

UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name**: State full name (include any former names used).

Colleen Rae Lawless (formerly Colleen Rae Schuster)

2. **Position**: State the position for which you have been nominated.

United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois

3. **Address**: List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

Sangamon County Courthouse  
200 South Ninth Street, Room 530  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

4. **Birthplace**: State year and place of birth.

1983; Joliet, Illinois

5. **Education**: List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

2006 – 2009, Northern Illinois University College of Law; J.D. (*cum laude*), 2009

2004 – 2005, Heartland Community College; no degree received

2003, American University; Public Law Program; no degree received

2001 – 2005, Illinois Wesleyan University; B.A., 2005

6. **Employment Record**: List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2019 – present

Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois  
Sangamon County Courthouse  
200 South Ninth Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
Associate Circuit Judge

2007 – 2018  
Londrigan, Potter & Randle P.C.  
300 East Ash Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62703  
Shareholder (2015 – 2018)  
Associate (2009 – 2015)  
Law clerk (2007 – 2009)

2017 – 2018  
Law Office of Colleen R. Lawless  
1227 South Seventh Street, Suite 3  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

2007 – 2009  
Northern Illinois University  
Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action  
1425 West Lincoln Highway  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
Graduate Assistant

2005 – 2006  
Red Lobster  
209 South Weber Road  
Bolingbrook, Illinois 60490  
Waitress and bartender

2006  
Olive Garden  
2991 South Veterans Parkway  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
Waitress and bartender

Uncompensated:

2011 – 2015  
The Parent Place  
314 South Grand Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
Board Member

7. **Military Service and Draft Status**: Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I did not serve in the military. I was not required to register for the selective service.

8. **Honors and Awards**: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Emerging Lawyers, Law Bulletin Media (2015 – 2018)

9. **Bar Associations**: List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

American Bar Association (intermittent membership 2010 – present)

Central Illinois Women's Bar Association (intermittent membership 2010 – present)

Illinois Judges Association (2019, 2020 and 2022)

Illinois State Bar Association (2011 – present)

Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (2012 – 2018)

Sangamon County Bar Association (2010 – present)

Seventh Circuit Bar Association (2010 – 2018)

10. **Bar and Court Admission**:

- a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Illinois, 2009

There have been no lapses in membership.

- b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, 2010

There have been no lapses in membership.

**11. Memberships:**

- a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

Citizens for Preserving Pretzel Pride  
Communication Committee (2022)

Girls Scouts of Central Illinois  
Troop Co-leader and Member (2021 – present)

- b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11 a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois is a youth organization whose membership is restricted to females. To the best of my knowledge, none of the other organizations listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin, either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

**12. Published Writings and Public Statements:**

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

Professor Elvia R. Arriola of Northern Illinois University College of Law requested, and I granted, permission to publish on her website a seminar paper I wrote in 2009 during my third year of law school entitled, "Same Old China: A Critical Analysis of China's Elite Sports System's Use of Young Females to

Position Itself onto the Global Economic Stage of the 2008 Olympics.” Copy supplied.

- b. Supply four (4) copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

None.

- c. Supply four (4) copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

None.

- d. Supply four (4) copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

May 16, 2022: Speaker, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois. The presentation was on the role of the judiciary and its impact on the community. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Sangamon County Courthouse is 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

May 5, 2022: Co-presenter, “Managing the Family Law Courtroom,” New Judge Orientation Conference, Springfield, Illinois. Slide show and notes supplied.

March 3, 2022: Speaker, Sangamon County Courthouse tour for Girl Scout Troop 6981, Springfield, Illinois. The tour included a mock trial and a discussion on the role of the judiciary. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Sangamon County Courthouse is 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

May 12, 2021: Speaker, Joliet West High School Zoom Presentation. I presented on how my high school and college athletic experience positively impacted my career choice and transition into the legal community. I have no notes, transcript,

or recording. The address for Joliet West High School is 401 North Larkin Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

March 4, 2021: Panelist, Illinois College Zoom Presentation, "Forging Her Own Path: Growing Past Gender Barriers in the Workplace." The panel discussion focused on my experience with gender barriers in the legal community and my representation of clients in employment discrimination cases. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Illinois College is 1101 West College Avenue, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.

July 2019 (specific date unknown): Presenter, Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois. Notes supplied.

May 24, 2019: Speaker, New Berlin Elementary School Career Day, New Berlin, Illinois. I spoke about my role in the judicial system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of New Berlin Elementary School is 600 North Cedar, New Berlin, Illinois 62670.

January 4, 2019: Investiture speech, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

January 27, 2017: Presenter, Springfield High School speech class, Springfield, Illinois. I discussed my career as a litigation attorney and answered questions on various topics. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address of Springfield High School is 101 South Lewis Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

- e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and four (4) copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Steven Spearie, *Sangamon County Officials Elected November 3 Sworn In*, State Journal-Register, Dec. 1, 2020. Copy supplied.

Bernard Schoenburg, *Retirements, Appointments, Elections Bring Change to Courthouses*, State Journal-Register, Dec. 2, 2018. Copy supplied.

Bruce Rushton, *Judge Rules Against Urban League*, Illinois Times, July 28, 2015. Copy supplied.

Randy Sharer, *Making Her Final Pitch; Hurler Prepares for the End of Illustrious Career*, The Pantagraph, Apr. 29, 2004. Copy supplied.

*Titans Get Right in Swing of Things; IWU Begins World Series Run by Ending Muskingum's Streak*, The Pantagraph, May 17, 2003. Copy supplied.

Jim Benson, *Sophomore Duo a Titan Hit*, The Pantagraph, May 15, 2003. Copy supplied.

Douglas Hamm, *Murray, Titans Defend Home Turf; Pitcher, Defense Shine for IWU in NCAA Division III Regional Win*, The Pantagraph, May 10, 2003. Copy supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

Since January 4, 2019, I have served as an associate judge in the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois. I was appointed to the position by the circuit judges. The Seventh Judicial Circuit is comprised of Greene, Jersey, Morgan, Macoupin, Sangamon, and Scott Counties. I am assigned to the domestic relations division in Sangamon County, which includes parentage, dissolution, emancipation, and child support cases. My docket includes, at any given time, approximately 350 parentage cases and 225 dissolution cases. As an associate judge, I am also responsible for weekend bond hearings and on-call warrant responsibilities. I routinely assist my judicial colleagues with coverage of mental health commitment hearings, small claims trials, traffic and misdemeanor cases, arraignments, specialty courts, and felony plea hearings.

- a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment?

After a detailed review of my calendar and written orders, I have presided over approximately 125 civil bench trials while in the domestic relations division. This estimate does not include the bench trials I have presided over in mental health commitment proceedings, small claims, evictions, traffic, emergency orders of protection, or the plenary order of protection docket.

- i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials:	1%
bench trials:	99%

- ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings:	100%
criminal proceedings:	0%

- b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.

As a trial court judge, I issue written orders, memorandum opinions, and

judgments. In addition, I consistently announce my decisions from the bench with a court reporter present which does not result in a written order that I have prepared. Finally, I issue lengthy docket orders on cases involving petitions for rule to show cause, temporary child support, temporary maintenance, and emergency parenting time issues. The docket orders are publicly available on the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk's website.

- c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).

1. *Rahman v. Rahman*, No. 20-D-227 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The parties were married for 25 years and had three children together. The husband was the higher wage earner as an experienced pharmaceutical salesman. The wife worked as a teacher in the local school district. The parties also owned approximately 30 rental properties. Each party alleged dissipation against the other due to excessive spending, charitable donations, and flight lessons. I presided over a three-day bench trial on the issues of property classification, division of marital assets and debts, dissipation, maintenance, child support, college expenses, and attorney fees. The final judgment was entered on December 12, 2021, equitably dividing the marital estate and awarding the wife maintenance with a credit to the husband for child support. Neither party met their burden of proving dissipation as the use of the marital funds was consistent with their standard of living. I denied the husband's request to apply the post high-school educational expense statute to aviation lessons that were unaffiliated with the child's undergraduate degree. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Greg Scott  
Scott & Scott, P.C.  
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 753-8200

Counsel for Respondent

Kelli Gordon  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

2. *Lynch v. Lynch*, No. 20-D-189 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).



The parties were married for approximately 17 years and had four minor children. After entry of an emergency order of protection against the husband, his lucrative contract for employment was terminated leaving the wife's salary as the only source of income. An agreed plenary order of protection was entered restricting the father's ability to exercise parenting time. Multiple emergency hearings were conducted regarding child support, discovery disputes, and preservation of the marital estate. I appointed a guardian ad litem, awarded supervised parenting time, and held the father in indirect civil contempt for his willful violations of the child support order and discovery deadlines. I presided over the final bench trial on the issues of classification of property, division of the marital estate, child support, and attorney fees. The wife requested reimbursement from the marital estate for her use of substantial inheritance to improve the marital home and pay off marital debt over the course of four years. On January 14, 2022, I entered the judgment of dissolution, parenting plan, and child support order. I denied the reimbursement of funds used in 2018 and 2019, because they were commingled with marital funds without any expectation or intention for repayment. The wife received child support and reimbursement for her payment of the minor children's educational, healthcare, and extracurricular expenses throughout the litigation. The parties were self-represented by the time of trial. The wife filed a motion to reconsider that I granted in part on March 18, 2022. Copies supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Robert Bonjean  
Bonjean Law Office  
309 West State Street  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
(217) 243-4814

Counsel for Respondent

John A. Hoblit  
Hoblit Law  
419 Pulaski Street, Suite B  
Lincoln, IL 62656  
(217) 935-7063

Guardian ad Litem

Ashley Davis  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

3. *McClelland v. JCJ Beverages Inc.*, No. 16-L-264 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

Plaintiff filed a complaint alleging he fractured his fibula when the defendant's

employee negligently pushed him to the ground. Defendant argued plaintiff's own negligence, including intoxication, caused his injuries. I denied the plaintiff's motion *in limine* to bar any evidence of his intoxication or consumption of alcohol on the night in question. I presided over the jury trial which resulted in a verdict for the defendant.

Counsel for Plaintiff

Randall Wolter  
Wolter, Beeman, Lynch, & Londrigan  
1001 South Sixth Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 753-4220

Counsel for Defendant

Greg A. Gaz  
401 Fayette Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 753-8262

4. *Jackson v. Flam*, No. 18-F-471 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The parties were never married and did not have an order allocating parental responsibilities for the minor child, age seven. At the outset of the case and prior to entry of a temporary parenting time order, the father refused to return the minor child to the mother on Christmas Eve. The child's whereabouts were unknown for a significant period of time. After involvement from law enforcement and communication with the father's extended family, the minor child was located in Peoria and safely returned to the mother in the middle of the night. The incident resulted in an emergency hearing on temporary parenting time wherein I awarded the majority of parenting time to the mother. I presided over the bench trial on child support and entered the final order on April 9, 2020. I denied the father's request to deviate from the statutory child support guidelines because the parents' disparity of income was already accounted for in the statutory calculation. Copies supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Randy Paswater  
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, L.L.P.  
831 East Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 953-4979

Counsel for Respondent

Ashley Davis  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street

Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

5. *Barber v. Starks*, No. 18-F-673 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The parties share one minor child, age two, and were not married. The father signed a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity and lived with the child and mother until their relationship ended in Fall 2018. The father did not file a petition to allocate parental responsibility, because he received consistent parenting time and relied on the mother's verbal and written agreements that she would not relocate with the minor child. On December 26, 2018, the mother sent a text to the father asking for permission to move to Florida with the minor child. He immediately declined and informed her that he was filing the petition to establish parentage. On that same day, the mother drove to Florida with the minor child and refused to return. On December 27, 2018, the father filed his petition to establish parentage and allocate parental responsibilities. I denied the mother's motion to decline jurisdiction because the child's home state was Illinois at the time of filing. Due to the timing and circumstances of the mother's move, I ordered the relocation statute applied to the case and, after presiding over the final bench trial, I denied the mother's request to relocate with the child and entered a parenting time schedule that was in the best interest of the child. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Jared Scott  
Scott & Scott, P.C.  
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 753-8200

Counsel for Respondent

Jason Vincent  
Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.  
1 West Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 525-1571

6. *Eggers v. Eggers*, No. 18-D-297 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The parties were married for 28 years at the time of their separation. The husband moved out of the marital residence and relocated to Wisconsin with his adult daughter. At the time of separation, the parties agreed to equally divide the substantial funds held in their family trust and continue to receive their own pension benefits. The husband removed the wife as the designated beneficiary on his life insurance policies and investment accounts. He passed away shortly after entry of the bifurcated judgment for dissolution. At the time of trial, the wife was 90 years old and residing in an assisted living facility. She received ongoing

medical treatment that required significant monthly income. I presided over the bench trial on the issues of classification, valuation, and distribution of marital property along with the husband's estate's request for reimbursement of medical and living expenses. The final order equitably divided the marital estate and denied the estate's request for reimbursement of living expenses. At the time of separation, the husband received over \$600,000 from the family trust, \$192,000 in non-marital assets and his monthly pension benefits to pay for his living expenses and medical needs. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Greg Scott  
Scott & Scott, P.C.  
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 753-8200

Counsel for Respondent

Howard Feldman  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

7. *Ladage v. Ladage*, No. 2016-D-364 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The parties were married for 16 years and did not have any children together. Respondent owned several parcels of farmland prior to the marriage and earned income through his non-marital construction business. I presided over the bench trial on the issues of classification, valuation, and division of the sizeable marital estate. The judgment of dissolution was entered on August 23, 2019, wherein I found the husband intentionally withheld documents and failed to disclose assets in an effort to mislead the opposing party and the court. In addition, I denied his request to classify certain assets as non-marital property. He failed to prove by clear and convincing evidence that the funds used to purchase and/or maintain the properties were non-marital. The wife received a disproportionate share of the marital estate and I ordered the husband to pay the attorney fees accrued by the wife due to his willful violation of discovery orders. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Roland Cross  
Brown Hay & Stephens  
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 544-8491

Counsel for Respondent

Roger White  
Cordell and Cordell  
2815 Old Jacksonville Road, Suite 103  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 803-0000

8. *Stewart v. Delgado*, No. 14-D-805 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The parties had one minor child together. The father filed a motion requesting enforcement of the summer parenting time schedule. At that time, the mother resided in the state of Washington with the minor child. A few days after entering into an agreed order to allow the child to visit her father in Illinois, the mother requested and received an emergency order of protection in the State of Washington. After conducting the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act conference with the judge in Washington, the emergency order of protection was dismissed. After a five-day bench trial and the mother's repeated refusal to follow court orders regarding parenting time, the father was awarded decision-making responsibilities and the majority of parenting time. The final order was entered on December 18, 2020. Copy supplied.

Petitioner was a self-represented litigant.

Counsel for Respondent

Jason Schutte  
Drake, Narup & Mead, P.C.  
107 East Allen Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 528-9776

9. *Watson v. Watson*, No. 11-D-991 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The father filed a motion to modify parenting time and educational decision-making responsibilities to allow the minor child, age 12, to begin attending traditional school. He alleged the child was not meeting his potential in the home school setting. An educational assessment was conducted to assess the child's proficiency in math and reading. I presided over the five-day bench trial and conducted an *in camera* interview of the child. The final order awarded educational decision-making responsibilities to the father and modified the parenting time schedule to meet the best interest of the child. The mother appealed the order and the Fourth District Appellate Court affirmed. Copy supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Jeff Page  
Jeff Page Law Office  
2601 South Fifth Street

Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 522-2216

Counsel for Respondent

Phillip Reed  
Reed Law Office  
1129 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 528-7333

10. *Menichetti v. Campbell*, No. 10-D-119 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).

The case originated from a motion to modify filed by the father requesting the minor child reside with him in Chicago. While the child was undergoing mental health treatment, the father removed the child to Chicago and refused to return her. Multiple emergency hearings and orders of protection were entered in order to safely return the child to the care of her local treating mental health professionals. The father repeatedly violated the orders restricting his parenting time resulting in indirect civil contempt findings. The final order restricted the father's ability to communicate with the child and ordered counseling to continue. Copies supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Roland Cross  
Brown Hay & Stephens  
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 544-8491

Counsel for Respondent

Matthew Hector  
O'Flaherty Law, P.C  
1515 Legacy Circle  
Naperville, IL 60563  
(630) 324-6666

Guardian ad Litem

Ashley Davis  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

- d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys

who played a significant role in the case.

1. *Estes v. Watts*, No. 2020-F-50 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Kimberly Talken  
Kerley & Talken P.C.  
431 South Grand Ave West  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 814-0148

Respondent was self-represented.

2. *Ngoupa v. Ngoupa*, No. 2018-D-301 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion supplied.

Petitioner was self-represented.

Counsel for Respondent

Roland Cross  
Brown Hay & Stephens  
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 544-8491

3. *Powers v. Lewis*, No. 2016-F-654 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion supplied.

Both parties were self-represented.

4. *Ladage v. Ladage*, No. 2016-D-364 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion previously supplied in response to Question 13c.

Counsel for Petitioner

Roland Cross  
Brown Hay & Stephens  
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 544-8491

Counsel for Respondent

Roger White  
Cordell and Cordell  
2815 Old Jacksonville Road, Suite 103  
Springfield, IL 62704

(217) 803-0000

5. *Bell v. Cota*, No. 2014-F-469 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Cara Pratt-Fleming  
Young Law Partners  
1300 South Eighth Street, Suite 2  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-6200

Respondent was self-represented.

Guardian ad Litem

Kelli Gordon  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

6. *Logue v. Logue*, No. 2014-D-573 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion supplied.

Petitioner was self-represented.

Counsel for Respondent

Roland Cross  
Brown Hay & Stephens  
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 544-8491

7. *Spann v. Spann*, No. 2013-D-782 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Brittany Kink-Toigo  
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, L.L.P.  
831 East Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 953-4979

Respondent was self-represented.

8. *Oliver v. Estes*, No. 2012-D-447 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion



supplied.

Petitioner and Respondent were self-represented.

Guardian ad Litem

Ashley Davis  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

9. *Woods v. Ilsley*, 2012-D-11 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County). Opinion supplied.

Petitioner was self-represented.

Counsel for Respondent

Kimberly Talken  
Kerley & Talken P.C.  
431 South Grand Ave West  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 814-0148

10. *Weddigen v. Weddigen*, No. 2006-D-501 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County).  
Opinion supplied.

Counsel for Petitioner

Greg Scott  
Scott & Scott, P.C.  
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 753-8200

Counsel for Respondent

Ashley Davis  
Feldman Wasser  
307 South Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-3404

- e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.

I have searched electronic databases to determine whether certiorari was requested or granted. I did not find any in which certiorari was requested or granted.

- f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

After review of my files and conducting a search on electronic databases, I have not been reversed or significantly criticized by a reviewing court.

- g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.

As a trial court judge in an Illinois circuit court, my written opinions are unpublished and maintained in the court file by the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk.

- h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

To the best of my recollection, I have not written an opinion on federal or state constitutional issues.

- i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

None.

14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself *sua sponte*. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:

- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself *sua sponte*;
- b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action

taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

Sangamon County does not have an automatic recusal system. During my tenure as a judge, I do not recall a motion wherein a party requested that I recuse myself due to an asserted conflict of interest. However, litigants have filed motions requesting a substitution of judge for cause under 735 ILCS 5/2-1001(a) (3). I refer any motions to substitute to the chief judge of the domestic relations division. All motions that have been filed requesting my substitution for cause have been denied by the subsequent judge.

When necessary and appropriate, I have analyzed my potential need for recusal by consulting Rule 63 of the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct and considering the facts and circumstances of each case.

I do not keep a list of cases where I have recused myself. Upon review of my files and independent recollection, I have recused myself *sua sponte* from the following cases:

*Baldrick v. Baldrick*, No. 20-D-139: I recused myself based on my knowledge of the underlying facts through having represented the petitioner's sister.

*Browning v. Minnillo*, No. 19-F-75: I recused myself because the petitioner was a parent in my Girl Scout troop.

*Clayton v. Scott*, No. 03-F-156: I recused myself because the minor child in question attended elementary school with my children.

*McClelland v. JCJ Beverages, Inc.*, No. 16-L-264: After being assigned the jury trial, I discovered at the pre-trial conference that I had represented the president of the defendant entity while in private practice. I disclosed the conflict and the plaintiff agreed to remit the disqualification.

*Miller v. Miller*, No. 22-DN-93: I recused myself, because the respondent is a court clerk that I routinely work with. I had personal knowledge regarding facts that were likely relevant to the proceeding.

*Moe v. Seagle*, No. 00-F-388: I recused myself due to my former business partnership with plaintiff's attorney and my husband's friendship with the plaintiff.

*Rupnik v. Rupnik*, No. 21-D-311: I recused myself at the outset of the emergency trial because the petitioner was my child's teacher.

15. **Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:**

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed

you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

Other than my appointed judicial position, I have not held any public office nor have I been a candidate for any elective office.

- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

In 2006, I volunteered to review signatures during a ballot challenge on behalf of Governor Blagojevich's campaign. I also volunteered as a crowd coordinator for the Obama campaign on February 10, 2007, at which time he announced his presidential candidacy in Springfield, Illinois.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

- a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

I have not served as a clerk to a judge.

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

2017 – 2018  
Law office of Colleen R. Lawless  
1227 South Seventh Street, Suite 3  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each;

2007 – 2018  
Londrigan, Potter & Randle P.C.  
300 East Ash Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62703  
Shareholder (2015 – 2018)  
Associate (2009 – 2015)  
Law clerk (2007 – 2009)

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have not served as a clerk to a judge or as a mediator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

After working as a law clerk for Londrigan Potter & Randle, P.C., I was provided significant responsibility upon my admittance to the Illinois bar. I conducted two solo jury trials within a year and was frequently in court on various civil matters. I did not specialize in any area of law and would handle cases as they were assigned to me by the partners and through my own client intake process. My general practice consisted of cases involving personal injury, family law, employment discrimination, estate matters, traffic violations, and collection proceedings. I also assisted the partners with medical malpractice trials and complex civil litigation. The nature of my practice changed once I became partner in 2015 and assumed cases that were previously assigned to a former partner. Through referrals from former clients and local lawyers, I developed a steady practice of complex family law and employment discrimination cases.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

My typical clients were individuals in civil litigation. I also represented local business clients on human resource matters such as negotiating severance agreements and drafting personnel policies.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

The majority of my practice was in litigation requiring frequent court appearances across the State of Illinois in multiple different venues. I represented plaintiffs and defendants in judicial circuits across the state and in the Central and Southern District of Illinois including bankruptcy court. I successfully appealed decisions in the Fourth and Fifth District Appellate Courts. My representations included clients within the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Illinois Human Rights Commission, Illinois Court of Claims, and Illinois Secretary of State administrative hearings.

i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. federal courts:          | 25% |
| 2. state courts of record:  | 65% |
| 3. other courts:            | 0%  |
| 4. administrative agencies: | 10% |

ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. civil proceedings:    | 97% |
| 2. criminal proceedings: | 3%  |

d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I tried four cases to verdict before a jury. I was sole counsel on three cases and associate counsel for one. I tried approximately 40 cases to verdict before a judge.

i. What percentage of these trials were:

- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. jury:     | 10% |
| 2. non-jury: | 90% |

e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply four (4) copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice. -

I have not practiced before the Supreme Court of the United States.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- the date of representation;
- the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

1. *Prairie State Bank and Trust v. Oruwari*, No. 2015-CH-32 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Coles County 2017)

I represented the plaintiff, Prairie State Bank and Trust (“PSBT”), in a mortgage foreclosure action against Mr. Oruwari. Mr. Oruwari filed affirmative defenses of estoppel, fraud, and misrepresentation, along with a breach of fiduciary duty counterclaim. The foreclosure included over a dozen properties and required review and presentation of approximately 300 trial exhibits. I was lead trial counsel over the course of the 18-day bench trial. The judge denied defendant’s counterclaim and entered a judgment of foreclosure in the amount of \$952,648. Judge Brien J. O’Brien presided.

Co-Counsel

Mariann Pogge  
Pogge Law Office  
3300 Hedley Road  
Springfield, IL 62711  
(217) 793-7406

Maureen Faller  
Prairie State Bank and Trust  
3751 West Wabash Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62711  
(217) 864-4918

Opposing Counsel

Brent Winters  
5105 South Highway 41  
Terre Haute, IN 47802  
(317) 515-7695

2. *Design Ideas Ltd. v. Meijer Inc., et al.*, No. 15-cv-03093 (C.D. Ill. 2018)

Plaintiff’s six-count complaint alleged copyright infringement, unfair competition under the United States Trademark Act, and violations of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act arising from the defendants’ manufacture and sale of Canary Clips. I represented Design Ideas Ltd. as local counsel and litigation specialist with a primary responsibility of handling all discovery matters and depositions. After conducting extensive written discovery and depositions in multiple states, the parties engaged in mediation with Magistrate Judge Hawley. I participated in the mediation and became lead counsel for settlement negotiations with the defendants. The matter was resolved without trial. U.S. District Judge Sue Myerscough presided.

Co-Counsel

Garfield Goodrum  
Design Law  
90 Canal Street, 4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

(617) 861-0780

Counsel for Defendants Whitmor, Inc. and Meijer, Inc.

Patrick Kuehl Jr.  
Rimon Law  
633 East 63rd Street, Suite 220  
Kansas City, MO 64110  
(816) 839-7471

Counsel for Defendant TJX

Donald Craven  
Donald Craven P.C.  
1005 North Seventh Street  
Springfield, IL 62702  
(217) 544-1777

3. *Peterson v. Peterson*, No. 15-D-477 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County)

I represented the wife and mother in a dissolution involving one minor child, age three, with special needs. The parents were both employed as flight attendants with unconventional schedules. The case required detailed discovery to appropriately demonstrate the husband's dissipation of the marital estate and attempts at hiding marital assets. Multiple emergency hearings were held due to the father's refusal to return the minor child. During the course of the three-day bench trial, I presented evidence on Mr. Peterson's dissipation of \$188,289 in liquid assets and \$73,740 in credit card accumulation and refusal to comply with the court's prior orders on four separate contempt petitions. The final judgment was entered on December 6, 2017, resulting in a decision that was favorable to my client regarding the division of marital assets and allocation of parental responsibilities. Judge Karen Tharp presided.

Opposing Counsel

Kimberly Talken  
Kerley and Talken, P.C  
431 South Grand Avenue West  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 814-0148

4. *Zellner v. Smith*, No. 13-D-552 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County)

I represented the husband in a dissolution proceeding with no children. The case involved substantial non-marital assets located in Germany and a marital estate worth several million dollars. The wife alleged she was entitled to permanent maintenance due to her medical issues and contribution toward the husband's medical practice. The discovery process was protracted due to the nature of the foreign assets and the necessity of tracing substantial funds gifted to the husband from his family. Temporary evidentiary hearings were conducted on the issue of maintenance and the sale of residential real estate owned



by the parties. The issues presented at the three-day final bench trial were the classification of property, division of marital property, and whether maintenance should be awarded to the wife. The trial court awarded my client his non-marital property, denied further maintenance payments, and equitably divided the marital estate. Judge Jack Davis II presided.

Opposing Counsel

Betsy Wirth  
Quinn Johnston  
400 South Ninth Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 753-1133

5. *Mallicoat v. Mallicoat*, No. 13-D-137 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Morgan County)

I represented the wife in the dissolution of a long-term marriage. The husband earned substantial income from his employment and controlled the marital finances throughout the marriage. Immediately prior to the commencement of the dissolution, the husband spent more than \$1.15 million within 90 days and terminated his employment of over 37 years. The wife was unemployed and unable to meet her daily living expenses. His actions necessitated emergency hearings and entry of a temporary restraining order on further dissipation of the marital estate. Over the course of eleven months, I issued dozens of subpoenas and meticulously traced funds to preserve and ensure proper valuation of the marital estate. The case was settled prior to trial. Judge David Cherry presided.

Opposing Counsel

Robert Bonjean  
Bonjean Law Office  
309 West State Street  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
(217) 243-4814

6. *Webb v. Lightsey*, No. 12-F-524 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County)

I represented Ms. Webb in her request for modification of child support beginning in Fall 2014. The father was earning substantial income through exercise of stock options while paying child support based solely on his retirement income. After a three-day bench trial in June 2016, the trial court entered an order increasing Mr. Lightsey's child support obligation but denying Ms. Webb's request for retroactive support. Ms. Webb appealed, and the Fourth District Appellate Court affirmed in part, vacated in part, and remanded the matter to the trial court for a global recalculation of child support and review of the retroactive award. On remand, the trial court awarded Ms. Webb increased child support beginning in September 2014 which resulted in an arrearage of \$34,309. Judge Jack Davis II presided.

Opposing Counsel

Randy Paswater  
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, L.L.P.  
831 East Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 953-4979

7. *Langen v. Wells Fargo*, No. 11-cv-3369 (C.D. Ill. 2012)

I represented Ms. Langen against her employer, Wells Fargo, alleging interference and retaliation claims under the Family Medical Leave Act (“FMLA”). After undergoing serious medical issues, she requested intermittent leave under the FMLA. Ms. Langen alleged she was not appropriately provided the intermittent leave and, ultimately, was terminated in retaliation for her use of the medical leave. I conducted extensive written discovery and depositions to demonstrate her use of the intermittent leave was in compliance with the FMLA. Defendant denied all allegations in the complaint. The matter was settled prior to trial through mediation with Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore. U.S. District Judge James Shadid presided.

Co-Counsel

Douglas Quivey  
United States Attorney's Office  
318 South 6th Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 492-5070

Opposing Counsel

Charles E. Reis, IV  
Littler Mendelson, P.C.  
600 Washington Avenue, Suite 900  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
(314) 659-2000

8. *Schnitker v. Springfield Urban League*, No. 11-L-570 (Ill. Cir. Ct.)

I represented the plaintiff, Ms. Schnitker, against her employer, Springfield Urban League, Inc. (“SUL”), in a case alleging racial and religious discrimination. After 13 successful years as a teacher with SUL, Ms. Schnitker was not recalled for employment in 2010. SUL asserted the decision was based on her poor job performance. The evidence received during the lengthy and highly litigated discovery process demonstrated a pattern of discrimination by Ms. Schnitker’s supervisor. A jury trial was conducted over the course of five days and the jury returned a verdict in favor of Ms. Schnitker in the amount of \$100,000. Defendant appealed and the Fourth District Appellate Court reversed on the issue of an improper jury instruction. The case was settled before retrial. Judge Jack Davis II presided.

Opposing Counsel

John Gilbert  
Sandberg Phoenix  
101 West Vandalia Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
(618) 659-9526

9. *Eads v. Ali*, No. 11-L-1 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Peoria County)

I represented the plaintiff against her employer alleging battery, assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and sexual harassment. Plaintiff was an assistant working in a medical office when the defendant doctor conducted an invasive exam on her after-hours without anyone present in the building. He was not her treating physician or a gynecologist. Defendant denied all allegations. The case involved substantial discovery, depositions, motion practice, and preparation for the jury trial. After Defendant's motion for summary judgment was denied, the case was resolved in private mediation prior to trial. Judge Jodi Hoos presided.

Co-Counsel

Douglas Quivey  
United States Attorney's Office  
318 South 6th Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 492-5070

Opposing Counsel

Charles C. Hughes  
Hughes, Tenney, Postlewait & Coale, L.L.C.  
101 South Main Street, Suite 300  
Decatur, IL 62523  
(217) 428-5383

10. *In re: Estate of Jackson*, No. 08-P-513 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Sangamon County)

My clients, Ms. Tozer and Mr. Hudgins, were the niece and nephew of Ms. Jackson. She was 90 years old when she passed away in 2008. After learning that Ms. Jackson changed her last will and testament shortly before her death leaving 80 percent of her wealth to the dairy and produce managers at the local grocery store, Ms. Tozer and Mr. Hudgins filed a petition to contest the will asserting undue influence by Mr. Crocker and Mr. Cox. Mr. Crocker had initiated the process of changing Ms. Jackson's will by setting up an appointment with an attorney associated with his wife. Mr. Crocker took Ms. Jackson to the appointment and remained in the room while the attorney asked her questions about her wishes. A new will was created leaving the majority of her estate to Mr. Crocker and Mr. Cox. After four days of jury trial, a verdict was returned finding Ms. Jackson's Last Will valid. Judge Peter C. Cavanagh (now Appellate Justice Cavanagh) presided.

Opposing Counsel

Thomas H. Wilson  
Hepler Broom  
4340 Acer Grove  
Springfield, IL 62711  
(217) 993-7144

Randall W. Segatto  
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, L.L.P.  
831 East Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 953-4979

18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

During my time on the bench, I have worked with my judicial colleagues on implementation of new and revised forms to increase efficiency while in the courtroom and assisted with the revision of the local family rules.

In order to have sufficient time to appropriately handle dissolution and parentage actions involving self-represented litigants, I designate specific days each month on my docket for cases involving self-represented litigants only. The change in the schedule allows for a more comprehensive initial case management conference wherein I can devote more time to explaining the dissolution process or assisting in the resolution of the matter. The modification has not only resulted in fewer court appearance for self-represented litigants, but it has also opened up my docket to schedule contested hearings on a timely basis.

At Londrigan, Potter & Randle P.C., I was responsible for the summer law clerk program. I hired, supervised and facilitated effective communication between the law clerks and other partners at the firm. I also hired and mentored the associate attorneys at Londrigan, Potter and Randle P.C. As a judge, I have assisted in the hiring process for the externship program at the Sangamon County Courthouse.

I have never registered as a lobbyist or performed any lobbying activities.

19. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide four (4) copies to the committee.

None.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

None.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? If so, explain.

I have no plans or commitments to pursue outside employment.

22. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

See attached Financial Disclosure Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

- a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

I do not anticipate conflicts of interest through my friends, family members, or financial arrangements. Due to my current position as a state court judge, I anticipate that I may have prior knowledge of certain facts in cases that will require my recusal. I will consult the necessary rules and procedures and consider the facts and circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

- b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

In the event of an actual or potential conflict, I will carefully consult and comply with 28 U.S.C § 455, Canon 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and any and all applicable rules and guidelines.

25. **Pro Bono Work**: An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association’s Code of Professional Responsibility calls for “every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged.” Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

Prior to my judicial appointment, I participated in the Land of Lincoln Pro Bono program through which I provided legal services to disadvantaged individuals on estate matters. I also provided pro bono representation to the Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois and Big Brothers Big Sisters. I drafted personnel policies, severance agreements, and provided other employment law services for the Parent Place on a pro bono basis. As a judge, I have implemented changes in scheduling and resolution of cases involving self-represented litigants to provide better access for disadvantaged individuals and reduce court appearances.

26. **Selection Process**:

- a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

Senator Dick Durbin established a screening committee to evaluate applications for the judicial vacancy in the Central District of Illinois. I submitted my application on May 23, 2022. I interviewed with the screening committee on May 27, 2022. The committee recommended my candidacy, along with others, to Senator Durbin. I interviewed with Senator Durbin on May 31, 2022, and with Senator Tammy Duckworth on June 8, 2022. Two days later, Senator Durbin forwarded my name, along with others, to the White House for consideration for nomination by the President. On June 10, 2022, I received an email from an attorney in the White House Counsel’s Office. Since June 10, 2022, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice. On September 6, 2022, my nomination was submitted to the Senate.

- b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question

in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.