

**SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
APPLICATION FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE**

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

State your full name.

John Glenn Gromowsky



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

**Associate Circuit Judge
Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, Jackson County, Missouri
Associate Circuit Judge, Division 30, Family Justice Center**

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

- (a) Are you at least thirty years of age?

Yes

- (b) Are you licensed to practice law in Missouri?

Yes

- (c) Have you been a citizen of the United States for at least ten years?

Yes

- (d) Have you been a qualified Missouri voter for at least three years?

Yes

- (e) Have you been a resident of Jackson County for at least one year?

Yes

3. State whether you are able, with or without a reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of a 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, without reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential duties of a Circuit Judge.

4. 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 1999, and my license is, and always has been, in good standing.

5. 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.

**United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri
United States District Court for the District of Kansas
State of Kansas**

My licenses to practice in each of these courts are, and always have been, in good standing. Because of my appointment to the bench in February 2025, I did request that my license to practice in the State of Kansas be changed to inactive status during the renewal period this year.

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

- (a) Name and location of institution.

**United States Military Academy
West Point, New York**

- (b) Dates attended and degrees received.

**June 1985 – May 1989
Bachelor of Science in Military Science with a Field of Study in International Relations**

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

**Completed USAFA S.E.R.E. (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) Training
Commissioned as an infantry officer in the United States Army**

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

- (a) Name and location of law school.

**DePaul University College of Law
Chicago, Illinois**

- (b) Dates attended and degrees received.

**August 1995 – June 1998
Juris Doctor**

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

Research Assistant and Extern Program Coordinator, Professor John F. Decker

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

I have never been suspended or expelled as a student from any school or educational institution.

9. 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.

**United States Army
United States Military Academy, West Point, New York
1985 – 1989
Cadet
I graduated and was assigned to a new duty station.**

**United States Army
Fort Benning, Georgia
1989 – 1990
Completed Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, Ranger School, and
Mortar Platoon Leader Course
I transferred to a new duty station.**

**United States Army
Camp Greaves, Republic of Korea
1990 – 1992
Battalion Mortar Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment
Platoon Leader, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment
Executive Officer, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment
I transferred to a new duty station.**

**United States Army
Fort Meyer, Virginia
1992 – 1994**

Platoon Leader, Bravo Company, 3rd United States Infantry Regiment (“The Old Guard”)

Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security, Fort Meyer Military Community

I resigned from the United States Army as a captain to pursue a law degree.

**Almar Printing
Kansas City, Missouri
1994 – 1995**

Operations Manager

I left to attend law school.

**Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office
Chicago, Illinois
1997 – 1998**

Law Clerk, Special Prosecutions Bureau Arson Task Force

Law Clerk, Special Prosecutions Bureau Gang Prosecution Unit

Although I received an offer of employment as an Assistant State’s Attorney, I returned to Kansas City.

**Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri
Kansas City, Missouri
1998 – 1999**

Judicial Law Clerk, The Honorable John R. O’Malley

I left for other legal employment.

**Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office
Kansas City, Missouri
1999 – 2002**

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Jackson County Drug Task Force Prosecutor

Central Patrol Division Community Prosecutor

I left for other legal employment.

**Horn, Aylward & Bandy, LLC
Kansas City, Missouri
2002 – 2005**

Associate Attorney

I left to start my own law firm.

**The Gromowsky Law Firm, LLC
Kansas City, Missouri
2005 – 2021
Criminal Defense Lawyer
I left for other legal employment.**

**Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
Kansas City, Missouri
2021 – March 2025
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Violent Crimes Unit
Governor Michael Kehoe appointed me to the bench.**

**Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri
Kansas City, Missouri
Associate Circuit Judge
March 2025 – Present**

10. 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.

I have been a lawyer for more than twenty-five years. I have represented clients in municipal, state, and federal courts in multiple jurisdictions. I have both prosecuted and defended everything from speeding tickets to murder cases. I have represented corporations in civil cases and a homeless man accused of neglecting his children after the family was found squatting in an abandoned house. More recently, I have served as an associate circuit judge, presiding over cases in Family Court.

I began my legal career as a law clerk, where I was responsible for reviewing pleadings, researching issues, discussing the law and the facts with the judge, and drafting proposed orders and judgments for his review. I learned to prepare civil and criminal jury instructions. I benefitted from watching several trials conducted not only by the judge I worked for, but because he was the presiding judge, visiting and senior judges, too. They mentored me by explaining what made trial attorneys effective or not. I got to watch how the judges interacted with staff, attorneys, and jurors. I saw how to run an efficient and effective courtroom.

I have twice served Jackson County as an assistant prosecuting attorney. I was initially assigned to the Independence office, where I worked at the Warrant Desk, in the Drug Unit, and as the Jackson County Drug Task Force prosecutor. I later transferred to the Kansas City office, where I was a community prosecutor assigned to Kansas City Police Department Central Patrol Division. As a community prosecutor, I not only maintained a case load but also served as a liaison between the prosecutor's office and the community. I represented the prosecutor's office at meetings with business organizations and neighborhood groups. After returning to

the prosecutor's office in 2021, I was assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit, where I handled cases of homicide and other serious crimes of violence. During both stints in the prosecutor's office, I tried several cases, both as a first chair and a second chair.

After my first turn in the prosecutor's office, I worked as an associate attorney for an insurance defense firm. While I did not get to go to trial on any of my cases during the approximately three years I was with the firm, I did gain valuable knowledge about the practice of civil law by handling all other tasks related to civil litigation, including motion practice and hearings, written discovery, depositions, client and witness interviews and testimony preparation, drafting and defending summary judgment motions, and representing clients during mediation. The firm's clients included physicians, hospitals, trucking companies, and a multi-state convenience store chain. I assisted with cases representing all of these.

I eventually left the civil firm to start my own firm, specializing in criminal defense. There, I represented clients being investigated for or charged with criminal offenses in municipal, state, and federal courts in Missouri and Kansas. I handled everything from traffic infractions in small rural courts to drafting writ petitions in the United State Supreme Court. I was also appointed by federal judges to represent defendants in death penalty cases in both the trial and appellate courts. After maintaining my practice for nearly sixteen years, I returned to the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, as described above.

In February 2025, Governor Michael Kehoe appointed me to fill the associate circuit judge vacancy in Division 30 of the Jackson County Circuit Court. I am currently on a two-year rotation to the Family Court, where I handle abuse and neglect, delinquency, status, and termination of parental rights cases. I also hear adoption petitions. In this position, I have gained invaluable experience hearing cases, managing dockets, and supervising a division staff.

While this summary of the nature and extent of my experience as a practicing attorney and an associate circuit judge may give some understanding of the quality of my legal work, I think it is better demonstrated by such things as judges who have watched me in their courtrooms then appointing me to represent people in death penalty cases where a sentence of life without parole is considered a win. It is shown in appellate briefs other lawyers asked me to help write or in their referrals of civil clients who got themselves accused of something. It is shown by my being selected to win the prosecutor's office's award for helping victims. And, finally, it is shown in the professionalism of the courtroom over which I currently preside.

It is these experiences that demonstrate the quality of my legal work, not simply appearing in courtrooms for a quarter of a century.

11. 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, name of the judge or hearing officer,

name of opposing counsel, and the nature and date of disposition.

JACKSON COUNTY TRIALS

State of Missouri v. Steven R. Wittman (16CR99000585-01)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri

Party Represented: State of Missouri

Judge: Hon. John Moran

Opposing Counsel: Patrick L. O'Brien

Disposition Date: July 7, 1999

The jury could not reach a unanimous verdict on a charge of felony DWI but convicted on a charge of misdemeanor driving while revoked or suspended. The parties reached an agreement on the DWI charge, and defendant entered an *Alford* plea for the DWI charge.

State of Missouri v. Barbara Nightengate (16CR98004854-01)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri

Party Represented: State of Missouri

Judge: Hon. William Kramer

Opposing Counsel: John Brand Eskew

Disposition Date: March 17, 2000

Defendant convicted of felony DWI and misdemeanor leaving the scene of an accident.

State of Missouri v. Geraldine Clark-Ramsey (16CR00006949-01)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri

Party Represented: State of Missouri

Judge: Hon. Michael Manners

Opposing Counsel: Madonna Limberg

Disposition Date: August 14, 2001

Defendant convicted as a prior offender of felony drug possession. On appeal, the Court held that the trial court erred in not granting defendant's motion to strike for cause one juror.

State of Missouri v. Teresa Khan (16CR-00001980-01)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri

Party Represented: State of Missouri

Judge: Hon. Jay Daugherty

Opposing Counsel: John Quinn

Disposition Date: January 4, 2002

Defendant convicted of trafficking a controlled substance.

State of Missouri v. John Doe (Sealed Case)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri

Party Represented: State of Missouri

Judge: Hon. David Byrn

Opposing Counsel: David Wiegert

Disposition Date: April 2, 2021

I was initially second chair on this case, but the week prior to trial lead counsel had to withdraw from the case. The jury returned a self-defense verdict, acquitting defendant of murder in the second degree.

State of Missouri v. John Doe (Sealed Case)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri

Party Represented: State of Missouri

Judge: Hon. Joel Fahnestock

Opposing Counsel: Edward Berrigan

Disposition Date: December 2, 2022

The jury returned a self-defense verdict, acquitting defendant of murder in the second degree.

FEDERAL TRIALS

United States v. Steven Sandstrom and Gary Eye (05-00344-01/02-CR-W-ODS)

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Party Represented: Steven Sandstrom

Judge: Hon. Ortrie D. Smith

Opposing Counsel: David Ketchmark

Co-defendant Counsel: John Osgood

Disposition Date: September 9, 2008

This was a capital murder case in which Sandstrom was charged with a total of nine counts related to a federal civil rights murder and the subsequent destruction of evidence and witness tampering. The jury found Sandstrom not guilty of interfering with federally protected activities and using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence; however, it found Sandstrom guilty of the remaining charges. In a separate proceeding during which the government sought the death penalty, the jury returned a verdict of life in prison.

United States v. Gilberto Baldenegro-Valdez and Felipe Camarena (10-00094-01/02-CR-W-FJG)

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Party Represented: Gilberto Baldenegro-Valdez

Judge: Hon. D. Greg Hays

Opposing Counsel: Justin Davids

Co-defendant Counsel: Anita Burns

Disposition Date: September 21, 2011

The jury found the defendants guilty of conspiring to distribute methamphetamine.

United States v. Kevin Finley, et al. (12-00371-01-CR-W-BP)

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Party Represented: Defendant

Judge: Hon. Beth Phillips

Opposing Counsel: Patrick Edwards

Disposition Date: March 15, 2016

This was a capital murder case in which defendant was the lead defendant in a multi-defendant, multi-count indictment related to a drug conspiracy home invasion that resulted in the murder of three victims and injuries to others. After several meetings with government attorneys at which mitigating evidence was shared, the government eventually agreed not to seek the death penalty. More than three years of litigation and defense preparation with experts and a mitigation specialist occurred before the parties, just prior to trial, negotiated a plea agreement that resolved the case.

United States v. Marcell Shavers (16-00101-CR-W-DGK)

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Party Represented: Defendant

Judge: Hon. D. Greg Kays

Opposing Counsel: Jeffrey Valenti

Disposition Date: August 15, 2018

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty to a charge of using a firearm during a drug trafficking offense resulting in death (federal murder) and a verdict of guilty to a charge of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine.

United States v. Clarence Brooks (17-00048-01-CR-W-BCW)

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Party Represented: Defendant

Judge: Hon. Brian C. Wimes

Opposing Counsel: Jeffrey McCarther

Disposition Date: October 4, 2019

The jury returned verdicts of guilty as charged for being a felon in possession of a firearm and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a narcotics offense; however, the jury returned a verdict to a reduced charge of simple possession of methamphetamine instead of possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.

OTHER PROCEEDINGS

In re: John Does (Sealed Case)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri – Family Court Division

Party Represented: Natural Mother

Judge: Commissioner William Jackson

Opposing Counsel: Various Attorneys for the Juvenile Officer

Disposition Date: Approximately January 2017

I represented a mother whose children had been removed from her care because her husband was abusive to her, creating a risky environment for the children. I assisted the mother to establish housing separate from her husband, found her *pro bono* services to divorce her husband, and ensured her compliance with mandates of the Court. In the end, the children were returned to the care of my client.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)

Circuit Court of Cass County, Missouri – Juvenile Division

Party Represented: John Doe

Judge: Hon. Jason Howell

Opposing Counsel: Barry Jerwick

Disposition Date: July 9, 2019

The represented juvenile was accused of inappropriate sexual contact with a female family member. After a final hearing, the juvenile was permitted to remain in the custody of his parents. He completed required evaluation and services, and the supervision of the Court was terminated.

In re: Jane Doe (Sealed Case)

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri – Family Court Division

Party Represented: Natural Mother

Judge: Hon. Jalilah Otto

Opposing Counsel: Various Attorneys for the Juvenile Officer

Disposition Date: July 16, 2020

The Court appointed me to represent the natural mother of three children in a termination of parental rights proceeding. The mother was inconsistent in maintaining communications with me, but I continued to be in contact with a family member. Due to these circumstances, I largely had to prepare for the termination hearing without her assistance. After the mother failed to appear for the hearing, a continuance was granted. When the mother failed to appear at the next hearing, the Court ended my appointment as the mother's attorney.

State of Kansas v. Carolyn Heckert (16CR0800)

District Court of Wyandotte County, Kansas

Judge: Hon. Aaron Roberts

Party: Defendant

Opposing Counsel: Jennifer Tatum

Co-Counsel: John P. O'Connor

Disposition Date: April 7, 2017

This was a thirteen-witness preliminary hearing related to a 1989 cold case murder. I cross-examined police witnesses while co-counsel was responsible for civilian witnesses. After the hearing, the Court dismissed the charges against our client.

12. 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, opposing counsel, and the nature and date of disposition.

While a defense attorney, I represented several clients on appeal. The cases below are representative of the types of cases I handled.

State of Missouri v. Steven J. Seuferling (WD67866)

Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District

Party Represented: Respondent
Opposing Counsel: J. Bartley Spears
Disposition Date: November 20, 2007
State's appeal dismissed based on finding that double jeopardy precluded further criminal proceedings in the Circuit Court.

Gerardo Cisneros-Gutierrez v. United States (10-5711)

United States Supreme Court

Party Represented: Petitioner

Opposing Counsel: Office of the Solicitor General

Disposition Date: January 18, 2011

The Solicitor General waived response, but the Supreme Court, after conference, required the filing of a responsive brief. The case was distributed for conference a second time, but the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari was eventually denied.

United States v. Tamiko Grandison (14-1381)

United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Party Represented: Appellant

Opposing Counsel: Charles Ambrose

Disposition Date: March 26, 2015

Conviction affirmed, but the Court agreed that sentencing guidelines were improperly calculated to the prejudice of appellant. The Court vacated the sentence and remanded the case for resentencing.

United States v. Robert J. Gross (20-3167)

United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Party Represented: Appellant (on brief)

Opposing Counsel: Brian Casey

Disposition Date: January 24, 2022

The Court agreed that one of the counts of conviction lacked sufficient evidence to support the jury's finding of guilt. That conviction was vacated, and the case was remanded for resentencing.

Roy L. House, Jr. v. United States (20-00650-CV-RK)

United States District Court, Western District of Missouri

Party Represented: Movant

Opposing Counsel: Bruce A. Rhoades

Disposition Date: September 16, 2020

The Court granted Movant's Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Judgment, resulting in one count of a conviction to be overturned and a 120-month sentence to be vacated.

13. 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.

Shortly after being appointed to the bench, I was assigned to the Family Justice Center, where I hear cases related to allegations of abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, juvenile status offenses, termination of parental rights, and adoption. I currently have over two hundred cases assigned to my division. Regarding abuse and neglect, delinquency, and status cases, I typically receive the cases during the pretrial stages, conduct the adjudication and dispositional hearings, and then continue to preside over the cases while the children remain under the jurisdiction of the court.

14. If you are serving or have served in a judicial capacity, provide a representative list of at least ten cases over which you have presided to completion. The list should include the style of each case, counsel for each party, and the nature and date of disposition.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2316-JU000554)

Counsel for Mother: Kevin Stanley

Guardian ad Litem: David Suroff

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Shaheed Hayes

Disposition Date: September 8, 2025

The pleading alleged the child, who was already under the jurisdiction of the court in a delinquency matter, was in need of care because the mother failed to provide for the child's mental health needs. Upon the close of the state's evidence, the attorney for the mother moved to dismiss the pleading for failure to present evidence sufficient to prove the allegations by clear and convincing evidence. The Court granted the motion to dismiss and continued the jurisdiction of the court over the child, pursuant to earlier orders in the delinquency matter.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2516-JU000134)

Counsel for Mother: Rebecca Auriemma

Guardian ad Litem: Shambria Dale

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Sara Konzak

Disposition Date: July 17, 2025

The petition alleged the child was without a proper guardian, in that the child had been living with his grandmother because the mother and the father did not provide for the child. The grandmother was without legal authority to meet the medical and legal needs of the child. The mother stipulated to the allegations but the father failed to appear for adjudication after receiving proper notice. Following evidence, the Court granted the petition and committed the child to the custody of the Children's Division for placement with the grandmother.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2316-JU000348)

Guardian ad Litem: Sarah Ginther

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Lori Stipp

Disposition Date: October 9, 2025

This was a petition to terminate the parental rights of both parents. The parents, after failing to remedy the issues that brought the child into care in the underlying abuse and neglect case, failed to appear for the adjudication hearing after receiving proper notice. The Court terminated their parental rights to the child.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2516-JU000150)

Counsel for Mother: Phillip Thompson

Guardian ad Litem: Kenisha Sanderson

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Sara Konzak

Disposition Date: Pending final disposition

The petition alleged a baby was in need of care, because of failing to gain weight and housing instability. After adjudication, the Court sustained the petition. The Dispositional Hearing has not yet occurred.

In re: Jane Doe (Sealed Case)(2416-JU000561)

Counsel for Father: Amanda Marshall

Guardian ad Litem (Mother): Katie Myer

Guardian ad Litem (Child): Kenisha Sanderson

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Sara Konzak

Disposition Date: August 13, 2025

The petition alleged the child was in need of care due to the mother's untreated mental illness and the father's inability to safely parent the child at the time the child was taken into temporary protective custody. The Court sustained the petition and placed the child into the custody of the Children's Division for appropriate placement.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2516-JU000211)

Counsel for Juvenile: Erich Fonke

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Shaheed Hayes

Disposition Date: May 23, 2025

This was a delinquency matter, which alleged Property Damage in the First Degree, Felony Resisting Arrest, and Behaviors Injurious to the Child. At the close of evidence, the attorney for the juvenile officer dismissed the property damage count, and the Court sustained the remaining allegations. The Court placed the juvenile on probation.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2516-JU000065)

Counsel for Mother: Megan Roth

Guardian ad Litem (Father): Laurie Snell

Guardian ad Litem (Child): Kenisha Sanderson

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Sara Konzak

Disposition Date: July 7, 2025

The petition alleged that the child was abused by the mother and that the father was not able to parent the child, as he was detained in a mental health facility pending competency restoration in a criminal matter. The mother stipulated to amended allegations and the matter continued to adjudication as to the allegations against the father. The Court sustained the petition and placed the child into the custody of the Children's Division for appropriate placement.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2416-JU000480)

Counsel for Mother: Steven Sakoulas

Guardian ad Litem: Kenisha Sanderson

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Sara Konzak

Disposition Date: April 3, 2025

The petition alleged that a teenage child was at risk, absent the court's intervention, after the mother left the child at a hospital when he was ready for discharge. The Court did not sustain the petition and released the child to the custody of his mother.

In re: John Doe (Sealed Case)(2516-JU000226)

Counsel for Youth: Megan Roth

Guardian ad Litem: Sarah Ginther

Attorney for the Children's Division: Devin Rodriguez

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Abigale Lawson

Disposition Date: Pending final disposition

The petition alleged that a teenage child with significant mental health issues was in need of care upon the deaths of his mother and stepfather. His father is previously deceased. The Court sustained the petition, continuing temporary legal custody of the child until a final disposition hearing.

In re: John Doe and Jane Doe (Sealed Case)(2516-JU000389/390)

Counsel for Mother: Cody Von Byrd

Guardian ad Litem: Catherine Wiehl

Attorney for the Juvenile Officer: Shaheed Hayes

Disposition Date: September 26, 2025

The petition alleged that the children were in need of care, because the mother refused to pick them up from detention after they had been detained in a delinquency matter. The Court sustained the petition and ordered that the children be placed in the custody of the mother under the supervision of the Children's Division.

15. 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 Circuit Judge.

Not applicable

16. List all bar associations and law-related organizations of which you are or have been a member, with any offices held and dates of membership.

Missouri Bar Association, 1999 – Present

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, 2002 – Present (except 2020 – 2022)

- **Chair, Criminal Law Committee, 2008 and 2014**
- **Escalating leadership positions in the Criminal Law Section from 2015, culminating in serving as President in 2018**
- **As President of the Criminal Law Section, I simultaneously served on the Board of Directors**

17. List any published articles or books you have authored and any significant programs or

events for which you served as a primary speaker.

While in private practice, I served as a “Master” for the Ross T. Roberts Inn of Court (now the Trial Academy), where I assisted in teaching trial skills to junior attorneys participating in the program. Now that I am on the bench, I am again scheduled to serve as a mentor during the upcoming session of the Trial Academy.

On May 29, 2025, I was the guest speaker to justice-engaged juveniles at the Family Court Services’ “Victim Awareness Program.”

On October 13, 2025, I spoke to two sections of Advanced Government students at Notre Dame de Sion High School about the role of the Family Court and my experiences as both an associate circuit judge and trial attorney.

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

From 2008 to 2009, I served as Special Counsel for the Jackson County, Missouri, Ethics Commission. I was appointed to the position by then Jackson County Counselor Mark Jones.

19. 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.

I served as an infantry officer in the United States Army from May 1989 to October 1994. I was honorably discharged.

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

I am a member of the Board of Directors of MO Hives KC, which is a non-profit engaged in putting bee farms on vacant urban lots in Kansas City. The organization provides experiential learning opportunities for city kids and volunteers. While a violent crimes prosecutor, I responded to a murder scene near the organization’s primary apiary. Shortly after, I began to volunteer at the apiary with one of my daughters. I joined the board in 2025.

I am a member of a volunteer organization associated with St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. I previously held leadership positions within the organization. Members of the organization engage in service and fundraising activities for the parish and other non-profit agencies. The largest fundraising activities engaged in by the organization benefit a program that provides inclusive educational opportunities for children with special needs.

While my daughters attended St. Elizabeth Catholic School, I held a variety of

volunteer positions within the school community, including serving on the School Advisory Council (school board), the Athletic Committee, and coaching soccer and basketball.

I previously volunteered to distribute food at the Derrick Thomas & Neil Smith Third and Long Foundation Thanksgiving Food Drive, providing food baskets to needy families and area food pantries.

While a community prosecutor in 2001 and 2002, I served on the Kansas City Crime Commission's Metropolitan Community Service Board and the KCPD Community Police Steering Committee.

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

Finalist, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Thomas J. Conway Award (2003)

"Best of the Bar – Criminal Defense," *The Kansas City Business Journal* (2009)

"Super Lawyer – Criminal Defense," *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2009 – 2020)

Jackson County Prosecutor's Office "Albert A. Riederer Award" for work with victims (2022)

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

I am not delinquent in the payment of any federal, state, county, or city taxes.

23. 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.

I have never been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony offense or received a suspended imposition of sentence in any federal, state, or military court.

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

I have never been held in contempt of court.

25. 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 a party including were you the petitioner, respondent, plaintiff, or defendant, and the nature and date of disposition.

I have never been sued by a client and have never been a party to any litigation.

26. 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.

I have never been disciplined or cited or breach of ethics or professional conduct by a court or by any bar association or committee thereof.

27. If you are or were a member of the judiciary of the State of Missouri, 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.

An order of reprimand, removal, retirement, suspension or other disciplinary action has never been entered against me by the Supreme Court of Missouri for breach of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Canons of Judicial Conduct.

- (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.

A reprimand or admonishment has never been entered against me 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.

- (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 the nature of such complaint and the status of the investigation.

I am not the subject of a complaint that is currently under investigation by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline.

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

Throughout the course of my legal education and career, I have been fortunate to appear in front of or otherwise watch judges in several city, state, and federal courts in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and Texas. These experiences have shown me what a good judge looks like.

Similarly, I had the opportunity early in my career to work as a law clerk for the Honorable John R. O'Malley, a Jackson County circuit judge. Judge O'Malley

stressed the importance of being a person of good character when representing parties in the courtroom. He even converted a “No Smoking” sign to a “No Lying” sign that he displayed on the bench. We had several conversations about the importance of judges, attorneys, and staff being people of integrity, so jurors, witnesses, victims, and others interacting with the court system knew that the system would treat them justly, regardless of who won a particular case. Judge O’Malley was particularly protective of the concept of the jury trial, demonstrating his belief that having a jury of one’s peers is the most important safeguard a party has in our court system. He always did his best to ensure that the voir dire process was not manipulated to exclude particular classes of people.

In a system where justice frequently has one side winning and the other side losing, it is important that the system be fair. It is a judge’s responsibility to provide that sense of fairness in the system. As an associate circuit judge, I daily do my best to be mindful of the lessons Judge O’Malley taught me and to emulate the characteristics of the good judges I have seen during my career, so the parties appearing in front of me know that, even if they do not prevail in the courtroom, they have been fairly heard.

Additionally, over the course of the twenty-five years I have practiced law, I have become more empathetic. In criminal cases, I represented victims and their families as well as defendants and their families. In civil cases, I represented injured people and the corporations compelled to defend against their claims. Now on the bench in Family Court, I am given the authority to separate children from their families, a power not to be exercised frivolously. One cannot have these experiences without learning compassion for all whom the court system touches.

Finally, the breadth of my experience provides me the legal knowledge and ability to do the job of being a circuit judge. Throughout my career as a litigator and more recently in the role of an associate circuit judge, I have demonstrated an aptitude for considering issues, applying the law to the facts of a case, and communicating findings in a clear and concise way, whether in the courtroom or in writing. I am fully prepared to do the job of circuit judge.

29. 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 Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

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