

**SEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION SIX
CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

PLEASE NOTE: RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC IF THE APPLICANT IS SELECTED AS ONE OF THE NOMINEES FOR THE VACANCY.

1. State your full name.

Karen Lee Krauser



2. State your date and location of birth.

December 10, 1976 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

3. State your present principal occupation, place of work, and job title.

I am primarily a criminal attorney with the Clay County Missouri Prosecutor's Office. My title is Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

4. Provide the following information concerning your eligibility for the office of Associate Circuit Judge:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Are you at least twenty-five years of age? | Yes |
| (b) Are you licensed to practice law in Missouri? | Yes |
| (c) Are you a registered voter in Missouri? | Yes |
| (d) Are you a resident of Clay County? | Yes |

5. State the year of your admission to the Missouri Bar and whether your license is and always has been in good standing. If not, please explain.

I was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 2002. My license is and has always been in good standing.

6. List any other states, courts, or agencies in which you have been licensed as an attorney, and state whether your license is and always has been in good standing.

I was admitted to the Kansas Bar in 2003. My license is and always has been in good standing, but in inactive status.

7. State whether you are able, with or without a reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of an Associate Circuit Judge, including the ability to preside over trials, conduct legal research and analysis, attend court anywhere in the State of Missouri, communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing, and expeditiously decide issues coming before the court.

I am able and eager to perform the essential functions of an Associate Circuit Judge.

8. Provide the following information for all colleges or universities, other than law schools, you have attended:

(a) Name and location of institution

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

(c) Significant activities, achievements, honors, and awards

I have attended two colleges, William Jewell College, during my senior year at Liberty High School, and Park College.

(a) William Jewell College, 500 College Hill, Liberty, MO

(b) I attended from August 1994 through May 1995. I did not receive a degree.

(c) None

(a) Park College, now Park University, 8700 North West River Park Drive, Parkville, MO

(b) I attended Park College from August 1995 through May 1999 and received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

(c) Dean's List, every semester

Criminal Justice Club

Psychology Club (Positions held: Secretary, Vice President, and President)

Psi Chi Honor Society (Positions held: Secretary, Vice President, and President)

Graduated Summa Cum Laude

9. Provide the following information for all law schools you have attended:

(a) Name and location of law school

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, 500 East 52nd Street, Kansas City, MO

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

August 1999 through May 2002. I obtained a Juris Doctor degree.

(c) Significant activities, achievements, honors, and awards

I graduated with distinction (top ten percent of the class). I achieved the Dean's List every year. My activities included the Student Bar Association, UMKC's First Ireland Summer Program, and Association of Women's Law Students. During my second year in law school, I served as the Secretary of the Association of Women's Law Students.

10. State whether you have ever been suspended or expelled as a student from any school or educational institution. If so, please explain.

No, I have never been suspended or expelled from any school or educational institution.

11. List, in chronological order, all non-legal and legal employment you have held post-high school. Include the name and location of each employer, job title, dates of employment, and reason for termination of employment.

Following graduation from Liberty High School, I worked the summer of 1995 as a supervisor in the Security Division of Worlds of Fun, located at 4545 Worlds of Fun Avenue Kansas City, MO 64161. I left Worlds of Fun at the end of the season, October 1995.

During September 1995 to May 1996, I worked for Park College as a work study student in the Registrar's Office. Park College's work study program is only available during the Fall and Spring semesters. I did not continue this program into the next school year, because I began working at Farmland Industries.

During May 1996 to October 1998, I worked for Farmland Industries, Inc., OneSystem Group, System Management Specialists at 3315 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64116. For the first eight months, I worked in the Data Processing Center as a Tape Operator. The remainder of 1997 through October 1998, I worked as an Associate Support Analyst working with the mainframe. During my time as an Associate Support Analyst, the company was sold numerous times. OneSystem Group was a joint

venture between Farmland Industries, Inc. and Ernst and Young. Then, OneSystem Group was sold to System Management Specialists. I left this career to start my internship with the Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

In December 1998, I began my legal career with the Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, located at 11 S. Water, Liberty, MO 64068. I started as a volunteer intern to fulfill a requirement for graduation. Shortly after a month of volunteering, I was hired in the paid position of File Clerk. My employment continued as a File Clerk until I started UMKC Law School in August 1999 when my position became Law Clerk. In July 2002, I was hired by Donald T. Norris as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney I. I maintained this position until promoted in November 2004 to Assistant Prosecuting Attorney II. In September 2008, I became Deputy Chief and currently serve Clay County in this capacity.

From April 2007 to August 2008, I served the citizens of Excelsior Springs as a Substitute Municipal Judge for the Honorable Shane Alexander. The mailing address for Excelsior Springs Court is 301 South Main, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024, but court is held next door at the historic Hall of Waters. When Judge Alexander was appointed as Circuit Court Judge in August of 2008, I was appointed Municipal Judge of Excelsior Springs. For the past three years, I have continued to serve as the Municipal Judge of Excelsior Springs.

Lastly, I was appointed as the Municipal Judge of Platte Woods in July 2010. Platte Woods City Hall is located at 6750 NW Tower Drive, Platte Woods, MO 64151. I continue to serve the city of Platte Woods today.

12. Describe the nature and extent of your experience as a practicing attorney in the trial and appellate courts, and explain how such experience demonstrates the quality of your legal work.

My determination and dedication to justice are demonstrated by my rise from a volunteer to the highest non-elected position in the Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. By graduation from law school, I had already tried three jury trials as a Rule 13 Certified Law Student. I worked for several years in the very courtroom for which I am applying. I have covered dozens preliminary hearings, bench trials, and Director of Revenue refusal hearings. Currently, I am the primary trial attorney of the office. I have tried twenty-five (25) jury trials, including eight (8) homicide cases. Additionally, over the past three years, I have supervised twenty-eight (28) jury trials.

I have extensive knowledge of the criminal practice and procedure on both Associate Circuit and Circuit levels. In addition to trying cases, I handled thousands of criminal cases including charging decisions, search warrants, and management of the criminal cases once they are filed. I handle a variety of cases from property crimes to domestic violence, sex crimes and murder, including three death penalty cases. Having been on-call for almost a decade, I am aware and prepared for the demands of Division

Six with mid-night search warrants.

My quality of work can be seen not just from my trial experience, but also from my work on the appellate level. Rarely does a prosecutor have the opportunity to argue before the Western District Court of Appeals. I have prepared briefs for both the Western District of Missouri Court of Appeals as well as the Missouri Supreme Court. I have argued before the Western District three times and supervised three other attorneys in their oral arguments.

13. Provide a representative list of at least ten cases in which you served as the primary attorney at trial or an administrative hearing. The list should include the style of each case, court or administrative agency, identification of your client, and the nature and date of disposition.

In March 2002, I represented the State of Missouri in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Robert Harris*, 7CR100003249, as a Rule 13 Certified law student with Daniel White as my supervising attorney. Robert Harris was charged with Endangering Welfare of Child in the First Degree, for failing to stop for a police officer during a lawful traffic stop with his infant in the vehicle. Ultimately, the defendant pled guilty as the jury was deliberating and was sentenced to nine (9) months in the Clay County Jail.

In March of 2003, I represented the State with Shane Alexander in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. James Lybarger*, 7CR199005085. The jury found Lybarger guilty of multiple gas station robberies around the Clay County area. On May 28, 2003, Judge Maloney sentenced Defendant as follows: Count I – Robbery in the Second Degree, 30 years, Count II- Robbery in the Second Degree, 30 years, Count III- Attempted Robbery in the Second Degree, 20 years, Count IV--Attempted Robbery in the Second Degree, 20 years. Count I and III were consecutive for a total of 50 years.

In May 2004, I represented the State with Larry Buccero in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Thomas Robertson*, 7CR199004232. The jury found Robertson guilty of Murder in the First Degree for strangling his ex-wife. On July 15, 2004, Judge Maloney sentenced Robertson to life without the possibility of parole.

In August 2004, I represented the State with Dawn Schaag in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Alan Barker*, 7CR103000915. The jury found Barker guilty of driving a vehicle next to women walking in parking lots and stealing their purses. On September 23, 2004, Judge Maloney sentenced Barker as follows: Count I- Stealing from person, 1 year, Count II- Stealing from person, 1 year, and Count III- Stealing, 1 year. Each count was to run consecutive for a total of three years.

In March 2005, I represented the State with Larry Buccero in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Vermonn Roberts*, 7CR103002986. The jury found Roberts guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and Armed Criminal Action for the stabbing of Dustin

Thomas. On April 26, 2005, Judge Maloney sentenced Roberts to life plus 30 years.

In March 2006, I represented the State with Dawn Schaag in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Johnathan Steen*, 7CR105002886. The jury found Steen guilty of Assault in First Degree for causing blunt force trauma resulting in a large skull fracture and bleeding in the brain of his 18-day-old baby girl. On May 3, 2006, Judge Maloney sentenced Steen to 20 years.

In April 2006, I represented the State in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Christopher Robinson*, CR014-4087F. The charge was stealing from a grocery store. There was a mistrial due to a lay witness's statement about a photo line-up. Defendant pled guilty and received a 1-year sentence in the County Jail, but the sentence was not executed, and he was placed on probation for two years.

In March 2007, I represented the State with Rule 13 Certified Matt Rose, in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Wilbert Parish Jr.*, CR105-5596FX. On March 22, 2007, the jury acquitted Parish of robbing the Little Cesar's Pizza in Gladstone, Missouri.

In April 2007, I represented the State with Shane Alexander in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Alan Clark*, 06CY-CR03592. A jury found Clark guilty of the ambush killing of Michael Seay and the wounding of a passenger in Seay's vehicle, Chaulaun Hart. On June 14, 2007, Judge Maloney sentenced Defendant to Count I - Murder in the First Degree, Life without the possibility of parole, Count II - Armed Criminal Action, 30 years, Count III- Unlawful Use of A Weapon, 30 years, and Count IV- Armed Criminal Action, 30 years. Counts I, II, and III were consecutive for a total of Life without parole plus 60 years.

In October 2007, I represented the State with Kristen Ellis in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Aaron Dorsey*, 06CY-CR03784-01. The jury found defendant guilty of shooting at two bouncers after being ejected from a bar. On January 17, 2008, Judge Harman sentenced Defendant to Count I - Assault in the First Degree, 10 years, Count II- Armed Criminal Action, 3 years, Count III - Assault in the First Degree, 10 years, and Count IV- Armed Criminal Action, 3 years.

In December 2007, I represented the State with Corey Carter in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Richard Snow*, 06CY-CR03112-01. The jury found Snow guilty of possession of methamphetamine. On March 6, 2008, Judge sentenced Defendant to 4 years.

In June 2008, I represented the State with Shawn Blair in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. James Bonikowski*, 08CY-CR00763. The charges were Attempted Forcible Rape, Assault in the First Degree, and Armed Criminal Action based on the allegation that he attempted to rape and - using a Nintendo controller cord - strangle a woman. The jury returned a not guilty verdict on June 25, 2008.

In October 2009, I represented the State with Scott Ison in the jury trial of *State of*

Missouri v. Henry Lee Polk, 7CR104003803-01. The jury convicted Polk of strangling and stabbing Stephen Nolte and the robbery and assault of Polk's wife. On October 1, 2009, Judge Rex Gabbert sentenced Defendant to Count I - Murder in the First Degree, Life without the possibility of parole, Count II - Armed Criminal Action, 100 years, Count III - Robbery in the Second Degree, 15 years, and Count IV - Domestic Violence in the Second Degree, 5 years. Each count was consecutive for a total of life without parole plus 120 years.

In October 2010, I represented the State with Corey Carter in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Wayne West*, Case 07CY-CR04596. The jury found West guilty of stabbing his fellow campmate, William Brady, at their homeless shanty. On December 9, 2010, Judge Rex Gabbert sentenced Defendant to Count I - Murder in the Second Degree, 18 years, and Count II - Armed Criminal Action, 5 years. The sentences are consecutive for a total of 23 years.

In May 2010, I represented the State with Wes Rogers in the jury trial of *State of Missouri v. Melissa Thompson*, 07CY-CR04825. The jury found Thompson guilty of causing multiple blunt force traumas to a baby in her care resulting in the baby's death. On July 29, 2011, Judge Rex Gabbert found Thompson guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and sentenced her to 15 years.

14. If you have appellate experience, provide a representative list of cases in which you served as the primary attorney on appeal. The list should include the style of each case, appellate court or administrative agency, identification of your client, and the nature and date of disposition.

In June 2002, I represented the Honorable Michael Maloney in *Ex Rel James Lybarger, Relator v. Honorable Michael J. Maloney*, WD61467. Lybarger was charged with multiple counts of robbery and attempted robbery. I wrote the Suggestions in Opposition requesting the Western District to deny a writ that would order Judge Maloney to dismiss charges for alleged violations of the Interstate Agreement of Detainers. Writ was denied on June 24, 2002.

I continued my representation of Judge Maloney when Lybarger filed his Petition for Writ with the Missouri Supreme Court in *SXR James Lybarger v. Honorable Michael Maloney*, SC84657. A preliminary writ was filed by the Court. I wrote the Suggestions in Opposition, the brief, and a Motion to Dismiss. On January 28, 2003, the preliminary writ was quashed after oral argument. The Motion to Dismiss was denied as moot.

During 2006, I represented the Director of Revenue in *State of Missouri v. Mina Elliot*, WD65782. Elliot appealed her judgment against her for failure to pay income taxes alleging lack of proper notice. I assisted the State in preparing the briefs. I argued the case at oral argument and at the rehearing. The case was transferred to the Missouri Supreme Court on December 26, 2006. I continued my representation of the State in *State of Missouri v. Mina Elliot*, SC88218. The Attorney General argued the case at the

Supreme Court. Judgment was affirmed on June 28, 2007.

In January 2010, I represented Daniel White in *Ex Rel Daniel White, Relator v. the Honorable Shane Alexander, Respondent*, WD71909. I authored the Suggestions in Support and the Petition for Writ. White was requesting the Western District Court of Appeals to order Judge Alexander to rescind an order granting a Motion for New Trial based on the failure to submit Missouri Approved Instruction 304.12. Petition for writ was denied January 2, 2010.

15. If you are serving or have served in a judicial capacity, describe the nature and extent of your judicial responsibilities, the types of dockets handled, and any special expertise developed.

I have served as a municipal judge in multiple jurisdictions including Excelsior Springs, North Kansas City, and Platte Woods. My duties include presiding over the docket. Cases on these dockets range from housing code violations, traffic tickets, and stealing to assaults.

As a municipal judge, my responsibilities include presiding over a case from arraignment to plea or trial. Over the past five years, I have presided over thousands of cases. I have to make rulings on issues of bond, probation violations, motions alleging violations of Constitutional rights, and contempt of court. I have presided over dozens of bench trials. I have to make immediate decisions on rules of law and evidence. Due to the volume of a municipal docket, a judge must be efficient and decisive on matters affecting both the interests of justice and the individuals' rights. I am familiar with rules of evidence and procedure to ensure a fast-moving docket without shortcutting justice or decorum.

In the years on the bench, I have discovered both the great responsibility and power that a judge has. I have worked to balance the interests of the city, the citizens, defendants' rights, and victims' rights in an effort to find justice.

16. If you do not have significant experience in litigation or in a judicial capacity, describe any other legal experience or accomplishments in the legal profession that may qualify you to serve in the office of Associate Circuit Judge.

Not Applicable.

17. List all bar associations and other professional societies of which you are or have been a member, with any offices held and dates of membership.

Clay County Bar Association, 2002 to current, member
Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, 2002 to current, member
National District Attorneys Association, 2008 to current, member

Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Prosecutors Association, 2005 to current,
member

Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Association, 2007 to Current,
District Director for District 12 – May 2011 to Current

Committee Member for organization of the regional seminar – May 2011 to
Current

18. List any published articles or books you have authored and any significant programs or events for which you served as a primary speaker.

Twice I have had the privilege to be a guest speaker for UMKC law students at the Inns of UMKC about “What They Didn’t Teach You in Law School.”

On May 19, 2011, I was a panel speaker for Synergy Services, Inc. at a continuing legal education class entitled, “Municipal Courts and Domestic Assault cases.” The attendees included attorneys, police officers, and social workers. The purpose was to explain the differences between domestic violence crimes on the municipal and state levels.

19. Do you now or have you ever held any elective or appointive public office or position? If so, please explain.

I am the appointed Municipal Judge for Excelsior Springs and Platte Woods.

20. Provide the branches and dates of any military service or other public service not otherwise covered in this application. If discharged from the military, state whether the discharge was other than honorable.

Not applicable.

21. Describe your community and volunteer service activities, including any organizations (outside the legal profession) with which you are affiliated and any offices held.

None.

22. List any significant honors, awards, or recognition you have received that otherwise have not been covered in this application.

None.

23. Are you delinquent in the payment of any federal, state, county or city taxes? If so, please explain.

No.

24. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony or received a suspended

imposition of sentence in any federal, state, or military court? If so, please explain and provide the style of the case (including case number), the court, the date of the conviction, and the sentence or fine imposed.

No.

25. Have you ever been held in contempt of court? If so, please explain.

No.

26. Have you ever been sued by a client or been a party to any litigation, other than as a guardian ad litem, plaintiff ad litem, or defendant ad litem? If so, please explain and provide the style of each case, the court, your role as plaintiff or defendant, and the nature and date of disposition.

Yes, Karen Krauser v. Michael Rehak, 1016-FC11773. I filed for Dissolution of Marriage, which became final on April 28, 2011.

27. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or professional conduct by a court or by any bar association or committee thereof? If so, please explain.

No.

28. If you are or were a member of the judiciary please state:

(a) Whether an order of reprimand, removal, retirement, suspension or other disciplinary action has ever been entered against you by the Supreme Court of Missouri for breach of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Canons of Judicial Conduct? If so, explain the details of such breach and the date, nature, and duration of the discipline imposed.

(b) Whether a reprimand or admonishment has ever been entered against you by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline for any of the causes specified in Rule 12.07 of the Supreme Court Rules Governing the Judiciary. If so, explain the details of such cause and the date and nature of the discipline imposed.

(c) Whether, to your knowledge, you are the subject of a complaint that is currently under investigation by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline. If so, explain that nature of such complaint and the status of the investigation.

No.

29. Provide any additional information that you consider relevant to your qualifications for the office of Associate Circuit Judge.

I have dedicated my adult life to serving the citizen of Clay County by working to make the streets safer. I have a deep commitment to continue serving this community. I

have lived in Liberty since 1988, excluding law school.

I have a strong commitment to my close-knit family. My parents, sister, and her husband all live in Liberty. I currently live in Liberty with my two year old daughter. My mother retired to provide daycare for my daughter.

I am a hard working individual who will work tirelessly to complete a task with a high level of quality. I worked my way through undergraduate and law school. While working for Farmland Industries, OneSystem Group, System Management Specialist, I worked full time on the third shift and maintained a full time load at Park College. During my legal career, I have continued this strong work ethic and ability to balance career and family. Despite extensive health issues of my daughter, I have maintained fulltime employment with Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office plus two part-time municipal judgeships.

30. List the names and contact information (title, mailing address, telephone, and email address) of the **five** persons whom you have requested to provide letters of reference regarding your character and judicial qualifications. Do not list as a reference any judge who currently sits in the Seventh Judicial Circuit.
 1. Clay County Prosecuting Attorney Daniel White, Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, 11 S. Water, Liberty, MO 64068, 816-736-8300, daniel_white@claycopa.com
 2. Chief John McGovern, Excelsior Springs Police Department, 301 South Main, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024, 816-630-0200, jmcgovern@espolice.com
 3. Dr. William Fish, Liberty Clinic, 122 S. Stewart Road, Liberty, MO 64068, 816-781-7730, billfish@kc.rr.com
 4. Sheriff Bob Boydston, Clay County Sheriff's Department, 12 S. Water Street, Liberty, MO 64068, 816-407-8750, bboydston@claycogov.com
 5. Representative Jerry Nolte, Missouri House of Representatives, 201 West Capital Avenue, Room 405B, Jefferson City, MO 65101, 573-751-1470, jerry.nolte@house.mo.gov