

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NON-JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Gregory Keith Harris

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

United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois.

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.

318 South 6th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1806

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

1948, Washington, D.C.

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.

The John Marshall Law School, 1973-1976
J.D. – June 1976

Howard University, 1966-1971
B.A. – January 1971

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.

September 2001 – present

Assistant United States Attorney

Central Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force (2017 – present)

Springfield Police Department, Multi-Disciplinary Team (2016 – present)

Federal Reentry Program (2016 – present)

Healthcare Task Force for the Central District of Illinois (2015 – 2017)

Bankruptcy Fraud Working Group (2002 – present)

Criminal Chiefs Working Group (2002 – 2006)

United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois

318 South 6th Street

Springfield, Illinois 62701-1806

Paid

Big Brother/Big Sister of Sangamon County

Member, Board of Directors (1991 – 1995)

Big Brother (1980 – 1984)

928 South Spring Street

Springfield, Illinois 62704

Unpaid

January 1988 – September 2001

Partner, 1992 - 2001

Associate, 1988 - 1991

Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.

One West Old State Capitol Plaza

Springfield, Illinois 62701

Paid

1993 – 2000

Board of Directors

Healthfirst Community Clinic

1101 East Monroe Street

Springfield, Illinois 62703

Unpaid

1992 – 1999

Board of Directors

Springfield College in Illinois (now Benedictine University at Springfield)

1500 North 5th Street

Springfield, Illinois 62702
Unpaid

1989 – 1990
Chairman of Board of Directors
1984 – 1990
Member
Springfield Urban League
100 North 11th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Unpaid

1988 – 1989
Chairman of the Council
1984 – 1989
Member
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Advisory Council
406 East Monroe Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Unpaid

1984 – present
Treasurer
Springfield Tennis Academy
P.O. Box 1673
Springfield, Illinois 62705
Unpaid

1983 – 1984
Treasurer
1983 – present
Member
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
P.O. Box 1944
Springfield, Illinois 62705
Unpaid

May 1980 – January 1988
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois
318 South 6th Street

Springfield, Illinois 62701-1806
Paid

March 1980 – May 1980
Solo Practitioner
Harris Law Firm
420 South 4th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Paid

January 1979 – March 1980
Legal Counsel
Illinois Governor's Office of Manpower and Human Development (Later renamed
Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development)
320 West Washington Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Paid

May 1976 – January 1979
Assistant Appellate Defender
Office of the State Appellate Defender
400 West Monroe, Suite 303
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Paid

1975 – 1976
Secretary
Chicago Citywide Black American Law Students Association
No permanent address.

1973 - 1976
President, Black American Law Student Association
300 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois
Unpaid

January 1971 – September 1973
Courtroom Clerk
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001
Paid

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

I have not served in the U.S. military. I am not subject to selective service registration requirements.

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.

Director's Award, Executive Office of United States Attorneys, Exceptional Contributions that Enhance the Missions of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and the United States Attorney's Offices, 2020

Award of Distinction, Springfield Urban League, 1991

Chairman's Award, Springfield Urban League, 1990

Letter of Commendation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, 1988

Letter of Commendation, Postal Inspection Service, 1987

Letter of Commendation, Postal Inspection Service, 1987

Letter of Commendation, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1988

Letter of Commendation, Drug Enforcement Administration, 1988

Letter of Commendation, Corps of Engineers, 1988

Letter of Commendation, Postal Inspection Service, 1987

United States Marshals Award, 1986

Letter of Commendation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1986

Special Achievement Award, United States Department of Justice, 1985

Conferee, National Appellate Advocacy Conference, 1985

Certificate of Recognition, Internal Revenue Service, 1984

Certificate of Appreciation, United States Secret Service, 1983

Award for service as an Assistant United States Attorney, Illinois State Police, 1982

Award for service as an Assistant United States Attorney, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 1982

Award for Outstanding Service as an Assistant United States Attorney, 1981

Moot Court Judge, Southern Illinois University, 1977

Officer, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, 1974 – 1976

Intern, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, 1976

Participant, National Moot Court Competition, 1974

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

American Bar Association

National Bar Association

Illinois State Bar Association

Sangamon County Bar Association

Merit Selection Committee for Magistrate

Illinois State Bar Association, Task Force on Minorities and the Justice System

Illinois State Bar Association, Civil Practice Member

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

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

Illinois, 1976

District of Columbia, 1979

There have been no lapses in membership.

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

United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (1981)

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois (1980)

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (1991)

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri (2001)

United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana (2020)

All state courts in Illinois (1976)

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.

Lincoln Land Community College, Tutor (1990 – 1991)
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers (1990 -2001)
 Legal Counsel (1990 – 1995)
Copley First Citizen Selection Panel (1995)
Healthfirst Community Clinic Board of Directors (1993 – 2000)
Springfield College in Illinois Board of Directors (1992 – 1999)
Big Brother/Big Sister of Sangamon County Board of Directors (1991 – 1995)
 Big Brother (1980 – 1984)
Springfield Area Arts Council (1991 – 1995)
Sangamon State University Foundation (1991 – 1992)
Springfield Civil Service Commission (1988 – 1990)
Springfield Tennis Academy (1994 – present)
 Treasurer (1984 – present)
Springfield Urban League (1984 – 1990)
 Chairman (1989 – 1990)
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (1983 – present)
 Treasurer (1983 – 1984)
United Way of Sangamon County (1980 – 1990)
Aid to Retarded Citizens (1980 – 1984)

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

12. Published Writings and Public Statements:

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

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

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

Editorial, Andy Rooney of CBS, WMAY Radio, 1990. Copy supplied.

Editorial, Racially based College Scholarships, WMAY Radio, 1990. Copy supplied.

Editorial, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, WMAY Radio, 1990. Copy supplied.

Letter to John Billington, State Journal Register, February 9, 1987. Copy supplied.

- b. Supply four (4) copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

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 located the following:

Illinois State Bar Association Final Report of Task Force on Minorities and the Justice System issued on June 20, 1998. I do not have a copy of the report. The address of the ISBA is 424 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. The report detailed the findings of the task force how minorities are treated by the criminal justice system.

Report of the Governor's Children and Family Services Advisory Council in 1988. Copy supplied.

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

I have 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 did not locate any responsive materials.

- d. Supply four (4) copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you, including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

I have done my best to identify transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered, including through a review of my personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. I frequently speak without notes or speak from a handwritten outlines and have attached all that I could find. Despite my searches, there may be other materials I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

February 13, 2015

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given during the Naturalization Services for newly naturalized citizens. The theme of the speech was that the United States will become a better place because of their immigrating to the United States. Copy supplied.

2000

Springfield, Illinois

Speech given to the members of the National Organization of Law Enforcement Executives. The subject of the speech was innovative progress through change. The speech discussed progress and change made in law enforcement throughout the years. Copy supplied.

2000

Springfield, Illinois

Speech given to the Downtown Rotary. The subject of the speech was the celebration of the life of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Copy supplied.

February 10, 1998

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given at the Logan Correctional Center. The topic of the speech was a comparison of the life of former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall with that of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Copy supplied.

1995

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given to Kiwanis Club. The topic of the speech was an explanation of the Big Brother Big Sister program and an appeal to become a Big Brother or Big Sister. Copy supplied.

1995

Springfield, Illinois

Speech was given to members of the Kiwanis Club. The topic of the speech was the celebration of the life of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Copy supplied.

1992

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given at Career Day for the students at Lincoln Land Community College. The topic of the speech was the unlimited horizons of the students in the future. Copy supplied.

1991

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given at a State of Illinois Correctional Center in Decatur, Illinois. The speech was entitled Changing Times: Changing Crimes. The topic of the speech was the increase of drug prosecutions involving black defendants during the 1970's and 1980's. Copy supplied.

1989

Detroit, Michigan

The speech was given to the National Urban League during one of its regional conferences. The topic of the speech concerned the involvement of the Springfield Urban League in the Voting Rights lawsuit which changed the form of

government in Springfield from an at-large election to an aldermanic election.
Copy supplied.

1989

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given to graduates of the Springfield Urban League education program. The theme of the speech was youth facing the challenges of the 90's.
Copy supplied.

April 30, 1989

Springfield, Illinois

The speech took place at the Springfield Hilton Hotel, located at 700 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. The speech was given to members of Frontiers International, a charitable organization, at its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast. The theme of the speech was about the procedural processes utilized by the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuting federal offenses. Copy not available.

November 1988

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given to members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Chi Beta Beta Chapter. The theme of the speech was the instrumental nature of the black family in the fight against drugs and the survival of black youth. Copy supplied.

1986

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given to employees of the Internal Revenue Service. The topic of the speech was the celebration of the life and accomplishments of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Copy supplied.

May 18, 1984

Shelbyville, Illinois

I was one of the presenters on Federal Tort Claims litigation to educate members of the Corp of Engineers of potential litigation issues regarding the Federal Tort Claims Act. I am no longer in possession of the notes.

June 5, 1983

Springfield, Illinois

The speech was given to the congregation of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. The speech was a commencement speech given to student graduates of the church.

The theme of the speech was continuing to achieve success in life. Copy 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 four (4) copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

I have done my best to identify all interviews given, including through a review of my personal files, and searches of publicly available electronic databases.

Despite my searches, there may be other materials that I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

Interview by State Journal Register newspaper published on November 19, 1989 regarding "Harris seeking appointment to LLCC board." Copy supplied.

Interview by State Journal Register newspaper published on September 6, 1989 regarding "LLCC candidate calls for better faculty-teacher relations." Copy supplied.

Interview by the Illinois Times published on January 12, 1989 regarding "Black Lawyers Push to Integrate Judiciary." Copy supplied.

Interview by State Journal Register newspaper published on January 11, 1989 regarding "Groups seek appointment of black to vacant judgeship." Copy supplied.

Interview by Pure News newspaper published on January 1989 regarding "Coalition Presents Case for a Black Judge." Copy supplied.

Interview by Kathy Sass of the State Journal Register newspaper published on November 9, 1983 regarding "Fraternity gives a helping hand to Big Brother." Copy supplied.

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

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

In 1984, I was appointed as a member to the Citizen Advisory Committee of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services by Director Gordon Johnson.

In 1988, I was appointed as a member to the Springfield Civil Service Commission by Springfield Mayor Ossie Langfelder. I was reappointed by the same Mayor in 1989.

In 1989, I was twice an unsuccessful candidate for election to the Lincoln Land Community College Board of Trustees.

- 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.

In 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000, I was the elected Democrat Precinct Committeeman for Springfield Precinct 66.

From 1988 to 2001, I was a Sangamon County Democratic Minority Caucus member.

From 1993 to 1995, I was elected as Chairman of the Sangamon County Democratic Minority Caucus.

In 1990, I served as Sangamon County Volunteer Coordinator for Senator Paul Simon's reelection campaign. Duties included organizing fundraisers, recruiting volunteers for the campaign, constructing a float for the Illinois State parade, and serving as an advance person for the candidate prior to public appearances.

In 1994, I organized several fundraisers for Attorney General Roland Burris' 2008 gubernatorial campaign.

In 2008, I was involved in door-to-door canvassing of voters in Muscatine and Davenport, Iowa and St. Louis, Missouri on behalf of the Barack Obama Presidential campaign. In November of 2008, I joined the Obama campaign's Voter Protection Team, and served as a volunteer lawyer in Ohio on election day.

I am a member of the Democratic Party.

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 have not clerked for a judge.

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

During a brief period from March of 1980 until May of 1980 I opened my own law firm. The firm was named the Harris Law Office. The address was 420 South 4th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. I practice alone but shared office space with two other lawyers. My work consisted of criminal and civil litigation.

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.

May 1976 – January 1979
Assistant Appellate Defender
Office of the State Appellate Defender
400 West Monroe, Suite 303
Springfield, Illinois 62704

January 1979 – March 1980
Legal Counsel
Illinois Governor's Office of Manpower and Human Development (Later renamed Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development)
320 West Washington Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

May 1980 – January 1988
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois
318 South 6th Street
Springfield, Illinois

January 1988 – September 2001
Associate/Partner
Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.
One West Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

September 2001 – present
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois
318 South 6th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

- 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.

The general character of my law practice has been litigation. As an Assistant Appellate Defender I practiced in the State Appellate and Supreme Courts. My primary clients were criminal defendants on appeal.

The character of my practice changed in January of 1979 after I became Legal Counsel for the Illinois Governor's Office of Manpower and Human Development (Later renamed Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development). As agency counsel I was never involved in litigation in the State Appellate and Supreme Courts. My work was mostly administrative in nature for the Agency. My sole client was the Director and employees of the agency.

The character of my practice changed again in March of 1980 when I established a private law practice. I represented private clients in the State trial courts. However, my primary engagement was handling administrative matters while on contract for the Illinois Governor's Office

of Manpower and Human Development (Later renamed Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development). My primary client was the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development.

In May of 1980, the character of my practiced changed again after my appointment as an Assistant United States Attorney. My practice consisted primarily of federal criminal and civil law. My sole client was the United States.

When I joined the law firm of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes in 1988 the character of my practice changed again. My work became primarily civil litigation in the State and Federal courts, and administrative bodies. My clients varied from individuals in personal injury and civil rights cases and public agencies such as the Illinois Board of Regents, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Conservation and the Illinois Industrial Commission. I also was hired by insurance companies to defend personal injury claims.

Finally, the character of my practice changed again after I returned to the United States Attorney's Office in 2021. I resumed a federal criminal practice in the federal courts. I also became a member of the supervisory staff as the Criminal Chief. My sole client was the United States.

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

My typical clients have been the United States, State Agencies, and private individuals and businesses. In the Office of Appellate Defender I specialized in Illinois criminal law. In the United States Attorney's Office I specialized in federal criminal white collar offenses and civil law. In private practice I specialized in civil litigation in State and Federal Courts and Illinois State agencies.

- 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.

Approximately 95% of my practice has been in litigation. Throughout my career I have appeared in court frequently, except when I was legal counsel for the

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development from 1979 to 1980.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 1. federal courts; 80%
 2. state courts of record; 15%
 3. other courts;
 4. administrative agencies 5%

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 1. civil proceedings; 20%
 2. criminal proceedings. 80%

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

I have tried approximately 40 cases to verdict. I was sole or chief counsel in approximately 90% of the cases. I was associate counsel in approximately 10% of the cases.

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

I have not argued before the Supreme Court.

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. William O. Whitlow

Case No. 81-30040

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

The Honorable J. Waldo Ackerman. (deceased)

1981 - 1983

The defendant was charged with interstate transportation of stolen property. He befriended a lonely well-to-do 83-year old widow living in Encinitas, California. The defendant falsely told the widow that he bought and sold extremely valuable American Indian jewelry at his store in Springfield, Illinois. The widow gave him her valuable jewelry, oriental tapestries and other valuables to sell for her. The defendant stole the property. After a jury trial the defendant was convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison. I was the lead attorney and gave the opening statement and closing argument and cross-examined the defendant.

Co-counsel: Former AUSA Mark R. Mifflin, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C., Suite 600, One West Old State Capital Plaza, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 525-1571.

Opposing Counsel: Gerri Papuskewych, 1224 Centre West Drive, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 787-3210.

2. United States v. Tony Ashford

Case No. 84-30001

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

The Honorable Richard Mills

1984 - 1986

The defendant was an enforcer for a heroin drug ring in Springfield, Illinois. The leader of the ring was "Cornbread" Horton, a feared figure in Springfield. Ashford collected drug debts using force and violence, and

was known to use a hot coat hanger as a branding iron to torture individuals who owed debts to the organization. Another tactic Ashford used was to force heroin users to overdose by injecting them with large quantities of heroin. It was believed in law enforcement circles that Ashford was responsible for a number of unsolved murders in Springfield. Ashford was indicted and charged with the extortionate extension of credit. Ashford ultimately pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. I was the sole prosecutor on the case.

Opposing Counsel: Phillip Schickendanz (deceased).

3. United States v. James Hocking

Case No. 84-30001

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

Honorable Richard Mills.

1984 - 1987

The defendant was an employee of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). He worked in the prequalification section of the Department to determine if a paving or asphalt company seeking to pave Illinois highways was financially qualified to do the job. For approximately ten years the defendant had been receiving cash and other gifts from Chicago-area contractors in exchange for prequalifying them to obtain State contracts. The defendant was caught when a Chicago contractor agreed to wear a wire and pay the defendant \$1,000 in exchange for the defendant's assistance prequalifying his company to obtain a State contract. The bribe took place in the IDOT bathroom. The defendant was convicted after a jury trial of racketeering, extortion, and bribery. The defendant was sentenced to eight years in prison. I was the lead attorney and gave the opening statement and closing argument and cross-examined the defendant. The case is reported at United States v. Hocking, 860 F.2d 769 (7th Cir. 1988).

Co-Counsel: Former AUSA Patrick J. Chesley, 2512 Wydown Place, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 546-2371.

Opposing Counsel: John Casey (deceased).

4. United States v. Richard Weisman

Case No. 81-30044

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois
Honorable J. Waldo Ackerman. (deceased)
1981 - 1983

The defendant was charged with mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy. The defendant was the President of Chemical Dynamics, a company which sold fertilizer distributorships for a product called "Likewild." According to the sales pitch, Likewild was soon going to replace Scotts and Ortho fertilizer products as most homeowner's choice for lawn care. The defendant provided scripts to salesman that misrepresented the product and made untrue claims about its effectiveness. The product was actually worthless and the small businesses that stocked their shelves with the product lost thousands of dollars. The jury trial lasted approximately six weeks and ended in a conviction of all charges. The defendant was sentenced to a 15-year term of imprisonment. I was the second chair on the case, cross-examined a number of witnesses, and prepared the jury instructions. The case is reported at United States v. Weisman, 736 F.2d 421 (7th Cir. 1984)

Co-counsel: Former AUSA Ellen Schanzle-Haskins, 1130 Williams Blvd, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 787-7084.

Opposing Counsel: Sherman Magisdon, Chicago, IL. Tel.: (312) 782-5534.

5. United States v. Lenita Spears

Case No. 93-30054

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois
The Honorable Michael Mihm.
1993 - 1995

The defendant, a graduate student at Sangamon State University, was charged with defrauding the Illinois Department of Public Aid (ILDPA). According to ILDPA, a stipend the defendant received as a graduate assistant should have been reported to ILDPA as income. Doing so would have had the effect of reducing the amount of public aid benefits the defendant was entitled to receive. The defendant claimed that she mistakenly failed to report the stipend to ILDPA because she did not believe it was income. I represented the defendant. The defendant was acquitted of all charges after a jury trial and she is now a practicing lawyer

in Chicago. I presented the entire defense on behalf of the defendant.

Co-counsel: None.

Opposing counsel: Assistant United States Attorney Lee Dodd (deceased).

6. United States v. Raymond Talkington

Case No. 86-30064

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

The Honorable Richard Mills

1986 -1988

The defendant, a long-time employee of the United States Postal Service, and his son were charged with manufacturing over \$280,000 in counterfeit bills. Some of the bogus money was passed in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Florida. The son pled guilty but the defendant went to trial. The defendant testified that his son hired a printer to manufacture the money without the defendant's knowledge. However, two grocery bags of counterfeit money was seized from the defendant's house by Secret Service agents. The case was strongly contested by veteran defense attorney Michael Metnick and his co-counsel, Diana Cherry. The defendant was convicted of possessing counterfeit money. The defendant was sentenced to a 5-year term of imprisonment. I was the lead attorney and gave the opening statement and cross-examined the defendant. The case is reported at United States v. Talkington, 843 F.2d 1041 (7th Cir. 1988); United States v. Talkington, 875 F.2d 591 (7th Cir. 1988); and United States v. Talkington, 701 F.Supp. 681 (C.D.Ill. 1988)

Co-Counsel: Former USA J. William Roberts, Hinshaw & Culbertson, 400 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 528-7375.

Opposing counsel: Michael Metnick, 5034 Dogwood Hills, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 546-2377.

7. United States v. William Lone

Case No. 85-30037

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

The Honorable Richard Mills

1985 - 1988

The defendant was the owner of a waterproofing company that defrauded over 300 customers in Springfield, Decatur, Peoria and elsewhere. The company employed salesmen to scare customers into purchasing expensive waterproofing systems for their homes by falsely claiming their residences were suffering from structural water damage and might collapse. The business was so profitable that the defendant reportedly made more than \$10 million and had a fleet of luxury cars, yachts, planes and two houses, one valued at over \$400,000. Eleven individuals, including the defendant and his wife, were convicted of mail and wire fraud. The defendant and the others pled guilty to the charges. The defendant was sentenced to a term of nine years in prison. I was the sole prosecutor on all of the cases.

Opposing counsel: Gregory Collins, 1805 Bates Avenue, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 546-3738.

8. United States v. Shawn Bland

Case No. 05-30050

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

The Honorable Jeanne Scott (deceased).

2005 - 2006

The defendant was charged with the armed bank robbery of the National City Bank in Springfield. The defendant pointed a pistol at the bank tellers and demanded money. He took over \$4,000 in cash from the tellers. The defendant wore a hood that covered his face preventing the security cameras from capturing the defendant's face. However, as the defendant left the bank he touched the bank's glass front door leaving a finger and palm print. After a jury trial the defendant was convicted of armed bank robbery and using a firearm to commit a crime of violence. The defendant was sentenced to a term of 147 months in prison. I was the lead attorney and gave the opening statement and closing argument. The defendant did not testify. The case is reported at United States v. Bland, 517 F.2d 930 (7th Cir. 2008).

Co-counsel: Former AUSA Patrick J. Chesley, 2512 Wydown Place, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 546-2371.

Opposing Counsel: Karl Bryning, Office of the Federal Defender, 401

Main Street, Suite 1500, Peoria, IL. Tel.: (309) 671-7891.

9. United States v. Jeffrey Chambers

Case No. 08-30057

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

The Honorable Jeanne Scott (deceased)

2008 -2010

The defendant, a 45-year old man, was charged with using the Internet to attempt to entice 13 and 14-year old girls to have sex with him. The defendant sent adult and child pornography to two undercover agents posing as 13 and 14-year old girls in online chatrooms. The defendant made plans to visit one of the girls in Ohio and have sex with her. After a jury trial the defendant was convicted of using a facility of interstate commerce to attempt to entice a minor to engage in sexual conduct. The defendant was sentenced to 240 months in prison. I was the lead attorney and gave the opening statement and closing argument. The defendant did not testify. The case is reported at United States v. Chambers, 642 F.2d 588 (7th Cir. 2011).

Co-counsel: AUSA Elly Peirson, 201 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL.

Tel.: (217) 344-6951.

Opposing Counsel: Ron Stone, Stratton, Giganti, Stone & Kopec, 725

South 4th Street, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 528-2183

10. United States v. Karen Cohen

Case No. 05-30002

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

The Honorable Jeanne Scott (deceased)

2005 -2007

In 1982, the defendant won one million dollars in the Illinois State Lottery. Thereafter, she divorced her husband and as part of the divorce settlement was ordered to pay him a small portion of the lottery proceeds which the defendant was to receive in ten annual installments. The defendant failed to pay her ex-husband the last three installments and sought to discharge his claim in the bankruptcy court. During a bankruptcy proceeding the defendant testified under oath that she had assigned her last three installment payments of the lottery proceeds to

obtain a loan and thought that the lender was responsible for paying her ex-husband his portion of the lottery proceeds. The defendant's story fell through when the lender produced checks made payable to the defendant which were sent to the defendant and intended to pay the ex-husband. The defendant was convicted after a jury trial of bankruptcy fraud and sentenced to 22 months in prison. I was the lead attorney and gave the opening statement and cross-examined the defendant. The case is reported at United States v. Cohen, 209 Fed.Appx. 576 (7th Cir. 2006).

Co-counsel: AUSA John Childress, 10 West Market Street, Indianapolis, IN. Tel.: (317) 226-6333

Opposing Counsel: Douglas J. Beevers, Office of the Federal Defender, 600 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL. Tel.: (217) 492-5070. (Last known address)

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.)

There are two legal activities that I am particularly proud to have been involved with during my career. In 1976, I was involved in the creation of a local bar association called the Springfield Coalition of Black Attorneys (SCOBA). The purpose of the organization was to promote the professional careers of black attorneys in the Springfield area. As an organization SCOBA participated in a variety of activities that benefited the Springfield community, such as providing information to the community about the Voting Rights Act, which ultimately changed the city form of government to allow for alderpersons to be elected from districts rather than at-large. The change in the form of government led to the election of black candidates to the City Council for the first time. Another significant project that SCOBA was engaged in was promoting the appointing of the first black judge in Springfield. After several years of lobbying, SCOBA's efforts were successful.

In addition to conducting criminal investigations and trying cases other legal activities that I performed as an Assistant United States Attorney have involved the creation and operation of various task forces. For example, I was involved in the creation and

operation of the Bankruptcy Fraud Working Group, which consists of various federal and State law enforcement groups and the United States Bankruptcy Trustee and staff. The working group is involved in the referral, investigation, and prosecution of bankruptcy fraud matters.

I was involved in the operation of the Healthcare Task Force, which consisted of various State and federal law enforcement agencies that investigate healthcare fraud matters.

In March of 2017, I participated in the creation and operation of the Central Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force, which was created to combat human trafficking within the Central District of Illinois. The Task Force is comprised of several law enforcement and community social service agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, Immigrations and Customs Service, Illinois State Police, Illinois Attorney General's Office, several local police departments, and non-governmental agencies such as the Center for Prevention of Abuse, Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Abuse, Southern Illinois University, Milliken University, St. Mary's Hospital, HSHS St. Johns Hospital, Grounds of Grace, Growing Strong, Truckers Against Trafficking and many others. Last year the Task Force was one of five task forces nationally to receive a \$1.3 million dollar grant to combat human trafficking.

From November of 2006 to the present, I have served as a mentor in the United States Attorney's Office. The United States Attorney's Office has an established mentoring program that is mandatory for all newly hired Assistant United States Attorneys, designed to train newly hired prosecutors to be successful prosecutors. Mentees in the program are required to shadow their mentor in court during preliminary hearings, trials and sentencing hearings before the mentee can function on their own without supervision. Mentors are also responsible for making sure mentees are acquainted with all of the aspects of prosecution including grand jury proceedings and oral arguments before the Circuit Court of Appeal.

17. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide four (4) copies to the committee.

I have not taught any courses on a full-time basis.

18. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business

relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

None.

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

- 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.

There are several ways that I have attempted to fulfill my obligation under Canon 2. One of the ways has been through my pro bono work for the Springfield Urban League and the Springfield branch of the NAACP. Both of these agencies serve a disadvantaged portion of our community. I, along with other local attorneys, have screened clients of these agencies, advising them of their civil rights and potential claims, as well as giving free legal advice on non-litigation legal matters. I am unable to attach a specific amount of time to these activities because the frequency and nature of each referral varied. However, most of the referrals required at least a half-hour interview with the individual. I have also spent twenty or more hours devising an election procedure for the tenants of a Springfield Public Housing facility to elect members to the tenant and resident councils. Thereafter, I served as one of the attorneys who monitored the election to ensure its integrity. I have volunteered on a number of occasions to serve as a free lawyer for the Sangamon County Bar Association "Ask a Lawyer" program on Law Day. As a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, I participated in three seminars that were open to the public on "Estate Planning." As a member of the Springfield Coalition of Black Attorneys (SCOBA) I participated in developing a "Know your Rights: pamphlet for individuals who might have employment discrimination claims. Additionally, as a member of SCOBA we engaged in a project to assist elderly tenants of the Sangamon Towers High Rise in Springfield writing wills.