

SIXTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
PLATTE 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.

James Walter Van Amburg

2. State your date and location of birth.

October 23, 1951 Dayton, Ohio

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

Associate Circuit Judge, Platte County, Missouri in Platte City

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 Platte 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**

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 in 1982. My license is and always has 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.

**United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri;  
United States Supreme Court. My licenses are and always have been 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

(b) Dates attended and degrees received

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

**William Jewell College 1969-1973 (attended all semesters except for one semester at University of Missouri - St. Louis). Bachelor of Arts degree received 1973. Varsity Basketball player 1972-1973.**

**Metropolitan Community College in St. Louis. Summer Semester, 1970.**

**University of Missouri- St. Louis. Attended Fall Semester 1970.**

**University of Missouri- Kansas City. Attended 1973-1975. Received**

## **Master of Arts Degree in Counseling and Guidance.**

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

**I attended Washburn University School of Law from 1979 until 1982. I received my Juris Doctor degree in 1982.**

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 not 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.

**Carbinition Automotive Service, St Louis County, Missouri, Summer of 1969, Summer of 1970, and Fall of 1970. I was employed as a service station attendant. I left each time to return to school.**

**William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, Fall of 1969. I worked cleaning laboratory equipment and then as a switchboard operator. I left to find more consistent employment.**

**Liberty Public Schools, Liberty, Missouri, School bus driver during the school year from 1971 through December 1973. I left this job to play basketball in 1972 and started again after basketball in 1973. I continued this job in the Fall of 1973 until I left to begin employment with the Platte County Juvenile Office on January 2, 1974.**

**Guy's Potato Chips, Liberty, Missouri, Summer 1972. I served as a janitor working in the evenings to clean the office, eating, and restroom areas. I left this job to return to school in the Fall of 1972.**

**Detention Officer, Clay County Juvenile Justice Center, Summer of 1973. I was not scheduled for work after acceptance of a job in Platte County, Missouri.**

**Deputy Juvenile Officer, Platte County, Missouri, 1974-1979. I left the position in the Fall of 1979 to attend Law School.**

**Witt and Boggs, Attorneys-at-Law, Platte City, Missouri, Summer of 1980. Law Clerk. I left that position in the Fall of 1980 to return to law school, but continued to do legal research in the Fall of 1980 while attending Law School.**

**Ralston and Frieden, Attorneys-at-Law, Topeka, Kansas, 1981-1982. Law Clerk. I left this position after graduation from Law School.**

**Witt, Boggs, Shaw, and Van Amburg, Attorneys at Law. Platte City, Missouri, 1982-1987. I left this position to open my own practice in 1987.**

**Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Platte County, Missouri. 1987-1993. I left this position after being appointed as an Associate Circuit Judge**

**Law Office of James W. Van Amburg, Weston, Missouri, 1987-1993. I closed the Law Office after being appointed as an Associate Circuit Judge.**

**Associate Circuit Judge, Platte County, Missouri, 1993- 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 was involved in the general practice of law from 1982 until my appointment to the bench in 1993. I represented individuals in domestic, probate and the criminal courts. I was often appointed as a guardian-ad-litem, representing the interests of children in domestic proceedings and juvenile hearings. I was an Assistant City Attorney for Riverside, Missouri**

**and Houston Lake, Missouri. As Assistant City Attorney, I served as City Prosecutor in their respective Municipal Courts. I participated in two jury trials as first chair and assisted in the preparation in several more.**

**In addition to a trial practice, I also represented clients in the preparation of wills and trusts, the forming of municipal corporations and business corporations, the preparation of contracts, and other business advice.**

**As an attorney, I represented different individuals and entities on both sides of the issues. In the general practice of law, I gained experience participating in civil litigation representing Plaintiffs. As an Assistant City Attorney, I gained experience participating in representing the Cities. The Cities would sometimes be named as Defendants in civil litigation.**

**In private practice, our firm would be retained to represent individuals charged with a crime. Some of those cases resulted in pleas to the charge and some cases resulted in trials. In 1987, I joined the Prosecutor's Office as an assistant on a part-time basis. As an Assistant Prosecutor, I was now representing the State in prosecuting individuals charged with crimes. Many cases were resolved with pleas of guilty and some cases were resolved with a trial.**

**I believe that representing individuals and entities in different capacities has helped me become a better lawyer and helped me become a better judge.**

**I believe that Judges and Attorneys must understand how important their work is and how their decisions affect people's lives. Individuals are unique. Cases are unique. To that end, all work must be professional and complete and tailored to address the unique needs of that client.**

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.

**Bledsoe v. Bledsoe, Case # 16DR84-01235, Jackson County, Missouri and case numbers JU1-85-34, JU1-85-35, and JU1-85-33, Platte County, Missouri**

**The Bledsoe case was a child custody case. The case commenced with**

**an ex-parte order being entered by the Circuit Court of Jackson County transferring custody of a minor child to the Father. The Court of Appeals granted a Writ of Prohibition and directed the trial court to immediately set the case and hear it to conclusion. After an extensive hearing, the trial court set aside the ex parte order. The case was then sent to Platte County as a juvenile court case. After additional hearings, the children remained with the Mother.**

**Crockett by Crockett v. Schlingman 741 SW2d 717 (Mo. App. W.D. 1987)**

**I was appointed as Guardian ad Litem for the minor child in this paternity case. This was the first jury trial paternity case in Platte County. Much of the trial work, including preparation and examination of the expert witness became the responsibility of the Guardian ad Litem. The jury returned a verdict declaring paternity.**

**Williams v. Williams 699 SW2d 65 (Mo. App. W.D.1985)**

**This was a contested custody and property division case. The trial court granted custody in favor of the mother and granted father visitation. The case was appealed on the issue of property division. Judgment affirmed.**

**In addition to the above cases, I also appeared on behalf of the State of Missouri in numerous Court tried cases.**

**I appeared as appointed Guardian ad Litem in many contested dissolution cases.**

**I appeared as an appointed attorney for children and parents in the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court.**

**Because I have spent the past 20 years on the bench, the cases I tried as an attorney are quite old. Most of my files from my prior law firm and my private practice have been shredded. I was unable to locate records of those cases.**

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.

**Williams v. Williams 699 SW2d 65 (Mo. App. W.D. 1985)**

**Petitioner's attorney: James W. Van Amburg**

**Respondent's attorney: Thomas E. Hankins**

**This case was discussed in the preceding paragraph.**

**Crockett by Crockett v. Schlingman 741 SW2d 717 (Mo. App. W.D.**

**Plaintiff's attorney: Gregory Vleisedes**

**Defendant's attorney: Joseph Y. DeCuyper**

**Guardian ad Litem: James W. Van Amburg**

**This case was discussed in the preceding paragraph.**

**State of Missouri v. Stokes 814 SW2d 702 (Mo. App. W.D. 1991)**

**Plaintiff's Attorney: James W. Van Amburg, Assistant Prosecutor**

**Defendant's Attorney: Thomas Koelling**

**The Defendant entered a plea of guilty to driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana. The trial court revoked the Defendant's driver's license pursuant to Section 577.505 RSMo. The Defendant appealed contending that his driver's license could not be revoked because the State had failed to charge that the Defendant possessed marijuana while operating a motor vehicle. The Appellate Court held that: (1) the possession of marijuana occurred while the Defendant was operating a motor vehicle and (2) the penalty of revocation of a driver's license was a civil penalty and therefore the element of operation of a motor vehicle did not have to be alleged in the information charging the Defendant with possession of marijuana.**

In 2010, I was invited to serve as a visiting judge with a Division of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District. Cases heard include:

**Cluck v. Union Pacific Railroad Company No. WD 70792**

**Lake Ozark/Osage Beach Joint Sewer Board v. Missouri Department of Natural Resources 326 SW3d 38 (Mo. App. W.D. 2010)**

**Hinchman v. Hinchman 323 SW3d 438 (Mo. App. W.D. 2010)**

**Better Way L.L.C. v. Hayes 320 SW3d 716 (Mo. App. W.D. 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.

From 1993 through 1998, I handled traffic (including driving while intoxicated and driving while suspended), misdemeanors (except for bad checks), small claims, associate civil cases, and probate dockets. I also handled requests for Ex Parte Orders of Protection, both during office hours and after hours. I handled search warrants, both during office hours and after hours.

From 1998 to the present, I handle domestic dockets, Orders of Protection dockets, preliminary hearing and bad check dockets, and the probate docket. I continued to handle requests for Ex Parte Orders of Protection, both during office hours and after hours. I continue to handle search warrants, both during office hours and after hours.

In addition, I handled civil cases and criminal cases assigned to me by the Presiding Judge. I also handled cases in other venues given to me by assignment by the Supreme Court.

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.

a. **Probate cases commencing in 1993.**

I was appointed as an Associate Circuit Judge in 1993. I replaced a Judge that had been removed by the Supreme Court for incompetence. As part of my duties, I was assigned the Probate Division. Settlements were ordered in each Public Administrator case. After review of the settlements, an order was entered for the Public Administrator to show cause why he had taken certain fees when he was not legally entitled to receive fees. The case was referred to the Platte County Prosecutor's Office. The Public Administrator resigned and eventually plead guilty to taking money from estates. An interim Guardian needed to be appointed on all of those cases and eventually a permanent successor Public Administrator was appointed.

On review of the cases involving minor guardianships, I found that in many cases, Letters of Guardianship had been issued without notice to the parents. Upon finding this, all minor guardianships were set for review. Attorneys were appointed to represent the minors. Hearings were held on all cases.

b. Petersen v. Cates Sheet Metal, Inc. Case #: 95CC01027, Platte County, Missouri

Plaintiff's Attorneys: Michael Ketchmark, David Larson, and David Eischens

Defendant's Attorney: Richmond Enochs

The Plaintiff was an apprentice roofer. While working on the roof of a building, he fell through a hold cut in the roof by Defendant's employees. He suffered a broken neck and brain damage.

The Plaintiff's last demand was \$800,000 and the Defendant's last offer was \$350,000. The jury returned a verdict for \$2,100,000. No appeal was taken.

c. Malan Realty Investors, Inc. v. Harris Case # 95AC02181, Platte County, Mo.

Plaintiff's Attorney: Cynthia Martin

Defendant's Attorney: David Rauzi

The Plaintiff and Defendant had entered into a commercial lease agreement. The lease agreement contained a provision that the landlord and tenant waived trial by jury in any matter arising from the lease. The Plaintiff filed its petition alleging breach of contract. The Defendant requested a jury trial. The request was denied. The decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Missouri in Malan Realty Investors v. Harris 953 SW2d 624 (Mo. Banc 1997)

d. State v. James Roberson Case #CR197-04038, Jackson County, Missouri

Plaintiff's Attorney: Tamara Putnam, Jackson County Assistant Prosecutor

Defendant's Attorney: Betsy Iverson, Jackson County Asst. Public Defender

The Defendant was charged with first degree assault and armed criminal action. The State alleged that the Defendant shot the victim with a .380 semi-automatic pistol. The victim's 18 year old son (and a friend of the Defendant) testified he saw the Defendant standing outside the house and further testified that he saw the Defendant shoot into the house. The Defendant did not testify. No shell casings were found. The defense introduced evidence that the eyewitness's view of outside the house was almost completely obstructed with a hanging sheet.

The jury found the Defendant not guilty.

e. State of Missouri v. Michael Holmes Case number: 0695CF01854-01 and Case # WD 55458, Platte County, Missouri

Plaintiff's Attorney: David Ketchmark and Roseann Smith

Defendant's Attorney: Martin McLaughlin

The Defendant was charged with one count of receiving stolen property. The Defendant claimed he did not know that the property was stolen. The jury returned a verdict of guilty. The Defendant was sentenced as a prior and persistent offender.

- f. *Pijanowoski v. Pijanowski* 06-AE-CV00191; 272 SW3d 321(Mo. App. W.D. 2008), Platte County, Missouri

Petitioner's attorney: Larry Wright

Respondent's attorney: Allen Russell on appeal; Jared Welch at trial

This case was a contested custody matter. The Decree provided that periods of custody with the minor child were generally divided equally between the Mother and the Father. However, the Decree also provided that when the child became school age, the custody periods would be modified to a more traditional custody arrangement. The Court of Appeals affirmed stating the decree could be modified prospectively if there was a change certain to occur.

- g. *State of Missouri v. Antoine Washington* Case #CR00-00425 Jackson County, Missouri, 92 SW3d 205 (Mo. App. W.D. 2002)

Plaintiff's attorney: Jackson County Prosecutor's Office

Defendant's attorney: Vincent Esposito

Defendant was charged with First Degree Burglary. Defendant went into a garage attached to a residence and stole items from the garage. There was no access directly from the garage to the house. The jury was instructed and convicted the Defendant of First Degree Burglary. Since there was no direct access between the house and garage, the Court of Appeals reversed and instructed the trial court to correct the record to show a conviction of Second Degree Burglary. (note: the sentence the Defendant received was within the range of punishment for Second Degree Burglary)

- h. *State of Missouri v. Robert L. Evans (a/k/a Henry Lewis)* Case # 97CF-00616, Platte County, Missouri

Plaintiff's attorney: Roseann Ketchmark

Defendant's attorney: Allen Reynolds

Defendant was charged with armed robbery. Defendant went into a convenience store on 45 highway in Platte County, Missouri and used a knife to threaten the store employee. The Defendant denied using a weapon. The Defendant also denied being a prior and persistent offender. The jury found the Defendant guilty. The Defendant was sentenced as a prior and persistent offender to life imprisonment.

- i. *State of Missouri v. Michael Schlax* Case #07AE-CR02921-03, 342 SW3d 901 (Mo. App. W.D. 2011), Platte County, Missouri

Plaintiff's attorney: Eric Zahnd, Joseph Vanover, Platte County Prosecutors

Defendant's attorney: G. Robert Nickerson

Defendant had five charges: property damage, leaving the scene of an accident, resisting arrest, careless and imprudent driving, and third degree assault. The case originated with a car chase in Kansas City, Kansas and proceeded across Interstate 635 into Riverside, Missouri. The vehicle the Defendant was driving was involved in an accident causing injury to the other driver. The car chase then became a foot chase. The Defendant was apprehended in a wooded area in Riverside. The Defendant claimed he was wrongly identified. The jury found the Defendant guilty of all five counts. The Defendant was sentenced as a prior and persistent offender.

- j. *Freeman v. Freeman* Case #: 00CV-84329, Platte County, Missouri

Petitioner's attorney: G.M. Mouse

Respondent's attorney: Donald J. Lock

Petitioner and Respondent had dissolved their marriage. There was one child born of the marriage. Wife's residence was the address of the child for mailing and educational purposes. Husband filed a Motion to Modify. While the case was pending, the Wife was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident. Wife was in a coma for a period of time and then spent substantial time in rehabilitation. During the period of time the wife was in treatment, the child was with the father. After the Mother completed rehabilitation, the

**Mother requested the return of the child. After several hearings, the child remained with the Father.**

**k. In the matter of Patrick Martin Case #0687PR096**

**Janet Waddell, Public Administrator of Platte County v. Patrick Martin**

**Plaintiff's attorney: Lisa Rehard**

**Defendant's attorney: Douglas Wilson**

**Patrick Martin requested a jury trial on the questions of whether he was incapacitated and disabled. Evidence was presented. Jury found the Respondent incapacitated and disabled and the Court appointed the Public Administrator.**

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.

**I believe I have listed my experiences in litigation and as a Judge.**

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.

**I am a member of the Missouri Bar Association, the Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges, the Missouri Association of Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges, and the Platte 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 am an annual panelist at the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. I have been a panelist at 'The Practical Guide to Probate and Estate Administration' sponsored by the University of Missouri- Kansas City. I am a panel member at the annual meetings of the Missouri Guardianship Association.**

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

**I was a member of the West Platte R-II Board of Education from 1986 until 1992.**

**I served as an Assistant Prosecutor from 1987 until 1993.**

**I served as Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Riverside, Weatherby Lake, and Houston Lake.**

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.

**I was not a member of the military.**

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 served as a youth baseball coach from 1995 until 2002.**

**I served as a youth soccer coach from 1995-1998.**

**I served as a youth basketball coach from 1995-2003.**

**I was co-director of the youth basketball league from 1997-2004.**

**I was a Coach of the Year in the Mid-Continent Baseball League in 1995 and 2002.**

**I have assisted with the trash pickup at the annual Weston Applefest for at least the past 12 years.**

**I serve as a guest speaker for the third grade at Siegrist Elementary School (Platte County R-III School District) and have done so for at least the past 15 years.**

**I serve as a guest speaker for fourth grades of Hawthorne Elementary**

**School and Chinn Elementary School. (Park Hill School District)**

**I serve as a guest speaker for the Sophomore class of the West Platte R-II School District sponsored by the VFW.**

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

**There are none.**

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 federal, state, county or city 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 not been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony or received a suspended imposition of sentence in any federal, state, or military court.**

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

**I have not 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.

**Michael Samuels v. James Van Amburg, Case # 03CV224016, Jackson County, Missouri**

**A Petition for Guardianship and Conservatorship was filed in Jackson County, Missouri, Case # 16PRK-15111, requesting the appointment of a Guardian and Conservator for Michael Samuels. After Michael Samuels threatened to kill the Judges in Jackson County, the case was transferred (by**

agreement) to the Probate Division in Platte County, Missouri. Mr. Samuels brought numerous lawsuits against myself, Public Administrators and lawyers. All cases were dismissed. The Estate commenced in Platte County in 1996 and continued until Mr. Samuels death in 2011.

James Walter Van Amburg v. Ora Lynn Van Amburg Case # 05-CV02943, Platte County, Missouri.

This was my personal dissolution of marriage case. All issues were settled by agreement.

B. Mendenhall v. Maurer-Maurer and Mitchell, Inc. and James W. Van Amburg Case # 7CV190001698, Clay County, Missouri.

I was the trustee on a Deed of Trust signed by Plaintiffs. After foreclosure, Plaintiffs alleged wrongful foreclosure. The case was dismissed on August 16, 1993.

State ex rel Bertha Sue Asburn, Relator v. Hon. James Van Amburg, Respondent Case No. SC88598, Supreme Court of Missouri.

Petition for Writ of Prohibition. Voluntary Dismissal filed June 27, 2007.

State ex rel Edwin R. Groves, Relator v. J Van Amburg, Respondent, Case # WD57638,

Petition for Writ of Prohibition. Voluntary Dismissal filed October 19, 1999 and granted October 20, 1999.

State ex rel Deborah Klamm, Relator v. Hon. James Van Amburg, Respondent. Case # WD58774.

Petition for Writ of Mandamus filed July 6, 2000 and Denied as Moot on July 12, 2000.

State ex rel W.S. Meredith, Relator v. Hon. James Van Amburg, Respondent. Case # WD60237.

Petition for Writ of Prohibition filed July 24, 2001 and Denied July 25, 2001.

*In Re Bertha Ashburn, Relator v. James Van Amburg, Respondent*, Case # WD68442.

Petition for Writ of Prohibition filed June 1, 2007 and Denied June 7, 2007.

*State ex rel Erica Ise, Relator v. Hon. James Van Amburg, Respondent*. Case # WD68525.

Petition for Writ of Prohibition filed June 22, 2007 and Denied July 5, 2007.

*State ex rel K. Lavenburg, Relator v. Hon. James Van Amburg, Respondent*. Case # WD 68584.

Petition for Writ of Prohibition filed July 10, 2007 and Denied July 16, 2007.

*State ex rel Amy Boynton, Relator v. Hon. James Van Amburg, Respondent*. Case # WD69065.

Petition for Writ of Prohibition filed November 21, 2007 and Denied November 27, 2007

*Kenneth Mendenhall v. Maurer-Maurer and Mitchell and James Van Amburg* Case # 15CV049000146, Saline County, Missouri.

I was the trustee on a Deed of Trust. After foreclosure, the Plaintiffs alleged wrongful foreclosure. Cause was dismissed.

*Michael D. Calvin v. State of Missouri et al.* Case No. 09-6073-CV-SJ-HFS-P. United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, St. Joseph Division.

The Plaintiff (and Defendant in a criminal case filed in Platte County,

Missouri) filed a complaint in Federal Court alleging, among other things, that his preliminary hearing was not recorded. The case was dismissed September 24, 2009.

**William Hart, Plaintiff v. Sherry Salois et al, Defendants. Case # 2:13-cv-011-DGK-BCW. Filed in the United States District Court, District of Utah-Central Division.**

**This case originated by a denial of an extension of an Order of Protection filed by the Plaintiff. I am on one numerous defendants including Judges and Law Enforcement personnel. The defense of the case has been referred to the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Case is still pending.**

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 or breach of ethics or professional conduct by a court or by any bar association or committee thereof.**

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.

**No order of reprimand, removal, retirement, suspension or other disciplinary action has ever been entered against me by the Supreme Court of Missouri for breach of the Code of Judicial Conduct**

(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.

**No reprimand or admonishment has been entered against me 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.**

- (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.

**To my knowledge, I am not the subject of a complaint that is currently under investigation by the Commission on Retirement, Removal, and Discipline.**

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

**I have had the privilege of serving as an Associate Circuit Judge since 1993. I have had the opportunity to handle cases from small claims cases to cases where millions of dollars were at issue. I have had the opportunity to hear cases from a speeding ticket to cases where someone's incarceration for many years was at issue. I try to make sure all cases are timely decided and that all participants and witnesses are treated fairly and respectfully.**

**I have made myself available to take assignments of cases.**

**As an Associate Circuit Judge, I have always welcomed the opportunity to hear Circuit level cases.**

**I have received positive evaluations from the Judicial Evaluation Committee.**

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 Sixth Judicial Circuit.

**The Honorable Ward B. Stuckey  
Circuit Judge (retired)  
Sixth Judicial Circuit  
Platte County, Missouri  
6600 Royal Court  
Parkville, Missouri 64152  
Phone: 816-560-9817**

**The Honorable Charles Atwell  
Circuit Judge (retired)  
Sixteenth Judicial Circuit  
Jackson County, Missouri  
Foland, Wickens, Eisfelder, Roper, and Hofer P.C.  
911 Main Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105  
Phone: 816-460-2883**

**Mark Owen  
Sheriff  
Platte County, Missouri  
415 Third Street  
Platte City, Missouri 64079  
Phone: 816-640-2424**

**Janet Waddell  
Former Public Administrator  
Platte County, Missouri  
1200 Main, P.O. Box 418679  
30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, Missouri 64141—9679  
Phone: 816-729-5128**

**Dr. Mark Harpst  
Former Superintendent  
West Platte R-II Schools  
Platte County R-III Schools  
7829 N. Kirkwood Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64151  
Phone: 816-835-6375**

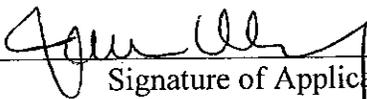
**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY AND  
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

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 Seventh 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 Seventh 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

June 26, 2013  
Date

James W. Van Amburg  
Printed Full Name of Applicant