

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Matthew Emile Orso

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

United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina

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.

Troutman Pepper Locke LLP
301 South College Street, 34th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

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

1978; Highland, Illinois

5. **Education**: List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

2006 – 2009, Saint Louis University School of Law; J.D. (*magna cum laude*), 2009

2002, Saint Louis University; Urban Planning Masters Program, no degree

1997 – 2001, University of Dayton; B.A. (honors), 2001

6. **Employment Record**: List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2023 – present
Troutman Pepper Locke LLP
301 South College Street, 34th Floor

Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Partner, White Collar Defense & Government Investigations

2012 – 2023
McGuireWoods LLP
201 North Tryon Street, Suite 3000
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Partner, Government Investigations & White-Collar Litigation (2019 – 2023)
Associate, Government Investigations & White-Collar Litigation (2012 – 2018)

2011 – 2012
Smith Parsons, PLLC (no longer in operation – dissolved around 2014)
6060 Piedmont Row Drive South, Suite 150
Charlotte, North Carolina 28287
Associate, Employment Defense and Construction Litigation

2009 – 2011
Honorable Robert J. Conrad, Jr.
United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina
Charles R. Jonas Federal Building
401 West Trade Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Law Clerk

2008
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
525 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Summer Associate

2008
Honorable Catherine D. Perry
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse
111 South 10th Street
Saint Louis, Missouri 63102
Judicial Extern

2007
United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois
9 Executive Drive
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
Intern

2007
Saint Louis University School of Law

Scott Hall
100 North Tucker Boulevard
Saint Louis, Missouri 63101
Research Assistant

2005 – 2006
CPS, Inc.
1 Westbrook Corporate Center Suite 600
Westchester, Illinois 60154
Corporate IT Recruiter

2003 – 2005
Nazareth Academy High School
1209 West Ogden Ave
La Grange Park, Illinois 60526
Teacher, Theology and United States History
Assistant Coach, Freshman Football

Other Affiliations (uncompensated):

2019 – 2024
Federal Bar Association for Western District of North Carolina
C/O Thomas Walker, President, FBA WDNC
Vantage South End
1120 S Tryon Street, Suite 300
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203
President of WDNC Chapter (2023 – 2024)
Treasurer of WDNC Chapter (2019 – 2022) (uncompensated)

2018 – 2024
St. Thomas More Society, Charlotte, North Carolina Chapter
C/O Austin Walsh, President
Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A.
1065 East Morehead Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
President (2021 – 2024)
Other officer roles (2018 – 2020) (uncompensated)

2001 – 2002
Marianist Volunteer Service Program
St. John's Residence for Boys
1-50 Beach 110th Street
Rockaway Park, New York 11694
Case Worker and Recreation Coordinator (uncompensated other than small volunteer stipend)

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including

dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I did not serve in the military. I registered for the selective service upon turning 18.

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

Chambers and Partners Recognition: North Carolina – Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations (2025)

Best Lawyers in America: North Carolina – Litigation: Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy) (2024 – 2025), Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2025)

North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society (2016, 2018, 2020, 2024)

Super Lawyers: North Carolina, Criminal Defense: White Collar (2014 – 2020)

Catholic Press Association Award: First Place, Best Coverage of Religious Liberty Issues: for op-ed “HHS mandate forces people to act against their convictions” and two related articles (joint award with two other authors) (2013)

National Order of Scribes Inductee (2009)

Saint Louis University School of Law

Saint Louis University Law Journal

Editor in Chief (2008 – 2009)

Staff Editor (2007 – 2008)

Degree conferred *magna cum laude*

Order of the Woolsack

Academic Excellence Award for highest grade in Contracts I

University of Dayton

Degree conferred with Honors (2001)

Captain, UD Rugby Club (1998 – 2001)

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.

North Carolina Bar Association (2011 – present)

Mecklenburg Bar Association / Mecklenburg County Bar (2011 – present)

Federal Bar Association (WDNC President 2023 – 2024; WDNC Treasurer 2019 – 2022)

Illinois State Bar Association (2010 – present; inactive status)

Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for Western District of North Carolina (2019)

National Association of Federal Equity Receivers (2022 – 2024)

American Bar Association (intermittent)

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.

North Carolina, 2011
Illinois, 2010

To my knowledge, there have been no lapses in membership.

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

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2011
Western District of North Carolina, 2011
Middle District of North Carolina, 2024
Eastern District of North Carolina, 2011
State of North Carolina, 2011

To my knowledge, 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.

Federalist Society (2009 – present)

St. Thomas More Society, Charlotte, North Carolina Chapter (2009 – present)
President (2021 – 2024)
Other leadership roles including Treasurer and Officer (2018 – 2020)

St. Ann's Catholic Church (2009 – present)
Member of Pastoral Council (2023 – present)

F3 (Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith) (2012 – present)

b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

F3 is an organization with a mission to plant, grow, and serve small workout groups for men for the invigoration of male community leadership. While women are not a part of F3, there is a sister organization called FiA (Females in Action) providing the same format and opportunity for women. To the best of my knowledge, none of the other organizations listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin, either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

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

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

With Peter Jeydel and Charlene Goldfield, *Crude Crimes: Treasury Warns on Oil Smuggling and Money Laundering*, REGULATORY OVERSIGHT (May 8, 2025). Copy supplied.

With Heryka Knoespel, Lori Sommerfield, Chris Willis, and Mary C. Zinsner, *Federal and State Financial Agencies Issue Guidance on Elder Financial Exploitation*, CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW MONITOR (Dec. 5, 2024). Copy supplied.

With Megan Rahman and Nicole Giffin, *DOJ Updates Guidance on Corporate Compliance Programs with Focus on AI*, REGULATORY OVERSIGHT (Oct. 9, 2024). Copy supplied.

With Alexandra Steinberg Barrage and Kevin Petrasic, *Following FinCEN's Lead, Four Federal Banking Regulators Announce AML/CFT Rulemaking*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (July 26, 2024). Copy supplied.

With Alexandra Steinberg Barrage and James Stevens, *FinCEN Proposes Rule to Strengthen AML/CFT Programs*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (July 2, 2024). Copy supplied.

With Joseph Reilly, *FinCEN Proposes Extending AML/CFT Requirements to Certain Investment Advisors*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (Feb. 15, 2024). Copy supplied.

With Joshua Davey, Ethan Ostroff, and Kim Phan, *FinCEN Highlights Identity Theft in Latest Threats and Trends Report*, CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW MONITOR (Jan. 22, 2024). Copy supplied.

With Amanda Sterling, Ethan Ostroff, and Michael S. Lowe, *The Cryptocurrency Conundrum: Balancing Innovation with Terrorism Financing Risks*, CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW MONITOR (Jan. 17, 2024). Copy supplied.

With Ethan Ostroff, Michael Lowe, and Addison Morgan, *Inside Look: The SEC's Enforcement Action Against Cryptocurrency Exchange Kraken*, CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW MONITOR (Dec. 6, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Michael Lowe, Ethan Ostroff, and Addison Morgan, *Understanding the DOJ's Groundbreaking \$4.3B Settlement with Foreign Cryptocurrency Exchange Binance.com*, CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW MONITOR (Nov. 30, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Keith Barnett, Ethan Ostroff, and Addison Morgan, *Well, California Has Decided to Regulate Crypto*, CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW MONITOR (Nov. 6, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Jay Dubow, Ethan Ostroff, and Trey Smith, *SEC's 2024 Examination Priorities: Cryptocurrency, Emerging Tech, and AML*, REGULATORY OVERSIGHT (Oct. 30, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Jay Dubow and Ethan Ostroff, *SEC Dismisses Ripple Labs Executives After Losing Bid for Interlocutory Appeal*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (Oct. 23, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Michael Lowe, Ethan Ostroff, and Richard Zack, *FinCEN Issues Alert for Financial Institutions on Red Flags for 'Pig Butchering' Schemes*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (Sept. 12, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Andrew Medeiros, *The Uses and Risks of AI in BSA/AML Compliance: Navigating the Future of Financial Crime Prevention*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (Aug. 22, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Akshay Belani and Ethan Ostroff, *Coinbase Approved to Operate a Futures Commission Merchant*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (Aug. 17, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Jay Dubow and Ethan Ostroff, *SEC Requests Leave to Appeal in Ripple Labs*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (Aug. 16, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Gregory Parisi and Seth Winter, *FFIEC Updates Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering Examination Manual*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (Aug. 4, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Addison Morgan, Ethan Ostroff, Michael Lowe, and Trey Smith, *Bipartisan Bill Would Require Federal Regulators to Create “Risk-Focused Examination and Review” Processes for Cryptocurrency Oversight*, CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW MONITOR (July 25, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Michael Lowe and Ethan Ostroff, *Republican-Led House Committees Propose Framework for Crypto Regulation*, FINANCIAL SERVICES BLOG (June 5, 2023). Copy supplied.

With Jeffrey Hanna and Edward Nogay, *At Long Last, FinCEN Issues Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Rule*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Sept. 29, 2022). Copy supplied.

With Edward Nogay, Jah Akande, and Andrew Konia, *FinCEN Leader’s Remarks Focus on Securing Digital Identity*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Sept. 12, 2022). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, Jacquelyn Stone, Alex Brackett, and Noriya Shahadat, *Proposed Federal Rule Signals Remote Form I-9 Inspection of Employee Documents Will Likely Become Permanent Option*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Aug. 25, 2022). Copy supplied.

ZeekRewards Receivership Updates, [HTTP://WWW.ZEEKREWARDSRECEIVERSHIP.COM](http://www.ZEEKREWARDSRECEIVERSHIP.COM) (May 2019 – May 2022). As the court-appointed receiver, I published regular receivership updates for claimants, litigants, and others with an interest in the work of the receivership between 2019 and 2022. That website was taken offline when the receivership was administratively closed in 2022. Included are copies of the updates I published on the website during my term as the Successor Receiver.

With Alex Brackett, Laura Colombell Marshall, and Bryan Weynand, *FinCEN Encourages “Increased Vigilance” and Highlights Red Flags for Evasion of Russian Sanctions including Use of Virtual Currency*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Mar. 16, 2022). Copy supplied.

With Benjamin O’Neil and Molly White, *First FCPA Settlement of 2022 – Enforcement on the Horizon*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (March 1, 2022). Copy supplied.

With Edward Nogay and Jeffrey Hanna, *FinCEN’s Proposed Foreign Affiliate SAR Sharing Program — Key Considerations*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Jan. 27, 2022). Copy supplied.

With Jeffrey Hanna, Patrick Rowan, and Jah Akande, *FinCEN Director Blanco Comments on Section 314(b)’s New Guidance*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Dec. 30, 2020). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, Edward Nogay, and Jeffrey Hanna, *FinCEN Rule Ends AML Program Exemption for Banks that Lack a Federal Regulator*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Sept. 16, 2020). Copy supplied.

With Jacquelyn Stone, Susan Rodriguez, and Heryka Knoespel, *U.S. Supreme Court*

Determines Action to Rescind DACA was Arbitrary and Capricious, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (June 19, 2020). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez and Bryan Weynand, *DHS Announces Flexibility in Form I-9 "Physical Presence" Requirement During COVID-19*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Mar. 20, 2020). Copy supplied.

With Jeffrey Hanna, *FinCEN Issues Statement to Financial Institutions on BSA/AML Compliance During COVID-19 Pandemic*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Mar. 18, 2020). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, *Employer Update: DHS Extends Temporary Protected Status and Work Authorization for El Salvador, Haiti, Sudan, and Nicaragua*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Mar. 12, 2019). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, *Food and Beverage Industry Focus: DOJ Targets Immigration-Related Discrimination*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Nov. 14, 2018). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, David Izakowitz, and Jacquelyn Stone, *Increased Immigration Worksite Enforcement Looming in 2018*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Oct. 31, 2017). Copy supplied.

With Jacquelyn Stone and Susan Rodriguez, *H-1B Employers Face Increased Site Visits*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Apr. 18, 2017). Copy supplied.

With Jeffrey Hanna and Patrick Rowan, *FinCEN Opens 2017 with SAR Sharing Guidance for Casinos*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Jan. 9, 2017). Copy supplied.

With Jackie Stone, Alex Brackett, Susan Rodriguez, and David Izakowitz, *Big Changes Come With The New Form I-9 Published by USCIS*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Nov. 14, 2016). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, *The Compliance Risks of I-9 Software*, SHRM (Aug 25, 2016). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez Alex Brackett, and David Izakowitz, *Increased Fines on the Horizon for Immigration Law Violations*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (July 7, 2016). Copy supplied.

With Alex Brackett, Patrick Rowan, Susan Rodriguez, David Izakowitz, and Christopher Michalik, *The Export/Immigration Dilemma: Don't Let OSC Catch Your HR Department Unawares*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (May 5, 2016). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, *Buyer Beware: Noncompliant Electronic I-9 Software Risks Customer Company Fines*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Apr. 27, 2016). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, *Oral Arguments in PHH Case Signal Trouble for CFPB*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Apr. 14, 2016). Copy supplied.

With Susan Rodriguez, *Conducting Internal I-9 Audits - ICE and DOJ-OSC Provide Joint Guidance*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Dec. 16, 2015). Copy supplied.

FinCEN proposes rule requiring investment advisor AML compliance, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Aug. 25, 2015). Copy supplied.

CFPB's TRID rule delayed again – uncertainty persists for good-faith grace period, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (June 29, 2015). Copy supplied.

With Joshua Davey, *Chipping Away at the CFPB's Clandestine Activities*, Law360 (May 4, 2015). Copy supplied.

With Joshua Davey, *Rogue Agency or Champion of Consumers? House Votes for CFPB Transparency*, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Apr. 21, 2015). Copy supplied.

FinCEN issues notice of proposed rulemaking on andorran bank as "primary money laundering concern", SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Mar. 12, 2015). Copy supplied.

Mind the Red Flags – FinCEN Issues Penalty for Failure to File SARs on Director's Suspicious Activity, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Mar. 2, 2015). Copy supplied.

Knowingly employing unauthorized workers – can you give employees a second chance to provide valid I-9 documentation?, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Jan. 29, 2015). Copy supplied.

A harbinger of things to come – CFPB announces first action for violations of new Mortgage Servicing Rules, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Oct. 15, 2014). Copy supplied.

Don't Turn a Blind Eye – Individual Liability for Failure to Comply with BSA Reporting Requirements, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Sept. 9, 2014). Copy supplied.

How far does the SAR privilege extend? It depends on which court you ask, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (May 2, 2014). Copy supplied.

The CFPB and BSA-AML Compliance – Can the CFPB Properly Request a SAR?, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Jan. 6, 2014). Copy supplied.

SARs and Confidentiality – When Law Enforcement and Regulators Come Calling, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (Nov. 19, 2013). Copy supplied.

HHS Mandate Forces People to Act Against Their Convictions, CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD, July 19, 2013, at 22. Copy supplied.

DBE fraud enforcement on the rise while OIG cites program's significant weaknesses, SUBJECT TO INQUIRY (June 12, 2013). Copy supplied.

Cellular Phones, Warrantless Searches, and the New Frontier of Fourth Amendment Jurisprudence, 50 SANTA CLARA L. REV. 183 (2010). Copy supplied.

Comment, "Spring-Loading" Executive Stock Options: An Abuse in Need of a Federal Remedy, 53 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 629 (2009). Copy supplied.

b. Supply copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

None

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

I do not have a copy on file, but I did submit an email to U.S. Senator Tillis in 2022 regarding religious liberty and related issues. Senator Tillis was kind enough to send a response letter dated August 4, 2022, which is how I have confirmed that I had reached out on this topic in the first instance.

d. Supply copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

March 27, 2025: Panelist, "Whistleblowers and Internal Investigations: Practical and Ethical Implications," Association of Corporate Counsel of Greater Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina. Presentation supplied.

October 2, 2024: Speaker, "Elder Financial Exploitation Litigation, Risks, and Compliance," The Experience: BSA Conference, First National Bankers Bankshares, Inc., Orange Beach, Alabama. Presentation supplied.

September 11, 2024: Speaker, "Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker Hon. Robert J. Conrad, Jr.," St. Thomas More Society, Charlotte, North Carolina. Outline of remarks supplied.

June 7, 2024: Master of Ceremonies, "WDNC Federal Bar Association Annual Meeting and CLE," United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina. I delivered opening remarks and introductions of speakers and topics throughout the day. I also delivered remarks for the 2024 annual meeting portion of the day, summarizing the work of the FBA WDNC Chapter and conducting a

voice vote for the new officer slate. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the sponsor is 401 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

June 7, 2024: Moderator, "U.S. District Judge Panel on Pre-trial and Post-trial Issues," United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina. The panel included all active U.S. District Judges for the Western District of North Carolina and focused on both civil and criminal pre-trial and post-trial legal topics. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the sponsor is 401 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

September 29, 2023: Speaker, "Investiture of the Honorable Susan C. Rodriguez as United States Magistrate Judge," United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte, North Carolina. Notes supplied.

June 3, 2022: Moderator, "U.S. District Judge Criminal Law Discussion Panel," United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina. The panel was part of the FBA's all-day CLE event and included all active U.S. District Judges for the Western District of North Carolina and focused on federal criminal law issues involving trial and sentencing advocacy. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of the sponsor is 401 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

October 3, 2019: Speaker, "Investiture of the Honorable Kenneth D. Bell as United States District Judge," United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte, North Carolina. Notes supplied.

e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Unpacking the Fifth Circuit's Landmark Tornado Cash Decision, The Crypto Exchange Podcast, Jan. 16, 2025. Recording available at <https://youtu.be/ucCKz2rX9-A>.

Bank Investigations and Enforcement Actions: Lessons Learned, The Consumer Finance Podcast, October 26, 2023. Recording available at <https://www.consumerfinancialserviceslawmonitor.com/2023/10/bank-investigations-and-enforcement-actions-lessons-learned-cfs/>.

Practical Lessons Learned Regarding the Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering for Financial Institutions, The Consumer Finance Podcast, October 4, 2023. Recording available at <https://www.consumerfinancialserviceslawmonitor.com/2023/10/practical-lessons-learned-regarding-the-bank-secrecy-act-and-anti-money-laundering-for-financial-institutions/>.

Analyzing the Treasury's Illicit Finance Risk Assessment of Decentralized Finance, The Crypto Exchange Podcast, September 7, 2023. Recording available at <https://www.consumerfinancialserviceslawmonitor.com/2023/09/analyzing-the-treasurys-illicit-finance-risk-assessment-of-decentralized-finance/>.

Authority Magazine Editorial Staff, *Matt Orso of Troutman Pepper on 5 Things That Can Be Done to Improve and Reform the Cryptocurrency Industry*, Authority Magazine, July 21, 2023. Copy supplied.

Press release, *Troutman Pepper Ramps Up White Collar + Government Investigations Practice in North Carolina with Partner Addition*, Troutman Pepper LLP, May 2, 2023. Copy supplied.

The Human Lawyer Podcast. I was interviewed with two other lawyers sometime in 2021. This episode focused on an initiative I helped organize to hold lawyer volunteer events at the men's homeless shelter in Charlotte, North Carolina, to determine potential eligibility for criminal records expunction under state law to improve employment and housing prospects. I am unable to locate the date of the interview, it is no longer available on the internet, and the podcast no longer exists.

Red Mass offered in Charlotte for members of legal profession, St. Thomas More Society, CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD, October 26, 2018. Copy supplied. Video of statement available at <https://youtu.be/c3sqO-PTBvA?feature=shared>.

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

I have not held judicial office.

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

i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials: _____ %
bench trials: _____ %

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings: _____ %
criminal proceedings: _____ %

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

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

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

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

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

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

h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

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

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

I have not held judicial office.

a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;

b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;

c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;

d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

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

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

I have not held public office or had any unsuccessful bids for elective or appointed office.

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

None

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

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

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

From 2009 to 2011, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert J. Conrad, Jr., then-Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

- 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;

2007

United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois
9 Executive Drive
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
Intern

2008

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
525 West Monroe Street

Chicago, Illinois 60661
Summer Associate

2011 – 2012
Smith Parsons, PLLC (no longer in operation – dissolved around 2014)
6060 Piedmont Row Drive South, Suite 150
Charlotte, North Carolina 28287
Associate

2012 – 2023
McGuireWoods LLP
201 North Tryon Street, Suite 3000
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Partner (2019 – 2023)
Associate (2012 – 2018)

2023 – present
Troutman Pepper Locke LLP
301 South College Street, 34th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Partner

- 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.

After clerking, I joined a small law firm focused on construction litigation and employment defense litigation. I gained quick experience taking expert and fact depositions, briefing motions in federal court, and representing a client at arbitration.

Beginning in 2012, I joined McGuireWoods, where I immediately began working on a wide variety of both civil and criminal litigation and investigation matters. These included representation of a U.S. congressman in a multi-year federal fraud investigation where the U.S. Attorney's office declined to file charges, representation of a paving company and its CEO in a disadvantaged business enterprise fraud prosecution, and representation of a Ponzi scheme receiver in dozens of civil lawsuits in federal court to recover fraudulently transferred assets.

This general civil and criminal litigation mix is still a significant aspect of my legal practice. In addition, beginning in 2016, I began representing a major bank in what would become a years-long investigation by the DOJ, U.S. Attorney's Offices, and other federal and state agencies. This matter involved a widespread internal investigation and regular presentations to the government, eventually resulting in settlements with the relevant agencies. Since this time, I have continued representing clients in large-scale investigations and enforcement matters. I transitioned firms and began working with Troutman Pepper Locke in 2023, but the character of my practice remains generally the same as it has been for the past several years.

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

As a law clerk, I worked on the full range of issues as they came before the United States District Court. Then, during my time in private practice at a small firm, I represented two main types of clients: construction industry clients in civil litigation matters and corporate clients in employment litigation matters.

For the past 14 years, my clients have been companies and individuals under investigation or prosecution by federal authorities. During this time, I have served as a CJA panel attorney for criminal defendant clients in supervised release violation hearings. In addition, for several of those years, I represented a federal court-appointed receiver in civil litigation matters.

Further, during my tenure as federal court-appointed receiver from 2019 – 2023, my client was the United States District Court.

- 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.

The majority of my practice has been in litigation or criminal and civil enforcement investigations. Early in my career as an associate in 2011 and 2012, I was able to take and defend depositions and occasionally argue in court, gaining valuable early experience. As time progressed and my practice developed at a larger firm, between 2013 and 2020, I appeared in court periodically, approximately 6–10 times in any given year. Over the past few years, I have spent less time in court, having worked on multiple criminal and civil investigations that have been resolved outside of court prior to charges or enforcement actions being filed.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. | federal courts: | 95% |
| 2. | state courts of record: | 4% |
| 3. | other courts: | 0% |

- 4. administrative agencies: 1%
- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 - 1. civil proceedings: 40%
 - 2. criminal proceedings: 60%

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 taken an active part in many trials, representing key witnesses in multiple federal criminal trials and working on all aspects of trials as a federal judicial clerk, from jury instructions to evidentiary determinations and sentencing. Having worked for large, private law firms in a white-collar defense practice, opportunities to try cases in the courtroom are few and far between, with firm clients often being large corporations whose interests are better served settling matters outside of trial, including at times pleading guilty to charges. Cases where I have represented government witnesses as clients have all been jury trials involving criminal charges.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:
 - 1. jury: 95%
 - 2. non-jury: 5%

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

I have never appeared 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. *SEC v. Rex Venture Grp.*, Case No. 3:12-cv-00519 (W.D.N.C. filed Aug. 17, 2012) (Judge Graham C. Mullen) (Representation: 2012 – 2023).

This case was filed by the SEC to shut down a Ponzi and pyramid scheme with over 1 million victims worldwide, known as ZeekRewards. I represented the federal court-appointed Receiver in this case in litigation efforts related to enforcing violations of the court's freeze order to recover receivership assets. My representation included discovery and dispositive motions and hearings related to several e-wallet and fintech companies that had unlawfully retained receivership assets. In addition, I was responsible for all receivership litigation reports to the court and the SEC, while also facilitating receivership assistance to the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding its prosecution of the Ponzi scheme's operators.

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2. *Bell v. Brockett*, 922 F.3d 502 (4th Cir. 2019) (Niemeyer, Keenan, Quattlebaum, JJ.) (appeal from *Bell v. Disner* (later *Orso v. Disner*), Case No. 3:14-cv-91 (W.D.N.C. filed Feb. 28, 2014) (Judge Graham C. Mullen) (Representation: 2014 – 2021)).

In this lawsuit to recover receivership assets for the victims of the Ponzi scheme, I represented the Receiver as one of the lead lawyers and later took over as the Receiver-plaintiff. The Fourth Circuit described this lawsuit as “. . . one of the rarest types of complex litigation, the defendant class action. Defendant class actions are so rare they have been compared to ‘unicorns.’” In this case, a single plaintiff, the Receiver, sued a class of defendants who had profited from the scheme. It involved unique and complex issues of class action law, where a class of thousands of defendants was certified, and we succeeded in winning the case on summary judgment. I was closely involved in all aspects of the briefing and argument preparations for this matter in district court and on appeal. The Fourth Circuit affirmed the district court’s grant of summary judgment to the Receiver. This case resulted in a large award for the receivership, and I later sold the judgments to a third party to help fund a monetary distribution to the scheme’s victim-claimants.

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3. *United States v. Boggs Paving, Inc.*, Case No. 3:13-cr-00204 (W.D.N.C. filed Jul. 24, 2013) (Judge Max O. Cogburn, Jr.) (Representation: 2014 – 2021).

I represented the corporate defendant and CEO in this multi-year investigation by the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office for the WDNC. The case involved charges of wire fraud and related charges under the Department of Transportation's disadvantaged business enterprise program. My clients eventually pled guilty to a subset of the charges. I participated in a multi-day sentencing hearing, where we prevailed on our arguments as to the loss amount. The U.S. Attorney's Office had alleged \$75 million in loss, but the Court correctly found that loss was \$37,000 under the Sentencing Guidelines after crediting the work and roads that the government had received in return for the contract amounts. The government had sought 60 months' imprisonment for my client, but the Court sentenced him to 30 months.

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4. *Yale v. CommunityOne Bank*, No. 315-cv-00403-RJC, 2018 WL 3977885 (W.D.N.C. Aug. 20, 2018) (Judge Robert J. Conrad, Jr.) (Representation: 2015 – 2018).

I represented the defendant bank in a case filed by a large group of plaintiffs who were victims of a Ponzi scheme. The scheme's perpetrator had used accounts at the bank in furtherance of the fraud scheme. These plaintiffs alleged the bank had aided and abetted the fraud, violated the Uniform Fiduciaries Act and other laws, and they sought significant damages. I participated in discovery and conducted extensive legal analysis

and briefing for this matter. The court granted my client's motion for summary judgment, and the Fourth Circuit affirmed the decision.

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5. *Receiver for Rex Venture Grp. v. Banca Comerciala Victoriabank SA*, 843 F. App'x 485 (4th Cir. 2021) (Gregory, Keenan, Floyd, JJ.) (appeal from *SEC v. Rex Venture Grp.*, Case No. 3:12-cv-00519 (W.D.N.C. filed Aug. 17, 2012) (Judge Graham C. Mullen) (Representation: 2016 – 2021).

I represented the Receiver in this matter involving a foreign bank that had acted in violation of the court's freeze order. After the SEC shut down the Ponzi scheme, we filed a motion for contempt against Victoriabank of Moldova for dissipating frozen receivership assets. The court granted my client's motion and froze over \$13 million in funds held in the bank's correspondent account in New York. The court subsequently granted Victoriabank's motion to dissolve the freeze order based on lack of personal jurisdiction. This matter involved extensive investigation and complex issues of federal jurisdiction involving a foreign bank, as well as legal issues and expert testimony regarding sufficiency of foreign service of process in a non-Hague jurisdiction. After I was appointed as the Receiver in this matter, I appealed the jurisdictional ruling, and the Fourth Circuit affirmed the district court's decision to release the frozen funds. In the interests of preserving receivership funds for the scheme's victims, I did not pursue further appellate review via petition for certiorari.

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6. *United States v. Scales*, No. 4:10-cr-7 (E.D.N.C. filed Feb. 4, 2010) (Judge James C. Dever, III) (Representation: 2012 – 2013).

I represented the defendant, a former public official, during the sentencing phase of this case involving public corruption and fraud. I prepared the sentencing memorandum and participated in arguments at the sentencing hearing before the United States District Court.

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7. *State v. Cole*, Case No. 98CR023740-400, ___ N.C. ___, ___ S.E.2d ___ (N.C. Superior Ct. filed June 25, 1999) (Judge Susan E. Bray (Ret.)) (Representation: 2024 – 2025).

In this matter, I represented an individual who had been convicted in 1999 of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. I took the case on after having been provided evidence that this individual had been misidentified at trial and was not the individual who had committed the crime. Further, the trial transcript and records identified after the close of trial reflected multiple instances of likely *Brady* violations. Along with co-counsel, I represented this client in post-conviction briefing to re-open the case and presented witness testimony, documentary evidence, and oral argument during a two-day evidentiary hearing. After the hearing concluded, the State offered for my client to plead guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for a time-served sentence. My client accepted this offer and entered an *Alford* plea, maintaining his innocence, and he returned home to his family after 27 years in prison.

Co-Counsel

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8. *Sandy Creek v. E. Coast Contracting*, 226 N.C. App. 576, 741 S.E.2d 673 (2013) (N.C. Ct. App.) (McCullough, Greer, Stephens, JJ.) (Representation: 2011 – 2012).

I represented a sewer utility contractor in a significant lawsuit where a town sued my client for damages to its roads allegedly caused by my client's construction of a neighboring city's sewer project. We filed a third-party complaint against the neighboring city for breach of contract, negligence, and indemnity and contribution. In an important, precedent-setting decision for the North Carolina Court of Appeals, the court agreed with our legal argument and held that the neighboring city was acting in a proprietary manner when it contracted with companies to complete the sewer project and was thus subject to tort liability for the damages to the town's roads.

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9. *Williams v. Carolina Healthcare Sys.*, 452 F. App'x 392 (4th Cir. 2011) (King, Gregory, Duncan, JJ.) (appeal from *Williams v. Carolina Healthcare Sys.*, Case No. 3:10-cv-00232 (W.D.N.C. filed May 21, 2010) (Judge Graham C. Mullen) (Representation: 2011).

I represented the corporate defendant in this employment discrimination case alleging racial discrimination for failure to promote and failure to allow plaintiff to work from home. The district court granted our client summary judgment. On appeal, I worked with co-counsel in preparing the appellate brief, and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's order. This case was significant in my early legal career because it allowed me to develop appellate briefing experience while distilling the myriad arguments by a pro se plaintiff that district courts are often required to disposition. My representation focused on the Fourth Circuit appeal.

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Jackalin S. Williams (Pro Se)

10. *Bell v. Peak USA*, No. 3:15-cv-00233-GCM (W.D.N.C. filed May 26, 2015)
(Judge Graham C. Mullen) (Representation: 2015 – 2018).

I represented the receiver in this lawsuit against two individuals and three shell companies they controlled. The lawsuit sought over \$3 million in fraudulently transferred assets, asserting claims of fraudulent transfer, unjust enrichment, and aiding and abetting breach of fiduciary duty. I led discovery efforts throughout the life of the case, and at the end of discovery, we were able to settle the case for a favorable sum for the benefit of the receivership estate.

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18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve

litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

In 2019, the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina appointed me as receiver of a Ponzi scheme with over a million victims and nearly \$1 billion in victim losses. I succeeded U.S. District Judge Kenneth D. Bell in this role when he left private practice and joined the federal bench. In this role, I oversaw all outstanding receivership litigation, distributions to over 100,000 claimants via a court-approved claims process, and the sale of over \$100 million in judgments for the benefit of the Receivership. This role involved extensive coordination with the court, the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding restitution issues, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In addition, from 2016 to 2020, I represented a national bank in a multi-year grand jury investigation into its sales practices by the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Offices, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the attorneys general for 50 states and the District of Columbia, among other regulatory agencies. This work involved hundreds of investigation interviews of key employees and dozens of presentations and negotiation sessions with counsel for the government agencies.

Since 2011, I have been counsel of record in 40 cases in the Western District of North Carolina alone, with additional cases in other federal judicial districts and state court. I have appeared and argued in court in the Western District on dozens of occasions. I have represented clients at multi-day federal criminal sentencing hearings, as witnesses in criminal trials, at hearings on summary judgment and motions to dismiss, and in a multi-day postconviction evidentiary hearing. I have also conducted fact and expert depositions and represented clients at arbitration involving civil disputes.

In addition to the above legal work, I served on the board of the Federal Bar Association for the Western District of North Carolina for multiple years as Treasurer, and most recently as President of the organization. Among other things, in my capacity as President, I coordinated and moderated CLE panels with our Western District federal judges and worked closely with the Chief Judge and Clerk of Court in planning the annual meeting and CLE event, which was attended by approximately 150 lawyers.

I have never acted or registered as a lobbyist.

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

In 2003 and 2004, prior to beginning law school, I taught at Nazareth Academy, a Catholic high school in LaGrange Park, Illinois. The courses I taught in the Theology Department included Sacraments, Morality, and Scripture. The course I taught in the History Department was United

States History. I do not have syllabi for any of these courses.

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.

If confirmed, I hope to consider teaching a law school seminar once a year. I have no commitments or agreements to do so, and no other plans for outside activities.

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 transmitted to the Senate, I will file my Financial Disclosure Report and will supplement this Questionnaire with a copy of that Report.

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

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

If confirmed, I will recuse in any litigation where I have ever played a role. For a period of time, I anticipate recusing in all cases where my current firm, Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, represents a party. Moreover, I will evaluate any other real or potential conflict, or relationship that could give rise to appearance of conflict, on a case-by-case basis and determine appropriate action with the advice of parties and their counsel including recusal where necessary.

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

If confirmed, I will carefully review and address any real or potential conflicts by reference to 28 U.S.C. § 455, Canon 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and any and all other laws, rules, and practices governing such circumstances.

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.

I have rendered a significant number of hours to pro bono legal services over the course of my career. I have earned recognition as a member of the North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society for my pro bono work in 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2024.

Examples of pro bono matters I have worked on include the following: I represented an elderly woman in a lawsuit filed by a neighbor regarding property dispute issues, where my client had received a default judgment without understanding the judicial process. I helped her obtain relief from the default judgment and negotiated a walk-away settlement, allowing her to remain in her home. Further, I represented a Veteran of the United States Army in an appeal for an upgrade of his discharge status based on evidence of PTSD during active service. I have also represented domestic violence victims in obtaining emergency TROs and clients of Legal Aid to analyze their criminal history records and determine eligibility under state expunction laws. Lastly, I represented an individual who had been wrongfully convicted and who was released after 27 years in prison.

26. **Selection Process:**

a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

On January 29, 2025, I wrote a letter to Senators Tillis and Budd seeking consideration for the vacancy in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. On April 16, 2025, I was contacted by Counsel for the Senators and asked to complete a questionnaire, which I returned on April 25, 2025. On May 20, 2025, I was contacted by Senator Tillis's office to schedule an interview. On May 22, 2025, I was contacted by Senator Budd's office to schedule an interview. I attended interviews with

Senators Tillis and Budd on June 4, 2025, in their respective District of Columbia offices.

Since July 10, 2025, I have been in contact with officials from the White House Counsel's Office. On July 22, 2025, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office at the White House. Since that time, I have been in contact with attorneys from the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy. On August 20, the President called to tell me I would be nominated.

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 manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Matthew E. Orso, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

8/13/25
(DATE)

Matthew E. Orso
(NAME)

Deborah A. Currie
(NOTARY)

