous; I do not have notes or outlines of any of them, and I am not aware of recordings of or media coverage about them.

I also presented TYLA projects, on topics such as civics education for students, identifying child abuse, and legal impacts on the mentally and physically disabled.

- 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.

I have done my best to identify all interviews given, including through a review of my personal files, and searches of publicly available electronic databases. Despite my searches, there may be other materials that I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

Erik Wemple, *Bloomberg Law Retracts Story on Labor Department Employee Leif Olson*, THE WASHINGTON POST, Oct. 4, 2019. Copy supplied.

Ben Penn, *Trump Labor Aide Quits After Facebook Posts Surface*, BLOOMBERG LAW DAILY LABOR REPORT, Sept. 3, 2019

This story was retracted and Bloomberg issued an apology. Copy unavailable.

Vlad Davidiuk, *Star Wars Talk With Leif and Steve*, THE AMERICAN CHRONICLES PODCAST, Mar. 4, 2017. Copy unavailable.

Jayne Fraser, *Federal judge refuses to free ex-Katy gun store owner over Facebook password*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Apr. 17, 2015. Copy supplied.

Jayne Fraser, *Katy gun store case focuses on ownership of social media accounts*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Apr. 16, 2015. Copy supplied.

13. **Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:**

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

I have held these appointments:

Iowa Department of Justice

Chief Deputy Attorney General, August 2023–Present

Deputy Attorney General, August 2023

Attorney General Brenna Bird appointed me and promoted me to Chief Deputy a few weeks later when my predecessor took the bench on the Iowa Court of Appeals.

Texas Attorney General's Office

Division Chief, February–August 2023

Special Counsel, May 2021–February 2023

I was appointed by Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Wage & Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor

Senior Policy Advisor, August 2019–January 2021

I was appointed by Secretary Alex Acosta on the recommendation of Administrator Cheryl Stanton.

I unsuccessfully ran for District Judge in Harris County, Texas, in 2016 and 2012.

- 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.

Donald Trump for President

Volunteer, Philadelphia rapid-response campaign office (2020)

Republican Party of Texas

Precinct Convention Delegate (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016)

Senate District Convention Delegate (2008, 2010, 2012)

Senate District Convention Parliamentarian (2016)

State Convention Alternate Delegate (2012)

State Convention Delegate and Caucus Chairman (2016)

Harris County Republican Party

Rapid-response legal team (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016)

In 2018, I represented the party in a lawsuit asserting that a candidate had been wrongfully excluded from the ballot. The court of appeals granted a writ of mandamus directing the trial court to dismiss the case.

Texans for Rick Perry volunteer, 2006

I served on these host and campaign committees, where my duties were to encourage attendance at fundraisers for the candidate and to encourage people within my network to support the candidate:

Brett Busby for Justice, 2012
Justice Bill Boyce for 14th Court of Appeals, 2006, 2012
Justice Michael Massengale for First Court of Appeals, 2010, 2012
Justice Jeff Brown for Supreme Court, 2010
Judge Patricia Kerrigan for District Judge, 2010
Reece Rondon for District Judge, 2010
Houston Young Professionals for Rick Perry, 2010
Houston Young Professionals for John Cornyn, 2008
Judge Tad Halbach for District Judge, 2008, 2012

14. **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;

September 2001–August 2003
U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes
Southern District of Texas

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

I was a solo practitioner from August 2006 to February 2007, April 2013 to April 2017, and again from January 2018 to August 2019. I worked out of my home office in Humble, Texas. For the latter periods, I had a sole-member PLLC, The Olson Firm, whose mailing address was 4830 Wilson Rd. #300, Humble, TX 78396.

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;

June 2001–August 2001
Summer Associate
Vinson & Elkins LLP
845 Texas, Suite 4700
Houston, TX 77002

September 2003–December 2005

Associate
Fulbright & Jaworski LLP (n.k.a. Norton Rose Fulbright LLP)
1550 Lamar, Ste. 2000
Houston, TX 77010

January 2006–August 2006
Associate
Dobrowski LLP (n.k.a. Dobrowski Stafford & Pierce LLP)
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February 2007–August 2007
Attorney
Hogan & Hartson LLP (n.k.a. Hogan Lovells)
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August 2007–April 2013
Counsel
Welsh LeBlanc LLP (f.k.a. Welsh & Chapoton LLP) (dissolved)
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May 2017–December 2017
Senior Counsel
Cokinos Young
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August 2019–January 2021
Senior Policy Advisor to the Administrator
Wage and Hour Division
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
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May 2021–August 2023
Special Counsel, May 2021–February 2023
Chief of Special Litigation, February 2023–August 2023
Office of the Attorney General of Texas
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Austin, TX 78711-2548

August 2023–Present
Deputy Attorney General, August 2023
Chief Deputy Attorney General, August 2023–Present
Iowa Department of Justice
1305 E. Walnut St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

- 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 served as a volunteer mediator in small-claims cases for Harris County Justice of the Peace Lincoln Goodwin. These were landlord-tenant disputes and civil disputes, generally among neighbors, over matters valued at no more than \$10,000.

b. Describe:

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

This information is incorporated into my answer to Question 14.b.ii.

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

The first two years of my law practice were as a law clerk for a federal district judge. I performed research and drafted opinions covering the gamut of civil and criminal issues that are litigated in Houston's federal courts.

During my time at Fulbright & Jaworski, I practiced mostly corporate commercial litigation at the trial and appellate levels. I was also part of the initial cohort of volunteers for the attorney-on-loan program with the City of Houston, serving as a Special Assistant City Attorney and prosecuting Class C misdemeanors. My clients were generally large to mid-sized businesses and nonprofits and individuals associated with them, such as officers and directors.

At Dobrowski, I again practiced corporate commercial litigation, this time solely at the trial level. My clients were primarily large to mid-sized businesses.

Welsh & Chapoton/Welsh LeBlanc was a boutique litigation firm. There, my practice began to concentrate on dispositive motions and appellate matters, again mostly in commercial cases but with some large tort cases. My clients were primarily large to mid-sized businesses and individuals associated with them, such as officers and directors.

As a solo practitioner, my work mostly focused on appellate matters, but my non-appellate matters were more varied. I assisted clients with commercial, consumer, and employment litigation matters. I also performed some transactional and estate-planning work and was appointed counsel in CJA appeals. My clients were generally individuals, small businesses, and occasional mid-sized businesses. For the period I was at Cokinos Young, my work was primarily in trial and appellate construction and commercial litigation with some tort litigation; my clients were generally mid-sized businesses.

As a Senior Policy Advisor, I advised the Wage & Hour Administrator on various legal and policy questions that arose. My particular duties included drafting regulations and preambles; researching and drafting opinion letters; supervising the review of previously issued opinion letters to determine which were still interpretations of governing law and which should be withdrawn; and revising and supervising the revision of the Field Operations Handbook that guided investigators in their duties.

My time in the Texas Attorney General's Office was split between the Special Litigation and General Litigation Divisions. In Special Litigation, I represented the State in trial and appellate litigation in major cases largely involving the scope of government powers, such as voting-rights litigation, litigation against the federal government, and litigation regarding major State initiatives. In General Litigation, I continued to represent the State in trial and appellate litigation regarding major State initiatives and also represented it in institutional-reform cases, employment cases, and miscellaneous cases that were not otherwise within the scope of authority of another division, such as Torts or Law Enforcement Defense. I was also in charge of reviewing the Division's appellate filings and preparing Division lawyers for oral arguments. When I returned to Special Litigation, it was in a supervisory role, so my practice was more limited as I assumed managerial responsibilities.

At the Iowa Attorney General's Office, I was briefly the Deputy Attorney General for the Farm & Freedom Division, which involved supervising the trial lawyers who worked on major litigation such as defense of State laws and affirmative litigation. Once promoted to Chief Deputy, my direct practice of law sharply curtailed. My primary duty is to supervise the legal, as opposed to operational, functions of the office and to serve as chief counsel to the Attorney General. For two separate stretches in that role, the office had no chief of staff, so I also managed the office's operational functions.

- 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.

When I first began practicing, I appeared in court only occasionally. As I gained more seniority, and particularly during my time at Welsh & Chapoton/Welsh LeBlanc, I appeared in court frequently. This continued through my time as a solo practitioner. While at the Department of Labor, I did not appear in court. When I joined the Texas Attorney General's Office, I resumed frequent appearances in court. At the Iowa Attorney General's Office, my duties are mostly supervisory and my court appearances are occasional.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Federal courts: | 35% |
| 2. State courts of record: | 65% |
| 3. Other courts: | 0 |
| 4. Administrative agencies: | 0 |

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Civil proceedings: | 95% |
| 2. Criminal proceedings: | 5% |

- 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 not kept track of the number of non-jury cases I have tried; the number is in the dozens. (I include in that number preliminary-injunction hearings at which testimony was taken.) The large majority of those cases were misdemeanor bench trials at which I was the sole counsel. Several non-jury trials were while I was a solo practitioner; I was again the sole counsel. The non-jury trials at Welsh & Chapoton/Welsh LeBlanc in which I appeared were preliminary-injunction hearings; there, I served as associate counsel. While at the Texas Attorney General's Office, I appeared in several preliminary-injunction hearings; I was chief counsel in roughly half and associate counsel in the others. I was also chief counsel in the *Texas v. United States* bench trial. I have not tried a case to verdict at the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

I have tried roughly 20 cases to jury verdict. 14 of those were as sole counsel. In the rest I was associate counsel.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. Jury: | 30% |
| 2. Non-jury: | 70% |

- 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 argued before the Supreme Court. I have formally appeared before the Court in three matters:

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, *Ward v. United States*, No. 17-7566 (Jan. 15, 2018), cert. denied, 583 U.S. 1161 (2018). Copy supplied.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, *Yang v. Wortman*, No. 17-662 (Oct. 31, 2017), cert. denied, 583 U.S. 1026 (2017). Copy supplied.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, *Acosta v. United States*, No. 16-7798 (Jan. 31, 2017), cert. denied, 581 U.S. 976 (2017). Copy supplied.

I filed motions for extensions of time in which to file a cert petition in two cases. In the *Salazar* case, no petition was ultimately filed. In the *Gray* case, I withdrew and the case was assigned to another CJA attorney because I accepted a position with the Department of Labor.

Gray v. United States, No. 19-7113. Copy supplied.

Salazar v. United States, No. 17A506. Copy supplied.

In addition, my name has appeared on filings in which I served as counsel for one of several States that was a party to the filing but which I did not assist in drafting. I have not attached copies of those documents.

15. **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. Texas v. Brooks-LaSure
No. 6:21-cv-191 (E.D. Tex.)
U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker
2021–2022

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) purported to rescind its approval waiver program that allowed Texas’s Medicaid system to function through a series of managed-care organizations rather than as a pure fee-for-service program. I joined the Special Litigation Division shortly after the case was filed and became one of two Special Litigation lawyers on the case, handling mostly legal drafting duties while another lawyer mostly marshalled facts and worked with witnesses. We obtained a preliminary injunction preventing CMS from rescinding its approval.

We obtained the Court’s approval to take discovery, were forced to return to court to get a TRO when CMS invented another reason to withhold payments to the waiver program, and were preparing for a bench trial or summary judgment when it again became necessary to ask Judge Barker to enforce the preliminary injunction because CMS continued creating reasons to withhold funding—including by raising objections to one of Texas’s local-funding sources for Medicaid that are, despite CMS’s long campaign to get Congress to change the law, specifically allowed by the Social Security Act.

After nearly a year of litigation, CMS settled, bringing an end to its threat to cut off hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds to the Medicaid program.

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Counsel for defendant:
Keri Berman

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2. Texas v. United States (Prioritization)

No. 6:21-cv-16 (S.D. Tex)

U.S. District Judge Drew Tipton

606 F.Supp.3d 437 (S.D. Tex. 2022), 40 F.4th 205 (5th Cir.) (stay), 599 U.S. 670 (2023)
2021–2023

I led the trial team in this case, which challenged certain Biden Administration directives to immigration officials. The Immigration and Naturalization Act requires the federal government to detain several classes of persons who are present in the country without permission, most prominently those who have criminal records. Biden Administration directives, however, instructed Border Patrol and ICE personnel not to detain many of those classes of illegal immigrants or place detainers on them. We argued that this contradicted the INA and was therefore illegal under the Administrative Procedure Act.

As lead counsel, I was responsible for managing the team and the presentation, outlining the arguments to be presented in the briefs, drafting certain of the briefs, and reviewing and approving the final briefs. At trial, I guided our strategy on direct examinations; argued trial motions that arose; and presented our rebuttal argument responding to extensive questioning from the bench. I then drafted post-trial motions. Once the trial court ruled in our favor, I began assisting the Solicitor General team that was preparing to defend our victory. When the Supreme Court granted certiorari before judgment, I reviewed draft briefs and assisted with oral-argument preparation. The Supreme Court ultimately reversed, issuing a ruling limiting State standing—an issue for which we had specifically prepared in the trial court, emphasizing the then-current condition of the jurisprudence.

Primary co-counsel:
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Lead Counsel for United States:
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3. The Mansions in the Forest LP v. Montgomery County
No. 10-0969
Supreme Court of Texas (per curiam)
365 S.W.3d 314 (Tex. 2012)
2010–2014

An officer of our client opined on the value of the company’s condemned land in this eminent-domain case. The trial court excluded that affidavit, and the appellate court affirmed on a ground that hadn’t been raised in the trial court: the jurat to the officer’s affidavit said that it had been “acknowledged,” not “sworn to.” That made it the eighth of Texas’s 14 intermediate appellate courts to hold that such a defect was a defect of substance, which can be raised at any time, rather than a defect of form, which must be raised in the trial court.

The Texas Supreme Court reversed, rejecting the unanimous holdings of the appellate courts that had reached the issue. Since that ruling, in the thousands of summary judgments and similar rulings issued by Texas trial courts every year, parties can no longer spy an easily corrected defect in a filing and use it to set up an ambush on appeal. The ruling was named one of the significant opinions of the Supreme Court’s term. *See Recent Significant Opinions of the Texas Supreme Court*, in PRACTICE BEFORE THE TEXAS SUPREME COURT, ch. 3, TexasBarCLE (2013).

I was lead appellate counsel in the case, drafting the briefs to the appellate court, the petition for review, and the briefs on the merits. I argued the case to the Court of Appeals and, had argument been granted, would have argued it to the Supreme Court.

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4. United States v. Texas
No. 1:21-cv-796 (W.D. Tex.)
U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman
566 F.Supp.3d 605 (W.D. Tex. 2021); 595 US 30 (2021)
2021

The federal government challenged the Texas law known as S.B.8. That law made it illegal to obtain an abortion after a fetal heartbeat was detectable but also forbade the State from enforcing that law in favor of private attorneys general. I was part of the

team that responded to that suit on an accelerated timetable. My primary responsibility was assisting with preparing briefs in both this case and in the companion case filed by Whole Woman’s Health against a state district judge and state-court clerk. Because the federal government’s case relied on the factual assertions of several declarants, I filed a motion to obtain expedited depositions of those witnesses. When the motion was granted, I took three of the depositions.

The depositions that Eric Hudson and I took showed that every assertion made in the declarations was either unsupported speculation or directly contradicted by other, easily obtainable evidence. The purported evidence was so thoroughly discredited that the federal government’s subsequent briefing and presentation at the preliminary-injunction hearing relied solely on legal argument. (The district court’s opinion cites the declarations as if they had not been discredited.) And its briefing and argument before the Supreme Court were backed into generalities about “responsibilities” and “obligations” rather than identifying actual impositions on federal activities.

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Lead appellate counsel:
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5. Abbott v. Biden

No. 6:22-cv-3 (E.D. Tex.)
U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker
308 F.Supp.3d 467 (E.D. Tex. 2022); 70 F.4th 817 (5th Cir. 2023)
2022–2023

President Biden issued a mandate requiring that all National Guardsmen, whether they are in state service or federal, be vaccinated against COVID-19. He directed the military branches to impose punishments up to and including expulsion for refusal to vaccinate. I was one of two lawyers tasked with challenging that policy on behalf of Governor

Abbott in his role as commander-in-chief of Texas's military forces, including its National Guard and Air National Guard.

I divided the work with Chris Hilton, with both of us exchanging drafts, researching, and working with client representatives to obtain information. We challenged the policy on the grounds that the militia clauses of the U.S. Constitution reserved “governing” (that is, imposing the law on; punishing) of the state militiamen to each State except when they are “employed in the Service of the United States”—that is, activated for federal duty. The district court disagreed and denied the preliminary injunction, holding that the federal government can set readiness standards for the militia and that the federal government was not threatening to punish them, as opposed to simply dock pay and benefits, for refusing the vaccine.

On appeal, the Fifth Circuit reversed. It held that, consistent with the arguments we had made in the trial court, the orders issued by the military branches did, in fact, threaten to punish Guardsmen who refused a vaccine and that making that threat when the Guardsmen had not been called up to federal service violated the reservation to the States of the power to “govern” the militia.

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6. Castleman v. Internet Money Ltd.
No. 6:21-cv-191
Supreme Court of Texas (per curiam)
546 S.W.3d 684 (Tex. 2018)
2016–2019

I was hired to file a motion to dismiss (and, if necessary, pursue an appeal) in a defamation case filed by a provider of a remote-assistant service against a former client. Texas's anti-SLAPP (strategic lawsuit against public participation) law exempts from its coverage certain commercial speech made by a person selling a good or service to an audience of actual or potential customers. My motion to dismiss argued that the exemption does not apply to speech by a former customer. The district court disagreed and held that because my client was also in the business of selling goods or services, and because his intended audience were potential customers of the plaintiff, the exemption applied. The court of appeals affirmed.

The Supreme Court granted my petition for review and reversed, adopting my argument that the plain meaning of the exemption required the speech to be by a seller about the seller's product or service to an audience of potential customers for that product or service. To read the exemption as the provider and the court of appeals had would be to make the exemption swallow the rule—nearly everyone is a seller of goods or services on some level, and an exemption that broad could not fit within the act's specific protection for speech based on goods, products, and services in the marketplace. The opinion clarified the meaning of the commercial-speech exemption, bringing certainty to a contested portion of a frequently litigated statute.

Counsel for Castleman:
Leif Olson

Counsel for Internet Money Ltd.:
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806-792-0810

7. Texas v. Garland
No. 5:23-cv-34 (N.D. Tex.)
U.S. District Judge Wesley Hendrix
719 F.Supp.3d 521 (N.D. Tex. 2024)
2023

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 passed the House of Representatives due to proxy voting; there wasn't a quorum of members present. I led the Texas team that challenged the Act as unconstitutional because it hadn't validly passed the House. I supervised the research and drafting of the junior members of the Special Litigation team and our outside-counsel partners; gave final approval to the briefs filed; and assisted with preparing our law fellow, Ethan Szumanski, for argument on our request for an injunction.

The case was ongoing when I left the Texas Attorney General's Office. Since then, the team has obtained a permanent injunction against enforcement of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act. This is the first time that a court has invalidated a law as being enacted in violation of the Quorum Clause. The case was argued to the Fifth Circuit on February 25, 2025.

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Chambers of Judge Drew Tipton
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Co-counsel:
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Counsel for United States:
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8. United States v. Pervis and Gray

No. 17-20689 (Fifth Circuit)

Circuit Judges Stephen Higginson and Don Willett and District Judge Debra Brown
937 F.3d 546 (5th Cir. 2019) (Higginson, J.)
2018–19

I was appointed to represent Raynard Gray in his appeal from a bank-robbery conviction. There had been protracted proceedings in the district court over Gray’s competency to stand trial, resulting in a lengthy and complicated record with three psychological evaluations, one of which relied on a fourth evaluation by a non-testifying witness. I raised two sentencing issues foreclosed by precedent to preserve them for further appeal and focused on the competency issue. I argued that the district court had improperly relied on evidence that Gray was capable of adapting to prison life rather than examining evidence of whether he could assist his counsel at trial and that it had erred in favoring the set of inferences suggesting Gray was competent to stand trial over the set suggesting he was not without explaining why it was doing so.

The Fifth Circuit granted argument, a rarity in criminal appeals. While it ultimately declined to set aside the district court’s holding that Gray was competent, my arguments for Gray led to a lengthy opinion that had to walk step by step through each piece of the evidence to conclude that the district court had not erred in finding Gray competent—ultimately doing so in an opinion that dealt with the facts more thoroughly than the district-court opinion it was reviewing.

Counsel for Gray:
Leif Olson

Lead Counsel for United States:
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9. League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa v. Pate
No. 23-1414
Supreme Court of Iowa
2024–2025
Slip op. (May 9, 2025) (Justice Christopher McDonald)

An Iowa district court rendered a permanent injunction in 2008 prohibiting the Secretary of State from printing Iowa's official voter registration forms in languages other than English, relying on the Iowa English Language Reaffirmation Act. LULAC, which was not a party to the original case, petitioned the district court to dissolve the injunction in 2021. The district court agreed that neither the law nor the facts had changed since the original injunction; the only change was that LULAC was presenting arguments that the original plaintiffs had not presented. The court dissolved the injunction, and the Secretary of State appealed.

I argued to the Iowa Supreme Court from a brief drafted by an assistant attorney general and our solicitor general. First, an injunction cannot be dissolved without an intervening change in circumstances, which LULAC admits did not occur here. Second, LULAC does not have standing to sue—it hasn't identified a member who is harmed by the requirement that forms be printed in English, and it can't manufacture standing by claiming that it is choosing to divert resources from one project to another when it is under no threat compelling it to do so. While the diversion-of-resources argument took up only a small portion of the brief, I chose to focus my oral argument on that point, given the U.S. Supreme Court's intervening decision in *FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine*, which had held that plaintiffs did not have standing simply because they responded to a law by choosing to spend money. The Supreme Court of Iowa reversed, holding both that LULAC was not personally aggrieved by the injunction and, adopting my construction of *FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine*, that it could not spend its way into an injury.

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10. Animal Legal Defense Fund v. Reynolds

No. 22-3464 (Eighth Circuit)

Judges Steven Colloton, Steven Grasz, and Jonathan Kobes

89 F.4th 1071 (8th Cir. 2024) (Grasz, J.)

Iowa passed a law banning trespassers from knowingly placing or using a camera that records or transmits images or data while it is on the trespassed property. Several animal-welfare groups sued the State, alleging the law abridged their freedom of speech. The trial court ruled the law was facially unconstitutional because it wasn't narrowly tailored to achieve substantial State interests.

I argued the case on appeal. The Eighth Circuit agreed with our arguments that the law was sufficiently narrow. It rejected the district court's holding that the law was overbroad simply because other laws already covered some of the same conduct. Instead, it held that the State had significant interests in protecting privacy rights, guarding against industrial espionage, and discouraging trespass committed for the purpose of making a recording. The Court recognized that using a camera while committing a trespass aggravates the harm already caused to the property owner's privacy and property interests, and a law banning that specific behavior was, in fact, narrowly tailored to prohibit that behavior.

The Court's holding disagreed with holdings from two other courts of appeals that had suggested that a stated intention to gather information transforms a trespass into a protected act. In doing so, it strengthened privacy and property rights against activists' proclaimed "public interest" in trespassing to find out what people are doing in private.

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Counsel for ALDF:
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16. **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 never acted as a lobbyist. All of my significant legal activities have involved litigation or are protected by the attorney-client privilege.

17. **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.

I have not taught courses other than CLE presentations described above.

18. **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.

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

No.

20. **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).

Please see my OGE-278 as provided by the Office of Government Ethics.

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

See attached net worth statement.

22. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

- a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, affiliations, pending and categories of litigation, financial arrangements or other factors 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.

During the nomination process, I consulted with the Department of Justice's ethics office and Designated Ethics Officer to identify potential conflicts. If I am confirmed, I will continue to consult with that office and will recuse myself from matters in which recusal is required.

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

If I am confirmed, potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official. If confirmed, I will continue to consult with the Department of Justice's ethics office and will recuse myself from matters in which recusal is required.

23. **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 work load, 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. If you are not an attorney, please use this opportunity to report significant charitable and volunteer work you may have done.

Throughout my time in private practice, I assisted at legal clinics put on by the Houston Volunteer Lawyers and accepted pro-bono representations, usually through the Volunteer Lawyers or the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section pro-bono program. I was a member of the Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas for most of the time I was employed at Welsh & Chapoton/Welsh LeBlanc and while I was a solo practitioner; I stopped counting my pro-bono hours each year once I reached 40, as that was the cut-off for membership in the College.

My pro bono work at Fulbright & Jaworski included assisting a colleague appointed by a federal district judge to represent a prisoner in an excessive-force case and representing a wife in a divorce from her adulterous husband.

Most of the pro bono cases I accepted at Welsh & Chapoton/Welsh LeBlanc were appellate matters, such as an ex-wife appealing a bill of review that re-opened a divorce that had been final for years; an innocent homeowner whose condominium, purchased with funds she had received from a Ponzi schemer, was seized by a federal receiver; and an ex-wife as the real

party in interest to her ex-husband's habeas corpus petition to the Texas Supreme Court for relief from the contempt order that had jailed him for failure to pay child support. One significant pro bono trial matter was opposing a suit by builders who had allegedly repaired my clients' property after Hurricane Ike. I obtained summary judgment on a counterclaim that the builders had committed fraud; the case settled on the eve of the damages trial.

I also handled pro bono matters while a solo practitioner. One such client was the wife of an Air Force major who was threatened with suit by a dentist for a review she posted on Yelp. The case garnered some Internet notoriety. See <https://www.popehat.com/2013/06/25/criticize-your-dentist-thats-a-jailin>. Another client was an ex-husband appealing a divorce decree granted over his objection that he was entitled to a jury trial.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Leif Alexander Olson, do swear
that the information provided in this statement is, to the best
of my knowledge, true and accurate.

7-9-2025

(DATE)

Leif Olson

(NAME)



Josephine H. Bollman

(NOTARY)