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



NAME: Karma Johnson

- 1. State your present principal occupation: Municipal Judge and Attorney
- 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;

State of Missouri State of Illinois

(b) The date you were admitted to that bar and, if applicable, ceased to be a member of that bar; and

20132018

(c) Your bar number.

65552 6330788 4. State the name and address of each post-high school educational institutions you have attended, together with the dates and any degree received:

Saint Louis University

- One North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103
- summer 1995; Fall 1996 Spring 1997
- No degree received

University of Missouri- St. Louis

- 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121
- Fall 1997 Spring 2000
- Bachelor of Science Criminology and Criminal Justice

University of Missouri- Columbia

- 203 Hulston Hall, Columbia, MO 65211
- \bullet 2009 2012
- Juris Doctor
- 5. List each position of employment you have held, beginning with your earliest, including non-legal employment, and for each state:
 - (a) The name and address of the employer;
 - (b) The position(s) you held;
 - (c) The dates of employment;
 - (d) Whether the employment was full, part-time, or seasonal; and
 - (e) The reason(s) the employment ceased.

See attached Employment Addendum

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.

As a municipal judge, I preside over cases predominately involving traffic violations, minor criminal offenses, and earnings tax cases. I treat each case before me with the same level of significance, in order to ensure the most objective and fairest outcome to the parties, within the parameters of the law.

City of St. Louis v. Frank J. Mack (cause #25S2-MU01263)

- Bench tried July 2, 2025
- The City of St. Louis was represented by Assistant City Counselor Christopher Carenza (1520 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103)
- Defendant (who was not represented by counsel) was charged with violating the City's trespass ordinance. The City presented evidence through police officer testimony, and the pro se litigant presented testimonial and digital evidence, after

which Defendant was found guilty. Defendant thanked the Court for conducting a fair trial and allowing him to be heard, and paid the court-imposed fine before leaving the courthouse.

City of St. Louis v. Brian W. Collier, Sr. (cause #240015103)

- Bench tried September 4, 2024
- The City of St. Louis was represented by Assistant City Counselor Richard Sykora (1520 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103)
- Defendant (who was not represented by counsel) was charged with speeding, in a construction zone. The City presented evidence through police officer testimony and digital evidence, and the pro se litigant presented testimonial evidence. Defendant was found guilty and assessed a fine.
- 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.

See attached Trials Addendum

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.

N/A

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.

See Litigation Addendum

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.

No

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.

No

- (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.
- (c) Whether, to your knowledge, you have been a 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.

 No
- 14. List all bar associations and other professional societies, of which you are a member, with any offices held and dates.

Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (2018-2020)

Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers (2018-2019)

Mound City Bar Association (2013-2016; 2019-2022)

Tabernacle Community Development Corporation-Board Director (2019-Present)

Women Lawyers' Association of Greater St. Louis (2021-2022)

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

During my active years in Mound City Bar Association, I have served on the Pipeline to Success Committee and participated in the M.C.B.A. Mentoring Program. To this day, I maintain mentoring relationships with some of the young attorneys with whom I was paired. Through my affiliation with BAMSL, I volunteered for the holiday parties for youth with incarcerated parents. I have served as a presenter and judge for mock trials conducted at the high school and collegiate level. I have also served as a panelist for various organizations whose outreach focuses underserved on populations. Until recently, each Thanksgiving morning my family and I volunteered to feed unhoused and indigent individuals. Most recently, I was selected for Louisiana State University's Family Council, to serve as a liaison between LSU's leadership, students, and families.

I have always found fulfillment in serving youth and young adults. After spending over a decade helping high school students prepare for and apply for college, in 2022 I created a service that provides individualized assistance to high school students with the college application process, at no cost to the families I serve. I assist the students with composing their personal statement, researching admissions requirements for colleges of interest,

preparing their college application(s), and identifying and applying for scholarships to make college more attainable. Many of the students I have worked with over the years have graduated from college, and some have pursued graduate degrees. Throughout the process, I also try to impart words of wisdom upon the students about student loans, responsibly managing credit card debt, and other aspects of financial literacy that impact many college students years after graduating.

16. Do you now hold or have you ever held any elective or appointive public office or position?

If yes, provide details.

Yes. In March 2023, I was appointed to the position of Municipal Judge for the City of St. Louis. I continue to serve the City in this capacity.

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.

Andre Alexander 3801 Ashland Avenue St. Louis, MO 63107 314-800-8493

Micah Hall 15720 Brixham Hill Ave., Charlotte, NC 28277 314-621-4700 Micah@mhallfirm.com

Martin Minnegerode 3118 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63139 314-584-4500 martin@mmlawstl.com

Craig Ortwerth
3118 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63139
314-584-4500
cortwerth@gatewayinjurylaw.com

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

I have provided a Litigation Addendum to this application. Many of the cases on the Addendum arose from uninformed decisions I made at an early age, out of financial hardship and a lack of financial literacy. It should be noted that these cases arose from a set of facts that existed prior to me attending law school. My decision to attend law school was based, in part, on my determination to support my family financially and otherwise. As a result of these experiences, I have a unique perspective from the bench that allows me to be empathetic while making decisions that uphold the law.

As a municipal judge for the City of St. Louis, I am on the bench five days a week. I regularly preside over bulk dockets that range from 50 to 300 cases on any given day. Most of the individuals on these dockets are not represented by counsel. Further, many of the litigants are distrustful of the judicial system and/or do not understand the judicial process. I pride myself on ensuring that each individual is aware of their rights in municipal court, understands the court process, and is treated with dignity, regardless of the charge(s) before the Court. My tenure as a municipal judge has given me extensive experience in maintaining order and decorum in the courtroom, managing people in the courtroom, and developing systems and procedures to efficiently manage bulk dockets, all while maintaining Missouri Supreme Court minimum operating standards for municipal judges. My role as a municipal judge affords me the opportunity to collaborate with the Municipal Court Administrator and fellow municipal judges to evaluate and develop court policies and procedures that ultimately impact litigants and City residents.

When I am not on the bench, I am litigating cases involving abuse and neglect of minor children, in St. Louis County Juvenile Court. As a contract attorney, I may be appointed to serve as guardian ad litem for the minor child(ren), as guardian ad litem for a parent, or as counsel for a parent. In each capacity, I represent the individual and/or their interest in protective custody hearings, adjudication and disposition hearings, permanency hearings, adoption proceedings, termination of parental rights, and guardianship proceedings.

I also have years of quasi-judicial experience serving as an administrative hearing officer for the Parking Division of the City of St. Louis. In this capacity, I have conducted inperson and virtual hearings with individuals who wished to contest parking violations issued by the City of St. Louis and St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Upon conducting each hearing, examining evidence, and reviewing City parking ordinances, I prepared written findings of fact, conclusions of law, and determinations of liability or non-liability.

My experience as a practicing attorney, guardian ad litem, and municipal judge uniquely qualify me for judicial opportunities at the next level. My years at the Public Defender's Office, and subsequent years as a contract attorney for the Public Defender's Office, have equipped me with criminal litigation and trial experience. I have years of experience practicing family law, serving as a Guardian ad Litem, and conducting trials in Family Court. I have experience with complex civil litigation, having drafted and argued dispositive pre-trial motions and wrongful death settlement hearings in tort litigation and contract cases. Finally, I have experience managing the courtroom, and am acutely aware of the impact my decisions as a judge have on public safety, the city, and its residents.

Question #5: List each position of employment you have held, beginning with your earliest, including non-legal employment

- a) Grandpa Pidgeon's- previously located on Lewis & Clark Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63136
- b) Sales associate
- c) 1995-1996
- d) Part time
- e) Resigned to pursue employment at Sound Revolution
- a) Sound Revolution Music-previously located on Lewis & Clark Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63136
- b) Sales associate
- c) 1996
- d) Part time
- e) Resigned to start college
- a) Monsanto Company- previously located at 10300 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141
- b) Summer intern
- c) 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
- d) Seasonal-Full time
- e) Summer ended and school resumed
- a) Enterprise Rent-A-Car- 2650 S. Hanley Road, St. Louis, MO 63144
- b) Customer service representative
- c) 1997-1999
- d) Part time
- e) Resigned to pursue employment at Knights Limited
- a) Knights Limited LLC-8920 Pershall Road, St. Louis, MO 63042
- b) Customer service representative
- c) 1999-2000
- d) Part time
- e) Resigned to pursue full-time, post-graduation employment
- a) Solutia, Inc.- 575 Maryville Centre Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141
- b) Accounts Payable Account Analyst
- c) 2000-2001
- d) Full time
- e) Resigned to pursue employment at Washington University
- a) Washington University School of Law- 1 Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130
- b) Office Coordinator, Grants and Events Coordinator
- c) 2001-2009
- d) Full time
- e) Resigned to attend law school

- a) Missouri State Public Defender- 1000 W. Nifong Blvd, Columbia, MO 65203
- b) Summer law clerk
- c) 2010
- d) Seasonal-Full time
- e) Summer ended and law school resumed
- a) City of Kansas City (Civil Rights Division)- 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106
- b) Summer law clerk
- c) 2011
- d) Seasonal-Part time
- e) Summer ended and law school resumed
- a) Jackson County 16th Judicial Circuit Court- 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106
- b) Summer law clerk for the Hon. Gregory Gillis
- c) 2011
- d) Seasonal-Part time
- e) Summer ended and law school resumed
- a) Shelter Insurance Companies- 1817 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65218
- b) Law clerk, Office of General Counsel
- c) 2011-2013
- d) Part time
- e) Resigned to pursue full-time, post-graduation employment
- a) University of Missouri- 310 Jesse Hall, Columbia, MO 65211
- b) Institutional Review Board Compliance Specialist
- c) 2013
- d) Full time
- e) Resigned to obtain legal practice and trial experience
- a) Missouri State Public Defender- 1114 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63101
- b) Trial Attorney
- c) 2013-2015
- d) Full time
- e) Resigned to obtain civil litigation experience
- a) HeplerBroom LLC- 701 Market Street, Ste. 1400, St. Louis, MO 63101
- b) Associate Attorney
- c) 2015-2019
- d) Full time
- e) Resigned to obtain family law experience

- a) The Hall Law Firm- 326 S. 21st Street, St. Louis, MO 63103
- b) Attorney
- c) 2019-2020
- d) Full time
- e) Laid off at start of the COVID-19 pandemic
- a) The Law Office of Karma Q. Edwards- 3118 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63139
- b) Owner & Managing Partner
- c) 2020-Present
- d) 2020-2023: Full time; 2023-Present: Part time
- e) Currently employed
- a) City of St. Louis- 1520 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103
- b) Municipal Judge
- c) 2023-Present
- d) Full time
- e) Currently employed

Question #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.

- a) Walter Taylor, Jr. v. Melvin Potter (24SL-AC22497)
- b) Bench tried August 29, 2024
- c) St. Louis County; Judge Jason Denney
- d) Represented Plaintiff
- e) First Chair
- f) Defendant was not represented by counsel.
- g) Plaintiff sued Defendant Tenant for rent and possession after Defendant failed to pay rent and became a holdover tenant. Judgment entered in favor of Plaintiff for statutorily allowed "double rent," possession of property, and attorney's fees.
- a) C.H.N v. R.W. (2122-FC00531)
- b) Bench tried June 23, 2023
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge Nicole Colbert-Botchway
- d) Represented best interests of the minor child (Guardian ad Litem)
- e) First chair
- f) Neither Petitioner nor Respondent were represented by counsel.
- g) Petitioner filed a petition for child custody and support, and a Guardian ad Litem was appointed to investigate and provide a recommendation as to the best interest of the minor child. Following trial, the Court adopted the recommendations of the Guardian ad Litem (in its entirety) pertaining to custody and residential schedule of the minor child.
- a) S.P. v. A.G.F. (2122-FC00641)
- b) Bench tried September 27, 2022
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge Nicole Colbert-Botchway
- d) Represented best interests of the minor child (Guardian ad Litem)
- e) First chair
- f) Petitioner was represented by Diana Mallon (1520 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103). Respondent was not represented by counsel.
- g) Petitioner filed a petition for child custody and support. A Guardian ad Litem was appointed to investigate and provide a recommendation as to the best interest of the minor child. Following trial, the Court adopted the recommendations of the Guardian ad Litem (in its entirety) pertaining to custody and residential schedule of the minor child.
- a) L.Q.H. v. A.B. (2022-FC00957)
- b) Bench tried August 25, 2022 & September 16, 2022
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge John Bird
- d) Represented best interests of the minor child (Guardian ad Litem)
- e) First chair
- f) Petitioner was represented by Ann Bruntrager (34 N. Gore, Webster Groves, MO 63119). Respondent was represented by Felica Ezell-Gillespie (6101 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112).

- g) Petitioner filed a petition to establish paternity, and for child custody and support. A Guardian ad Litem was appointed to investigate and provide a recommendation as to the best interest of the minor child. Following a two-day trial, the Court largely adopted the recommendations of the Guardian ad Litem pertaining to custody and residential schedule of the minor child.
- a) T.S. et al. v. M.L. (2122-FC01748)
- b) Bench tried June 30, 2022
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge John Bird
- d) Represented best interests of the minor children (Guardian ad Litem)
- e) First chair
- f) Petitioner was represented by Laura Stobie (425 S. Woods Mill, Chesterfield, MO 63017). Respondent was not represented by counsel.
- g) Grandparent Petitioners filed a petition for third party custody. A Guardian ad Litem was appointed to investigate and provide a recommendation as to the best interest of the four minor children. Following trial, the Court adopted the recommendations of the Guardian ad Litem (in its entirety) pertaining to custody and residential schedule of the minor children.
- a) Park Ave. Apartments, LLC vs. Jamal Sadrud-Din and Clarine Esperance (1922-AC14377)
- b) Bench tried January 14, 2020
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge Lynne Perkins
- d) Represented Defendants
- e) First Chair
- f) Plaintiff was represented by David Fondren, 7037 Holly Hills Ave., St. Louis, MO 63123
- g) Plaintiff sued Defendants tenant for breaking a lease agreement. Plaintiff received a Judgment in their favor. Defendants later learned that Plaintiff gave possession of the unit to a new tenant, and was able to mitigate the Judgment amount.
- a) G.A. v. L.P. (1322-FC02646-03)
- b) Bench tried October 24, 2019
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge Theresa Counts Burke
- d) Represented best interests of the minor children (Guardian ad Litem)
- e) First Chair
- f) Petitioner represented by Freida Jones (408 N. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108). Respondent was pro se.
- g) Petitioner filed a motion to modify child custody and support, and a Guardian ad Litem was appointed to investigate and provide a recommendation as to the best interest of the two minor children. Following trial, the Court largely adopted the recommendations of the Guardian ad Litem pertaining to custody and residential schedule of the minor children.

- a) State of Missouri v. Michael Cardwell (1322-CR04288-01; 1422-CR03136)
- b) Jury tried October 20-22, 2014
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge Mark Neill
- d) Represented Defendant
- e) First Chair
- f) State of Missouri represented by Jerome McDonald (1114 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63101).
- g) Defendant was originally charged with two counts of Domestic Assault Second Degree (Felony), Armed Criminal Action (Felony), and Domestic Assault Third degree (Misdemeanor). After conducting discovery and depositions, the original charges were dismissed and refiled as Domestic Assault First Degree (Felony), Domestic Assault Second Degree (Felony), Domestic Assault Third Degree (Misdemeanor), and Armed Criminal Action (Felony). A 3-day trial concluded with the jury finding Defendant not guilty of the three felony charges and guilty of the misdemeanor charge, which resulted in Defendant's immediate sentencing and release from jail after being credited for time served.
- a) State of Missouri v. Drake Anthony Watkins (1222-CR02985-01)
- b) Jury tried November 4-6, 2013
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge Edward Sweeney
- d) Represented Defendant
- e) Second Chair
- f) State of Missouri represented by Kristyn Skelly (1114 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63101).
- g) Defendant was charged with Domestic Assault First Degree (Felony), Armed Criminal Action (Felony), and Stealing (Misdemeanor). The A.C.A. charge was dismissed by the Court. After a 3-day trial, the jury found Defendant guilty of Domestic Assault First Degree and not guilty Stealing.
- a) State of Missouri v. James Warren (1122-CR06810)
- b) Jury tried September 23-25, 2013
- c) City of St. Louis; Judge Jimmie Edwards
- d) Represented Defendant
- e) Second Chair
- f) State of Missouri represented by Rachel Schwarzlose (1114 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63101).
- g) Defendant was charged with Robbery First Degree (Felony), Armed Criminal Action (Felony), and Burglary Second Degree (Felony). After a 3-day trial, the jury found Defendant not guilty of Robbery and Armed Criminal Action. Defendant was found guilty of Burglary Second Degree.

Question #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.

Randolph S. Johnson et al. v. Ruth E. Marzuco (21S95-01939)

- a) St. Louis County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 1995; Terminated 1995
- c) I was one of the drivers in a two-vehicle collision when I was 17 years old. The other driver's insurance company denied the claim. My father filed suit against the driver of the other vehicle, and obtained a judgment in his favor for the full amount of the repairs to his vehicle.

The May Department Stores v. Karma Johnson (2100AC-06669)

- a) St. Louis Conty, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2000; Terminated 2000
- c) I defaulted on a department store credit card I obtained while in college. Petitioner obtained a default judgment against me, which has been satisfied.

K.R.J. v. K.J. (2102-FC04869)

- a) St. Louis County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2002; Terminated 2002
- c) Petition for dissolution of marriage. Dismissed by parties.

K.R.J. v. K.J. (2103-FC06303 (-01))

- a) St. Louis County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2003; Terminated 2004
- c) Petition for dissolution of marriage with children, and subsequent motions to modify child support. Dissolution granted in 2004 upon settlement of the parties. Modifications granted in 2014 and 2024.

Wells Fargo v. Karma Jenkins (08SL-AC50127)

- a) St. Louis County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2008; Terminated 2009
- c) I defaulted on a loan. A consent judgment was entered, which has since been satisfied.

Capital One Bank v. Karma Jenkins (09SL-AC09779)

- a) St. Louis County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2009; Terminated 2009
- c) I defaulted on a credit card. A consent judgment was entered, which has since been satisfied.

In Re Karma Q. Jenkins (10BA-FC00759)

- a) Boone County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2010; Terminated 2010
- c) I filed a Petition for name change to begin using my maiden name again. Following my divorce, I wanted my maiden name (not married name) to appear on my law school degree and law license. The name change was granted.

LVNV Funding, L.L.C v. Karma Jenkins (10BA-CV04188)

- a) Boone County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2010; Terminated 2011
- c) Cause dismissed without prejudice.

Calvary SPV LLC v. Karma Jenkins (12BA-CV03583)

- a) Boone County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2012; Terminated 2012
- c) I defaulted on a credit card. A dismissal, with prejudice, was entered upon repayment of the debt.

Karma Johnson v. Tony Lauderdale, et al. (13SL-AC02304)

- a) St. Louis County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2013; Terminated 2013
- c) I filed a petition for rent and possession after Defendants failed to pay rent. One defendant was dismissed from the case, and I received a default judgment against the other defendant.

Karma Johnson v. Employment Crossing (14SL-CC00757)

- a) St. Louis County, Missouri
- b) Commenced 2014; Terminated 2015
- c) A company in California refused to remove my biographical information from their website. I sued the company, a settlement was reached, and my biographical information was removed from their website.

K.E. v. N.E. (2422-FC02287)

- a) City of St. Louis, Missouri
- b) Commenced December 2024; Terminated January 2025
- c) Petition for dissolution of marriage without children. Dissolution granted upon settlement of the parties.