SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
APPLICATION FOR 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.

   Jennifer Marie Phillips

2. State your date and location of birth.

   August 5, 1975; Kirksville, Missouri

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

   Chief Trial Assistant
   Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
   415 East 12th Street
   Kansas City, Missouri 64106

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.

   Yes I am, without accommodation.

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 was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 2001 and my license 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 am not licensed in any other states.

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 – Columbia
Columbia, Missouri

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

August, 1993 – May, 1997
Bachelor of Arts, Speech Communication

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

Member of Delta Gamma Sorority
Member of Honor Board
Vice President of Rush

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

(a) Name and location of law school

University of Missouri – Columbia
Columbia, Missouri

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

August, 1998 – May, 2001
Juris Doctorate

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

Member of Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Clinic
Student Bar Association – Officer

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.

a. University Hospital
Columbia, Missouri
June, 1995-September, 1995
Administrative Assistant
Returned to college (summer employment)

b. Bath and Body Works
Columbia, Missouri
May, 1996-September, 1996
Sales Associate
Returned to college (summer employment)

c. The Limited
Kansas City, Missouri
November, 1997-January, 1998
Sales Associate
(holiday employment)

d. Russell Tackett, M.D.
Kansas City, Missouri
June, 1997-August, 1998
Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Began law school

e. Phillips & Spencer, P.C.
Milan, Missouri
July, 1999-August, 1999
Intern
Returned to law school (summer employment)

f. Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
Kansas City, Missouri
June, 2000-August, 2000

Intern
Returned to law school (summer employment)

g. Missouri Department of Revenue
Jefferson City, Missouri
November, 2001- July, 2002
Legal Counsel
Began employment at Jackson County Prosecutor's Office

h. Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
Kansas City, Missouri
July, 2002 - Present
Assistant Prosecutor

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 began my career with the Missouri Department of Revenue where I represented the State of Missouri in U.S. Bankruptcy Court and handled a docket of 40-50 corporate tax cases. This role was my first experience in the courtroom and lead to my interest in a career as a trial attorney.

I moved to the Jackson County Prosecutor's office where I have had the privilege of gaining extensive trial experience while also developing thoughtful and decisive decision-making skills and honing my communication skills with both lawyers and the general public. I began my career in the Prosecutor's office in the Community Justice Unit where I was the primary contact within the Prosecutor's office for numerous law enforcement agencies and neighborhood associations and was responsible for coordinating the prosecution of chronic offenders. I was responsible for a caseload of 20-30 felony cases and tried jury trials as both first and second chair. In this position I began developing my trial skills but also developed my understanding of the varied role of a prosecutor. In my conversations with community members, I began to see the role of a prosecutor and a judge through the eyes of non-lawyers and saw the direct impact of the legal process on the community as a whole.

After working in both Eastern Jackson County and the Kansas City urban core as a community prosecutor, I transferred to the Major Crimes Unit where I maintained a docket of approximately 30 cases involving A and B felonies and handled trials involving homicides, robberies, assaults and other major crimes. In addition to trial work, I was placed on the rotation for the homicide pager. In this rotation, I was on call 24-hours a day for two months out of the year and was the primary contact for all law enforcement agencies in Jackson County conducting homicide investigations. I routinely answered questions of detectives and made thoughtful but quick charging decisions. I also made hundreds of decisions regarding plea offers, with the goal of obtaining justice based upon the facts of the case and circumstances of the defendant and the victim.

In 2011, I was promoted to a Trial Team Leader of the Drug Unit. As a supervisor, I continued to maintain a docket of approximately 50 cases, served as lead counsel in approximately 2-4 jury trials a year and remained on the homicide pager rotation, but also supervised a team of five trial attorneys, a paralegal and two investigators. As a Trial Team Leader, I developed management skills and sharpened my communication skills with co-workers. I also continued to develop my litigation skills on complex matters such as forensic sciences, including DNA, fingerprint analysis, ballistics, psychiatry and pathology.

In early 2013, I was promoted to the position of Chief Trial Assistant, a position that reports directly to the elected Prosecutor. I currently supervise a team of 12 trial attorneys in the violent crimes and special victims units and manage support staff, investigators and victim advocates. I also maintain a docket of approximately 20 cases and serve as lead counsel in 2-4 jury trials a year. I play a significant role in Kansas City's No Violence Alliance, a new collaboration between federal, state and local law enforcement, the faith-based community, social service agencies and city leaders. The goal is to both reduce violent crime in Kansas City and provide social services to those offenders who want to choose a different path.

During my eleven years as a trial attorney, I have tried 23 cases as a first chair and approximately 15 additional cases as a second chair. My experiences as a trial attorney have not only taught me trial procedure and evidence but also have taught me how to be fair and impartial. I have learned how to make informed yet expeditious decisions and how to effectively communicate in a wide variety of situations. Most importantly, my experiences as a trial attorney have taught me the important role a judge plays in our legal system and in our community.

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.

State v. Donald Cannon, 16CR03001642-01

Date: September 7, 2004
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge William Kramer
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Cannon was charged with murder in the second degree and armed criminal action. After a jury trial, the defendant was convicted as charged and sentenced to 17 years. Mr. Cannon appealed and the conviction was upheld.

State v. Terry Young, 16CR01003337-01

Date: June 6, 2005
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge Charles Curless (visiting judge)
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Young was charged with murder in the first degree and armed criminal action. The eyewitnesses to the homicide were uncooperative at the time of trial. The jury convicted Mr. Young of both counts and he was sentenced to two life sentences.

State v. Terrance Robinson, 0816-CR01017-01

Date: December 15, 2008
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge Jay Daugherty
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Robinson was charged with four counts of murder in the first degree and four counts of armed criminal action. There was evidence that while Mr. Robinson was incarcerated pending trial, he attempted to hire an individual to kill one of the eyewitnesses. Mr. Robinson was convicted as charged and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

State of Missouri v. Taqwa Thompson, 0816-CR0192-01

Date: February 8, 2010
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge David Byrn
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Thompson was charged with murder in the second degree and armed criminal action. The jury convicted Mr. Thompson of both counts and he was sentenced to 20 years.

State v. Deonta Taylor, 0916-CR00788-01

Date: June 1, 2010
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge Sandra Midkiff
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Taylor was charged with two counts of murder in the first degree and two counts of armed criminal action. The State's evidence included multiple eyewitnesses as well as forensic evidence. After a jury trial, Mr. Taylor was convicted. He was sentenced to two life sentences without the possibility of parole.

State v. Carl Counce, 0916-CR04898-01

Date: July 21, 2010
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge Jay Daugherty
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Counce was charged with assault of a law enforcement officer and armed criminal action. This case involved an officer conducting a pedestrian check of Mr. Counce who fled. During the pursuit, the State alleged Mr. Counce fired a handgun at the officer. After a bench trial, Mr. Counce was found guilty. He was

sentenced to 5 years.

State v. Blanche Johnson, 0916-CR05594-01

Date: August 16, 2010
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge Brian Wimes
Represented: State of Missouri

Ms. Johnson was charged with murder in the second degree and armed criminal action. The State alleged Ms. Johnson shot and killed an individual with whom she previously had a relationship. In a videotaped statement to police, Ms. Johnson admitted to the homicide. However at the time of trial, she denied involvement. She was convicted by a jury and sentenced to 22 years.

State v. Travis Knott, 0916-CR05826-01

Date: February 8, 2010
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge Joel Fahnestock
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Knott was charged with murder in the second degree, robbery in the first degree and two counts of armed criminal action. The State alleged Mr. Knott committed a robbery of a convenience store and while in flight from such robbery, an owner of the store was shot and killed. After a bench trial, Mr. Knott was found guilty. He received a sentence of 18 years.

State v. Deanthony Griddine, 1216-CR01683-01

Date: November 16, 2012
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge John Torrence
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Griddine was charged with unlawful use of a weapon and armed criminal action. The State alleged Mr. Griddine had repeatedly fired a handgun at an occupied vehicle. A jury convicted Mr. Griddine and he was sentenced to 15 years.

State v. Dequan Hawkins, 1216-CR01455-01

Date: April 15, 2013
Jurisdiction: Jackson County Circuit Court, Judge David Byrn
Represented: State of Missouri

Mr. Hawkins was charged with murder in the second degree and armed criminal action. The State alleged that Mr. Hawkins shot and killed a 16-year-old girl outside of a convenience store. A jury convicted Mr. Hawkins as charged. Mr. Hawkins was sentenced to 30 years as to murder in the second degree and 20 years as to the armed criminal action charge, both sentences to run consecutively.

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.

I have no appellate experience.

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.

I have never served in a judicial capacity.

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.

I have never served in a judicial capacity.

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.

Missouri Bar Association
Association of Women Lawyers
Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys

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 co-presented a CLE entitled "12 Angry Men." During the presentation, I discussed my approach to jury selection and contrasted the jury selection process of today with that depicted in the movie.

I participated in a CLE presented by the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services. The CLE consisted of a case-law update, and I presented on a case I prosecuted at the trial level.

I have also made various presentations to colleagues in the Jackson County Prosecutor's office. I have not authored any articles or books.

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

No.

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.

I am involved in Visitation Catholic Church and the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA).

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

Lon O. Hocker Award – 2011
An award presented annually by the Missouri Bar to a lawyer, under the age of 40, who has demonstrated an unusual proficiency in the art of trial advocacy.

Patrick B. Hall Trial Attorney of the Year – 2010
Patrick B. Hall Trial Attorney of the Year – 2008
An award presented annually by the Jackson County Prosecutor to an Assistant Prosecutor who has exhibited exceptional trial skills during the previous year in an unusually difficult or challenging trial.

Jackson County Prosecutor's Office 2007 Victim Advocate of the Year
An award presented annually by the Jackson County Prosecutor to an employee who has exhibited extraordinary commitment to advocating for victims of crime.

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.

When I was 17 years old, I received a ticket for being a minor in possession of alcohol, a Kirksville municipal ordinance violation. The case information is as follows:

City of Kirksville v. Jennifer Marie Phillips
Case Number: MU293-840MO
Date of conviction: August 3, 1993
Sentence: Suspended imposition of sentence with 1 year of unsupervised probation

After successfully completing probation, the Court withdrew my guilty plea and suspended imposition of sentence and the case was closed.

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.

I grew up in Milan, a small town in north Missouri. My father maintains a general law practice in Milan and growing up I frequently worked as a receptionist and secretary in his office. Growing up in Milan and working in my father's office, I saw the wide range of people who needed legal services. From the farmer who needed estate planning, to the local factory worker with a worker's compensation claim, to the single mother who needed to modify her child support, all walks of life came through the firm's doors. Although their legal needs were different, all had one goal: use the legal system to seek justice.

Working in the Jackson County Courthouse for the past 11 years, I have seen a similar phenomenon. Day after day, people from all over the metropolitan area come to the courthouse with a variety of problems. I have encountered litigants and witnesses in the elevators, hallways and courtrooms and seen the trepidation and sometimes fear they have interacting with the legal system. I have witnessed first-hand how the Jackson County judges address individuals with patience, thoughtfulness and kindness. And, if given the privilege of becoming a Jackson County judge, I will strive to do the same. Everyone who walks through the doors of the courthouse deserves to be treated fairly, equally and respectfully.

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.

JD Williamson
Williamson Mediation Services
10821 Milton Thompson Road
Kansas City, MO 64086
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Kansas City, MO 64112
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Peg Ekerdt, Pastoral Associate
Visitation Church
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Kansas City, MO 64112
816-753-5155
Fax: 816-753-5505
peg@church.visitation.org

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

7/18/13
Date

Jennifer M. Phillips
Printed Full Name of Applicant