

Application for Judicial Vacancy Indiana Appellate Courts

PART ONE

This document will become a matter of public record and may be published on the courts.in.gov website once your application is complete, so do not include confidential information that must be redacted.

1. Contact/General Information

A. Full legal name and any former names.

- Jaime Marie Oss and Jaime Marie Huelat

B. State the full name (use initials for minor children), age, and relationship of each person residing in your household. For each adult living in the household (other than yourself), also state the person's occupation and employer.

- Jaime Marie Oss – 45 years old
- Anthony James Oss – 46 years old – husband
Professional Engineer/Director of Preconstruction Services/Director of Design
Larson-Danielson Construction Company, Inc. and Facet Architecture
- AJO - 17 years old – son
- NAO - 14 years old – son
- NEO - 14 years old – son

C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

- 300 Washington Street, Michigan City, Indiana 46360
- joss@laporteco.in.gov
- 219-874-5611, ext. 7710

D. Attorney number.

- 24335-46

E. Month and year you were admitted to the Indiana Bar.

- October 2003

a. *Indicate current law license status (i.e. active/inactive/retired).*

- Active

b. *If you are or have been a member of the Bar of any other state, identify the jurisdiction and provide date(s) of admission and current license status.*

- Inapplicable

F. Date and place of birth.

- August 31, 1978 – LaPorte, Indiana

G. County of current residence and date you first became a resident.

- LaPorte County – May 1981

2. Secondary Education/Military Experience

A. List all undergraduate colleges and universities you attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when. **As part of your Supplemental Materials, provide a transcript—including a certified transcript for your original hard copy—for each school listed; redact your Social Security number if it appears on the transcript.*

- Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
August 1996 – May 2000
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Minor in Philosophy
Psi Chi Honors Society – Spring 1998 Induction – May 2000
Dean’s List – Fall 1997 – Spring 2000
- Indiana University South Bend (IUSB)
June 1997 and June 1998
Summer classes

B. If applicable, list any military service. Include the name of the military branch; dates of service; last rank achieved; and any honors, awards, or commendations received and when. **As part of your Supplemental Materials, provide a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty ("DD 214" paperwork).*

- Not applicable

3. Post-Secondary Education

A. List all law schools, graduate schools, and post-J.D. programs attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; class rank; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when. **As part of your Supplemental Materials, provide a transcript—including a certified transcript for your original hard copy—for each school listed; redact your Social Security number if it appears on the transcript.*

- Valparaiso University School of Law
 August 2000 - May 2003
 Juris Doctor
 35/106
 Honors 'A' in Pretrial Skills - December 2001
 Honors 'A' in Secured Transactions - May 2003

4. Employment

A. Provide your employment history since graduation from college. Include name of employer, titles or positions, locations, and dates of employment.

- Judge, LaPorte Superior Court No. 1 2021-Present
 300 Washington Street, Michigan City, Indiana 46360
 State of Indiana
- Huelat & Mack P.C. 2005-2020
 (f/k/a Huelat Mack & Kreppein P.C.)
 286 West Johnson Road, Suite G, LaPorte, Indiana
 450 St. John Road, Suite 204, Michigan City, Indiana (prior address)
 - Managing Partner 2012-2020
 - Senior Associate Attorney 2005-2012
- Huelat & Gardner, LLC 2000-2005
 450 St. John Road, Suite 204, Michigan City, Indiana

- Associate Attorney 2003-2005
- Law Clerk 2000-2003

B. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your practice of law (present and former), and provide the names of your partners, associates, office mates, and employers.

➤ **Practice of Law**

When I was in private practice, I handled a variety of civil litigation files at the trial court level, including banking, commercial sales, product liability, as well as auto accidents and premises liability, and some at the appellate court level. I drafted the briefs in almost all appeals and complex cases handled by the law firm, including wrongful death, a Clean Water Act claim, and complicated insurance coverage issues.

➤ **Partners and Associates**

- Jerry E. Huelat was my partner and was my employer from 1997 to 2020.
- Beverly J. Mack was my partner.
- Michael A. Kreppein was my partner until May 18, 2018.
- David A. Mack, Robert J. Penney, Jeffrey Soja, David Bachman, David Newman were associates with whom I worked as an attorney.

5. Trial/Judicial Experience

A. Describe the extent of your jury trial experience, if any.

- I second chaired several jury trials with my dad, Jerry Huelat, who is an outstanding litigator. The last jury trial that we tried together before I became a judge was a traumatic brain injury case in March 2020 in Porter County with Judge Bradford. In February 2015, we tried a wrongful death case in February 2015 in Lake County with Judge Parent where we represented a driver who was intoxicated. Prior to that, I second chaired portions of jury trials with my dad, including a UIM auto accident case in Porter County in February 2014.
- Additionally, I have been attending my dad’s trials since I was probably 12 years old. The first one was a criminal jury trial for child molestation that he tried as a Deputy Prosecutor in the LaPorte Circuit Court. That is where I discovered my love of courtrooms and jury trials. I attended at least 20 to 30 of them over the years and learned a lot. This provided me with a strong foundation for understanding trial practice, which has served me well on the trial court bench.

B. Describe the extent of your bench trial experience, if any.

- In 2017, I tried a dog vs. dog mauling case in LaPorte Superior Court No. 3 in front of Judge Thorne. I represented the Plaintiff owners of the terrier who was mauled by a pit bull mix. It was a defense verdict.
- I tried a breach of warranty/damage to real property case in LaPorte Superior Court No. 4 in front of Judge Friedman against a real estate developer. My clients were a national door and window manufacturer and a Midwest big box store. We received a defense verdict plus attorney fees.
- I tried another real estate property damage case in Porter Superior Court No. 4 with Judge Chidester. My client was a brick installation company that was alleged to have damaged the real property during the brick installation. We received a defense verdict.
- The first bench trial that I tried was a damage to personal property case in LaPorte Superior Court No. 4 in front of Senior Judge Don Harner. My client was a real estate developer that was sued for the condition of a parking lot causing damage to a vehicle. The Plaintiff obtained a verdict against my client.

C. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your judicial experience (including as a judge pro tempore). Include a description of your experience presiding over jury trials, if any.

- In November of 2020, I was elected Judge of the LaPorte Superior Court No. 1 after defeating the incumbent. This court's docket includes major felonies, civil litigation, family law, mental health, paternity, adoptions, collections, post-conviction relief, probate, and protective orders. I also have been the special judge on all other case types that I do not generally handle, including misdemeanors, small claims, child in need of services (CHINS) cases, and termination of parental rights. The only kind of case that I have not handled is juvenile delinquency.

Because of the variety of cases on the Superior No. 1 docket, I have heard and decided a wide range of issues from federal and state Constitutional issues involving suppression of confessions, statements, and evidence to custody issues that depend upon the best interest of the child, from consent issues for adoption to testamentary capacity and undue influence, from writs for habeas corpus to separation of powers issues. This has provided me with a broad base of experience and has prepared me for the breadth of cases that the Indiana Court of Appeals handles.

- Since taking the bench on January 1, 2021, I have presided over many criminal jury trials and a several criminal and civil bench trials. I will never forget the first jury trial. It was a ten count tragic case, including two counts of dealing resulting in death, which involved a careful determination of what evidence was permitted under the exceptions to the prior bad acts exclusion. Some of the other cases involved unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, burglary, possession of and dealing in controlled substances, another dealing resulting in death, and a few murders.
- I served as a pro tem for Judge Kathleen Lang, LaPorte Superior Court No. 1, from 2012 to 2014. During that time, I conducted probable cause and initial hearings, ruled on requests made by probation, and reviewed filings and issued orders on various civil matters, including protective orders.

6. Professional Experience

**As part of your Supplemental Materials, include as writing samples four selections (in total) from the written materials listed below in Questions 6A through 6C.*

- A. If applicable, list up to five trial or appellate briefs and/or judicial opinions you have written. Refer to them by caption, case number, and filing date.
- Defendant Tyler Truss Systems, Inc.’s Memorandum in Support of its Motion for Summary Judgment – See attached – Tab 5
 - *In re: State Fair Litigation – Polet, et al. v. Mid-America Sound, et. al.*
 - Cause No. 49D02-1111-CT-044823
 - This Memorandum was filed March 21, 2014. You will note that Jerry Huelat electronically signed the Memorandum when it was filed, as it was filed under his Lexis Nexis File & Serve ID, but I am the one who drafted it.
 - Order on Petition for Post-Conviction Relief – See attached – Tab 6
 - *Timothy Malott v. State of Indiana*
 - Cause No. 46D01-2008-PC-3
 - The Order was filed May 27, 2024.
 - Order on Defendant’s Motion to Suppress – See attached – Tab 7
 - *State of Indiana v. Jesse E. McNeeley*

- Cause No. 46D01-2012-F5-1522
 - The Order was filed on August 2, 2023.
 - Defendants Jeffery Cleary and Maintenance Dynamics, Inc.'s Joint Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Joint Motion to Correct Errors – See attached – Tab 8
 - Patricia Amsden, Individually and as Administrator of the Estate of Phillip Amsden, deceased, v. Maintenance Dynamics, Inc. and Jeffery Cleary, Chula's LLC d/b/a Country Lounge, and Giovanni's, Inc. d/b/a Giovanni's
 - Cause No. 45D04-1105-CT-111
 - The Memorandum was filed on October 21, 2015.
 - Order on State of Indiana's Motion in Limine
 - *State of Indiana v. Christopher M. Deal*
 - Cause No. 46D01-2004-MR-00003
 - The Order was filed on February 27, 2021.
- B. If applicable, list up to five legislative drafts or court rules you have written or to which you contributed significantly. Refer to them by official citation, date, and subject matter.
- Not applicable
- C. If applicable, list up to five of your contributions to legal journals or other legal publications. Provide titles, official citations, and a brief description of the subject matter.
- Jaime M. Oss, [*DTCI: Candor Toward the Tribunal Trumps the Attorney-Client Privilege*](#), IND. LAWYER, Sept. 9, 2015. This article is about attorneys' obligation of candor toward the courts and the intersection with the rule of confidentiality/the attorney-client privilege.
 - Jaime M. Oss, [*DTCI: Deciphering the New Administrative Rule 9\(G\)*](#), IND. LAWYER, Sept. 24, 2014. This article addresses the ins and outs of Administrative Rule 9 and compares it to the old rule.
 - Jerry E. Huelat & Jaime M. Oss, *Seatbelts and the Seatbelt Defense*, IND. LAWYER, 2004. The importance of wearing seat belts is discussed, along with issues with

the seat belt statute and the legislature's mandate that failure to wear a seat belt cannot constitute fault under the Comparative Fault Act.

D. Identify the five most significant legal matters entrusted to you, whether as a judge or lawyer, and describe why you believe them to be so.

➤ **Dealing Resulting in Death**

The first jury trial over which I presided was a dealing resulting in two deaths case. It was a sad case in which the deceased victims were the girlfriend and the friend of the Defendant. The victims' families and the Defendant were devastated. It was an emotionally charged case with complicated evidentiary issues involving prior bad acts, opportunity, common plan or scheme, and joint acquisition. There were no reported cases on this relatively new crime, so there was no case law to follow in deciding these evidentiary issues with respect to the kinds of facts involved in this particular crime. Instead, consideration was given to other cases addressing prior bad acts.

➤ **Double Murder**

In July of 2023, I presided over a double murder jury trial where the Defendant, who has mental health issues, was found guilty by the jury and convicted of murdering his father and his uncle by brutally stabbing them multiple times to death. The father lived for several days before he passed away and was able to tell the police what happened. His aunt was on the phone with his uncle at the time of the murder and testified about what she heard. The legal issues involved, among others, the admissibility of the father's statement to police and the aunt's testimony about what she heard, including the uncle's statement about the nephew being the perpetrator. It was a tragic case that I do not think that I will ever forget.

➤ **Mass Tort Litigation**

When I was in private practice, my law firm was involved in mass tort litigation when it was defending a company that was sued in the Indiana State Fair stage collapse litigation, which involved multiple deaths and many personal injuries, including loss of limbs, brain injuries, paralysis, etc. This litigation was so large that all the attorneys in the firm were involved in different aspects of the case. My contribution to this case involved attending select depositions and drafting all the major motions and briefs for our client. The most important briefs were a Motion for Consolidation and a Motion for Summary Judgment (Tab 5).

The Motion for Consolidation was successful in ultimately consolidating at least ten separate cases for discovery purposes so that our client did not have to defend in ten different courts at the same time.

The scope of this case and the sheer number of litigants and attorneys involved in it made it a once in a career kind of case, at least for a small firm. The case itself was important in shedding light on why the tragedy occurred so that changes could be made industry wide, outdoor concerts could be made safer, and the victims of the tragedy be compensated.

➤ **Excessive Verdict**

My dad and I tried a wrongful death case together in February 2015 where we represented the drunk driver who caused the Plaintiff's death while driving extremely intoxicated after being overserved at a restaurant and a bar. Despite our best efforts and due to factors that were beyond our control, the verdict against all of the Defendants was tens of millions of dollars. We were at least able to convince the jury to place half of the fault on the bar and restaurant and saved our client millions of dollars.

I drafted the Joint Motion to Correct Errors (see Tab 8) based upon the excessiveness of the verdict, which was denied. I, then, appealed the verdict and drafted the Appellant's Brief for our client. This appellate brief helped to convince the Plaintiff that it would be in its best interest to settle the claim rather than continue with the appellate process. After much negotiation, the case was settled, which was a blessing for all the parties.

➤ **Termination of Guardianship of a Child – Inspiring the Next Generation**

I presided over a case in which a child was under a guardianship, because her mother had a substance abuse problem. Her grandmother was her guardian. Her mother worked very hard to get clean and sober and to turn her life around. Grandmother agreed to terminate the guardianship. The child was a young, impressionable girl, and she was fascinated with the courtroom and, I think, the fact that she saw a woman on the bench. After the hearing, she asked some questions about my favorite color and superhero. She then asked if she could come up on the bench and give me a hug. Her eyes were wide as she approached me at the bench and was taking it all in. Her family laughed as she went back to them, and we commented to each other that I may have inspired the next generation. This is one of my goals – to inspire the next generation of lawyers and judges.

7. Efforts to Improve the Legal System, Administration of Justice, or Society

A. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) toward the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook to achieve these goals, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts helped achieve these goals.

➤ **Indiana Judicial Conference Board of Directors** – 2023-Present

I was honored to be appointed by Chief Justice Rush to serve as an at-large member of the Judicial Conference Board of Directors. This board directs the activities of the judicial conference, whose purpose is, among others, to promote an exchange of experience and suggestions for the judicial system, continuing education, and a better understanding of the judiciary.

➤ **Indiana Innovation Initiative n/k/a Innovation Committee**

• **Indiana Innovation Initiative** – 2019-Present

I received an appointment from the Indiana Supreme Court to serve on the Indiana Innovation Initiative. We are tasked with the responsibility of vetting innovations to increase the efficiency and decrease the cost of the judicial system, as well as make it easier to navigate, all while ensuring that justice is fairly administered and rights are protected. We make recommendations to the Indiana Supreme Court about pilot projects, rule and procedural changes, and other innovations. At this point, we have recommended that the Indiana Supreme Court accept the Family Law Taskforce and the Technology Working Group's recommendations. Based upon these recommendations, pilot projects are ongoing.

• **Civil Litigation Taskforce** – 2021-2022

As a member of the Indiana Innovation Initiative, I volunteered to serve on the Civil Litigation Taskforce. I was appointed Chair of the Service of Process Subcommittee. As Chair, in addition to running our meetings, I examined cases from around the country about alternate modes of service and drafted a portion of the Taskforce report on this issue. Our focus was on ensuring that Due Process is met, people actually receive notice, and decreasing costs. In addition to service of process, the Taskforce made recommendations for improvements in alternative dispute resolution, case management, discovery, and technology.

➤ **2024 Spring Judicial College – Illuminating Your Well-Being CLE/CJE**

I served on a panel for a CLE/CJE session on judicial well-being. This session focused on causes of judicial stress and burnout and ways to reduce them. I talked about my experience in The Inner Work of Judging, a fairly intensive program that I took part in with four other trial court judges and magistrates, and how I was able to reduce my stress to become more effective.

➤ **Indiana State Bar Association**

• **ISBA Board of Governors** – 2016-2018

I was selected to serve on the ISBA’s Board of Governors as the District 2 Representative. This opportunity provided me with the ability to influence how the largest bar association in the state improves the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice. I was a part of the process for hiring the new Executive Director, involved in talks about how to preserve the practice of law and the profession, as well as protect the citizens of Indiana, from the unauthorized practice of law and impermissible fee sharing, and whether to support the recommendations of the Indiana Bar Examination Assessment Task Force. I thoroughly enjoyed sitting on the board and continuing the mission of the ISBA in serving both the legal community and the public.

• **Litigation Section Chair** – 2018-2019

During my time as Chair, I offered suggestions for changes and updates to the ISBA Juror’s Handbook. Also, often based upon my advice, we offered input on several bills in the Legislature to the ISBA Legislative Counsel on topics related to attorneys and the practice of law, including judgment dockets, Sheriff’s service of process fee, tax appeals, and interest on judgments.

• **Litigation Section CLE Subcommittee Member** – 2018 & 2019

The Litigation Section holds a legal education Symposium each year. In 2018, we were asked by President Andi Metzel to help with the Litigation Track for the ISBA Annual Meeting, as well. I helped to plan both events, and I was the Co-chair of the Annual Meeting Litigation Track sub-subcommittee. With the help of several other committees and sections, we put together a program addressing topics and issues that were relevant to litigators.

In 2018-2019, I was the Chair of this Subcommittee. I led the planning of the 5th Annual Litigation Symposium, which was advanced legal writing. I also helped plan the Annual Meeting CLE for the professional development track, which focused on law firm culture, expectations for associates, work-life balance, client development, marketing strategies, and law practice management in each size firm, as well as discussing ethical issues that can arise, particularly during transition from one firm to another.

- **ISBA Legal Education Conclave – “Bridging the Gaps: Connecting with Communities and Their Leaders to Improve Understanding and Access to Justice”** – 2018

In 2018, the ISBA held a Legal Education Conclave, which was an invitation only event. I attended this meeting of lawyers, judges, and law professors. During this conclave, we talked about implicit bias, access to justice issues, racism, mental health and substance abuse issues, and problem solving courts. Because of this meeting, I recognized the need for a mental health and young adult court in LaPorte County. LaPorte Circuit Court has since started a juvenile mental health court and Superior 4 is working on starting one for adults. I would like to develop a young adult court, since Superior 1 has so many young people who could benefit from some extra help and support to keep them out of the criminal courts.

- **ISBA Law Student Conclave** – 2018

The ISBA hosted a Law Student Conclave to bring Indiana law students from around the state together for networking, competition, and to work on building legal skills. I was a brief grader for the Moot Court Competition and offered guidance and constructive comments on the students’ appellate briefs to help mold our future appellate practitioners.

- **ISBA Panel for Valparaiso University Law School** – 2014 & 2017

The ISBA travels to the law schools every year to speak to the students about becoming involved in bar associations. I spoke on the panel as a representative of the Leadership Development Academy, all the sections and committees of which I am a member, and all the bar associations with which I am involved.

- **ISBA Legal Education Conclave – “The Future of Legal Education and the Profession”** – 2015

This was also an invitation only event that I attended. During this conclave, we talked about the changing landscape of the legal profession, the potential threats to it, access to justice, diversity, wellness issues, the issues with decreased enrollment at law schools, inability for recent graduates to find jobs, and skyrocketing law student debt. There was a call for volunteers to come up with some solutions to these problems. I volunteered to be on the committee, but I do not believe that one was ever assembled by the ISBA.

- **ISBA Panel for Notre Dame Law School** – 2015

Please see Valparaiso University Law School panel above for a description.

- **Appellate Pro Bono Project Panel Member** – 2017-2019

Indiana Legal Services revived its Appellate Pro Bono Project in 2017. This project connects the indigent with attorney panel members who provide civil pro bono appellate representation. I was a member of this panel but was not called upon to represent anyone.

- **Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana**

- **Published Articles**

As a Board member, I drafted an article in 2015 about the obligations of candor toward the courts and the intersection with the rule of confidentiality/the attorney-client privilege. In practice, these can be tough rules to follow, and I wanted other attorneys to be aware of the issues and of how to adhere to both. See Jaime M. Oss, [*DTCI: Candor Toward the Tribunal Trumps the Attorney-Client Privilege*](#), IND. LAWYER, Sept. 9, 2015.

In 2014, I wrote an article about Administrative Rule 9, which can also be difficult to follow. This article has been used as a reference tool by some of our local attorneys. See Jaime M. Oss, [*DTCI: Deciphering the New Administrative Rule 9\(G\)*](#), IND. LAWYER, Sept. 24, 2014.

- **Amicus Committee**

The DTCI Amicus Committee receives requests for DTCI amicus participation from attorneys around the state who are involved in appeals, and it makes recommendations to the Board of Directors about issues to be addressed or potential positions to be taken. When I went on the Board of Directors,

I expressed an interest in serving on this committee. The committee was full, but my willingness to be involved prompted a change in the structure of the committee and terms have now been assigned to the members on the committee.

While I had many opportunities as a Board member to influence whether an amicus brief was written and what position the organization would take, I wanted to have more direct involvement with the briefs and their drafting. I was voted in as a member, and my term began in 2016 and ended in 2020. We had received approximately forty amicus requests during that time. As part of the process, I would read the briefs, orders, and opinions issued in each case and then offer recommendations on whether DTCL should participate. I drafted an Amicus Brief on a Petition to Transfer in 2017.

➤ **Women Lawyers Association**

• **Domestic Violence CLE Committee** – 2016

The Women Lawyers Association worked with Judge Hawkins, Lake Superior Court No. 2, to put on a CLE during October, which is Domestic Violence month. As a member of this committee, I worked with the Chair, Magistrate Raduenz, on coordinating with the court, organizing the luncheon, and informing our members.

• **Jurors as Judges IV CLE Committee** – 2016

This is another CLE in which the Women Lawyers Association collaborated with Judge Hawkins. In addition to being a member of the committee, I was the co-moderator. We asked real jurors about their experiences serving on their respective juries, what the attorneys did well, and what they thought could be improved upon in the jury system. This CLE was an eye-opening seminar that allowed litigators hear firsthand what jurors think and how they feel about what we do during trial, including what is effective and what is not.

• **Court of Appeals on Wheels Oral Argument Committee** – 2014

We brought the Court of Appeals to the Lake County Courthouse in Crown Point in April 2014 for an oral argument. The committee arranged for many high schools from Lake and Porter Counties to be present at the argument. It also arranged for them to have legal definitions about the legal process and terms related to the case. I created a placard for the sponsors and assisted at the event and during the reception for the court.

- **Jurors as Judges II Committee** – 2014

Judge Hawkins, Lake Superior Court No. 2, invited the WLA to help him with this CLE program, as well. I attended the meeting with Judge Hawkins and several committee members, attempted to help find some jurors from LaPorte County, and helped with the event.

- **Professional Development Panel for Valparaiso University Law School's Professional Development Day** – 2014 & 2015

Valparaiso University Law School put on a couple of programs each year for its students to meet lawyers in the community and connect with various bar associations. It was a wonderful opportunity to help these students network and to mentor them during their law school experience.

- **LaPorte County Bar Association**

- **Law Day Committee Member** – 2016-2019

As a member of the Law Day Committee, I helped plan the Law Day ceremonies. I created the programs each year, and I secured Professor Derrick Carter to speak about *Miranda* in 2016 and Professor Rosalie Berger Levinson to speak about the 14th Amendment in 2017. Members of the public were invited, so we were educating the members of the bar and members of the public with these programs.

- **Law Day – “Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom for All”** – 2015

As President of the LaPorte County Bar Association, one of my duties was to put together the Law Day event with the help of the Law Day Committee. The keynote speaker was Senior Judge Boklund, whose presentation was “When the Door to the Jury Room Closes”. We honored two of our members who passed away who were well-loved and respected members of our association and community. We, then, presented Officer Dion Campbell with the Liberty Bell Award for his service to the community, particularly for his work with the youth.

- **Professional Development Panel for Valparaiso University Law School's Professional Development Day** – 2013

Please see above for a description.

- **Law Day – “Realizing the Dream: Equality for All” – 2013**

While President of the LaPorte County Bar Association, I worked with the Law Day Committee to hold this event. The keynote speaker was Professor JoEllen Lind, who presented “Emancipation from Fear: Understanding Violence as a Civil Rights Issue”, which was an emotional, thought-provoking discussion. I also worked with a local middle school to get students involved. They submitted projects based on civil rights and equality for a contest that was judged by the committee. The winners presented their projects at the Law Day ceremony, and their whole class was in attendance. Their teacher, Tanya Roach, told me later that we may have inspired some future lawyers. We honored Ken Layton with the Liberty Bell Award for a lifetime of service to LaPorte County.

- **Valparaiso University School of Law Clinic Benefit – 2000-2005**

During law school and after until I had children, I participated in the VUSL Law Clinic Benefit. The students and law school staff performed a musical each year for the Law Clinic’s benefactors to raise funds for the operation of the law clinics, which serve the disadvantaged families of Porter County, and for a new clinic building. The new Heritage Hall was completed in 2010.

- **2019 Litigation Section Civility Award**

I honored with the Litigation Section’s Civility Award, which recognizes an attorney for outstanding civility and professionalism in their dealings with fellow judges, attorneys, parties, witnesses, and the public.

- **2017 & 2018 Indiana Super Lawyer**

In February 2017 and 2018, I received the Indiana Super Lawyer designation, which is given to those who demonstrate excellence in practice.

- **2016 Indiana Super Lawyers Rising Star**

In February 2016, I was designated as an Indiana Super Lawyers Rising Star, which is given to those who demonstrate excellence in practice.

- **2014 Most Influential Woman of Northwest Indiana in Law Award**

In November 2014, I was honored with this award for being Northwest Indiana’s most influential lawyer in the legal community and in the community at large. This award recognizes both service and influence in the law and service to the community.

B. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) concerning civic, political, or social issues. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook in this area, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts in this area led to a successful result.

➤ **Michigan City Exchange Club – 2023-Present**

Through the Michigan City Exchange Club, elementary, middle school, and high school students come to court for a “Day in Court” during our Tuesday criminal call for the Initial Hearings, Bail Review Hearings, and hearings on Motions for Sentence Modification. After the hearings, I spend 15-30 minutes talking to the students and answering their questions. This is my favorite part of the week, because I have the honor of inspiring the next generation of lawyers and judges.

Most of the students write an essay about their “Day in Court”. The teachers select the best one from their class and submit them to the Michigan City Exchange Club. I select the best one, and the top essay authors are awarded by the Exchange Club during a luncheon. I was the keynote speaker for the luncheon in 2023 and 2024, during which I talked about the importance of civics education, how the Day in Court program teaches students about the legal system, what they learn, and how we can inspire them.

➤ **Indiana Kids' Election Speakers' Bureau – 2012 & 2020**

In 2020, I engaged virtually with the fifth graders at Westville Elementary School, and we talked about the federal election and electoral process, as well as the local elections. In 2012, I taught a gifted class at Joy Elementary School in Michigan City about the election process.

➤ **2018 Michiana Forty Under 40 Recipient**

This recognition from the South Bend Regional Chamber, the Young Professionals Network, and other entities in the Michiana area is based upon initiative and dedication in pursuing a career, proven success and achievement, and investment in and service to others through community involvement, along with a passion for community and giving back.

➤ **2017 Outstanding Young LaPortean**

In November of 2017, I was honored with this award from the LaPorte Chamber of Commerce and the LaPorte Jaycees for being one of two outstanding young LaPorteans. This award is given to those who excel in their career and who enhance the community through leadership and service.

➤ **LaPorte Community School Corporation Visual, Fine & Performing Arts Team – 2017**

The LaPorte Community School Corporation renovated the LaPorte High School Auditorium, along with many other school improvements and built a new middle school. The Superintendent asked me to serve on the Visual, Fine & Performing Arts Team to advise during the renovation.

➤ **LaPorte Community School Corporation Feasibility Study Focus Group – 2015**

I was invited by the Superintendent to participate in the Feasibility Study Focus Groups, which were formed to identify what we, as a community, want our students to “know and be able to do” today in order to excel tomorrow”. More specifically, he was looking for our thoughts, ideas, and suggestions as the corporation was outlining program priorities and courses of study. I offered my opinion for program priorities, specifically in the arts realm.

C. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) to improve your local, state, or national community through charitable work or public service. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook in this area, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts in this area led to a successful result.

➤ **Holiday at the Pops Committee – 2019-Present**

The Holiday at the Pops was originally a fundraiser for the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte and is now a fundraiser for the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. As a Judge, I am not involved in the fundraising aspect. My role as a committee member is to provide support to the Chairs in the planning and implementation of this holiday concert experience.

➤ **2019 LaPorte County Bar Association’s Day of Service Project**

I organized a cleanup of Washington Park Beach in Michigan City for our members, which was like the project that we did in 2014 as described below. This time, though, we were not part of a larger cleanup effort.

➤ **2018 LaPorte County Bar Association’s Day of Service Project**

For our project, I arranged for our members to volunteer at a soup kitchen at the First Presbyterian Church in Michigan City. It was a humbling and rewarding experience to serve the homeless.

➤ **2017 LaPorte County Bar Association's Day of Service Project**

I helped coordinate a two-part service project for the LaPorte County Bar Association. We cleaned the windows and doors at the Swanson Center's Activity Center for Older Adults. Then, we teamed up with the LaPorte Park & Recreation Department to spruce up Koomler Park, where we painted a new shelter and dug out the sidewalks that were overgrown with grass and weeds.

➤ **2016 LaPorte County Bar Association's Day of Service Project**

I arranged a three-part service project for the LaPorte County Bar Association. We worked at the LaPorte County Animal Hospital pulling weeds and planting mums in its flower beds. We also teamed up with the LaPorte County Solid Waste District to help with the electronics recycling and with the LaPorte Park & Recreation Department to pick up litter at a park.

➤ **2015 LaPorte County Bar Association's Day of Service Project**

I helped coordinate a two-part service project for the LaPorte County Bar Association at Kesling Park in LaPorte. The bar association hosted a food drive for the Salvation Army and helped the LaPorte Park & Recreation Department spread fibar at Fort La Play Porte.

➤ **2014 LaPorte County Bar Association's Day of Service Project**

For this project, I coordinated the bar association's participation in the LaPorte County Beaches and Blueways Cleanup, Adopt-A-Beach, which was part of a larger cleanup spearheaded by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, at Washington Park in Michigan City. We joined thousands of others in simultaneously cleaning up the shorelines of all the Great Lakes, which the Alliance called "the World's Largest Shoreline Cleanup". Just our members removed over 30 pounds of garbage and collected data about the trash so that the Alliance could use that information to make positive changes for the Great Lakes.

➤ **2013 LaPorte County Bar Association's Day of Service Project**

I arranged a service project for the bar association called "The Asian Honeysuckle Eradication Project" at Luhr Park in LaPorte. The Asian Honeysuckle is not indigenous to the area and is taking over the forest. We helped the LaPorte County Parks Department eliminate this nuisance from several acres of the forest.

➤ **ISBA Service Committee** – 2012-2014

As part of our Leadership Development Academy (LDA) project, I helped create the ISBA Service Committee. Specifically, a colleague and I drafted the Proposal for the Creation of a Standing Committee on Community Service to the ISBA Board of Governors. The proposal was accepted after it was presented by my fellow LDA members. The purpose of the committee was to create a culture of community service within the legal community and to promote hands-on community service throughout the State of Indiana by state, local, and specialty bar associations.

After our first several committee meetings, we participated in community service projects at Ronald McDonald House and Wheeler Mission. I worked with and coordinated a project at Wheeler Mission.

When I was Chair of the Service Committee, I explored the possibility of partnering with the ISBA Young Lawyers Section and the American Bar Association to provide hands-on disaster relief when natural disasters occur. While the Service Committee did not effectuate this, I still believe that it is a worthy cause and would like to work with both bar associations to make it happen.

➤ **St. Joseph School Advisory Board** – 2010-2012

I was invited by the Principal to be on my son's School Advisory Board. As an alumnus myself, I was particularly in tune with what the school needed. It was going through an enrollment crisis and was getting pressure from the Diocese. We worked together to create a Strategic Planning Committee to help with this crisis. While on this Board, I assisted the Principal in interviewing potential teachers.

➤ **St. Joseph School Strategic Planning Committee** – 2011

While on this committee, we created a strategic plan for the school to address the enrollment crisis and other issues that needed to be addressed for the Diocese. I was on the Enrollment Subcommittee, as well, and we developed a marketing campaign that included making a float for the 4th of July Parade and operating a booth at the LaPorte County Fair. I was in charge of the booth, which included working with the Fair office, getting parents and teachers to work the booth, and working the booth. We were successful in increasing enrollment, and we also raised the funds required by the Diocese.

- **St. Joseph School Home & School Guild Communications Coordinator** – 2011-2012

I created the Newsletter every month for the school families to inform them about the goings-on in the school and in the school community. It was a very creative process that I thoroughly enjoyed.

- **St. Joseph School Heavenly Night Committee Member** – 2011

Heavenly Night was the gala fundraiser for my son's school. We planned the event, which raised approximately \$25,000. I was on the Invitation Subcommittee. I also solicited donations for the silent auction and obtained the proper license from the State for our raffle.

- **St. Joseph Catholic Church Cantor** – 2003 – 2016

D. Describe the nature and extent of any *pro bono* legal services you have contributed.

- I represented clients pro bono in misdemeanor criminal cases involving DUI, several clients in infraction and ordinance violation cases, a dog bite case, and a real property dispute. I also drafted contracts, powers of attorney, and simple wills and deeds pro bono. As mentioned above, I was on the Appellate Pro Bono Project panel of attorneys.

E. Indicate your experience teaching law. Provide the dates, names of institutions or programs, and a description of the subject matter taught.

- None

8. Memberships and Other Activities

A. List any memberships and offices you have held in professional organizations, including dates and descriptions of both the organization's purpose and your involvement.

- **Indiana Judges Association** – Member – 2021-Present

The Indiana Judges Association is a voluntary association for state court members of the Judiciary. Its purpose is to cultivate relationships between the judges, provide legislative updates, confer with the other branches of government, work to simplify the administration of justice and uniform procedures, advocate for fair compensation, and preserve and protect judicial independence.

➤ **American Judges Association** – Member – 2022-Present

The American Judges Association promotes and works to improve the administration of justice and to maintain judicial independence, as well as educating the public about the courts.

➤ **LaPorte County Bar Association** – Member – 2010-Present

The LaPorte County Bar Association is an association of attorneys from LaPorte County and those who practice here. It provides networking opportunities, community outreach through Law Day, and promotes community service opportunities.

- **President** – 2013 & 2015
- **Board of Governors** – 2011-2012, 2014, 2016-2019

➤ **Indiana State Bar Association** – Member – 2011-Present

The Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA) is the largest bar association in the state. Its mission is “to improve the administration of justice and promote understanding of the legal system”.

- **Board of Governors** – District 2 Representative – 2016-2018; District Representative to the Executive Committee – 2017-2018

This body of the ISBA is responsible for the administrative functions of the association.

- **House of Delegates** – Member – 2013, 2015-2018

This body controls and determines the policies of the ISBA.

- **Litigation Section**

This section of the ISBA consists of attorneys from around the state who are interested in trial work and the issues that litigators face.

- Immediate Past Chair – 2019-2020
- Chair – 2018-2019
- Chair Elect – 2017-2018
- Vice Chair – 2016-2017
- Secretary – 2015-2016
- District 2 Council Member – 2013-2015
- At-Large Council Member – 2012-2013

- **Appellate Practice Section** – Member – 2015-Present

This section consists of attorneys and judges who do and are interested in appellate work. It puts on CLEs regarding appellate practice, attempts to “simplify and expedite appellate procedure”, and provides assistance for indigents in civil appeals.

- **Service Committee** – Member – 2012-2018

The mission of this committee was to create a culture of community service in the Indiana bar. It promoted the ISBA Annual Day of Service and the March Against Hunger. It also awarded community service each year with the Service Award at the ISBA awards ceremony.

- Chair – 2012-2014
- Annual Day of Service Director – 2014-2018

- **Nominating Committee** – District 2 Representative – 2015 & 2022

The Nominating Committee nominates the candidates for the Board of Governors and the Vice President.

- **House of Delegates Nominating Committee** – Member – 2015

The House of Delegates Nominating Committee nominates the candidate for Chair-Elect of the House of Delegates.

- **Women in the Law Committee** – Member – 2015-Present

This committee makes recommendations to the ISBA concerning issues for women in the legal profession, offers networking and community outreach opportunities, and CLEs, including the Women’s Bench Bar Retreat.

- **Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee** – Member – 2015-2020

This committee provides comments and opinions about the unauthorized practice of law. I am hoping that this committee will become active with the Board of Governors to work against the unauthorized practice of law.

- **Clients’ Financial Assistance Fund Committee** – Member – 2019-2020

The Clients’ Financial Assistance Fund Committee administers and manages the Clients’ Financial Assistance Fund, which provides a source of funding to compensate clients who have suffered a loss due to dishonest acts or

omissions of lawyers involving the misappropriation of money or property by the lawyer.

- **Improvements in the Judicial System Committee** – Member – 2011-Present

The Improvements in the Judicial System Committee promotes the appointment and election of qualified candidates for judicial office. It also monitors bills that affect the judicial system on issues like benefits and salaries and weighs in when necessary.

- **Legal Ethics Committee** – Member – 2011-Present

This committee attempts to promote high ethical standards and to educate the members of the ISBA about ethical issues and potential pitfalls.

- **Defense Research Institute** – Member – 2012-2017

Defense Research Institute is an international organization that brings together civil litigators on the defense side. Its mission is to “enhance the skills, effectiveness, and professionalism of defense lawyers”, address issues relevant to defense work and the civil justice system, improve the system and preserve jury trials.

- **Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana** – Member – 2010-2018

Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana (DTCI) brings together Indiana attorneys who defend clients in civil litigation. Its mission is to provide support to these lawyers for practice management, as well as substantive issues. It also monitors issues relevant to the judicial system and becomes involved when necessary.

- **Board of Directors** – 2014-2016
- **Rules Committee** – Chair – 2014-2016

The Rules Committee monitors proposed amendments to all the Supreme Court rules and advises the Board when there is a change that may impact the members.

- **Amicus Committee** – Member – 2016-2018

This committee takes requests from attorneys around the state for DTCI to weigh in on certain issues in appellate cases. If the committee and the Board approve participation, then the committee provides guidance to the appellate courts by filing an Amicus Brief.

➤ **Women in Leadership of LaPorte County** – Member 2019-Present

Women in Leadership (WIL) seeks to empower women by creating personal and professional growth through networking and education. WIL also mentors students and young professionals and engages in community service and outreach.

- **Board Member** – 2020-2023
- **Governance Committee** – Chair – 2020-2023

➤ **Women Lawyers Association** – Member 2013-Present

The Women Lawyers Association (WLA) promotes the advancement of women in the legal profession and promotes civility and collegiality. It also encourages qualified women to ascend to the bench and celebrates their accomplishments. The WLA offers CLEs on various legal issues, hosts appellate court oral arguments, provides networking and mentoring opportunities, and promotes community service and charitable works and giving.

- **President** – 2016-2017
- **Immediate Past President/Executive Board** – 2017-2018

B. List any memberships and offices you have held in civic, charitable, or service organizations, including dates and descriptions of both the organization’s purpose and your involvement.

➤ **LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors** – 2013-2019

The LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors brought me on board in 2013 when it was struggling financially. While on the Board, I worked with an Interim Executive Director and three Executive Directors, along with the rest of the Board, to get the Symphony back on track and be fiscally responsible, while continuing to provide the community with excellent programs. We came out of the deficit and managed to balance the budget.

In addition to serving as the Vice President of the Board of Directors, I was the Interim Bookkeeper for 2015. I was the Board liaison to the Artistic Committee, as well. Through our collaborative efforts, we developed several successful and creative seasons. At the end of my tenure, we were working on uniting several community organizations for more community engagement throughout LaPorte County.

I served on the Search Committee for a new Music Director/Conductor, along with one other Board member, the Executive Director, musician representatives, and community representatives. We found a talented person to fill this position.

➤ **Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce Member** – 2017-2020

This organization addresses issues facing businesses in LaPorte, focuses on improving the quality of life in the community, and helps facilitate prosperity and growth in LaPorte.

➤ **LaPorte Jaycees Member** - 2018

The Jaycees provided leadership training opportunities by planning projects and programs for the community.

C. List any memberships and offices you hold in social clubs or organizations. If any club or organization restricts its membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin, please describe your efforts within the organization to eliminate restrictions.

➤ None

D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

- My favorite leisure activity is spending time with my family on our boat or watching movies or having fun on the beach in Washington Park enjoying the Dunes. We also love to travel to Lake Cumberland in Kentucky or to San Diego to visit my cousins. We spend time in my parents' pool in the summer, as well.
- I read, walk, cross-stitch, and paint to relax. I also enjoy watching football and basketball. I am a country music fan, so we go to a few concerts every year. We love a nice dinner at a great steakhouse, as well.

9. Legal Proceedings

A. List any lawsuits or legal proceedings in any jurisdiction, including but not limited to bankruptcies, dissolutions, and criminal matters to which you have been a party. Provide dates, case numbers, courts, names of other parties, and, if needed, a brief explanation. (If minor children are involved [i.e. an adoption], use initials only.)

- *Joshua Huelat, b/n/f Jerry Huelat and Vicki Huelat, Jerry and Vicki Huelat, on their own behalf, and Jaime Huelat v. Indiana State Fair Commission, 4-H Purdue Extension Service, and Richard Childress d/b/a Richard Childress Photography - Cause No. 49C01-0007-CT-001496.* This case was filed July 2000 in the Marion

Circuit Court. This was a personal injury case for personal injuries that my brother sustained at the Indiana State Fair while having his picture taken on his horse.

- B. If you ever have been arrested or cited for any violation of the law other than for routine traffic violations, provide dates, jurisdictions, and an explanation of the event and its resolution.
 - Not Applicable
- C. If you have been disciplined or cautioned, formally or informally, by the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, by the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications, by the Indiana Supreme Court, or by similar entities in any other jurisdiction, identify each instance by date, case number (if applicable), and describe the circumstances and the nature of the outcome or resolution.
 - Not Applicable
- D. If you have any outstanding federal, state, or local tax obligations, please itemize and explain.
 - Not Applicable

10. References

- A. Provide the names of three attorneys who have been your professional adversaries in your practice or who have litigated substantial cases in your court and who would be in positions to comment on your qualifications for appointment to an Indiana Appellate Court (*contact information to be included in Part Two of this application*).
 - V. Michael Drayton
 - Gregory J. Sarkisian
 - David K. Payne
- B. Provide the names of three professional references other than those listed in Question 10A (*contact information to be included in Part Two of this application*).
 - Barbra Stooksbury
 - Rebecca Smith
 - Mary Jo Clark

C. Provide the names of three personal references other than those listed in Question 10A or 10B (*contact information to be included in Part Two of this application*).

- Laura Cutler
- Lisa Hamilton
- ManDee Alevizos