

**SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI  
APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE 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.***

1. State your full name.  
**Susan Elizabeth Long**



2. State your date and location of birth. **October 22, 1964 in Hannibal, MO**

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

**Family Court Commissioner  
Jackson County Courthouse  
415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64106**

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

- (a) Are you at least twenty-five years of age? **Yes.**
- (b) Are you licensed to practice law in Missouri? **Yes.**
- (c) Have you been a citizen of the United States for at least ten years? **Yes.**
- (d) Have you been a resident of Jackson County for at least one year? **Yes.**

5. State whether you are able, with or without a reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of an Associate Circuit Judge, including the ability to preside over trials, conduct legal research and analysis, attend court anywhere in the State of Missouri, communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing, and expeditiously decide issues coming before the court. **I am able to perform the essential functions.**
6. 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. **1989. My license is and has always been in good standing.**
7. List any other states, courts, or agencies in which you have been licensed as an attorney, and state whether your license is and always has been in good standing. **I was licensed in Kansas in 1990. My license has always been in good standing; however, I have maintained inactive status in 2002.**
8. Provide the following information for all colleges or universities, other than law schools, you have attended:

(a) Name and location of institution

**University of Missouri - Kansas City  
5100 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, MO 64110**

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

**August 1983 to May 1989. I graduated with a B.A. in English in May 1987 and graduated in May, 1989 from law school with my Juris Doctorate.**

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

**UMKC Scholar Award (Each semester from Fall 1983 to Spring 1987)  
Omicron Delta Kappa – National Leadership Honor Society  
Dean's Honor List (Winter 1985, Winter 1986)  
Alpha Delta Pi (officer and member)**

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

(a) Name and location of law school

**University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law  
500 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Kansas City, MO 64110**

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

**August 1986 to May 1989 when I obtained my Juris Doctorate**

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

**Dean's Honor List (Winter 1987, Fall 1987, Winter 1988, Fall 1988)  
American Jurisprudence Award in Business Organizations III (Winter 1989)  
Law School representative to UMKC Student Government (Winter 1988)  
Staff Member Urban Lawyer (1987-1988)**

10. State whether you have ever been suspended or expelled as a student from any school or educational institution. If so, please explain. **No.**
11. List, in chronological order, all non-legal and legal employment you have held post-high school. Include the name and location of each employer, job title, dates of employment, and reason for termination of employment.

**Cochran, Tyree, Oswald & Barton, P.C.  
601 N.W. Jefferson St.  
Blue Springs, MO 64014  
File clerk, receptionist  
October 1980 – August 1986  
Voluntarily left to attend law school**

**Rustler's Bar B Que  
Independence, MO  
Waitress (part-time 2<sup>nd</sup> job to save money for law school)  
May 1986 – August 1986  
Voluntarily left to attend law school**

**Cochran, Oswald, Barton, McDonald & Graham, P.C.  
601 N.W. Jefferson St.  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
Initially hired as law clerk during law school then hired as an Associate Attorney.  
May 1987 – July 1991  
Voluntarily left to accept position with T.K. Thompson.**

**T.K. Thompson & Associates  
200 W. Mill  
Liberty, MO 64068  
Associate Attorney  
July 1991- April 1997  
Voluntarily left to accept position with Withers, Brant, Igoe & Mullennix, P.C.**

**Withers, Brant, Igoe & Mullennix, P.C.**  
**2 South Main**  
**Liberty, MO 64068**  
**Associate Attorney**  
**April 1997 – October 2002**  
**Voluntarily left to start my own firm.**

**Blessing & Long, LLC**  
**100 N. Main, Ste. 100**  
**Liberty, MO 64068**  
**Managing Partner and Attorney**  
**October 2002 – June 2013**  
**Voluntarily left to accept position as Family Court Commissioner.**

**Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri**  
**415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Kansas City, MO 64106**  
**Family Court Commissioner**  
**June 2013 - present**

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

**I have been an attorney for over twenty-five years. Though the last years of my practice were limited to family law I began as an associate attorney in the litigation department of a thirteen attorney firm. During my years as an attorney with this firm I had the opportunity to participate in several jury trials. These trials consisted of plaintiff's personal injury matters, breach of contract cases and criminal defense cases. While my responsibilities in jury trials would be characterized as "second chair" I participated in voir dire, examined witnesses, prepared jury instructions and participated in the instruction conferences.**

**In 1991 I began working for a one attorney firm in Liberty, Missouri. We were a general practice firm and during my six years working with Mr. Thompson I gained experience in most areas of the law. I was in the courtroom several days each week and a large portion of those appearance were in Associate Circuit Court. I handled worker's compensation matters, probate/estate cases, family law matters, criminal cases, both on the state and municipal level, collection cases, landlord tenant actions, for both the landlords and tenants, and handled personal injury and property damage cases.**

**In 1997 when I joined the law firm of Withers, Brant, Igoe & Mullennix I began limiting my practice to family law. I handled all types of domestic relation matters and represented mothers and fathers, husbands and wives in divorce and modification actions. I also was appointed as a guardian ad litem to represent**

hundreds of children, both in abuse and neglect situations and in divorce/custody matters. My family law practice spilled over to several other areas of the law in that it is common to have debt collection issues, real estate issues, business issues, criminal issues, employment issues, and even tortious conduct issues involved in family law cases.

In June, 2013 I began serving as Jackson County Family Court Commissioner in Division 43 where I hear contested domestic bench trials. In addition to trials in family law matters my duties include the handling of the prosecutors' contempt docket, paternity and criminal non-support diversion dockets. During my two years on the bench I have heard and decided hundreds of cases.

I have always given forth my best effort both in and out of the courtroom. While in private practice I strove to represent my client's interests while at the same time showing respect to the opposing counsel, Judge and courtroom personnel. I maintained, and continue to maintain, a high quality of legal work by continually attending legal education seminars throughout the year and I stay abreast of changes in the law.

As primarily a family law lawyer and now a Family Court Commissioner, I am aware that I am dealing with people during a very difficult time in their lives; as such I strive to remain calm, patient and respectful of all individuals involved in the process. I was an attorney who worked hard and knew the facts of her cases. I have continued that practice since serving as Family Court Commissioner. I do not allow the craziness that can sometimes take over a family law case to affect my behavior and I am always committed to remaining level headed so that I can give the individuals that appear before me the best legal experience possible. I believe these traits would be very beneficial if I am chosen to serve as Associate Circuit Judge.

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

**Franke v. Franke, Jackson County Case No. 04FC204999**

**8/4/05**

**Bench trial in front of Judge T.K. Rigby**

**Brief Description: I represented Marcia Franke in this dissolution of marriage action. Custody issues were resolved by the parties but financial issues were tried to the Court. My client was awarded back child support, current child support and the opposing party was ordered to contribute to the marital debts.**

**Votaw v. Loyd, Jackson County Case No. 00FC208089-02**

**4/7/06**

**Bench Trial in front of Commissioner Sherrill Rosen**

**Brief Description: I represented Kevin Votaw. This was a family access motion. My client was awarded compensatory time with his son.**

**Knox BNF Knox v Johnson, Platte County Case No. 05AE-CV02550 & 02CV84123-01 (consolidated)**

**4/19/06**

**This was a bench trial in front of Judge Abe Shafer**

**Brief Description: I represented Greg Knox in this paternity action. The Respondent attempted to relocate to Kansas with the minor children. After a trial, Mother's move was not permitted.**

**Vogelsmeier v. Vogelsmeier, Saline County Case No. 03CV184817**

**10/23/06**

**This was a bench trial in front of Judge John Frerking**

**Brief Description: I represented Duane Vogelsmeier in this case. The opposing party sought to relocate with the children. I was successful in preventing the relocation.**

**Gray v. Gray, Clay County Case No. 7CV101001333**

**10/31/06**

**Bench trial heard by Judge K. Elizabeth Davis**

**Brief Description: I represented Meleigh Carlene Gray. Respondent filed motion to terminate maintenance and reduce child support. The maintenance was reduced and child support increased after the trial in this case. This case was appealed by Howard Gray and I represented Meleigh Gray in the appeal where the trial court judgment was upheld.**

**Gladson v. Gladson, Jackson County Case No. 00FC200251**

**11/06/07**

**Bench trial in front of Commissioner Sherrill Rosen**

**Brief Description: I represented Rick Gladson in a Motion to modify filed on behalf of my client requesting custody of his daughter. My client's motion was granted and he obtained custody of his daughter.**

**Titus v. Titus, Jackson County Case No. 0816-FC01309**

**10/21/08**

**Bench trial in front of Judge Jack Grate**

**Brief Description: Dissolution of marriage action where I represented Jean Titus. Parties agreed to a joint parenting plan. The value of the Respondent's business was at issue and the Court accepted Petitioner's valuation and divided the property accordingly.**

**Barrewoods Apartments v. Barker, Clay County Case No. 09CY-CV05473**

**6/19//2009**

**Bench trial in front of Judge Janet Sutton**

**Brief Description: I represented the tenant who was sued by the apartment complex**

for breach of contract and damages. Defendant admitted to owing the fee set out in the lease for early termination of her lease but denied the additional damages/fees requested by the apartment complex. After a bench trial the Judge ordered my client to pay the fee for early termination of the lease and found in her favor on the other claims by the apartment complex.

**Robinson v. Robinson, Jackson County Case No. 0916-FC01338**

10/28/09

Bench trial in front of Judge Glen A. Dietrich

Brief Description: I represented the Wife in this dissolution of marriage where she was seeking to move to Columbia, Missouri with the child. The move was granted. Husband appealed the decision of the trial court and I represented Ms. Robinson during the appeal. The Appellate Court upheld the decision of the trial court.

**Delana v. Karl Delana, Jackson County Case No. 0816-FC00371**

4/19/10

Bench trial in front of Judge Robert M. Schieber

Brief Description: I defended Wife in this Motion to Modify that was filed by Husband. It involved some unique issues regarding the issue of maintenance that required substantial briefing. At the conclusion of the matter Mr. Delana's maintenance obligation was not terminated or reduced.

**Titus v. Titus, Jackson County Case No. 0816-FC01309-01**

5/11/10

Bench trial heard by Judge John M. Torrence

Brief Description: I represented Mother in maintaining a motion to increase child support and defending father's motion to emancipate the oldest child. Judge Torrence agreed with my position and child support was increased and the child was not emancipated.

**Wells v. Wells, Jackson County Case No. 1116-FC07578**

5/15/12

Bench Trial in front of Commissioner Sherrill Rosen

Brief Description: I represented the Father in this matter where property, maintenance, child support and custody arrangements were at issue. It was unique in that I was able to present evidence and a legal argument to obtain a Judgment wherein child support was substantially lower than the amount the presumed calculation established.

**Marla H. Neal v. Brett D. Neal, Clay Co. Case No. 10CY-CV06348**

6/12/12

Bench Trial heard by Judge K. Elizabeth Davis

Brief Description: I represented Brett Neal. The custody, child support and property issues were resolved prior to trial; however a trial was conducted regarding the issue of maintenance. Ms. Neal was awarded maintenance; however it was much less than she requested.

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

**Roberts v. Roberts, Notice of Appeal was filed on March 28, 2012. I represented the Mother who filed the appeal regarding the trial court's calculation of child support. The Record on Appeal was completed and filed on June 13, 2012. The case was then settled and voluntarily dismissed on September 7, 2012. (No. WD 75052)**

**Robinson v. Robinson, January 25, 2010 (No. WD 72002) I represented the Wife/Mother in this action and the appeal was filed by Husband/Father. He appealed the trial court's judgment allowing my client to move to Columbia, Missouri. The appellate court affirmed the trial court.**

**Gray v. Gray, 247 S.W.3d 69, 2008, Mo.App. W.D., March 04, 2008 (No. WD68010) I represented the Respondent in this matter where her former husband appealed the trial court's award of child support and maintenance. The appellate court affirmed the trial court.**

**Fyfe v. Fyfe, 149 S.W. 3d 602, 2004, Mo.App. W.D., November 30, 2004 (No. WD63607) I represented the Appellant who appealed the trial court's division of assets. The judgment of the trial court was upheld.**

**Martinez v. Martinez, 136 S.W.3d 886, 2004, Mo.App. W.D., June 29, 2004 (No. WD62622) I represented the Appellant Sergio Martinez who appealed the division of the marital assets. The trial court's judgment was upheld.**

**Burns v. Burns, 118 S.W.3d 624, 2003, Mo.App. W.D., September 30, 2003 (No. WD 61007, WD 61008) I represented Roger Burns in this case where both parties appealed the trial court's judgment regarding maintenance and the division of assets. The trial court's judgment was affirmed.**

**In re A.N.M., 111 S.W.3d 540, 2003, Mo.App. W.D., August 05, 2003 (Nos. WD62245 & WD 62247) I was court appointed to represent the Mother in this case. She was appealing the trial court's judgment to terminate her parental rights. The trial court's decision was upheld.**

**Seaman v. Seaman, 41 S.W.3d 889, 2001, Mo.App. W.D., February 13, 2001 (No. WD 58227)**

**I represented the husband, David Seaman in appealing the trial court's custody award. The trial court's decision was affirmed.**

**DeCapo v. DeCapo, 915 S.W.2d 343, 1996, Mo.App. W.D., February 06, 1996 (No. WD 50549) I represented the Respondent, Nancy Giambrone in this case. The Appellant challenged the trial court's judgment regarding back child support and the payment of college expenses. The judgment was affirmed in part and one issue was remanded back to the trial court for additional findings.**

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

**As Family Court Commissioner I adjudicate contested family law cases, including dissolution of marriage actions, child custody, child support, and modification actions. I also hear civil contempt cases filed by the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office and the Missouri Attorney General's office. Paternity actions, both private and those filed by the Prosecutor's office are also held in my division. I also, on occasion, hear actions involving requests for Orders of Protection and every fifth weekend of the year am "on call" for the Jackson County Family Court Juvenile Division and adjudicate matters involving children in need of protection and crimes committed by juvenile offenders.**

**In this position I also administer the Jackson County Child Support Court program, formerly called Fathering Court, a Jackson County treatment program for criminal non-support defendants in cooperation with the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office and the Missouri Public Defender's Office.**

16. 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 and the nature and date of disposition.

**Rowles v. Fields, Case No. 1216-FC08216, -01, -03**

**This originally was a paternity case that was resolved via an agreement by the parties on August 23, 2013. Since that time numerous contempt actions have been filed along with a modification action. Allegations of abuse/neglect were alleged and as a result I appointed a Guardian ad Litem to represent the teenage daughter. This trial included testimony from mental health experts and due to one parent's refusal to allow the other parent to spend time with the child, it resulted in the difficult, but necessary decision to transfer custody from one parent to the other parent, on June 5, 2015 in the courtroom with law enforcement present. Trials were held on January 13, 2014, April 27, 2015 and June 5, 2015.**

**Schmidt v. Schmidt, Case No. 1216-FC10708**

**This dissolution of marriage case was a two day trial that concluded in April 2014. It contained issues involving the characterization of, and the valuation of property**

that had previously been the property of the Husband's business. Numerous witnesses testified, including an expert witness who testified as to property values. Criminal issues were also part of this case due to Husband's guilty plea to the charge of Domestic Assault.

**Nicol v. Nicol, Case No. 1216-FC06774**

This four day trial concluded in May 2014. It was a dissolution of marriage action that involved child custody and supervised visitation. Evidence of physical and emotional abuse was presented at trial. Psychological evaluations were conducted of the parties and several expert witnesses testified in this matter. An appeal was filed in this case by the Respondent and it is now pending in the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District.

**Fields v. Lockett, Case No. 1116-FC11380**

**State of Missouri v. Fields, Case No. 00MC201491**

These cases were tried together and involved an action filed by the State to revive a judgment of child support and an action filed by Mr. Fields to set aside the paternity judgment that contained the child support order. This case involved the application R.S.Mo. 210.854 to the petition to set aside the paternity judgment. The paternity judgment was not set aside based upon the results of genetic testing and the child support judgment was revived. The cases were disposed of in October 2014.

**Clay Freeman v. McNeal, Case No. 0816-FC01796-03 & -04**

This case involved a contempt action filed by one party and a motion to modify filed by the other. The case was concluded in June 2013 and included neglect issues requiring the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem to represent the children of the parties. Considerable evidence was presented as to whether one parent was justified in withholding parenting time from the other parent.

**Fensom v. Schnieders, Case No. 16DR98-12042-06, -06, & -07**

This heard in December 2013 and involved a Family Access Motion, a Motion to Modify, and a Contempt action. This case also involved the provisions of R.S.Mo. 454.520.5, the application of interest to back due child support. A Judgment of Contempt was entered and custody and child support was modified.

**Brown v. Delaney, Case No. 0816-FC06998-01**

This one day trial was held in March 2014 and allegations of drug use and abuse were alleged in this modification action. Evidence was presented regarding the drug testing results and school officials were involved in this case due to the fact that some events occurred on school property. Custody was changed from one parent to the other.

**Kinsey v. Kinsey, Case No. 04FC212031**

This trial, concluded in December 2013, and involved unique issues surrounding the continuation of child support when the custodial parent dies and upon that parent's

death the child does not reside with the other parent. The parties' child was allowed to intervene in the action and based on this court's interpretation of R.S.Mo. 452.340 and R.S.Mo. 452.370 Father's child support obligation was not terminated despite Mother's death.

**Goff v. Mason, Case No. 1316-FC03975**

This paternity action resulted in a day long trial in May 2014. The child was fourteen years of age at the time this action was filed and his parents could not agree as to what time he would spend with each of them. The child was interviewed on the record as part of the proceeding and the Court adopted and prepared its own parenting plan.

**State of Missouri Ex. Rel. v. Shipley, Case No. 1316-FC03450**

This action was initially filed by the State of Missouri on behalf of the State of Kansas and was an action to register a foreign judgment. Mr. Shipley contested the registration and a one day trial was held in October 2013. Subsequently a judgment was entered registering the Kansas Judgment. A contempt action was then filed by the State of Missouri and after a hearing in September 2014 a Judgment of Contempt was entered. Numerous writs and appeals have been filed by this self-represented litigant and to date all of these have upheld the trial court's judgment. The Respondent has, since the first time since 2011, began complying with the court's judgment and is currently paying child support.

**In Re Nicole Harder, Case No. 1316-FC11574**

This contested name change action was heard in February 2014. The parents, who were previously married but had not resided with each other since the birth of their child, could not agree upon the child's surname. A hearing was held that involved testimony from numerous family members and documentary evidence from school. The name change was not permitted.

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

**Not applicable**

18. 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 (1989-present) (member of Family Law Section)**

**Kansas Bar Association (1990-present)**

**Kansas City Missouri Bar Association (1989-1991; 1998-2004; 2013-present)**

**Eastern Jackson County Bar Association (1989-present)**

**Association of Women lawyers (2013 - present)**

**Missouri Bar Association, (Complaint Resolution Program facilitator 2002 – present, Lawyer-to-Lawyer Dispute Resolution Program Committee facilitator and arbitrator 2008 – present)**

**Clay County Bar Association (Executive Committee 1998 – 2000, Director 2000-2002, Secretary 2002, Vice President 2003, President 2004)**

**KCMBA Family Law Committee (2013 – present)**

**Collaborative Law Institute of Missouri (Practitioner 2008 - 2013)**

**Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys (1989 – 1992)**

**Jackson County Family Court Child Custody Mediator Panel (1996 - 2012)**

**Seventh Judicial Circuit Office of Dispute Resolution Services Mediator, (1996-2013)**

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

**Moderator at Jackson County Law Library Guardian ad Litem Training, 3.0 Hour GAL Recertification, June 4, 2015.**

**Speaker at Eastern Jackson County Bar Association CLE, April 11, 2014, topic presented: Update On The Law: Family Law**

**Speaker at Jackson County Law Library, 2013 & 2014 New Guardian ad Litem Training, topic presented: What to do when appointed as GAL.**

**Speaker at Jackson County Law Library Guardian ad Litem Training, 2014, topic presented: Expectations from the Court**

**Speaker at Missouri Bar Family Law Conference, 2011, topic presented: Ethics, Avoiding Common Mistakes.**

**Speaker at Missouri Bar Advanced Guardian ad Litem Training 2002, topic presented: GAL Standards.**

**Speaker at Missouri Bar CLE; Basic Skills of Family Law 1999;**

**Contributor to Missouri Practice, Volume 21, Family Law, West Publishing Co. 1990**

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

**Family Court Commissioner  
Jackson County Circuit Court  
Appointed by Jackson County Circuit Court, sitting en banc, May 2013**

**Jackson County Law Library Board  
Appointed by the Jackson County Circuit Court Presiding Judge, November 2014**

**Missouri Bar Disciplinary Committee  
Appointed by the Supreme Court of Missouri on May 14, 2013.  
I had to resign from this position upon my appointment as Family Court Commissioner**

21. 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.

**None**

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

**Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, Volunteer Holiday Bell Ringer (2002-present)**

**Community Service League (Oak Grove MO Location - donate, volunteer & financially support the organization)**

**Greater Kansas City Hispanic Development Scholarship Fund & Latinos of America (Donate funds and attend events designed to help prepare young adults, of Hispanic heritage, for success in college)**

**Operation Breakthrough (toured the facility, volunteer & donate funds and items needed by the daycare)**

**Eastern Jackson County Youth Court (volunteer supervising atty/trainer)**

**Children's Center for the Visually Impaired, Kansas City (volunteer and financially contribute to the Trolley Run 2010-2015)**

**Supporter and Volunteer for Clay County CASA (1992-2013)**

**Oak Grove United Methodist Church**

**Oak Grove Missouri PTO**

**Oak Grove Music Boosters**

**Oak Grove Athletic Booster Club**

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

**None other than otherwise covered in this application.**

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

**No**

25. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony or received a suspended imposition of sentence in any federal, state, or military court? If so, please explain and provide the style of the case (including case number), the court, the date of the conviction, and the sentence or fine imposed.

**No**

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

**No**

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

**I have never been sued by a client.**

**In January 2013 I was a named Defendant (Susan E. Hall), along with my husband**

**and many other property owners, in a Condemnation Petition filed by the State of Missouri regarding the widening of state highway, Route F in Oak Grove, Jackson County, Missouri. The case is Jackson County Case No. 1316-CV00134. A portion of our property was taken as a temporary easement during the widening process and on June 3, 2013 my husband and I were dismissed from the law suit.**

**I was a party to my own dissolution of marriage action in 1996. There were no subsequent modifications or court proceedings: Susan Long Ortiz v. Ray Ortiz, Jackson County Case No. 16DR96-11034, commenced and terminated in 1996, I was the Petitioner in this dissolution of marriage action.**

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

**No**

29. 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.

**Not applicable. I have had no judicial complaints or disciplinary proceedings.**

(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.

**Not applicable. I have had no judicial complaints or disciplinary proceedings.**

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

**Not applicable. I have had no judicial complaints or disciplinary proceedings.**

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

**As a young lawyer I appeared frequently in a Division where the Judge started each docket by introducing himself and stating that as each case was called the parties were to come forward and he would see "how he could best be of service to you." I**

abide by this same philosophy in my current courtroom. As Family Court Commissioner I believe, that like each Judge, I am a public servant and as such it is imperative that my behavior both inside and outside the courtroom reflects positively on the entire legal system. In obtaining this goal I am always aware of my temperament. The litigants in my courtroom may lose their temper but it is imperative that I maintain a calm demeanor and not engage the litigants and/or their attorneys in any type of heated debate. In addition, I always listen. Everyone in the courtroom deserves the right to be heard and though I may not agree with a position, and a litigant may disagree with my ruling, it is my goal that every individual leave my courtroom feeling like their voice was heard. Finally, I always make an effort to be timely. I believe that all individuals in my courtroom are deserving of my respect and one way I show that to them is by starting dockets on time, as scheduled. I am conscious of the balance that must be maintained between giving everyone an opportunity to be heard but at the same time keeping the proceedings moving so that all have the opportunity to present their case. I always strive to bring honor to the office by serving the public to the best of my ability. If selected to the position of Associate Circuit Judge I will bring these attributes with me.

If selected, I have the experience to succeed in this Associate Circuit Court position immediately, if selected. I am accustomed to handling large dockets on an almost daily basis. My current Commissioner position is in a division that has assigned to it over 1,000 cases. I have demonstrated the ability to handle large dockets in an efficient, timely manner. Though my current caseload is all in the family law arena, I attended the two week General Jurisdiction course put on by The National Judicial College October 13-23, 2014 in Reno, Nevada. This extensive course ran from 8:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. each day. The classes included a six hour session on evidence, a four hour session on the Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the Constitution, three hours on judicial writing, several hours regarding jury trials including voir dire and jury management, sentencing and many other issues. This course would be invaluable to me if I am selected as an Associate Circuit Court Judge. It gave me information that I am already utilizing in my current position and I learned additional information that would be applied upon my appointment to Associate Circuit Court. In addition, each year since 2013 I have attended the Judicial College put on by the Missouri Bar. This annual, four day college has provided me with an update on the law in all areas, including those dockets handled by Associate Circuit Judges such as collection cases, landlord/tenant actions, and criminal law.

In addition I believe my training and experience as a mediator and arbitrator in business matters, family law cases, and victim-offender matters will be extremely beneficial if I am chosen to be an Associate Circuit Judge. In 1995 I completed forty (40) hours of training in business and family law matters and am a Rule 88 approved mediator. Since that time I have conducted many family law mediations. In addition I have held arbitrations related to family law issues and have done several victim-offender mediations involving crimes committed by juveniles. Since

my appointment as Commissioner two Jackson County Circuit Judges have appointed me to mediate three Jackson County Circuit Court cases. These mediations were held in my Division 43 courtroom. Two of these cases, though they were not resolved during mediation, were resolved prior to trial based upon issues discussed in mediation.

32. 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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