

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

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

1. State your full name.

**Arimeta Renae DuPree**

2. State your date and location of birth.

**April 12, 1978, Kansas City, MO**

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

Present Occupation: **Trial Attorney**

Place of Work: **Missouri State Public Defender  
System, Trial Division  
324 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64106**

Job Title: **Assistant Public Defender, Team Leader, Intern Coordinator**



4. 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 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 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 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, and communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing, and expeditiously decide issues coming before the court.**

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.

**I have been a member of the Missouri Bar in good standing since my admission in April 2005.**

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 admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in April 2004. In August 2004, I returned to Kansas City, Missouri, to begin practicing as an Assistant Public Defender. I have only practiced in the State of Missouri and my then-active Pennsylvania license allowed me to practice in Missouri until I took and passed the Missouri Bar in February 2005. In November 2005, my Pennsylvania license went to inactive status.**

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

(a) Name and location of institution

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

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

**1996-1997 Longview Community College, Kansas City, MO  
No Degree Awarded**

**1997-2000 Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK  
Bachelor of Arts - Criminal Justice**

- **Dean's Honor List**
- **Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature**
- **Lincoln – Douglas Debate**
- **Black Student Association**
- **Spanish Club**

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

- (a) Name and location of law school
- (b) Dates attended and degrees received
- (c) Significant activities, achievements, honors, and awards

**2000-2003 Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Juris Doctor**

- **Dean's Honor List**
- **Moot Court Honor Society**
- **Trial Advocacy Honor Society**
- **Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity**
- **Order of the Barristers**
- **Black Law Student Association**

10. 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.**

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.

**1996-1997 AT&T, Lees Summit, MO**

**Position Held – Customer Service Representative**

**Reason for termination – Resigned to pursue undergraduate degree**

**1998-2000 Cash America Pawn Shop, Oklahoma City, OK**

**Position Held - Sales Representative**

**Reason for termination – Resigned to pursue law degree**

**2001-2002 Pennsylvania Office of General Counsel, Harrisburg, PA**

**Position Held - Intern**

**Reason for termination – Resigned to accept another government position**

**2002-2003 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Harrisburg, PA**

**Position Held - Intern**

**Reason for termination – Resigned to accept another government position**

**2001-2003 The Honorable Judge Doris A. Smith-Ribner, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

**Position Held – Law Clerk (Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania)**  
**Reason for termination – Term for my position ended**

**2002-2004 Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, Harrisburg, PA**  
**Position Held – Law Clerk**  
**Reason for termination – Resigned to return to Kansas City, MO**

**2004-Present Missouri State Public Defender, Trial Division, Kansas City, MO**  
**Positions Held: 2004-2005 Assistant Public Defender I; 2005-2007 Assistant Public Defender II; 2007-2011 Assistant Public Defender III; 2011-Present Assistant Public Defender IV, Intern Coordinator, and Team Leader**

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.

Within the first fourteen months of my practice, I was lead counsel and was successful in my first jury trial. I also second chaired two jury trials where the senior attorney trusted me to create the jury instructions and be prepared to argue strikes for cause during voir dire. From 2006 – 2008, I was lead counsel in nine jury trials, I was lead counsel in two bench trials, and I second chaired three jury trials. By 2009, my responsibilities increased and I was authorized to second chair jury trials as the supervising attorney. From 2009 – present, I was lead counsel in ten jury trials and second chaired eleven jury trials as the supervising attorney. In addition to the jury trials conducted from 2009 – 2012, I was lead counsel in one bench trial, standby counsel in one bench trial with over fifteen counts, and I supervised two bench trials. My bench trial experience includes Circuit Court and Family Court.

In November 2009, I had the opportunity to argue before the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District. Although my appellate court experience is limited, that experience gave me new insight regarding the very important relationship that exists between jury trials and appellate review.

In 2009, I began recruiting law students and new attorneys for the Missouri State Public Defender System. I travel throughout the region to different law schools and job fairs to conduct interviews. In 2011, I was selected to be the Intern Coordinator. As Intern Coordinator, I assist with the Public Defender Clinic which only allows Rule 13 students to participate to learn trial techniques at the University of Missouri at Kansas City Law School. This clinic meets every month during the Fall and Spring semesters.

In 2011, I was also promoted to Team Leader. I have the honor to supervise six talented trial attorneys whose experience ranges from newly licensed to seasoned attorneys. As a Team Leader, I frequently meet with my team to guide them on upcoming trials, I oversee and advise them on legal issues that should be addressed before the court, and develop successful trial strategy. I also mentor attorneys and law students on, how to

handle adversarial situations in a graceful non-confrontational manner. The ability to exhibit humility with confidence and courtesy with passion are important characteristics that I practice and that I strive to instill in every practicing attorney and future attorney that I mentor.

The Missouri State Public Defender Training Division selected me to train over 100 new attorneys about Motion Practice at our annual New Defender Trial Skills Workshop. In addition, I have presented several in-house mini CLEs on topics including "Impeaching with a Deposition," "Missouri Supreme Court Rule 29.15 Hearing Issues," "Personal Service of Motions," and "Impeaching with a Prior Inconsistent Statement."

From my first day as an Assistant Public Defender to the present, I have demonstrated my eagerness to study the law, my willingness to not see the law in a vacuum but to understand people and see each person's case as a unique opportunity to defend their liberty and help guarantee that justice be served. The men and women that I represent are entitled to my most energetic and enthusiastic efforts aimed at bringing them a favorable result and/or the best possible resolution for the predicament in which they have found themselves. All of my legal experience as a practicing attorney demonstrates my energy to try cases, my dedication to teaching attorneys professional courtesy and civility and the empathy that I have for both defendants and victims who anxiously wait for their matter to be heard in court before a judge or a jury.

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.

## **JURY TRIAL EXPERIENCE**

*State of Missouri v. Eddie Ross*, 0516-CR00709, Division 70 – I represented Mr. Ross who was charged with violation of an order of protection. The state alleged that Mr. Ross violated an order of protection by contacting the victim via telephone. The Jury found Mr. Ross not guilty on October 6, 2005.

*State of Missouri v. Montel Bean*, 04CR202394, Division 4 – I represented Mr. Bean who was charged with possession of a controlled substance. The state alleged that Mr. Bean possessed crack cocaine knowing of its presence and nature. The Jury found Mr. Bean guilty on July 19, 2006.

*State of Missouri v. Brent Maybin*, 0615-CR06284, Division 13 – I represented Mr. Maybin who was charged with robbery in the first degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Maybin displayed a pocket knife and forcibly stole \$35.00 from the victim. The Jury found Mr. Maybin guilty on August 17, 2006.

***State of Missouri v. Phillip Hudson, Jr.*, 0516-CR04187, Division 10 – I represented Mr. Hudson who was charged with unlawful use of a weapon and tampering in the first degree. The state alleged that Mr. Hudson stole a motor vehicle then shot at the police during a lawful car stop. The Jury found Mr. Hudson guilty on October 21, 2006.**

***State of Missouri v. Lieurance Thompson*, CR2002-08132, Division 70 – I represented Mr. Thompson who was charged with assault in the first degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Thompson stabbed his girlfriend. The Jury found Mr. Thompson guilty on March 23, 2007.**

***State of Missouri v. Daniel Hartman*, 0616-CR06081, Division 70 – I represented Mr. Hartman who was charged with child kidnapping. The state alleged that Mr. Hartman tried to kidnap a 13 year old girl by chasing her through a wooded area near the victim's school. The Jury found Mr. Hartman not guilty on May 12, 2007.**

***State of Missouri v. Richard Davis, Jr.*, 0616-CR02219, Division 2 – I represented Mr. Davis who was charged with burglary in the second degree, unlawful use of a weapon, and resisting arrest. The state alleged that Mr. Davis unlawfully entered his sister's home and threatened his niece with a box cutter. When the police arrived, Mr. Davis ran. The Jury found Mr. Davis guilty of all counts on December 7, 2007.**

***State of Missouri v. Roy Andrews*, 0716-CR02944, Division 7 – I represented Mr. Andrews who was charged with assault in the first degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Andrews shot the victim. The Jury could not reach a decision. Judge Mesle declared a mistrial on May 8, 2008.**

***State of Missouri v. Ray Slaughter*, 0616-CR06990, Division 70 – I represented Mr. Slaughter who was charged with forcible rape and forcible sodomy. The state alleged that Mr. Slaughter performed digital and vaginal sex without the victim's consent. The Jury found Mr. Slaughter guilty on June 2, 2008.**

***State of Missouri v. Dominique Tusa*, 0616-CR5681, Division 11 – I represented Mr. Tusa who was charged with two counts of assault in the first degree, two counts of assault in the second degree, one count of assault of assault in the third degree, and four counts of armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Tusa shot and injured two people and shot at two separate people and threatened one person with a gun. The Jury found Mr. Tusa guilty of two counts of assault in the first degree and two counts of armed criminal action on August 9, 2008.**

***State of Missouri v. John Jones*, 0716-CR003938, Division 3 – I represented Mr. Jones who was charged with murder in the second degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Jones stabbed the victim to death. The Jury**

found Mr. Jones guilty on February 23, 2009.

*State of Missouri v. Cedric Tucker*, 0716-CR01064, Division 4 – I represented Mr. Tucker who was charged with murder in the first degree, assault in the first degree and two counts of armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Tucker shot the victim in the back of his head and shot the surviving victim as he ran away. Mr. Tucker pled guilty after voir dire on June 16, 2009.

*State of Missouri v. Kelvin Thurman*, 0816-CR00931, Division 4 – I represented Mr. Thurman who was charged with forcible rape and two counts of forcible sodomy. The state alleged that Mr. Thurman threw the victim on the bed at Mr. Thurman's home and forced the victim to receive oral, digital and vaginal sex without the victim's consent. The Jury could not reach a verdict. Judge Del Muro declared a mistrial on December 3, 2009.

*State of Missouri v. Carlos Rosa*, 0916-CR00808, Division 9 – I represented Mr. Rosa who was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Rosa attempted to assault a police officer with a knife. A new trial date was scheduled after we conducted voir dire on March 9, 2010.

*State of Missouri v. Carlos Rosa*, 0916-CR00808, Division 9 – I represented Mr. Rosa who was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Rosa attempted to assault a police officer with a knife. The Jury found Mr. Rosa guilty of a lesser offense on August 6, 2010.

*State of Missouri v. Melba Walker*, 0916-CR01109, Division 8 – I represented Ms. Walker who was charged with murder in the second degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Ms. Walker shot the victim numerous times in front of several witnesses. The Jury found Ms. Walker not guilty on August 14, 2010.

*State of Missouri v. William Verner*, 0816-CR00751, Division 18 – I represented Mr. Verner who was charged with forcible rape. The state alleged that Mr. Verner had sex with the victim in 2002 without her consent. The state dismissed the case after voir dire on August 24, 2010.

*State of Missouri v. Woodrow Dillard, Jr.*, 1016-CR00384, Division 19 – I represented Mr. Dillard who was charged with forcible rape, two counts of forcible sodomy, felonious restraint, domestic assault in the first degree, and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Dillard held the victim in a residence for the purpose of physically and sexually assaulting her. The Jury found Mr. Dillard guilty of all counts on December 3, 2010.

*State of Missouri v. Brian Myers*, 1116-CR04574, Division 14 – I represented Mr. Myers who was charged with assault in the second degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Myers unlawfully entered the victim's home and shot the victim four times when the victim asked Mr. Myers to leave the residence. The Jury found Mr. Myers guilty of assault in the third degree on April 26, 2012.

*State of Missouri v. Eddie Ross*, 1116-CR04102, Division 19 – I represented Mr. Ross who was charged with robbery in the first degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Ross, acting in concert with three other individuals, forcibly stole the victim's property by use of a handgun. The Jury found Mr. Ross guilty of robbery in the first degree on August 1, 2012.

## **BENCH TRIAL EXPERIENCE**

*State of Missouri v. Richard Davidson*, 0716-CR00081, Division 14 – I represented Mr. Davidson who was charged with domestic assault in the first degree and domestic assault in the third degree. The state alleged that Mr. Davidson cut the victim multiple times with a knife, then interfered with her ability to call the police for help. Judge Torrence found Mr. Davidson guilty of domestic assault in the first degree on March 10, 2008.

*State of Missouri v. Robert Greer, Jr.*, 0716-CR02306, Division 15 – I represented Mr. Greer who was charged with forcible rape, forcible sodomy, assault in the first degree, and armed criminal action. The state alleged that Mr. Greer beat the victim with a 2X4 board, then had oral and vaginal sex with the victim without her consent. Judge Schieber found Mr. Greer guilty of all counts on October 7, 2008.

*In Re McCoy*, 0916-JU000551, Division 41 – I represented the juvenile who was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest, and juvenile injurious behavior. The state alleged that the juvenile threw a large object at a police officer, fled from the police after throwing the large object, and left the State of Missouri. Commissioner Peterson found the juvenile guilty of assault on a law enforcement officer and juvenile injurious behavior, and not guilty of resisting arrest on September 10, 2009.

*State of Missouri v. Devotion Baker*, 1116-CR00364, Division 1 – I was appointed standby counsel for Mr. Baker who was charged with four counts of robbery in the first degree, four counts of forcible rape, six counts of forcible sodomy, and four counts of attempted forcible rape. The state alleged that Mr. Baker, in the 1990's, forcibly raped, sodomized, attempted to forcibly rape, and robbed five victims with a weapon. Judge Midkiff found Mr. Baker guilty of all counts on August 24, 2012.

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.

***State of Missouri v. Karl Rupp*, WD 70269, Division 1 – In 1996 Mr. Rupp was charged with assault in the first degree and armed criminal action. The state alleged Mr. Rupp attempted to kill or cause serious physical injury to a person by striking the person with his truck. In May 1997, Mr. Rupp pled not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 552.040 RSMo. He was remanded to the Department of Mental Health. In 2008, we petitioned the trial court to grant Mr. Rupp an unconditional release based on the recent 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision handed down in *Revels v. Sanders*, 519 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2008). The trial court denied our petition and we appealed. After oral argument to Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, Division 1 affirmed the trial court's decision on March 30, 2010.**

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

**Not applicable**

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.

**Not applicable**

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 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.

**2002-Present: Phi Alpha Delta, Legal Fraternity**

**2004-2005: Pennsylvania Bar Association**

**2005-Present: Missouri Bar Association**

**2011-2012: Vice Co-Chair, Criminal Law Committee**

**2012-2013: Leadership Academy**

**2010-Present: Association for Women Lawyers (AWL) of Greater Kansas City**

**2011-2013: Board of Directors**

**- At Large, Special Projects 2011**

**- Vice Chair, Community Support 2012**

**- Vice Chair, Judicial Committee 2013**

**2009-Present: Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association**

**2010-2011 Leadership Academy**

**2011 Membership Committee**

**2012 Membership Task Force**

**2012 Nominating Committee**

**2013 Membership Committee Co – Chair**

**2009-Present: Jackson County Bar Association**

**2010-Present: Eastern Jackson County Bar Association**

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

**I have served as the primary speaker at the following events:**

**2010 Ad Hoc Group Against Crime – Kansas City Homicides**

**2012 LINC - Teen Survival Skills**

**2012 Penn Valley Community College – Criminal Justice Class**

**- Community Structured Sentencing**

**- Public Defense and the Constitution**

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

**2008 Planned Industrial Expansion Authority**

**Commissioner for Kansas City**

- In 2008, I was appointed as a Commissioner by the Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. The Planned Industrial Expansion Authority is a commission that provides tax incentives to entities that develop or renovate blighted areas in the Greater Kansas City area. While I was a Commissioner, I was elected Chairwoman of the Minority Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise ("MBE/WBE") committee. This committee drafted and implemented the MBE/WBE policy, ensuring minorities and women a fair opportunity to**

**participate in construction contracts that would benefit from Planned Industrial Expansion Authority tax abatements. Any entity seeking assistance had to meet the MBE/WBE requirements or show good cause why they were not in compliance.**

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.

**Not applicable**

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

**Planned Industrial Expansion Authority — Commissioner  
Fighting to improve blighted areas in the Kansas City Metropolitan area**

**Operation Breakthrough — Volunteer  
Reading to children ages 1-4 years old**

**Harvesters — Volunteer  
Assist with packing food and other goods for delivery to needy families**

**Salvation Army — Volunteer  
Assist with packing food for distribution to needy families**

**AWL Step Up — Volunteer  
Assist women in battered women shelters resolve Municipal Court tickets that are in warrant status in exchange for community service commitments in lieu of fines**

**AWL I'm Not Serious About Golf Tournament - Volunteer**

**Junior Youth Group — Religious Educator  
Taught junior high school students the connectivity between the Gospel read on Sunday and daily life experiences**

**KCMBA — Leadership Academy Graduate  
Created a user friendly brochure for homeless teenagers to become emancipated in the state of Kansas**

**Young Adult Bible Study — Group Leader  
Created a weekly agenda for young adults to meet and discuss how the Bible applies to our growth as young adults.**

**Mothers of Incarcerated Sons and Daughters (MISD) — Volunteer**  
**Offered support to mothers of children sentenced to lengthy prison terms.**

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

**Rising Star – 2011**

- **The award is described as follows: “Annual Women’s Justice Award presented to honorees who are under 40 years old or within the first 10 years of practice who have already made a difference in the justice system or the profession and who appear on a path toward even greater accomplishments.”**

**Tom Cochran Community Service Award – 2011**

- **The award is described as follows: “Annual award presented by the Young Lawyers’ Section of The Missouri Bar to a lawyer whose service and professionalism have significantly enhanced his or her community.”**

**Woman of Courage – 2011**

- **The award is described as follows: “Annual award presented to women who have served as a voice of fairness in the justice system.”**

**Up & Coming – 2012**

- **The award is described as follows: “An Up & Coming Lawyer is 40 years old or younger as of September 2012, or has practiced law for 10 or fewer years. This high achiever epitomizes excellence in the legal community and is identified as a leader in the community-at-large.”**

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.

**No**

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.

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

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

**Not applicable**

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

### **PUBLIC DEFENDER EXPERIENCE**

I have been fortunate to first chair, second chair, and supervise 36 jury trials. Each jury trial offered a new experience and opportunity to grow as a trial attorney and as a person. There was a time where introducing myself as a public defender to the venire panel was one of the most difficult topics to cover, but I learned to embrace the topic, just like I have learned to proudly and boldly embrace my chosen path of Public Service. Many times the venire panel members, when they heard that I am a public defender, would make extremely disturbing and derogatory comments about public defenders that would in turn result in that venire person being struck for cause.

I have been honored to serve as an Assistant Public Defender, and I am not bothered by the lack of glamour and celebrity. I am appointed to represent people who many members of our community would not want near them. I am honored to defend the most guilty with the same passion as I would a client whose case presents facts of actual innocence. Each time I am asked the famous question, "How could you represent a person like that?" I think about the many Constitutional Rights that all citizens enjoy because of some "person like that" whose lawyer brought about important changes in the law [for example, Ernesto Miranda whose case gave rise to the "reading of the rights" standards, commonly referred to as the "Miranda Warning"]. I recognize that summoning up the courage and strength to protect the most loathed person's rights is part of protecting everyone's rights --- no matter how unpopular my representation may be.

### **INSPIRATIONAL JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE**

There was a jury trial that is very memorable to me where the judge allowed the prosecutor and me to try our case. My client was charged with murder. Several witnesses testified against my client, including the client's children and the victim's daughter. It was only because of that judge's fairness and sense of justice that we were able to present to the jury an accurate timeline of the events which impeached the state's witnesses.

I respected my opponent, the prosecuting attorney, and I appreciated the jury's service. However, the person I admired most was the judge who listened intently and patiently and who enabled the case to be tried without rancor or rudeness by either side. I remember being so very moved by that judge's fair and impartial rulings based on the law, all of which allowed the jury to render a fair and impartial verdict.

I am hopeful that I can have the opportunity to listen intently and patiently and to be fair and impartial like that judge. I want to be like she was.

## **GREATEST CHALLENGE**

**As a trial attorney, I have always enjoyed the adversarial process. I have enjoyed the challenge of representing and fighting for my clients and the challenge of protecting the constitutional principles that are so important in America. I have known the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. But my dream challenge is to be like the judge in my murder trial --- under no obligation to advocate for the plaintiff or advocate for the defendant. I want to continue my career of Public Service in the one position where my sole obligation is to do the right thing. I believe that my experience in having so many jury trials over these years has brought me to this point where I will no longer have the challenge of defeating anyone but rather the greatest challenge of rendering fair and impartial justice to the best of my ability every single day for the citizens of Jackson County and Missouri.**

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.

**A) Alvin Brooks, President/CEO  
AdHoc Group Against Crime  
3116 Prospect Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64128  
816-719-0670  
[albrooksandassoc@yahoo.com](mailto:albrooksandassoc@yahoo.com)**

**B) Father Terrell M. Finnell  
Saint Monica Parish, Pastor  
1616 Paseo Boulevard  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
816-471-3696  
[Stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com](mailto:Stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com)**

**C) Burton Haigh, Esq.  
The Accurso Law Firm  
4646 Roanoke Parkway  
Kansas City, Missouri 64112  
816-561-3900  
[bhaigh@accursolaw.com](mailto:bhaigh@accursolaw.com)**

**D) John Kurtz, Esq.  
Hubbard & Kurtz, LLP  
1718 Walnut  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
816-467-1776  
[jkurtz@mokanlaw.com](mailto:jkurtz@mokanlaw.com)**

**E) Honorable Doris A. Smith-Ribner  
Retired Judge, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania  
P.O. Box 12379  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
215-439-3127  
[jsmithribner@verizon.net](mailto:jsmithribner@verizon.net)**

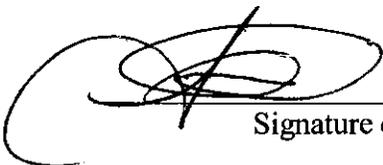
**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY AND  
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

By my signature to this form, I certify that all statements made in my application for the office of Circuit Judge and attachments thereto are truthful and correct. I further certify that if I am nominated by the Sixteenth Circuit Judicial Commission and appointed to the office of Circuit Judge, I will accept the appointment and perform the duties of that office as provided by law.

By my signature to this form, I authorize: (1) the Commission, through its Chairperson, to obtain relevant information, including but not limited to documents, records, and files, with respect to my medical, law enforcement, or disciplinary records; and (2) the Commission and its members to obtain additional relevant information regarding my qualifications, as well as the accuracy of my responses to the questions on this application. It is my understanding that the information obtained pursuant to this authorization shall be made available only to the members of the Sixteenth Circuit Judicial Commission and their staff as necessary to perform their duties.

Notwithstanding the above, in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 10.28 (e), if I am one of the three nominees listed on the certificate of nomination sent to the Governor, I authorize the Commission to send a complete copy of this application to the Governor and publicly release a copy of the application with personal and confidential information redacted as identified on the cover page of this application.

This certification and authorization shall remain in full force and effect until revoked by me in writing.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

12/28/12  
Date

ARIMETA R. DUPREE  
Printed Full Name of Applicant