

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Jerry Edwards, Jr.

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

United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana

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.

United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana
300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

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

1979; Shreveport, Louisiana

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.

2002 – 2005, Vermont Law and Graduate School; J.D., 2005

1997 – 2002, Georgia State University; B.A., Political Science, 2002

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.

2019 – present
United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana
300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201

Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
First Assistant United States Attorney (2022 – present)
Chief, Civil Division (2020 – 2022)
Deputy Chief, Civil Division (2020)
Assistant United States Attorney (2019 – present)

2006 – 2019; December 2004; Summer 2004; Summer 2003
Blanchard, Walker, O’Quin & Roberts (A Professional Law Corporation)
333 Texas Street, Suite 700
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Shareholder and Director (2014 – 2019)
Associate (2006 – 2014)
Law Clerk (December 2004, Summer 2004, Summer 2003)

2005 – 2006
First Judicial District Court of Louisiana
501 Texas Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Law Clerk

Summer 2005
Vermont Law and Graduate School
164 Chelsea Street
South Royalton, Vermont 05068
Temporary Employee

Summer 2003
Caddo Parish Clerk of Court
501 Texas Street, Suite 103
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Summer Employee

1998 – 2002
Gingiss Formalwear
4400 Ashford Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30346
Sales Associate

Other affiliations (uncompensated)

2022 – present
Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit
600 Camp Street, Room 131
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Board of Directors

2022 – present
Shreveport Common, Inc.
801 Crockett Street, Suite 206
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Board of Directors

2018 – present
Harry V. Booth - Judge Henry A. Politz Inn of Court
P.O. Box 352
Shreveport, Louisiana 71162
President (2022 – present)
Vice President (2020 – 2022)
Secretary/Treasurer (2018 – 2020)

2021 – present
Vermont Law and Graduate School Alumni Association
164 Chelsea Street
South Royalton, Vermont 05068
Board of Directors

2021 – present
The Shreveport Club
410 Travis Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Board of Directors

2020 – present
Alexandria VOA Living Center, Inc.
Bossier City VOA Independent Housing, Inc.
Pineville Volunteers of America Living Center, Inc.
Ruston VOA Living Center
Shreveport VOA Community Living Center I, Inc.
Shreveport VOA Community Living Center II, Inc.
360 Jordan Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Vice President

2016 – present
Community Foundation of North Louisiana
401 Edwards Street, Suite 105
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Vice-Chair (2022 – present)
Secretary (2021 – 2022)
Board of Directors (2016 – present)

2018 – 2020

Red River Stem, Inc.
820 Clyde Fant Parkway
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Board of Directors

2006 – 2012; 2014 – 2020
Volunteers of America North Louisiana
360 Jordan Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Board of Directors (2006 – 2012; 2014 – 2020)
Chair (2018 - 2020)
Vice Chair (2016 – 2018)
Secretary (2014 – 2016)

2018 – 2019
Louisiana Bar Foundation
1615 Poydras Street, Suite 1000
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
Board of Directors

2016 – 2018
Junior Achievement of North Louisiana
212 Texas Street, Suite 101
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Board of Directors

2008 – 2011; 2018
Shreveport Bar Foundation
625 Texas Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Board of Directors

2016 – 2018
Louisiana Budget Project
619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Board of Directors

2011 – 2013
Coalition for Louisiana Progress, Inc.
650 North 6th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Board of Directors

2008
YMCA of Northwest Louisiana

3455 Knight Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71105
Board of Directors

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

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

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

Listed as a Louisiana Rising Star in Louisiana Super Lawyers (2012 – 2014; 2016 – 2018)

40 Under Forty Young Professionals, Shreveport Chamber of Commerce (2015)

Hot List by Lawyers of Color (2014)

Minority Business Professional of the Year Nominee, Shreveport Chamber of Commerce (2013)

Vermont Law School Alumni Award (2005)

Georgia State University Academic & Co-Curricular Excellence Award (2002)

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 (2006 – 2019)

Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, Board of Directors (2022 – present)

Black Lawyers Association of Shreveport – Bossier City (2005 – present)

Caddo Parish Indigent Defender Board (2007)

Federal Bar Association (2007 – 2019; 2022 – present)

Harry V. Booth - Judge Henry A. Politz Inn of Court (2007 – present)

President (2022 – present)

Vice President (2020 – 2022)

Secretary/Treasurer (2018 – 2020)

Judiciary Commission of Louisiana (2011 – 2015)
Chair (2014 – 2015)
Vice Chair (2013 – 2014)

Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel
Young Lawyers Liaison Committee Member (2009)

Louisiana Bar Foundation (2011 – present)
Northwest Community Partnership Panel (2011 – 2018)
Board of Directors (approximately 2018 – 2019)

Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee (2016 – 2018)

Louisiana State Bar Association (2006 – present)
Young Lawyers Division Council Member (2011 – 2015)
Leadership Class (2010)

Louisiana State Law Institute
Power Attorney for the Elderly Committee (2010)

Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions
Character and Fitness Panel (2019 – present)

Shreveport Bar Association (2006 – present)
Programs Committee Chair (2018)
Young Lawyers Section President (2009)
Law Day Chair (2008)

Shreveport Bar Foundation
Board of Directors (2008 – 2011; 2018)

United States Bankruptcy Judge Merit Selection Panel (2014)

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.

Louisiana, 2006

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 Fifth Circuit, 2006

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, 2006

United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, 2006

United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, 2006

There have been no lapses in membership.

11. Memberships:

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

Centenary College of Louisiana

Audit Committee Member (2023 – present)

Community Foundation of North Louisiana

Letter of Intent Committee (2014 – 2016)

Community Catalyst (2006)

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (2000 – present)

Shreveport Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Shreveport (2011)

Young Professional Initiative Executive Committee (2009)

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

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is a historically African-American college fraternity, which also includes alumni chapters, with membership limited to only men. To the best of my knowledge, none of the other organizations listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin, either through formal membership requirements or the

practical implementation of membership policies.

12. Published Writings and Public Statements:

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

Wills for Heroes, The Bar Review, April 10, 2023. 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.

None.

- 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.

While I was a member of the Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee (2016 – 2018) the Committee would occasionally issue a public statement through the Chair of the Committee. I did not prepare the statements, but they were the result of confidential Committee deliberations. The statements only required a majority vote of the members and I do not recall how I voted on these statements. The Committee members are bound by Louisiana Supreme Court confidentiality rules regarding the deliberations even after we leave the Committee. The public statements are listed below.

December 5, 2018: Public Statement regarding candidate Williams. Copy supplied.

October 30, 2018: Public Statement regarding candidate Marchman. Copy supplied.

October 29, 2018: Public Statement regarding candidate Marchman. Copy supplied.

October 26, 2018: Public Statement regarding candidate Marchman. Copy supplied.

November 4, 2016: Public Statement regarding candidate Cox. Copy supplied.

November 4, 2016: Public Statement regarding candidate Caraway. Copy supplied.

October 31, 2016: Public Statement regarding candidate Cox. Copy supplied.

- 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 searched my records for all materials connected to presentations I have given during my career. I did not retain the notes, outlines, or materials from presentations I delivered during my time in private practice, prior to 2019. Where possible, I have obtained copies of those materials from other sources.

March 2, 2023: Panelist, Fifth Circuit Civil and Criminal Law Update, The Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit and the Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Power Point supplied.

April 28, 2022: Panelist, Three Common Intersections Between Bankruptcy and Other Practice Areas and Updates on Issues Impacting Bankruptcy Filings, Federal Bar Association – Lafayette/Acadiana Chapter, Lafayette, Louisiana. Materials supplied.

December 16, 2021: Presenter, Taking the Fear Out of Federal Court or Oh No! My Case Was Removed to Federal Court. Help!, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Outline supplied.

December 1, 2021: Panelist, I'm From the Government and I'm Here to Help, Louisiana State University Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Power Point supplied.

December 10, 2019: Panelist, Update on Federal Jurisdiction & Procedure, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Outline supplied.

October 11, 2018: Panelist, Changes in the Practice of Law, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. This was a panel discussion regarding generational differences in the practice of law. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Shreveport Bar Association is 625 Texas Street,

Shreveport, Louisiana 71101.

December 12, 2017: Panelist, Changes in the Practice of Law, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. This was a panel discussion regarding generational differences in the practice of law. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Shreveport Bar Association is 625 Texas Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101.

June 5, 2016: Panelist, Judicial Discipline: Transparency, Efficiency and Fairness, Louisiana State Bar Association, Destin, Florida. Materials supplied.

May 10, 2016: Panelist, Staying out of Jeopardy: The Ethics Quiz Game, Fifth Circuit Judicial Conference, Houston, Texas. This presentation was on judicial ethics. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Office of the Circuit Executive for the Federal Fifth Circuit is 600 Camp Street, Room 109, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

December 15, 2015: Presenter, Torts Update, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Materials supplied.

December 10, 2015: Presenter, Judiciary Commission Overview, Louisiana Judicial College, New Orleans, Louisiana. Power Point supplied.

October 15, 2015: Presenter, Torts Update, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Materials supplied.

April 30, 2015: Panelist, Proposed Changes to the Judicial Discipline Process, Louisiana Judicial College, Shreveport, Louisiana. Materials supplied.

February 2015 (specific date unknown): Panelist, Overview of Judicial Discipline, Louisiana Judicial Council, National Bar Association. This presentation was an overview of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Judicial Council is P.O. Box 3242, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821.

December 10, 2014: Presenter, Judiciary Commission Overview, Louisiana Judicial College, New Orleans, Louisiana. Power Point supplied.

October 9, 2014: Presenter, MSJs and other Motions, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Materials supplied.

June 4, 2014: Panelist, Recent Developments in Default Judgment Procedure, Louisiana State Bar Association, Destin, Florida. Materials supplied.

2013 (specific date unknown): Panelist, Louisiana Rules for District Courts, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, Shreveport, Louisiana. This

presentation was on the Uniform Rules for Louisiana District Courts. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel is 8982 Darby Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

2013 (specific date unknown): Panelist, Keep Your Robe On: Avoiding Judicial Misconduct, Louisiana Judicial College, Shreveport, Louisiana. This presentation was on the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Judicial Administrator for the Louisiana Supreme Court is 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

December 17, 2013: Panelist, Curatorships, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Materials supplied.

January 20, 2012: Panelist, Ethics: Minding your P's and Q's, Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans, Louisiana. Outline supplied.

December 14, 2011: Panelist, Ethics: Minding your P's and Q's, Shreveport Bar Association, Shreveport, Louisiana. Outline supplied.

February 3, 2011: Panelist, Best Practices to Implement Diversity, Louisiana State Bar Association. This presentation was on best practices to achieve diversity in law firms. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Louisiana State Bar Association is 601 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

December 15, 2010: Panelist, Law Office Management, Shreveport Bar Association. This presentation was on best practices to manage a small or solo law firm. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Shreveport Bar Association is 625 Texas Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101.

2009 (specific date unknown): Panelist, Pretrial Procedure and Motion Practice, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, Shreveport, Louisiana. This presentation was on best practices for pretrial motions. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel is 8982 Darby Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

- 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.

Not Guilty: Jury Clears DA Jason Williams on All Counts in Tax Fraud Trial, WWL TV 4, July 28, 2022. Recording available at <https://www.wwltv.com/article/news/local/orleans/jason-williams-verdict-federal-tax-fraud/289-55270278-5919-424e-af63-e4d92c07960c>.

Carolyn Hammond Named President and CEO, Volunteers of America North

Louisiana, February 4, 2022. Copy supplied.

Blanchard Walker Partner, Jerry Edwards, Named 40 under 40 Recipient, Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts, 2015. Copy supplied.

Successful Faith Students, U.S. Army, April 22, 2014. Copy supplied.

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

I have not held judicial office.

- a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment? _____
- i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:
- jury trials: _____%
- bench trials: _____% [total 100%]
- ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:
- civil proceedings: _____%
- criminal proceedings: _____% [total 100%]
- b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.
- c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).
- d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.
- e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.
- f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the

opinions.

- g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.
- h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.
- i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

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

I have not held judicial office.

- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;
- b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

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

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

None.

- 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 late 2007 and early 2008, I participated in several informational calls to form a Young Lawyers for Obama Chapter in Shreveport, Louisiana and I was listed as the point of contact. I did not perform any tasks for the organization.

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

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

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

I served as a clerk to the Honorable Scott J. Crichton and the Honorable Jeanette G. Garrett on the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana from 2005 to 2006.

- 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;

2006 – 2019

Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts (A Professional Law Corporation)

333 Texas Street, Suite 700

Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

Associate (2006 – 2014)

Shareholder and Director (2014 – 2019)

2019 – present

United States Attorney's Office

Western District of Louisiana

300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201

Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

Assistant United States Attorney (2019 – present)

Deputy Chief, Civil Division (2020)

Chief, Civil Division (2020 – 2022)

First Assistant United States Attorney (2022 – present)

- 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.

During my time with Blanchard Walker, I had a diverse litigation practice in state and federal court focused primarily on tort defense, consumer bankruptcy work for creditors, and collection work. I also handled some municipal work, with particular focus on zoning and land use.

When I joined the United States Attorney's Office in 2019, my practice focused initially on defense of actions brought against federal agencies in areas of tort, employment, and challenges to agency actions. Shortly after I joined the office, I also began to handle affirmative work on behalf of federal agencies, bringing actions against other parties asserting claims on behalf of the federal government.

In 2022, I was appointed First Assistant United States Attorney. In that role, I reduced my caseload to assist the United States Attorney in supervising the Administrative, Criminal, Civil, and Appellate Divisions of the office. I oversee civil litigation, as well as the prosecution of federal crimes, including firearm and drug cases, gang violence, human trafficking, white collar crime, public corruption, terrorism, and civil rights violations.

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

During my time with Blanchard Walker, my typical clients in tort actions were self-insured businesses until approximately 2017, when some of my tort clients began to refer matters to insurance companies. My consumer bankruptcy work was primarily for local credit unions, and my collection work was primarily for a local casino.

My practice in the United States Attorney's Office has been on behalf of the United States and federal 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.

My practice has been approximately 95 percent litigation. I have appeared in court frequently over the course of my career. I appeared in court on a monthly basis while in private practice and when I initially joined the U.S. Attorney's Office. The frequency of my court appearances has decreased to a quarterly basis since I was promoted to Deputy Civil Chief, Civil Chief, and now First Assistant United States Attorney.

i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. federal courts: | 60% |
| 2. state courts of record: | 40% |
| 3. other courts: | 0% |
| 4. administrative agencies: | 0% |

ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. civil proceedings: | 95% |
| 2. criminal proceedings: | 5% |

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

I have tried nine cases to verdict, judgment, or final decision. Seven of these cases I tried as sole counsel. I have tried one case as a second chair and one case as co-counsel.

i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. jury: | 22% |
| 2. non-jury: | 78% |

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

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

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

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

1. *Okey v. United States*, 20-CV-00119 (W.D. La.) (Cain, J.)

I was co-counsel for the government in this tort action brought by plaintiffs seeking damages arising from a motor vehicle accident with a postal worker. The government argued that the postal worker was not at fault and, in the alternative, that the accident did not cause the extent of damages claimed by the plaintiffs. I divided the witnesses with my co-counsel for the three-day bench trial. I cross-examined all three plaintiffs and their lay witnesses. I also examined the postal driver in our case-in-chief. The trial court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and awarded them a cumulative amount of \$1,479,747 in damages.

Dates of Representation: 2020 – 2022

Co-Counsel:

Edwin Henry Byrd, IV
United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana
300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 676-3600

Opposing Counsel:

Justin Todd Morales
David Harmon Hanchey
Townesley Law Firm
3102 Enterprise Boulevard
Lake Charles, LA 70601
(337) 478-1400

2. *Singh v. United States*, 20-CV-00763 (W.D. La.) (Drell, J.)

I was sole defense counsel for the government in this immigration habeas action, in which the petitioner sought his release from detention and an injunction against his imminent removal. The petitioner was detained at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in the Western District of Louisiana where a flight had been chartered to remove him from the United States. He argued that his removal should be stayed because he was in the process of pursuing a provisional waiver of his removal

order to stay with his family in the United States. The government argued that the court lacked jurisdiction in a habeas action to stay the petitioner's removal for the purpose of pursuing a collateral action, such as a provisional waiver application. The court agreed with the government and dismissed the habeas petition for lack of jurisdiction. The petitioner did not appeal the ruling because his removal was delayed for unrelated administrative reasons and he was transferred from the Western District of Louisiana to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in New York.

Dates of Representation: 2020

Opposing Counsel:

Allyson Rachel Page
Immigration Svcs & Legal Advocacy
2714 Canal Street, Suite 300
New Orleans, LA 70119
(504) 354-1835

Yi Zhao
Pollack Pollack et al
225 Broadway, Suite 307
New York, NY 10007
(212) 233-8100

3. *McConathy et al. v. Walmart*, 17-CV-00622 (W.D. La.) (Doughty, J.)

I took over this trip and fall case as sole counsel for the defense two weeks before the jury trial, when the prior lead attorney left our firm. I attempted settlement negotiations while simultaneously getting up to speed on the case and preparing for trial after the trial judge denied the motion to continue the trial. The parties stipulated to liability and tried the case on damages only. After a two-day trial the jury returned a favorable defense verdict.

Dates of Representation: 2017 – 2018

Opposing Counsel:

Cole Boyett Smith
James H. Colvin
Colvin, Smith & McKay
900 Market Street, Suite 301
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 429-6770

4. *Jack v. Eldorado Casino*, 580,048 (First Judicial District Court of Louisiana) (Lafitte, J.)

I was sole defense counsel in this tort action in which the plaintiff claimed she injured her back when the defendant's employee spilled hot coffee on her while she was sitting at a slot machine. The defendant argued that there was no liability and, alternatively, that the employee's actions did not cause the nature or extent of damage alleged by the plaintiff. After a four-day jury trial the jury found in favor of the plaintiff and awarded her damages in the amount of \$1,429,928. I left private practice while the case was on appeal and new counsel enrolled. The appellate court affirmed.

Dates of Representation: 2014 – 2018

Opposing Counsel:

Anthony Impastato
Frischhertz and Impastato, LLC
1140 Saint Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 523-1500

Ernest Perry
Ernest R Perry, Jr LLC
440 East Washington Street
Shreveport, LA 71104
(318) 629-1379

5. *Cropprue v. Michael*, 569,969 (First Judicial District Court of Louisiana) (Pitman, J.), *aff'd in part*, 49,631 (La. App. 2 Cir. 3/4/15); 162 So.3d 645 (Williams, Drew, Lolley, JJ.), *writ denied*, (La. 6/1/2015); 171 So.3d 262

I was sole counsel for the plaintiff in this suit to confirm title acquired by the plaintiff through a tax sale. The defendants were the current possessors of the property and the estates of the deceased tax debtors who owned the property at the time of the tax assessment giving rise to the subject tax sale. The defendants argued that the title should not be confirmed because they did not receive notice of the delinquent tax debt that gave rise to the tax sale and they did not receive notice of the sale of the property to the plaintiff. The plaintiff argued that actual receipt of either notice was not required under Louisiana law because the government published notice of the delinquent tax debt and of the sale to the plaintiff and the plaintiff mailed notice to the defendants' last known addresses. The trial court granted the plaintiff's motion for summary judgment confirming title. The appellate court affirmed that notice of the tax debt and tax sale was sufficient but remanded the case to determine the rights of the current possessors of the property. The Louisiana Supreme Court denied the defendants' application for review. I was sole counsel on appeal. New counsel enrolled for the plaintiff after I left private practice and the case is still pending at the trial court.

Dates of Representation: 2013 – 2018

Opposing Counsel:

Richard Hiller
Shuey Smith
631 Milam Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 221-8671

6. *Stonecipher v. Caddo Parish*, 583,388 (First Judicial District Court of Louisiana) (Lafitte, J.), *aff'd in part*, 51,148 (La. App. 2 Cir. 4/7/17); 219 So.3d 1187 (Williams, Drew, Moore, JJ.), *reh'g denied*, (5/11/17), *writ denied*, (La. 10/9/2017); 227 So.3d 830

In this action for declaratory and injunctive relief, the plaintiff challenged the legality of local ordinances that authorized Parish elected officials to participate in the public employees' retirement system, medical benefits, life insurance, salary increases, mileage reimbursements, and travel allowances. The plaintiff sought a judgment declaring the ordinances unconstitutional and injunctive relief to stop future payments and the return of funds received by the elected officials.

The plaintiff named the Parish elected officials and executive employees as defendants individually. He also named the Caddo Parish Commission, the body on which the elected officials served, and the Parish of Caddo as defendants. I served as co-counsel for the Caddo Parish Commission and the Parish of Caddo.

I led the discovery efforts and the related litigation in the trial court. The Parish of Caddo argued that the scope of discovery should be limited to the legal issues before the court and not the amount of benefits accrued or paid, which is information the plaintiff previously sought to obtain through public records requests. The trial court deferred ruling on the discovery disputes and instead ruled on the merits of the legal issues that were handled by my co-counsel. Specifically, the trial court held that the plaintiff had the right to seek a declaratory judgment regarding the legality of the subject ordinances. However, the trial court dismissed the plaintiff's claims against the individual defendants, as well as the plaintiff's claims for injunctive relief to stop future payments and the return of funds paid. The appellate court reversed the trial court's ruling in part and held that the plaintiff had the right to seek injunctive relief only as to future payments. The Louisiana Supreme Court denied the plaintiff's request for review and the plaintiff did not continue to pursue the case.

Dates of Representation: 2015 – 2017

Co-Counsel:

M. Thomas Arceneaux
615 Jordan Street

Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 222-6493

Opposing Counsel:

J. Whitney Pesnell
The Pesnell Law Firm, APLC
400 Travis Street, Suite 1100
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 226-5577

7. *Primrose v. Walmart*, 70,738 (Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Louisiana) (Bleich, J.), *aff'd*, 48,370 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/2/13); 127 So.3d 13 (Brown, Stewart, Moore, JJ.), *reh'g denied*, (11/14/13)

I was lead defense counsel in this tort action for damages arising from a trip and fall over a pallet at a Walmart containing a display of watermelons. In a motion for summary judgment, the defendant argued that the action should be dismissed because the pallet was marked with warnings and Louisiana law does not impose a duty to protect against open and obvious hazards. The trial court granted the defendant's motion and dismissed the case. The appellate court affirmed and denied rehearing.

Dates of Representation: 2010 – 2013

Opposing Counsel:

J. Allen Cooper
The Law Office of Allen Cooper, LLC
551 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71104
(318) 865-5291

8. *Mitchell v. Cooper*, 129,775 (Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Louisiana) (Stinson, J.), *aff'd*, 48,125 (La. App. 2 Cir. 7/24/13); 121 So.3d 736 (Drew, Moore, Lolley, JJ.)

I was sole counsel for the plaintiff in this suit to divide co-owned property. The plaintiff argued that the court should order the division of the property by sale because the property could not be divided by creating separate tracts without diminishing its overall value. There were several defendants, some of whom represented themselves. All of the defendants had received their interest in the property by heirship or by purchasing property from other heirs. Some of the defendants argued against the sale of the property, asserting that the property should instead be divided into separate tracts. After a bench trial, the court ordered the sale of the property and division of the proceeds according to each party's ownership interest. The appellate court affirmed.

Dates of Representation: 2009 – 2013

Opposing Counsel (for the only represented defendants):

Carl H. Franklin
The Law Office of Carl H. Franklin
910 Pierremont Road, Suite 410
Shreveport, LA 71106
(318) 429-6822

9. *Partin v. Walmart*, 09-CV-02229 (W.D. La.) (Foote, J.)

I was co-counsel for the defense in this wrongful death and survival action. The plaintiff's mother died after being struck by shelving at Walmart. I led the store investigation of the incident. I also led discovery, which included significant corporate and lay depositions and written discovery. I contributed to the pretrial filings, including our third-party demand against the manufacturer of the shelving. I assisted in the preparation and handling of mediation, where the case settled. I was also heavily involved in the motion practice that followed mediation regarding the confidentiality of the settlement agreement and a protective order to prevent the release of the video of the incident after the dismissal of the case.

Dates of Representation: 2009 – 2011

Co-Counsel:

W. Michael Adams
Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts
333 Texas Street, Suite 700
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 221-6858

Opposing Counsel:

Robert A Breithaupt
Breithaupt DuBos & Wolleson
P.O. Box 14106
Monroe, LA 71207
(318) 654-8568

Nicholas D Doucet
Doucet Law
556 Jefferson Street, Suite 200
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 593-4101

10. *Jordan v. Walmart*, 09-CV-00604 (W.D. La.) (Hicks, J.)

I was co-counsel for the defense in this slip-and-fall action. I led the discovery and the filing of a motion for summary judgment seeking the dismissal of this action on the grounds that the plaintiff could not establish an essential element of her claim: that the defendant knew or should have known of the complained-of condition giving rise to the fall. The trial court granted the motion and dismissed the action.

Dates of Representation: 2009 – 2010

Co-Counsel:

Paul Adkins
Liskow & Lewis
450 Laurel Street, Suite 1601
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
(225) 341-4684

Opposing Counsel:

Albert Joseph Rebennack, Jr.
Law Office of Albert J. Rebennack, Jr.
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Metairie, LA 70001
(504) 831-1203

18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

I have been a member of the Louisiana Committee on Bar Admissions since 2019 and I am one of three members of the Committee who serve on its Character and Fitness Panel. Our role on the Character and Fitness panel is to determine whether applicants to the Louisiana Bar, who have otherwise demonstrated the base level of knowledge to pass the Bar examination, meet the high standard of fidelity to justice that is expected of lawyers by the public. Determining whether to recommend an applicant to the Louisiana Supreme Court for admission to our Bar is one of the most important legal activities I have undertaken as a member of this profession.

I served as a member of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission from 2011 to 2015. This nine-member body is the exclusive authority for the review of complaints against Louisiana judicial officers. The Louisiana Supreme Court is the only authority that can

impose discipline on Louisiana judicial officers, but it can do so only upon the recommendation of the Judiciary Commission. I served as Vice Chair and Chair of this body. As a leader of the Judiciary Commission, I made it a priority to reach out to judges across the state to not only raise awareness about common disciplinary issues, but to also build confidence in the disciplinary process among judges.

I have not performed any lobbying activities or registered as a lobbyist.

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

None.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

None.

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

None.

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

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

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

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

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

If confirmed, I will recuse myself from any civil litigation referred to or initiated by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana while I was serving as Deputy Chief and Chief of the Civil Division, as I was responsible for the supervision of all civil litigation in those roles. I will also recuse myself from all civil litigation and all criminal matters that were referred to or initiated by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana during my tenure as First Assistant United States Attorney. As First Assistant United States Attorney, I have been involved in the supervision of all criminal and civil matters handled by the office.

With respect to financial holdings, I will actively screen cases for potential financial recusal questions, disqualifying myself anytime I have a financial interest in the subject matter of the controversy, in a party to the proceeding, or in any other interest that could substantially be affected by the outcome of the proceeding.

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

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

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

During my tenure at the United States Attorney's Office I have not engaged in the practice of law outside of my government service. However, while I have been with the United States Attorney's Office, I have been a member and officer of the Booth-Politz Inn of Court. Through the Inn of Court, I have supported the efforts of fellow Inn of Court members to perform pro bono work through an annual program named Wills for Heroes, in which volunteer attorneys provide wills, living wills, and medical powers of attorney to first responders.

For several years before I joined the United States Attorney's Office, I volunteered on an annual basis for the Louisiana State Bar Association's state-wide Ask-A-Lawyer Legal Clinic called "Lawyers in Libraries." Through this program I partnered with another

lawyer to answer legal questions from community members in the Claiborne Parish Public Library in Homer, Louisiana.

I also participated in Wills for Heroes programs as a member of the Young Lawyers Division Council for the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Young Lawyers Section of the Shreveport Bar Association.

26. Selection Process:

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

On March 1, 2023, I was contacted by Senator Bill Cassidy's office inquiring if I would be interested in serving as a federal district judge, and I responded that I would. On March 2, 2023, I was contacted by Senator John Kennedy's office and I expressed my interest in serving as a federal district judge. On or around March 6, 2023, I was contacted by Senator Cassidy's office informing me that the White House Counsel's Office would contact me to schedule an interview. I was interviewed by attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office on March 8, 2023. I interviewed with Senators Cassidy and Kennedy on March 15, 2023. On March 17, 2023, I was contacted by the White House Counsel's Office and the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice regarding the vetting process. Since that time, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy. On June 7, 2023, the President announced his intent to nominate me.

- b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.