

**RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC
IF THE APPLICANT IS SELECTED AS A NOMINEE**



NAME: Tanja C. Engelhardt

1. **State your present principal occupation:** Assistant Circuit Attorney-Chief Homicide.
2. **Answer the following:**
 - (a) **Are you at least 30 years of age? (Please answer if you are applying for a circuit judge vacancy.)** yes
 - (b) **Are you at least 25 years of age? (Please answer if you are applying for an associate judge vacancy.)** yes
 - (c) **Have you been a citizen of the United States for at least ten years?** yes
 - (d) **Have you been a resident of St. Louis City for at least one year?** yes
 - (e) **Have you been a qualified voter of Missouri for at least three years?** yes
3. **For each jurisdiction in which you are or have been licensed to practice, state:**
 - (a) **The name of the jurisdiction.**
Missouri and Illinois
 - (b) **The date you were admitted to that bar and, if applicable, ceased to be a member of that bar.**
Missouri: October 2, 2000
Illinois: April 15, 2020; membership ceased in 2024
 - (c) **Your bar number** MO 50033; IL ARDC No. 6334148
4. **State the name and address of each post-high school educational institution you have attended, together with the dates and any degree received:**
 - University of Missouri-St. Louis, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121; *Bachelor of Arts in Political Science*, 1997.
 - St. Louis University, 100 N. Tucker, Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101-1930

5. List each position of employment you have held, beginning with your earliest, including non-legal employment, and for each state:

- **Pratt's Pharmacy**, Festus, MO (no longer in operation)
 - Stock Person/Cashier
 - 1986-1988
 - Part-time
 - Pursued employment that offered more hours
- **Venture Dept. Store**, Festus MO (no longer in operation)
 - Salesperson and Customer Service Representative
 - 1988-1990
 - Part-time
 - Moved to St. Louis to begin college
- **University of Missouri-St. Louis**, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121
 - Receptionist/clerk (Work-study program), Department of Political Science
 - 1990-1991; 1992-1994.
 - Part-time
 - Took leave of absence due to death in family
- **Paul Harris Clothing Store**, St. Louis Centre, St. Louis, MO (no longer in operation)
 - Part-time salesclerk
 - 1990-1991
 - Sought better pay
- **The Limited**, 1155 St. Louis Galleria, St. Louis, MO 63117 (no longer in operation)
 - Salesperson and Customer Service Representative
 - 1991-1995
 - Part-time
 - Started full-time employment
- **Bethesda Childcare Center**, 9645 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis MO 63122
 - Pre-school teacher
 - 1992-1993
 - Part-time
- **Bright Horizons Childcare Center**, 6150 Oakland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139
 - Early Childhood Educator
 - Aug. 1994-January 1997
 - Part-Time
 - Left for full-time employment

- **A.G. Edwards and Sons**, 211 North Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102
 - Commissions Account Analyst
 - Full time
 - March 1997-August 1997
 - Entered Law School

- **McCarthy, Leonard, Kammerer, Owen, Lampkin & McGovern LLC**, 825 Maryville Centre Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017
 - Law clerk
 - 1998-1999
 - Part-time
 - Sought employment with family law firm

- **Zerman & Mogermann, LLC**, 100 S. Brentwood Blvd., Ste. 325 St. Louis, MO 63105
 - Law clerk
 - October 1999-February 2000
 - Part-time
 - Began internship with St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office

- **St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office**, 1520 Market St., Room 201, St. Louis, MO 63103
 - Law clerk through St. Louis University's Prosecution Clinic
 - January 2000-June 2000
 - Part-time
 - Internship concluded

- **St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office**, 1114 Market St. Room 401, St. Louis, MO 63101
 - Assistant Circuit Attorney
 - Misdemeanor Attorney
 - General Felony Attorney
 - Violent Crime Attorney
 - Misdemeanor Trial Coach
 - Special Victims Unit Leader
 - October 2, 2000-June 23, 2017
 - Full-time
 - Change in leadership

- **Pitzer-Snodgrass P.C.**, St. Louis, MO
 - Associate
 - June 2017-March 2018
 - Full-time
 - Insurance defense
 - Sought employment with another firm

- **Gori Julian & Associates, P.C.**, 156 N. Main St., Edwardsville, IL

- Associate
- March 2018-June 2023
- Full-time
- Accepted a position with the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office

▪ **St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office**

- Assistant Circuit Attorney
 - Violent Crimes Unit Leader
 - Chief Homicide Attorney
 - Executive Staff Member
- June 2023 –Present
- Full-time

6. If you have served as a judge or commissioner, identify up to five significant cases over which you presided to completion. Set forth the style, cause number, date and name and current address of the primary attorneys participating in each case, identifying the party each attorney represented. Indicate whether bench or jury tried and give a one to three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

I have not served as a judge or commissioner.

7. List up to ten cases which you have tried as either first or second chair. Set forth the style, cause number, date, court and judge, and identify who you represented, whether you were first or second chair, and the name and address of opposing counsel. Indicate whether each case was bench or jury tried and provide a one to three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

- State of Missouri v. Daniel Riley 2322-CR00297-01, March 6, 2024
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit, City of St. Louis, tried before Hon. Michael Noble
 - Opposing counsel: Daniel Diemer 225 Meramec Ave., Ste. 528, St. Louis, MO 63105
 - I served as first chair for the State of Missouri.
 - Charges: Assault 2nd Degree, Armed Criminal Action, Assault 4th Degree, and Operating Vehicle on Highway Without a Valid License.
 - Facts: During a volleyball tournament in downtown St. Louis, defendant sped through the streets, violated a traffic signal, and struck a parked vehicle. A young volleyball player's legs were crushed in the collision, causing her to have both legs amputated.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.
- State of Missouri v. Tyone Williams 2222-CR01334, October 30, 2023
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit, City of St. Louis, tried before Hon. Theresa Counts-Burke
 - Opposing counsel: Mary Hirsch, Missouri State Public Defenders Office, 1114 Market St., 6th Fl, St. Louis, MO 63101
 - I served as first chair for the State of Missouri
 - Charges: Murder 1st Degree and Armed Criminal Action
 - Facts: Defendant and Victim each had children with W1. Victim lived across the street from W1 and co-parented with her. Defendant continued to visit W1 beyond

just seeing the children. He also drove her car at will. Victim was unhappy with the relationship between Defendant and W1 and made that clear to Defendant in a verbal confrontation. That confrontation later led to a fist fight between Victim and Defendant and Defendant left the area. Later that night, Defendant drove W1's car to her house and parked across the street. As W1 removed her child from the rear seat, Defendant began firing at Victim. Victim returned fire and collapsed in the street after being fatally shot by Defendant. At trial, the defense asserted self-defense through Defendant's testimony.

- Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.
- State of Missouri v. Thomas Kinworthy 2022-CR01505-01, April 19, 2024
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, jury trial before Hon. Elizabeth Hogan.
 - Opposing Counsel: Brian Horney, and Annie Lemgowski, Missouri State Public Defenders Office, 1114 Market St., 6th fl., St. Louis, MO 63101
 - I served as second-chair for the State of Missouri.
 - Charges: Murder 1st Degree, Armed Criminal Action, Assault 1st Degree -Special Victim, Armed Criminal Action, Assault 1st Degree, Armed Criminal Action, Burglary 1st Degree, Armed Criminal Action and Resisting Arrest .
 - Facts: Defendant was a fugitive from Florida and fled the state. He appeared in a South St. Louis neighborhood, shot an unhoused man and unlawfully occupied a house by forcing his way inside at gunpoint. While armed with two firearms, Defendant barricaded himself in the home. When police arrived on scene, he shot an officer in the head, killing him. The defendant also shot a second officer during a police stand-off involving the SWAT unit. The defense argued that Defendant suffered from a mental disease or defect.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.
- State of Missouri v. Dyanthony Proudie (1322-CR01059-01), 10/20/2014
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, jury trial before Hon. Rex Burlison
 - Opposing Counsel: Brad Kessler 1401 South Brentwood, Ste. 1401, Brentwood, MO 63144 (314 720-5476)
 - I served as first-chair for the State of Missouri.
 - Charges: Murder 1st Degree and Armed Criminal Action.
 - Facts: Domestic Violence case where a young mother travelled to St. Louis with her infant son to visit relatives. While in town, she visited friends, including Defendant with whom she had a prior romantic relationship. While preparing a bath for her son, Defendant shot her in the head, killing her. Afterward, he ordered his tenant to put the victim in the trunk of her car and abandon the car several blocks away. He forced his teenaged nephews to use bleach to clean the blood and other biological evidence left at the residence. Finally, he left the infant in the lobby of an apartment building where he was later found.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.
- State of Missouri v. Rico Combs (1322-CR03925-01), 02/02/2015

- 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, jury trial before Hon. Jimmie Edwards
 - Opposing Counsel: Annette Lewellyn, Missouri State Public Defenders Office, 1114 Market St., 6th fl., St. Louis, MO 63101
 - I served as first chair for the State of Missouri.
 - Charges: Murder 1st, Armed Criminal Action, Assault 1st, Armed Criminal Action, Domestic Assault 1st, Armed Criminal Action, Endangering the Welfare of Child 1st, Armed Criminal Action, Endangering the Welfare of a Child 1st, , Armed Criminal Action, Endangering the Welfare of a Child 1st, Armed Criminal Action, Domestic Assault 3rd, and Domestic Assault 1st.
 - Facts: Domestic Violence case wherein Defendant committed a home invasion of a residence where his estranged wife and children were staying with friends. Defendant went on a shooting rampage killing one person, shooting two others, including the children's mother. The children were present during the violent attack.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.
- State of Missouri v. Juan Shepard (1222-CR03077-01), 06/16/2014
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, jury trial before Hon. Steven Ohmer
 - Opposing Counsel: Robert Taaffe, Jr., Missouri State Public Defenders Office, 1114 Market St., 6th fl., St. Louis, MO 63101
 - I served as First chair for the State of Missouri.
 - Charges: Two counts of Rape with a Weapon
 - Facts: Twenty-year-old Rape case solved through DNA. Victim was acquainted with Defendant as they were from the same neighborhood. She knew him as "Antwon." In January 1994, Defendant picked Victim up from her house. Victim got into Defendant's car and noticed another man inside. They drove around and ultimately arrived at an apartment Victim associated with Defendant. Defendant asked Victim to come to the bedroom to talk and she agreed. A short time, she stood up to leave as she was feeling uncomfortable. Defendant and the other male refused to let Victim leave the room. Defendant displayed a .357 revolver and led her back to the room along with the other suspect. At gunpoint, the two men each raped Victim. Victim was treated at a local hospital and a rape kit was performed. DNA from the rape kit matched Defendant's DNA.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.
- State of Missouri v. Everette Hill-McAfee (1422-CR01200), 03/14/2016 and State of Missouri v. Niesha Hampton (1422-01203), 08/02/2016
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, jury trial before Hon. Timothy Wilson
 - Opposing Counsel: Sara Godon, Missouri State Public Defenders Office for Hill-McAfee and Matt Vigil for Hampton, 100 N Tucker Blvd, Ste 704, St. Louis, MO 63101.
 - I served as First Chair for the State of Missouri.

- Charges: (Hill-McAfee) Statutory Rape 1st, Statutory Sodomy 1st Child Molestation 1st, Statutory Sodomy 2nd, Statutory Sodomy 1st, Statutory Sodomy 2nd.
 - Charges: (Hampton) Statutory Rape 1st, Statutory Sodomy 1st; Child Molestation 1st Degree.
 - Facts: Victim, was between 11 and 12 years old when Victim was reported to have inappropriately touched his younger male cousin. After that, Victim's mother sent him to live with Defendant, his father. While in Defendant's custody, Defendant would make Victim watch and participate with Defendant and co-Defendant during sexual acts. Defendant alleged he did this to ensure that Victim would not be homosexual.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State against both Defendants
- State of Missouri v. Aaron Robinson (0722-CR07110-01), 03/22/2010
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, jury trial before Hon. Edward Sweeney
 - Opposing counsel: Matt Waltz, Missouri State Public Defenders Office, 1114 Market St., Room 600, St. Louis MO 631001.
 - I served as First Chair for the State of Missouri.
 - Charges: Murder 1st Degree and Armed Criminal Action
 - Facts: Defendant shot the Victim after the Defendant confronted him over an argument from the previous night. The Defendant hit the victim in the head with a pistol and then shot him. The victim turned to run, and the defendant shot him again. The victim fell to the ground and tried to crawl away, and the defendant stood over him and shot him several more times, causing his death.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.
 - State of Missouri v. Ricky Lane, Jr. (1122-CR04823-01), 01/08/2013
 - 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, jury trial before Hon. John Garvey
 - Opposing counsel: Robert Taaffe, Taaffe and Associates
 - I served as First Chair for the State of Missouri.
 - Charges: Robbery 1st, Armed Criminal Action, Robbery 1st, Armed Criminal Action
 - Facts: Defendant robbed two Family Dollar stores over two consecutive days. Both were captured on surveillance video and the video was disseminated via Crimestoppers. An anonymous person identified the suspect as the defendant. When defendant was arrested, he had a freshly cropped haircut, rather than the long dreadlocks he had during the robbery. Identification was the main issue, and I endorsed a police officer who knew the defendant from a local boxing gym to testify to his identity in the surveillance video.
 - Jury Verdicts were reached in favor of the State.

8. List up to ten appeals or writs before appellate courts which you have briefed or argued. Set forth the style, cause number, date, and court, and identify who you

represented, whether you briefed, argued or both, and the name and address of opposing counsel. Provide a one to three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

I have not written any appeals or writs to date.

9. **Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?**
If yes, provide details, including the style of the case, cause number, name of the jurisdiction, and date of conviction.

No.

10. **Have you ever been a party to any litigation, other than as guardian ad litem, plaintiff ad litem or defendant ad litem?**
If yes, identify the style of the case, cause number, name of the jurisdiction and the approximate year in which such litigation was commenced and in which it was terminated, and provide a one to three sentence description of the case and its outcome.

Engelhardt v. Engelhardt 17SL-DR04154 FC Dissolution-w/Children 21st Judicial Circuit, St. Louis County MO. I was the respondent. Case resolved after joint dismissal on 09/06/2018. Litigation commenced on July 19, 2017.

Engelhardt v. Engelhardt 22SL-DR03669 FC Dissolution w/Children 21st Judicial Circuit, St. Louis County, MO. I was the respondent. Case resolved through settlement. Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage filed 09/28/2023. Litigation commenced on July 5, 2022.

On August 27, 2024, my license to practice law was suspended for failure to resolve a dispute with the Department of Revenue. During the tax period at issue, I was going through a divorce and financial matters were unresolved. On September 9, 2024, I filed Notice to the Court of my suspension and filed my Petition for Reinstatement after Suspension for Tax Issues with Exhibits. On September 16, 2024, the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel filed its response to my Petition for Reinstatement with no objection to my reinstatement and I was reinstated on that date.

11. **Have you ever been investigated, disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or professional conduct by a court, bar association, or any office or committee thereof?**
If yes, provide details.
12. **Have you ever been held in contempt of court?**
If yes, provide details.

No.

- 13. 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 yes, state the nature of such breach, the date discipline was imposed and the exact 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 yes, provide details including date the order was entered, the date of your consent, and a description of the conduct you were ordered to cease and desist.**
 - (b) Whether, to your knowledge, you have been the subject of a complaint and investigation by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline, which did not result in any action by the Commission? If yes, provide details.**

I am not nor have I ever been a member of the Judiciary of the State of Missouri.

- 14. List all bar associations and other professional societies, of which you are a member, with any offices held and dates.**

The Women Lawyers Association of Greater St. Louis, Member 2025- present.
Missouri Office of Prosecuting Attorneys 2000-2017; 2023-present

- 15. Describe your community activities, including any organizations not listed above, with which you are affiliated.**

St. Joseph's Croatian Church

Missouri Botanical Garden Member: I enjoy gardening and participating in the classes and events the garden offers.

Backstoppers: I fully support Backstoppers as I have seen first-hand the pain, grief and agony officers and their families suffer as a result of injury or death while protecting our community. I have tried several cases over the course of my career in which officers have been killed or left with debilitating injuries. The support that Backstoppers offers officers and their families is simply remarkable.

- 16. Do you now hold or have you ever held any elective or appointive public office or position?**
If yes, provide details.

No.

17. Provide the branches and dates of (a) military service, or (b) other public service, not otherwise covered in this application. If discharged from the military, was the discharge other than honorable?

n/a

18. List any professional articles or books which have been published or any special recognition or award of a professional nature which you have received.

n/a

19. Furnish the name, address, telephone number, and email address of up to five individuals, who are not judges, as references with respect to your judicial qualifications

a. Gabriel Gore
St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office
1114 Market St., Room 401
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 622-4845
Simmonse@stlouiscao.org

b. Ret. Hon. Bryan L. Hettenbach
11065 S. 18th St.
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c. Jennifer Dunn
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(314) 518-5274
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d. Ret. Lt. Col. Jerry Leyshock
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St. Louis, MO 63109
(314) 712-3839
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e. Jason Steinmeyer
The Gori Law Firm
156 N. Main St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618)616-0197
jsteinmeyer@gorilaw.com

20. Set forth any additional information that demonstrates the quality of your legal work or which you believe to be relevant.

After nearly 25 years as an Assistant Circuit Attorney and private attorney, I have developed and consistently applied core values that guide my work and my commitment to doing what is right. I am confident this experience will serve me equally well as a member of the bench. These values, integrity, professionalism, courage, legal knowledge, decisiveness, compassion, ethical leadership, and commitment to justice will be the foundation of my judicial philosophy.

Integrity and Professional Excellence

As an officer of the Court, I have maintained unwavering adherence to legal and ethical standards in both my personal and professional conduct. My charging decisions are guided solely by facts and applicable law, regardless of external pressures from law enforcement or victims who may disagree with my assessments. This principled approach has earned me respect across the legal community and demonstrates my readiness for the impartial decision-making required of a judge.

I demonstrate professionalism through thorough case preparation, punctual court appearances, and respectful advocacy, even when disagreeing with opposing counsel or the Court. My approach emphasizes competent legal analysis presented with courtesy and respect for all participants in the judicial process.

Courage in Decision-Making

Throughout my career, I have made difficult decisions that prioritize legal integrity over popular opinion. When evidence fails to support criminal elements, I have declined to file charges despite outside influence. Similarly, I have dismissed cases post-filing when circumstances warranted, standing firm in my legal analysis despite potential criticism. This courage to make principled decisions, even when unpopular, is essential for judicial independence.

Commitment to Continuous Learning

I maintain my current legal knowledge through regular CLE attendance, studying recent case law, and staying abreast of statutory changes. I serve as a legal source within the Circuit Attorney's Office, as well as a mentor to young lawyers seeking legal guidance and coaching. This commitment to lifelong learning ensures I can provide accurate legal guidance and sound judicial decisions across diverse areas of law.

Decisive Leadership

Recognizing that timely decisions are crucial to an effective justice system, I practice decisiveness in my prosecutorial role through prompt warrant reviews, efficient grand jury proceedings, and thorough trial preparation. While I give appropriate weight to important decisions, I understand that delayed rulings frustrate litigants and impede justice. As a judge, I will balance careful deliberation with a timely resolution.

Compassion and Composure

My experience with trauma victims and contrite defendants has taught me to combine empathy with professional composure while maintaining the rule of law. I listen fully to those who have

endured terrible experiences, offering them respect and dignity while maintaining the objectivity necessary for fair legal proceedings. This balance of compassion and professionalism will serve me well in addressing the human elements present in every case while ensuring equal justice under law.

Mentorship and Ethical Leadership

As a supervisor of attorneys for more than 11 years, I have mentored dozens of prosecutors, demonstrating ethical leadership through example. I take seriously my responsibility to coach and counsel young members of the criminal justice system with the utmost respect. I regularly include less experienced attorneys as second chairs in trials, providing hands-on training in legal ethics, courtroom advocacy, and professional conduct. This commitment to developing the next generation of legal professionals reflects my dedication to the broader legal community and the administration of justice.

Commitment to Justice

My fundamental commitment to justice means prioritizing legal principles over personal feelings or external pressures when making decisions. Whether as a prosecutor evaluating charges or potentially as a judge ruling on motions and sentencing, I am guided by the law's requirements rather than emotional considerations. This approach ensures a consistent, fair application of legal standards that upholds public confidence in our judicial system.

My quarter-century of experience in the criminal justice system and civil legal community, combined with the core values I hold, has prepared me to serve the citizens of St. Louis with the fairness, competence, and integrity they deserve from their judiciary.