

**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.

Rebecca Lynn Leavitt



2. State your date and location of birth.

May 8, 1971, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri

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

Attorney
Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, Family Support Division
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney/Trial Team Leader

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 a 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 fulfill the duties as described.

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.

Admitted to the Missouri Bar 1997. 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.

Admitted to Kansas Bar, license inactive but always in good standing.

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 Nevada, Las Vegas

- (b) Dates attended and degrees received

1989-1993; Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

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

Recipient of Nevada Gaming Foundation Scholarship and Fletcher Jones Toyota Scholarship

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

- (b) Dates attended and degrees received

1994-1997, J.D.

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

Recipient of Elizabeth Pope George Scholarship
Member of Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity

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 expelled or suspended 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.

Steven M. Rudack, D.C., Las Vegas, Nevada – File Clerk, 1990 – 1993, resigned to move to Kansas City.

Carondelet Orhopaedic, Kansas City, Missouri - File Clerk, 1993 -1994, resigned to attend law school.

Donald Ford Butler, Jr., Attorney at Law, Kansas City, Missouri – Secretary/Data Entry, 1995-2002; Data Entry 2002 – Present. Have continued to work part-time during tax seasons.

Self-Employed, Blue Springs, Missouri, Attorney – 1997 – 2002, until hired by Jackson County.

Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, Kansas City, Missouri, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, 2002 – Present, (trial team leader 2006 to 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 practiced in a variety of areas since I was admitted to the Missouri Bar. For several years I was a sole practitioner handling divorces, modifications and some estate planning. I then became an assistant prosecuting attorney for Jackson County, Missouri. In my first four years of employment with Jackson County, I worked in the Paternity Establishment unit of the Prosecutor's Office. In that unit, I established paternity orders and child support orders, prepared administrative modifications for judicial review, and opened probate estates for the purpose of establishing paternity where alleged fathers were deceased making children eligible for dependent survivor benefits. I maintained a

large caseload and managed large dockets. I also worked on one appellate case during that time, researching and writing briefs for the court until the office turned the case over to the Attorney General's office for oral argument. In 2006, I was promoted to Trial Team Leader in the Child Support Enforcement Unit of the office. In this capacity, I have enforced child support orders in both the civil and criminal setting, prepared QDRO's, and prosecuted the Child Support Court (previously Fathering Court) diversion docket. As a trial team leader, I supervise five attorneys and six support staff while maintaining my caseload, ensuring compliance with state and federal child support audit guidelines, completing performance evaluations and working with management to adjust policies and procedures as necessary. I have also been responsible for adjusting procedures and workloads among the staff in my unit after budget cuts and significant staffing reductions to ensure that we still meet our performance standards. Throughout my time in the Prosecutor's Office, I have worked extensively with pro se litigants as well as other attorneys. Working so extensively with pro se litigants has improved my skills greatly because I have learned to effectively explain the process to these participants so that they understand their rights, responsibilities and remedies. This has helped achieve fair results in the courtroom. I have also been the attorney assigned to the Child Support Court (previously Fathering Court) diversion program. In that capacity, I have helped direct participants to community resources to remove barriers to employment and help them become more productive citizens. This program's rehabilitation of people in our community has had a tremendous impact on me and my perception of those I meet on a daily basis.

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.

05P8-PR00052-01, Estate of Diamond J. Wren, Deceased, Jackson County Probate Court. Client: State of Missouri, Department of Social Services, Child Support Enforcement. This case was filed to open an estate for the deceased for the purpose of establishing paternity of an alleged child. The estate was opened to gain access to genetic samples for a pending paternity action. Case disposed of in 2010.

0716-CR05463, State of Missouri v. David A. Harper, Jackson County Misdemeanor Criminal Nonsupport. This case was transferred to the Child Support Court Diversion Program. Defendant successfully completed program June 2012 and case was dismissed.

0916-CR02809, State of Missouri v. Dustin R. Lilly, Jackson County Misdemeanor Criminal Nonsupport. Defendant pled guilty and served probation.

16DR91-03947-01, State of Missouri v. Richie Aaron, Jackson County Circuit Court, Civil Contempt. This was a civil contempt action filed in an effort to collect delinquent child support. Case was disposed of November 13, 2012.

0816-CR02575, State of Missouri v. Timothy Ray Lacy, Jr., Jackson County Misdemeanor Criminal Nonsupport. This case was transferred to the Child Support Court Diversion Program. Defendant successfully completed program June 2012 and case was dismissed.

0916-CR03255, State of Missouri v. James B. Stone, Jackson County Misdemeanor Criminal Nonsupport. This case was transferred to the Child Support Court Diversion Program. Defendant successfully completed program October 2012 and case was dismissed.

1016-FC09796-01, State of Iowa v. Bret A. Long, Jackson County Civil Contempt on Registration of Foreign Judgment. This was a civil contempt action filed in an effort to collect delinquent child support. Case was disposed of September 2012.

0616-FC01051, State of Missouri v. Michael Anderson, Jackson County Paternity Establishment. This case was filed in an effort to establish paternity and a child support order. Case was disposed of January 2007.

0516-MC01404-01, State of Missouri v. Lakeisha Marshon Holoman, Jackson County Civil Contempt. This was a civil contempt action filed in an effort to collect delinquent child support. Case was disposed of July 2012.

0916-MC04621-01, State of Missouri v. Mark Richard Arzola, Jackson County Civil Contempt. This was a civil contempt action filed in an effort to collect delinquent child support. Case was disposed of September 2011.

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, Relator v. Hon. Sherrill Rosen and Hon. Marco Roldan, Case No. 03-FC-209510, Writ of Mandamus. I represented the State of Missouri through the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office in the initial stage of the writ process and the case was then sent to the Attorney General's Office who handles appellate issues on behalf of the office. Case was later reversed and remanded.

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 Associate Circuit Judge.

While I do not have experience with jury trials, I have participated in hundreds of civil bench trials, preliminary hearings and probation violation hearings as an assistant prosecuting attorney. I have dealt extensively with pro se litigants and opposing counsel. I am comfortable in the courtroom and have been effectively moving large dockets on a weekly basis for a decade. Recently, I was appointed to the panel for the vacancy of Family Court Commissioner in Division 43. While I was not chosen to fill the vacancy, I believe that the selection to the panel reflects the Court's confidence in my abilities, fairness and demeanor both in and out of the courtroom. I have a great deal of knowledge and experience to draw from.

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.

Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, 1995-1997
Missouri Bar Association, 1997 – present
KCMBA, 2006-present
EJCBA, 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.

Missouri Child Support Enforcement Association, Session Speaker 2010 and 2011
Missouri Office of State Courts-Court Clerks College, Session Speaker 2008 and 2009
Missouri Bar Association, Family Law Conference, Session Speaker 2006

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

Not applicable.

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.

International Association of Firefighters, Local 42:

Member 2002 – Present

Steward 2002-2004

Executive Board Member 2005-2007

Third Vice-President 2007

Labor Management Committee 2002-2007 and 2012-Present

Alternate Delegate to Missouri State Council of Firefighters 2007

Delegate to IAFF International Convention 2008

United Labor Credit Union:

Board of Directors 2005 – Present

Secretary of Board of Directors 2007 – Present

Chairman of Election Board 2006, 2007

Jackson County Employee's Pension Plan Administrative Committee, 2005-2009

Committee for County Progress, Member

Women's Political Caucus, 2005-2011

Blue Springs Baseball Association, Assistant Coach Little League baseball 2003-2006

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

2003 Family Support Attorney of the Year

2012 Service Award, Missouri Association of Counties

2013 Appointed to Panel for Family Court Commissioner vacancy, Division 43

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

I am not delinquent in the payment of any taxes.

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.

I have never been convicted of a crime.

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

I have never been held in contempt of court.

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. I have been the party to litigation in my divorce and two subsequent modifications, Case number 0516-FC01053, Rebecca L. Leavitt, Petitioner v. Troy J. Leavitt, Respondent. All cases settled and approved by the Court.

I was listed as a Plaintiff in 0716-CV32739, International Association of Fire Fighters Local Union No 42 v. Chad Huisman, et al., as a result of my elected position on the Local 42 Executive Board at the time. Case was dismissed by parties.

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.

I have never been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or professional conduct.

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.

- (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.

- (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.

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

I have a unique combination of experiences and knowledge outside of my legal career. I am an active union member and have participated in contract negotiations, monthly board meetings directing the course of business for the Local and represented the membership at state and national conferences. Through this experience I have gained a great deal of knowledge related to employment law, government budgets, grants and political negotiations. I assisted in the representation of members in disciplinary proceedings as well. In this capacity, I learned to appreciate and respect the role of a defense attorney and gained a different perspective which aids me in dealing with opposing counsel as a prosecutor.

As a member of the county's Pension Plan Committee, I received a great deal of training in the area of pension plan administration and finances. I attended multiple state and national pension conferences.

My experience working for a tax attorney taught me a great deal about tax law and its impact on clients and their assets. This knowledge became helpful in determining income for self-employed parties in the child support cases I have prosecuted. I was also exposed to a great deal of estate planning through my position in that office, which allowed me to set up procedures in the prosecutor's office to establish paternity for children whose fathers were deceased, making those children eligible for benefits as surviving children.

Through my volunteer service on the board of United Labor Credit Union, I have learned a tremendous amount about finances, lending, credit union regulations and business strategy. I am the secretary of the board and therefore on the executive committee of the credit union. In this role I work with the executive committee to review the performance of the president of the credit union each year and make recommendations as to salary increases, performance bonuses, and disciplinary actions if necessary.

At the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, I hold the position of trial team leader. I have supervised between five and eleven employees at any given time. These employees are both attorneys and support staff. I prepare annual performance evaluations, set policies for the unit, supervise performance and ensure that our office complies with state and federal audit requirements. Our attorneys handle extremely large caseloads and it is my responsibility to monitor each attorney's caseload in addition to my own. We have also experienced dramatic budget and staffing reductions. I have streamlined our processes and improved our efficiency so that we can work the same number of cases with fewer staff.

As a single mother, I have found a balance between my family, my career and my volunteer and community activities. I have learned to maximize my time, focus on goals and prioritize. This has given me a greater appreciation of family and friends and I have realized that we have a responsibility to try to have a positive impact on our community.

This combined set of experiences is unique and has already proven to be valuable as a prosecuting attorney. I have the ability to see the big picture and understand how seemingly unrelated events can impact one another. I am able to approach situations with an open mind and consider nontraditional solutions to resolve a problem. My dealings with people from such varied groups and my extensive dealing with pro se litigants has helped me to become a better listener and has helped me communicate more effectively. My time as a supervisor has taught me to be decisive and try to achieve the best possible outcome in any given situation. These are all skills that will make me an effective Associate Circuit Judge.

31. 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.

Melissa Mauer-Smith, Director
Family Support Division
Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
324 E. 11th Street, Suite 1100
Kansas City, MO 64106
816-881-3488

Donald Ford Butler, Jr.
Attorney at Law
4240 BlueRidge Blvd., Ste. 410
Kansas City, MO 64133
816-356-8297

Michael Cambiano, President
IAFF Local 42
6320 Manchester Ave., Suite 42A
Kansas City, MO 64133
816-358-4222

Alisha O'Hara
Clay County Prosecutor's Office
11 S. Water Street
Liberty, MO 64068
816-896-4104

Tim Vogler, President
United Labor Credit Union
6320 Manchester Ave., Suite 41C
Kansas City, MO 64133
816-313-2848

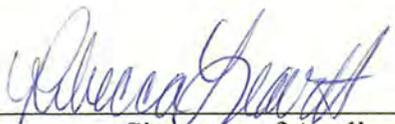
**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY AND
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

By my signature to this form, I certify that all statements made in my application for the office of Associate 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 Associate 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

9/9/13

Date

Rebecca L. Leavitt

Printed Full Name of Applicant