

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NON-JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Lesley Anne Woods Murphy

Lesley Bartow, Shafer

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

United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska.

3. **Address**: List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

Office:

United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska
1620 Dodge Street, Suite 1400
Omaha, NE 68102

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

1983, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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 Iowa Law School, 2007 –2010

J.D. - May 2010

Metropolitan State College of Denver, 2006

Bachelor of Science Degree - December 2006

Pikes Peak Community College, 2006

No degree received.

Columbia College (online), 2006

No degree received.

University of Colorado, 2001- 2006
No degree received.

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

May 2025 - present
Interim United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
District of Nebraska
1620 Dodge Street, Suite 1400
Omaha, NE 68102

January 2025 - May 2025
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
District of Maryland
6406 Ivy Lane, Suite 800
Greenbelt, MD 20770

November 2023 - January 2025
Trial Attorney
Department of Justice
National Security Division
Counterterrorism Section
950 Pennsylvania Ave, Seventh Floor
Washington DC 20530

October 2017 - November 2023
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
District of Nebraska
1620 Dodge Street, Suite 1400
Omaha, NE 68102

November 2014 - September 2017
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Texas
550 Fannin Street, Suite 1250
Beaumont, TX 77701

January 2011 - November 2014
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (JAG), April 2011 – October 2014
Officer Training School, January 2011 – April 2011
United States Air Force
Sheppard Air Force Base
1810 J Avenue (82d TRW/80 FTW legal office)
Wichita Falls, TX 76311

May 2010 - January 2011
Office Assistant
PSF, LLC
3777 Thundercloud Dr
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

July 2010 - October 2010
Photographer
DR Photo
8110 Brandon Drive
Littleton, CO, 80125

August 2008 - May 2010
Research Assistant
University of Iowa Law School
130 Byington Road, #145 Boyd Law Building
Iowa City, IA, 52242

August 2009 - December 2009
Server
Brickhaus Restaurant
728 47th Avenue
Ames, IA, 52203

June 2009 - August 2009
Legal Intern
Department of the Army
United States Army Garrison
Heidelberg, APO, AE, 09114

June 2008 - August 2008
VISTA Volunteer and Crisis Center Manager
Americorps
317 7th Ave SE, Suite 401
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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.

Active Duty Service:

United States Air Force

Captain (O-3) Approximately June 6, 2011

1st Lieutenant, January 6, 2011 to Approximately June 6, 2011

Honorable Discharge

I am not required to register 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.

- Nebraska Law Enforcement Coordination Award (Multiple) 2019, 2023
- Outstanding Violent Crime Award for the Midwest Region (FBI), 2019
- Houston DEA Field Division AUSA of the Year, 2017
- Beaumont Police Department Commendation Medal, 2017
- Port Arthur Police Department Excellence Award, 2017
- Dallas IRS Special Agent in Charge Excellence Award, 2015
- 2d Air Force Kuhfeld Award Winner and Major Command Nominee, 2014
- Commander's Award (Two Star General), 2014
- Commander's Award (Squadron Commander), 2013
- Air Force Achievement Medal, 2012
- Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, 2013
- Global War on Terror Service Ribbon, 2011
- National Defense Service Ribbon, 2011
- Full merit scholarship – University of Iowa Law School, 2007
- Dean's list, Metropolitan State College of Denver, 2006
- Academic merit scholarship – University of Colorado, 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.

Texas Young Lawyers Association

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.

Florida Bar – September 2010 (Retired license due to lack of reciprocity with other states in approximately 2020)

Texas Bar – approximately April, 2014 (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.

U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals (Estimated 2017 to present)
U.S. District Court of Nebraska (Estimated 2017 to present)
U.S. District Court of Maryland (February 2025)
U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (Estimated 2014 to 2017)
U.S. Eastern District of Texas (Estimated 2014 to 2017)
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (Estimated 2011 to 2014)

No lapses in membership. During my tenure with the Department of Justice, I obtained admissions in the federal courts where I was practicing for a period of time. When the admission was no longer needed, I voluntarily resigned my admission. When I became a federal prosecutor, I no longer needed admission to the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

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.

Company Grade Officer's Club, United States Air Force (approximately 2011 to 2014)

- b. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

To my knowledge, this organization does not discriminate, nor has it formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

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

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including

material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

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 not located any responsive items.

- 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 have done my best to identify any reports, memoranda, or policy statements I have prepared or contributed to, including through a review of my personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. I have not located any responsive items.

- 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 not located any responsive items.

- 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 have not delivered any speeches or talks.

- 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.

May 14, 2020, *On the Case with Paula Zahn*, Season 20, Episode 5, Little Lamb. Video available at

https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.0cbc1135-f603-d592-a439-6b22bcf52ea7?ref=imdbref_tt_ov_wbr_ovf_pvt_aiv&tag=imdbtag_tt_ov_wbr_ovf_pvt_aiv-20. (at 29:35, 36:46 to 37:40, 39:00 to 39:52, 40:19 to 40:32)

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 not run for public office.

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

I have not held a position or played a role in a political campaign.

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;

I did not serve as a law clerk.

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

I have not practiced 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.

January 2011 - November 2014
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (JAG), April 2011 – October 2014
Officer Training School, January 2011 – April 2011
United States Air Force
Sheppard Air Force Base
1810 J Avenue (82d TRW/80 FTW legal office)
Wichita Falls, TX 76311

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Omaha, NE 68102

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950 Pennsylvania Ave, Seventh Floor
Washington DC 20530

January 2025 - May 2025
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United States Attorney's Office
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6406 Ivy Lane, Suite 800
Greenbelt, MD 20770

May 2025 - present
Interim United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
District of Nebraska
1620 Dodge Street, Suite 1400
Omaha, NE 68102

- 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.

- v. Whether you have held any judicial office, including positions as an administrative law judge, on any U.S. federal, state, tribal, or local court and if so, please provide the name of the court, the jurisdiction of that court, whether the position was appointed or elected, and the dates of your service.

I have not held a judicial office.

b. Describe:

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

I began practicing as an Air Force JAG officer and prosecutor on active duty in 2011. At that time, the United States Air Force was my client. I served as an advisor to military commanders, including senior ranking officers on a range of legal matters to include operations, training, courts-martial, discharging Airmen, Congressional inquiries, and internal command investigations.

After the Air Force, I began my career with the Department of Justice. First, I served as an Assistant United States Attorney in United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas. I primarily prosecuted crimes against children, violent crimes, organized crime that included sophisticated drug trafficking and homicides, and I occasionally prosecuted white-collar matters.

After serving in the Eastern District of Texas, I transferred to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska to be closer to my parents. My practice significantly broadened to include sophisticated white-collar offenses, labor trafficking, sex trafficking, capital crimes, and I continued my efforts to prosecute violent crime. Eventually, I became that United States Attorney's Office's Violent Crime Coordinator. In that role, I expanded the range of violent crimes the office was prosecuting. I fostered strong relationships with law enforcement agencies (both state and federal), and I began charging gang conspiracies using statutes like 18 U.S.C. § 924(o) firearms conspiracies that had not been charged in the district prior to my placement in that position.

In 2023, I sought and obtained a position with the Counterterrorism Section of the National Security Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where I was able to work on international terrorism cases, including material support charges. I worked with Classified Information Procedures Act (CIPA) matters and on some prominent national security matters.

In January 2025, I transferred to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland, where I primarily handled national security cases.

In May 2025, I was appointed as the interim United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska. In this position, I am the chief federal law enforcement officer for the entire district, and I oversee all criminal and civil staff for two district offices located in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska.

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

While serving as a JAG, my client was the United States Air Force. For the remainder of my career to date, my client has been the United States of America.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

My entire practice has been in litigation. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney and Trial Attorney, I routinely appeared in federal district court and occasionally appeared and participated in oral argument before panels of judges from the Circuit Courts of Appeal.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 - 1. federal courts: 100% (Approximately 80% of my practice has been in United States district courts with 20% of my practice in military courts.)
 - 2. state courts of record: 0%
 - 3. other courts: 0%
 - 4. administrative agencies: 0%
- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 - 1. civil proceedings: 10%
 - 2. criminal proceedings: 90%

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather

than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I have tried to verdict, judgment or final decision approximately 50 criminal trials. I was sole counsel or chief counsel on approximately 35 trials and was co-counsel or associate counsel on the other 15 trials.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:
 1. Jury: 94%
 2. non-jury: 6%
- 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 never practiced before the Supreme Court of the United States.

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. United States v. Elis LaSalle

Case No. ACM 38323 (A.F. Ct. Crim App. 10 Feb 14); ACM 38831 November 23, 2016 (Elis LaSalle was successfully court-martialed twice)
Court-Martial at Joint Base McGuire Dix, week of October 29, 2012
Second court-martial was at Sheppard Air Force Base
Military Judge Matthew Ward
2011-2016

I was lead counsel for the base on each of Elis LaSalle's litigated courts-martial. For each case, a Senior Trial Counsel joined me right before the court-martial commenced. LaSalle was court-martialed twice because a new victim came forward and made a rape allegation against him while I was preparing witnesses for his first court-martial. Additionally, I tried the first case at Joint Base

McGuire Dix during Hurricane Sandy. One of the minor victims' mental health records were not accessible due to the storm. For that reason, her charges were combined with those of the rape victim into a second court-martial. LaSalle was convicted of all counts at both courts-martial and was sentenced to a lengthy prison term.

LaSalle was a twenty-four-year-old Airman who participated in the Air Force's Recruiter Assistance program. The program affords Airmen the opportunity to take leave following technical training near their hometowns in exchange for doing duties for their local recruiter. Airman LaSalle went to a recruiting event at a local high school and tried to entice and groom young women he met there to meet up with him for sexual activity. He talked his way into one fourteen-year old's home, and she had to pull a knife on him to get him to stop pressuring her. During trial prep, I interviewed a former girlfriend of LaSalle's from technical training, and she reported to me that he had raped her. This became the basis of a second court-martial. LaSalle was convicted twice. The first litigated trial with child victims occurred at Joint Base McGuire Fort Dix in New Jersey during Hurricane Sandy. I had to assist the families through the storm, lost critical mental health records for one victim due to the hurricane, and still obtained a full verdict and exceeded sentencing expectations.

Co-Counsel:

Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Nettinga (Second Court-Martial)
Capital Defense Counsel
Military Commissions
(703) 695-5274
Office of Military Commissions
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350-2100

Opposing Counsel:

Collin Delaney
Administrative Law Judge
Health and Human Services, Region VIII Denver
1961 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80294
(303) 844-7805
301st Fighter Wing
National Guard Staff Judge Advocate

2. United States v. Rufus Dennis

Case No. 22-1759 (8th Cir. 2023)
District of Nebraska, Omaha Division
Chief United States District Judge Robert Rossiter
2021 - 2023

I served as lead counsel for this fully litigated jury trial and full conviction of a previously convicted first degree murderer. I handled everything at the trial, with the exception of one expert witness. Dennis was convicted of all counts after a brief deliberation.

Rufus Dennis decided to plan a home invasion of a single mother and her twin four-year-old children. Dennis falsely believed there were drugs and money in the home. In reality, it was just a young mother, her elderly mother battling cancer, and the small children. Dennis unknowingly recruited an FBI informant to do the planned robbery with him, and law enforcement intervened before anyone was harmed. Dennis was in possession of firearms while planning the home invasion and attempted to trade one for a more fitting weapon with a separate FBI undercover agent.

Chief Judge Rossiter sentenced Dennis following trial according to his conduct and criminal history after a litigated sentencing hearing and varied upward in response to the Government's motion to do so and issued a 270-month sentence. A Supreme Court decision after the trial held that attempted robbery is no longer a federal crime of violence for the purposes of 18 U.S.C. §924(c) purposes. Due to that, Dennis was sentenced a second time to a term of 240 months, still a sentence substantially above the guidelines recommended term of 121 to 151 months.

Co-Counsel:
Don Kleine, Jr.
Criminal Chief
District of Nebraska
1620 Dodge Street, Suite 1400
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 661-3700

Opposing Counsel:
Andrew Wilson
Partner, Wilson Puk LLP
11240 Davenport Street
Omaha, NE 68154
(402) 330-6300

3. United States v. Tahwyne Patterson, et al
Case No. 23-3777(8th Cir. 2025)
District of Nebraska, Lincoln Division
Senior United States District Judge John Gerrard
2020 – 2025

This was a litigated murder trial that stemmed from a home invasion and attempted robbery in Lincoln, Nebraska. I first chaired the case and handled most of the trial preparation alone, because my co-counsel was quarantined for COVID-19 shortly

before the trial began. He was able to rejoin the team for trial, but he lost significant preparation time. The jury convicted the defendants of all counts, and two defendants pled guilty prior to trial.

This case concerned a home invasion turned homicide of a mother in front of her children. Minor victims on a sleepover in the home at the time of the invasion were zip-tied in their beds while guns were pointed at their backs. The three gang members who invaded the home after kicking in its front door were looking for drug money. They would not find it. One occupant of the home was a marijuana dealer with a stash of cash, but most of the occupants were children and women who had nothing to do with his drug trade. One of those women was a mother to most of the children in the home at night.

The mother was gunned down in the stairwell when she responded to the noise of the break-in. Patterson sprayed her with bullets, and she died at the scene as her young daughters were trying to help her. The jury convicted on all counts, and two defendants received life plus twenty years. The third defendant, who pled guilty without an agreement shortly before trial, was sentenced to a term of approximately 50 years in federal prison. That defendant did not take a gun with him to the home invasion, unlike the two co-defendants.

The same Supreme Court opinion that impacted Rufus Dennis' case impacted this homicide case – the original charge was an 18 U.S.C. §924(j) murder by firearm based on a federal crime of violence – attempted robbery. This resulted in a resentencing to 60 years without parole for both defendants.

Co-Counsel:
Dan Packard
Assistant United States Attorney
District of Nebraska
Lincoln Division
487 Federal Bldg
100 Centennial Mall N.
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 437-5241

Opposing Counsel:
Michael “Mike” Tasset
Johnson and Mock Law Firm
9900 Nicholas St, #225
Omaha, NE 68114
(402) 685-5647

4. United States v. Sabino Martinez, et al
Case No: No. 18-40068 (5th Cir. 2019)
Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont Division

United States District Judge Marcia Crone
2015 – 2019

I first chaired this trial that involved the cold case homicide of a young mother in Port Arthur, Texas. The robbery conspiracy that Sabino Martinez participated in with co-defendant Ozzie Ibarra led to the murder of young mother Allison Neil Clark on May 14, 2010. Clark was on the way to Wal-Mart to get a graduation gift for a family member around nine in the evening with her three-year-old daughter. Sabino Martinez was riding in a truck with two other gang members behind Clark and told the driver to pull up alongside Clark. Martinez then fired what was likely intended to be a warning shot to get her to pull over. Instead, the bullet struck Allison and lodged in her seat, on a trajectory for the baby's seat in the back. The murder was unsolved until I indicted a wire fraud conspiracy involving state prison inmates working together to file false tax returns to get fraudulent refunds. One of those indicted included the gang member who drove the truck for Sabino Martinez on the night of the homicide. She proffered, and the federal case team went on to make a federal case against Sabino Martinez and others involved in his violent crimes throughout the Port Arthur area. Sabino Martinez was a violent leader of a street gang in Port Arthur, Texas, and he and his co-defendants terrorized the community with violent crimes like robberies, assaults, and shootings for many years. The jury convicted Sabino Martinez of all counts after trial, and he was sentenced to 80 years in federal prison, without parole.

Co-Counsel:
Robert "Bob" Rawls
Assistant United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas
550 Fannin St. #1250
Beaumont, TX 77701
(409) 839-2538

Opposing Counsel:
Thomas Burbank
Solo Practitioner
1900 Broadway St.
Beaumont, TX
(409) 895-0200

5. United States v. Juan Pablo Sanchez-Delgado, et al
Case No: 4:18CR3088 (DNE 2018)
District of Nebraska, Lincoln Division
Senior United States District John Gerrard
2018 – 2020

This case originated from a wiretap investigation into the harboring and exploitation of unlawfully present illegal aliens at agricultural operations across western Nebraska.

Several defendants proceeded to a fully litigated jury trial in federal court. In total, I indicted twenty defendants, including one corporation, in the major conspiracy charges.

State and federal governments were being defrauded out of millions of dollars. No tax withholdings were being paid on the 100+ unlawfully present illegal aliens. Ultimately, twenty federal defendants were charged with felony harboring of illegal aliens, wire fraud, and money laundering offenses. The corporation pled guilty and paid a \$400,000 fine. The government recovered and seized over 1.7 million dollars in assets used to facilitate the crimes. Judge Gerrard at sentencing described it as the most egregious white-collar offense ever to go before him on the federal bench.

Co-Counsel:
Steve Russell
Professor at University of Nebraska Lincoln
Howard L. Hawks Hall #435
Lincoln, NE 68588
(402) 472-23375

Opposing Counsel:
Jon Braaten (represented lead defendant)
Anderson, Creager, and Wittstruck
635 S. 14th Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 475-7091

6. United States v. Devin Ashford
Case No: 20-3561 (8th Cir. 2022)
District of Nebraska
Lincoln Division
Senior United States District Judge John Gerrard
2019 - 2022

I indicted and tried this human trafficking case as sole counsel. It was a fully litigated jury trial, and the jury ultimately convicted on all counts charged. Devin Ashford was charged with multiple counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, and coercion, as well sex trafficking of minors and interstate transportation for the purposes of illegal prostitution activity. Ashford was trafficking minor females and sexually assaulting them. Ashford raped minors and forced adult victims into sex trafficking. The jury convicted Ashford of all counts. Judge Gerrard sentenced Ashford to 47 years in federal prison. The verdict and judgment were upheld on appeal.

Co-Counsel:
None.

Opposing Counsel:
Jon Braaten

Anderson, Creager, and Wittstruck
635 S. 14th Street, Suite 200,
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 475-7091

7. United States v. Jesse Cody

Case No: 22-2602 (8th Cir. 2023)
District of Nebraska, Omaha Division
Chief District Judge Robert Rossiter
2019 – 2023

I served as sole counsel on this fully litigated sex trafficking jury trial in federal district court. The charges included multiple counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, and/or coercion, along with interstate transportation of a minor for the purposes of illegal prostitution activity. This case involved a defendant who was trafficking minor females, including a foster child that he kidnapped and forced to engage in commercial sex acts with dangerous customers, to include a registered sex offender. Cody was beating and raping the minor victim and defrauded a second victim who was nineteen years old at the time. The jury fully convicted Cody. Cody was sentenced to 192 months. The verdict and judgment were upheld on appeal.

Co-Counsel:

None

Opposing Counsel:

Matthew Knipe
Liberty Law Group
13321 California Street, #300
Omaha, NE,
(402) 865-0501

8. United States v. Lonnie Perry

Case No. 22-2602 (8th Cir. 2023)
District of Nebraska, Omaha Division
Chief United States District Judge Robert Rossiter
2021 – 2023

I served as sole counsel on this federal robbery trial involving a shooting. The jury convicted the defendant of all charged counts. Lonnie Perry went on a violent crime spree over several days in Omaha, Nebraska. After one gas station robbery where Perry held multiple victims at gunpoint, he fired his weapon into two occupied vehicles in the parking lot, striking both of them. One of the bullets landed next to the car seat of a toddler in the backseat. Perry escaped the scene and then committed another robbery of a business. After the jury convicted Perry following the trial, Chief Judge Robert Rossiter sentenced Perry to a term of 274 months in federal prison.

Co-Counsel:
None.

Opposing Counsel:
Karen Shanahan
Omaha Federal Defender's Office
222 S 15th Street, #300
Omaha, NE 68102

9. United States v. Shawn Brooks, et al
Case No. 19-1790 (8th Cir. 2020)
District of Nebraska, Lincoln Division
Senior United States District Judge John Gerrard
2017 - 2019

I served as lead counsel on this violent crime jury trial involving a spree of armed robberies and two shootings in conjunction with the armed robberies. The two defendants also robbed a federally insured bank and were charged with bank robbery in addition to conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery and multiple gun charges, to include 18 U.S.C. §924(c). The crimes occurred in both Lincoln and Omaha. Shawn Brooks recruited his younger half-brother, Marcus Remus, to go on a crime spree across Nebraska with him. They used firearms to rob businesses and a bank, and Brooks convinced Remus to fire a shot at one of the clerks. Inside the bank that they robbed during the conspiracy, they fired a warning shot that hit a television, and they marched a teller with a gun to her head over behind the counter. Brooks proceeded to trial, while Remus pled. The jury convicted Brooks of all counts. Judge Gerrard sentenced Brooks to 40 years in federal prison following the trial. Remus pled guilty and testified against Brooks. Remus was sentenced to 90 months. The case was affirmed summarily on appeal.

Co-Counsel:
Steve Russell
Professor at University of Nebraska Lincoln
Howard L. Hawks Hall, #435
Lincoln, NE 68588
(402) 472-2337

Opposing Counsel:
Nancy Peterson
Solo practitioner
728 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 477-9192

10. United States v. Leonard Hatten
Case No. 23-2594

District of Nebraska, Omaha Division
Chief United States District Judge Robert Rossiter
2019 – 2023

I served as first chair on this fully litigated federal jury trial in United States District Court. Leonard Hatten and two co-defendants went on a violent crime spree across Iowa and Nebraska. They not only robbed business employees at gunpoint at Domino's, dollar stores, convenience stores throughout the area, and other restaurants, but in some cases Hatten physically assaulted employees. He and his co-defendants all had prior convictions for violent offenses. One was a Career Offender, and the other was the lead suspect in a local homicide. At trial, the jury convicted Hatten of all counts, and he was sentenced to 268 months in federal prison. The Eighth Circuit affirmed the conviction and judgment.

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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.)

During my tenure at the Department of Justice, I have served as lead counsel on many significant case matters that resulted in a guilty plea, versus a litigated trial. One such case was United States v. Richard Gathercole, a/k/a "The AK Bandit." Gathercole was a Montana resident who went on a violent crime spree from California to Kansas. Gathercole was known for taking AK-47 style weapons to bank robberies, as well as bombs or explosive devices. Gathercole shot a police officer in the course of one of his crimes in California. Gathercole carjacked a farmer in Kansas after fleeing violent robberies he committed in Nebraska. Ultimately, I negotiated a global plea resolution of all of his state and federal cases, which involved coordination across seven different

jurisdictions. This was done close in time to Gathercole's scheduled trial date, and it spared numerous traumatized victims in various jurisdictions the trauma of testifying at trial. Gathercole received a sentence of 35 years without parole.

I served as the Project Safe Childhood Coordinator for my division in the Eastern District of Texas, and in that capacity, I indicted a prior convicted sex offender for numerous crimes involving the sexual exploitation of five children that he had access to from a former marriage. The case, *United States v. Gracia*, was investigated by Houston Homeland Security Investigations, and Gracia pled guilty to the violent sexual abuse of numerous children under the age of ten, including the rape of an infant. I enhanced Gracia's charges to mandatory life for his offenses, presuming that Gracia would elect to go to trial. Instead, he pled guilty to mandatory life, and the judge accepted the plea and imposed the life sentence.

Separately, I served as the Project Safe Neighborhoods AUSA in the Eastern District of Texas. In that capacity, I helped to coordinate a multi-jurisdictional response to a spike in homicide rates. Homicides spiked noticeably in early 2017, and I worked with local county prosecutors, the police department, and the federal agencies to collaborate on a list of the most violent suspects and targets in the major cities surrounding the United States Attorney's Office. From there, we worked together to get them arrested on charges in either state or federal court. I oversaw the work of the other AUSAs in the office on this effort, and by the collaboration of all of the partner agencies involved, the spike in violent crimes was quickly suppressed and several murder investigations benefited from cooperating defendant proffers on other federal charges.

I served as the Violent Crime Coordinator in the District of Nebraska, and during that time, I increased the number and complexity of federal charges targeting the most violent offenders in Nebraska. One initiative that I worked on with the area police departments and other federal and local prosecutors involved a spike in retaliatory homicides committed by Trip Set gang members who were trafficking drugs and weapons between Iowa and Nebraska. As I had done in the Eastern District of Texas, I worked with the police departments and intel analysts to put together a database of the most violent gang members involved in these crimes. Once that database was established, the prosecutors and law enforcement in multiple jurisdictions worked together to get the most violent members of the gang into federal and state custody. Ultimately, the war that broke out amongst members of the gang was suppressed and the homicides and shootings tied to the gang decreased dramatically. Due to the increase in successful violent crime prosecutions from these efforts, the district received funding to add another AUSA to prosecute similar cases in the Lincoln Division.

I have never participated in or performed any lobbying activities of any kind at any point in my career.

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 never served as an instructor.

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.

I do not have any deferred income or future benefits.

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

None

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 any potential conflicts. If I am confirmed, I will continue to consult with that office and will recuse myself from any matter in which recusal is required.

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- 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, any potential conflict of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered 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 any matter 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 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. If you are not an attorney, please use this opportunity to report significant charitable and volunteer work you may have done.

I worked as a volunteer at the Flood Recovery and Crisis Center following the historic flooding in Cedar Rapids, IA in 2008. I worked for no pay other than a small stipend to cover my fuel expenses all summer, and we did various services for flood victims – to include helping to clean up, tear down, and rebuild their homes.

In the Air Force I volunteered at my church, gave blood, gave free legal assistance to junior enlisted members as part of my JAG duties. I organized a drive for supplies for a crisis pregnancy center, and I generally participated in volunteer work in my community throughout school.

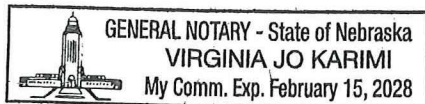
As a federal prosecutor I have helped victims in disadvantaged circumstances throughout my years of service. That is a critical component of the job. I have volunteered in a "Teen Court" in Texas as an unofficial judge approximately one night a month for a year. The program gives teens an opportunity to serve as the attorneys, bailiff, witnesses, and jury in unofficial proceedings where all parties consent to that court for resolution of very minor matters.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Lesley Anne Woods Murphy, do swear
that the information provided in this statement is, to the best
of my knowledge, true and accurate.

June 8, 2025
(DATE)

Lesley Anne Woods Murphy
(NAME)



Virginia Jo Karimi
(NOTARY)

June 8, 2025