

# 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.

**Anna Mandula. I have not gone by any other name(s).**

- 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.

**I reside with my spouse, Robert ("Rob") Joseph Chepela. Rob and I initially met in the seventh grade at Saint Mary Catholic School, in Crown Point, Indiana. Rob is 44 years old.**

**Rob is self-employed. His company is Consulting & Accelerated Tax Services, LLC dba CATS-USA, LLC, which he formed here in Indiana, in 2019. Using his construction engineering degree from Purdue University (B.S. 2003), Rob's business focuses exclusively on cost segregation (the process of identifying personal property assets that are grouped with real property assets, and separating out personal assets for tax reporting purposes under the federal tax code and accounting rules). Rob was initially introduced to this field over 20 years ago through a college internship, and he has remained in this industry ever since.**

- C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

**Business address: 2211 Main Street, Suite 3-2A, Highland, Indiana 46322**

**Email: Anna.Mandula@lewisbrisbois.com**

**Telephone: (219) 440-0600**

D. Attorney number.

**27943-45**

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

**October 2008**

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

**My Indiana law license status is 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.*

**I have only ever held an Indiana law license.**

F. Date and place of birth.

**Date of birth: November 30, 1979**

**Place of birth: Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana**

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

**But for my time away at college, I am a lifelong resident of Lake County, Indiana.**

## 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.*

**I attended Loyola University Chicago from 1998 to 2002, and graduated *Magna Cum Laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.**

**In the Spring 2001 semester, I studied abroad in Rome, Italy, at the Loyola University Chicago John Felice Rome Center.**

**I was awarded a Presidential Academic Scholarship (\$10,000 per academic year for the remainder of my studies) based on my academic performance following completion of my freshman year. I was the recipient of an additional scholarship in the amount of \$8,000 (paid out at \$2,000 per year for my four years of study). I was awarded this scholarship based on my high school academic record, community service, and because I was a resident of “small town” Crown Point, Indiana.**

**In the Fall 2001 semester and continuing through the Spring 2002 semester, I was invited to complete my Honors Thesis in Psychology under the mentorship of Maryse Richards, Ph.D., Professor, Clinical Psychology. My thesis aligned with Dr. Richards’ research interests of health and mental health of low income, urban African American youth, with a focus on exposure to violence and, in particular, community violence, what contributes to it, as well as the effects of exposure in Chicago’s low income communities. Even prior to working under the direction of Dr. Richards, I volunteered as a tutor in the neighboring communities surrounding Rogers Park, where I had the privilege of working with African American youth. This included working with a young student by the name of LaDonna Smith. I still maintain in my file the “thank you” letter I received from LaDonna. I successfully completed my Honors Thesis, earning Psychology Honors upon the conferral of my degree in December 2002.**

- 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.*

I attended Valparaiso University and Valparaiso University School of Law from 2004 to 2008, where I was enrolled in the dual degree program – Law and Psychology.

On May 17, 2008, I received my Juris Doctor, graduating in the top half of my class, with a class rank at graduation of 57/125. The following day, on May 18, 2008, I graduated with distinction with a Master of Arts in Psychology.

After 16 years of legal practice, I can attest fully to the many intersections between Law and Psychology, which is what prompted my initial interest in the dual degree program. The intersect between these two fields is seen in conflict resolution and negotiation; judgment and decision-making capacity; prejudice and stereotyping; competency; and assessment of evidence, just to name a few. Litigators and negotiators make strategic decisions based on accounts of human decision-making no different than those who regulate markets make decisions based on accounts of how people process distinct sorts of information or those who work with medical ethicists to make judgments that depend on assumptions about competency or the nature of pain. My decision to pursue a dual degree in Law and Psychology has been highly relevant to my practice of law.

I was awarded an academic scholarship through the Valparaiso University School of Law based on my undergraduate academic performance. To the best of my recollection, the scholarship amount was a lump sum of \$8,000, which was applied to my first year's tuition.

#### 4. Employment

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

After graduating from Loyola University Chicago, I worked multiple jobs to prepare financially for graduate and law school. During law school, I continued to work on a part-time basis (no more than 20 hours per week). The Law Clerk position at Johnson & Bell, P.C. discussed below led to my first Associate Attorney position at that same law firm. My employment history is detailed below.

##### 2016-Present

See Section “B” below relative to my current legal experience and practice.

**2015-2016**

From November of 2015 to November of 2016, I owned and operated a State Farm Insurance Agency in Hammond, Indiana, focusing on sales and management of insurance and financial services products for the company and its clients. In this role, I was a fully Indiana-licensed insurance producer and held my Series 6 and 63 licenses (required to sell insurance policies tied to investments) as well as my mortgage license.

This opportunity provided invaluable small business ownership experience, including business entity formation from the ground up and managing all aspects of day-to-day business operations, including hiring and leading employees, marketing, branding, financial management and other related duties. I gained direct experience in leadership and management, and at the same time, learned the importance of delegation to my team members, creating a positive workplace environment to best serve the needs of our clients.

**2008-2015**

See Section “B” below relative to my prior legal experience and practice.

**2006-2008**

While in law school, I was employed from the Fall Semester of 2006 through the Spring Semester of 2008 as a teaching assistant for Legal Writing. I worked under Legal Writing Professor, Marcia L. Gienapp, Esq.

In the Summer of 2006, I started clerking at the Indiana office of Johnson & Bell, P.C. I worked at this office until I became licensed to practice law in October of 2008. Upon becoming licensed, my position transitioned from Law Clerk to Associate Attorney. The managing partner at the time was Edward Hearn.

**2004-2005**

In the Summer of 2004 and continuing through June of 2008 (immediately following graduation from law school), I tended bar at Diamond Jim’s, located in Crown Point, Indiana. The bar owners were James and Peggy Lurtz.

Beginning in the Summer of 2004 through August of 2005, just prior to starting law school, I held a customer service position in the office of State Farm Agents, John and Cathie Townsend, whose State Farm Agency is located in Merrillville, Indiana.

**2003**

I was a receptionist at Vivo Hair Salon in Merrillville, Indiana, for approximately one year (from 2003 to 2004). The salon owner is Irene Paic.

I waited tables and tended bar at The Registry, located in Crown Point, Indiana, from approximately August of 2003 to the Spring of 2004.

2002

Beginning in approximately the Summer of 2002 (the summer prior to my final semester at Loyola University Chicago) and continuing through approximately the Spring of 2004, I was employed by Paul and Dawn Loughborough as a nanny to their three children, ages four years, two years, and four months at the start of my employment. The Loughborough family resided at the time in Crown Point, Indiana.

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.

- **Johnson & Bell, P.C., Crown Point, Indiana**  
Associate Attorney, October 2008 to February 2015

My primary areas of practice included medical malpractice defense and defending general negligence claims. I also practiced in the areas of business litigation, product liability, construction liability, transportation, and insurance coverage.

I had the pleasure of working with:

Edward Hearn, Shareholder/Managing Partner  
Sharon L. Stanzione, Shareholder  
Stephen A. Tyler, Shareholder  
Robert J. Dignam, Shareholder  
Stephen M. Brandenburg, Associate  
Marian Drenth, Associate  
Patrick Grindlay, Associate  
Alan Kus, Associate  
Susan Swing, Associate  
John R. Terpstra, Associate  
John Vandenburg, Associate

- **Giorgi & Bebekoski, LLC, Crown Point, Indiana**  
Associate Attorney, December 2016 to August 2019

During my tenure at Giorgi & Bebekoski, I handled personal injury and medical malpractice matters on the plaintiff side. My practice areas expanded to include family law

**(adoption, dissolution and post-dissolution matters, paternity, custody and child support), juvenile law, and estate planning and probate (adult and minor guardianships).**

**I had the pleasure of working with Geoffrey G. Giorgi and Izabela Bebekoski.**

- **O’Neill McFadden & Willett LLP, Schererville, Indiana  
Associate Attorney, October 2019 to October 2020**

**While at O’Neill McFadden & Willett, I defended healthcare providers in medical malpractice matters. I also handled personal injury matters on the defense side. I continued practicing in the areas of family law with a focus on adoptions, adult and minor guardianships, and estate planning and probate.**

**I had the pleasure of working with:**

**Michael E. O’Neill, Partner  
Kelly K. McFadden, Partner  
Jeremy W. Willett, Partner  
Marian C. Drenth, Partner  
Michelle P. Burchett, Partner  
Daniel W. Glavin, Partner  
Robert J. Dignam, Partner  
Julie R. Murzyn, Partner  
Kathleen M. Erikson, Partner  
Kirk A. Pinkerton, Of Counsel  
Daniel F. Ford, Associate  
Marisa Lareau, Associate  
Jessica L. Mullen, Associate  
Kristanna Roper-Nikitaras, Associate**

- **Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP, Highland, Indiana  
Partner, October 2020 to present**

**At Lewis Brisbois, I focus my practice on the areas of professional liability, business and commercial litigation, as well as general liability matters. I also represent national association banks in financial services litigation, including secured and unsecured business loan enforcement litigation, post judgment execution and related remedies.**

**In addition to the above, I practice in the areas of healthcare/medical malpractice, family law, adoptions, estate planning and probate, and guardianships.**

**I have the pleasure of working with:**

**Renee J. Mortimer, Partner/Managing Partner  
Scott B. Cockrum, Partner/Administrative Partner  
Ami T. Anderson, Partner  
Tricia Bellich, Partner  
Jessica L. Mullen, Partner  
Corban J. Cavanaugh, Associate  
Candace C. Dickson, Associate  
Marisa Lareau, Associate  
Kristanna Roper-Nikitaras, Associate**

## 5. Trial/Judicial Experience

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

**Although there has been a reported decline in the number of civil jury trials since the 1960s, I tried the medical malpractice matters listed below. The jury found for my client in both instances. I learned that few circumstances expose an attorney to the “exercise of professional judgment, the occurrence of mistakes, and the resulting accountability as trying a case to a jury.” Tracy Walters McCormack and Christopher Bodnar, *Honesty is the Best Policy: It’s Time to Disclose Lack of Jury Trial Experience*, *Voir Dire*, Spring 2011, at 16.**

***Estate of Naomi Svetic v. The Community Hospital*  
45D05-0801-CT-00003  
2009 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 519644**

### **Case Summary:**

**Naomi Svetic, a 68-year-old female, had ulcerative colitis, and required surgery to remove part of her colon, followed by a proctectomy (removal of the rectal stump). Mrs. Svetic was admitted to The Community Hospital on January 11, 2002, to undergo the proctectomy. Doctors performed the procedure the morning of January 12<sup>th</sup>, and the surgery itself was unremarkable. The next morning, Mrs. Svetic suddenly and unpredictably crashed. Doctors were unable to save her.**

**The case was reviewed by a medical review panel in accordance with the Indiana Medical Malpractice Act. The panel unanimously determined that the hospital breached the**

applicable standard of care. Two of the three panelists determined that the breach caused Mrs. Svetic's death. The remaining panelist did not render any opinion on causation.

At trial, the case focused solely on the care rendered to Mrs. Svetic by the nursing staff on the medical/surgical floor during the overnight period from January 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. Plaintiff alleged that the nursing staff failed to properly monitor Mrs. Svetic following her surgery and that the failure to appropriately monitor caused Mrs. Svetic's death. As support for these allegations, Plaintiff relied primarily on the documentation in the medical record. Plaintiff also presented expert testimony from an anesthesiologist and a former labor and delivery registered nurse.

The defense argued that the nurses acted as reasonable nurses in providing care to Mrs. Svetic, a post-operative patient, and that the nurses' conduct was not the proximate cause of Mrs. Svetic's death. Defendant presented expert testimony from a critical care and internal medicine specialist from The University of Chicago and a forensic pathologist.

After deliberating for just over an hour, the jury returned a defense verdict on liability.

*Estate of Charmitta Jordan v. The Community Hospital, et al.*

45D11-0702-CT-00031

2010 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 13163

**Case Summary:**

Charmitta Jordan, a 25-year-old female, had a condition called Hereditary Angioedema (HAE), prompting frequent hospitalizations. On September 2, 2001, Ms. Jordan presented to The Community Hospital with severe abdominal pain caused by her HAE condition. She was hospitalized for HAE-induced abdominal crisis (abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting) and a possible lower respiratory tract infection. Her treating physician was pulmonologist, Dr. Don Dumont.

By September 11<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Dumont arranged for Ms. Jordan's transfer to Rush University in Chicago, Illinois, due in part to elevated liver enzymes, which is a significant side effect of treatment. The transfer did not take place due to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. On the morning of September 12<sup>th</sup>, hospital staff found Ms. Jordan unresponsive just minutes after the nurse left her room to go speak with Dr. Dumont on the telephone about Ms. Jordan's condition. The nurse immediately called a code blue and started CPR. Ms. Jordan ultimately died. The medical examiner concluded Ms. Jordan died from a pulmonary embolism.

The case was reviewed by a medical review panel in accordance with the Indiana Medical Malpractice Act. The panel determined that neither Dr. Dumont, nor The Community

Hospital breached the applicable standard of care. The panel further determined that no action or inaction on the part of Dr. Dumont or the hospital was causative in Ms. Jordan's death.

At trial, Plaintiff alleged that Dr. Dumont breached the standard of care by not only failing to recognize the signs and symptoms of pulmonary embolism, but failing to diagnose and treat the pulmonary embolism. Plaintiff alleged further that said breach by Dr. Dumont caused Ms. Jordan's death. As to the hospital, Plaintiff alleged that the hospital nurse failed to appropriately monitor Ms. Jordan and recognize that Ms. Jordan was in an emergency situation. Plaintiff alleged further that the nurse's failure to timely intervene and call the physician caused Ms. Jordan's death. As support for these allegations, Plaintiff presented expert testimony from a physician specializing in critical care/internal medicine/pulmonology.

The defense argued that Dr. Dumont and the hospital acted reasonably in providing care to Ms. Jordan and that no conduct on their part was a proximate cause in Ms. Jordan's death. Defendants presented expert testimony from two critical care/internal medicine/pulmonology specialists and an allergist/immunologist/internal medicine specialist. One of the medical review panelists specializing in critical care/internal medicine/pulmonology also testified on behalf of the Defendants.

The trial spanned seven days. The jury deliberated for over two hours before returning a defense verdict. Plaintiff, thereafter, filed a motion for a new trial, which was denied as to the hospital. The judgment entered in favor of the hospital remained as issued.

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

I have handled a number of bench trials, including in small claims court. However, given the nature of my overall practice, whether for the defense or plaintiff, I rarely recommend my clients forego their right to a jury trial.

While the below are not bench trials, I have handled numerous administrative matters that are similar to a bench trial. This includes handling administrative evidentiary hearings before the Indiana Department of Child Services on substantiation of child abuse or neglect and unemployment appeals before the Indiana Department of Workforce Labor. I have also handled multiple consumer complaint matters filed with the Indiana Attorney General.

Important to the discussion of my trial experience is my experience in resolving disputes through out-of-court settlements achieved in negotiations and mediation. Having experience with both jury and bench trials allows me to objectively advise clients regarding the most advantageous resolution method for the dispute (trial versus alternative dispute

resolution) so that the client can make a truly informed decision. This includes being able to address the associated economic costs of pursuing a jury trial versus various forms of dispute resolution, as well as being able to discuss liability and damages predictions and objectively assess settlement offers.

- 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.

**Not applicable.**

## 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.

**In collaboration with my colleague Scott B. Cockrum, I had primary responsibility for drafting both the trial and appellate briefs in the matter below:**

*Patricia A. Voltz, et al. v. Park Place Christian Community of St. John, Inc. d/b/a Park Place of St. John, et al.*

**Case Number: 22A-CT-00951**

**Case Type: Civil Tort**

**Related Case: Lake Superior Court, Civil Division 2 - 45D02-1807-CT-000289**

**Filing Date: April 27, 2022**

### **Case Summary:**

**This was a favorable memorandum decision from the Indiana Court of Appeals, upholding the trial court's grant of summary judgment in favor of a long-term care facility client in a wrongful death case. The matter concerned a resident who passed away during physical therapy at our client's facility. Plaintiff sued, claiming that the facility improperly permitted the decedent to swallow food while the decedent had a feeding tube. Plaintiff alleged the decedent choked to death. We filed a motion for summary judgment, which the trial court granted. On appeal, the Court of Appeals affirmed summary judgment in favor of our client.**

Within my first year as an attorney, my former colleague entrusted me to handle the majority of drafting the appellate brief in the matter below:

*Anonymous Hospital v. A.K., et al.*

Case Number: 45A03-0901-CV-00002

Case Type: Civil Action

Related Case: Lake Superior Court, Civil Division 5 - 45D05-0605-CT-94

Filing Date: January 2, 2009

**Case Summary:**

In a matter of first impression, the Indiana Court of Appeals concluded that a hospital's statutory immunity for reporting suspected child abuse to authorities extends to its underlying diagnosis.

I have written countless trial briefs in 16 years as a practicing attorney, inclusive of motions for summary judgment, motions to dismiss, and motions for judgment on the pleadings. Below is a representative sample.

*American Family Insurance Co. v. Anes, et al.*

Case Number: 12D01-2004-PL-000267

Case Type: Civil Plenary

Filing Date: April 8, 2020

**Case Summary:**

An accidental fire broke out at an apartment building. The building owner's insurance company paid the fire loss claim and then initiated a subrogation action against our clients (the tenants). Plaintiff alleged the tenants were negligent in starting the fire in the apartment unit into which they were just moving and that it paid in excess of \$80,000 to its insured to remediate the damage to the tenants' leased unit and to other units and common areas within the building complex. We denied liability for the fire and moved for partial summary judgment. We argued that even if Plaintiff could meet its burden on liability, recovery was limited to the damages in the tenants' leased unit resulting from the fire. The court granted partial summary judgment. The ruling significantly streamlined the case and resulted in the parties being able to settle.

*Myron C. Chapman v. Petersen, et al.*

Case Number: 45D01-1810-PL-000409

Case Type: Civil Plenary

Filing Date: October 18, 2018

**Case Summary:**

The lawsuit concerned a dispute amongst business partners. On a Rule 12(B)(6) motion, filed in November of 2020, we argued the claims asserted in the First Amended Complaint (the “Complaint”) should be dismissed for failure to state any claim upon which relief could be granted because a derivative action was required to redress the claims Plaintiff raised. Plaintiff failed to name the real party in interest because he filed the Complaint in his own name. Plaintiff further failed to specifically aver in the Complaint the circumstances constituting alleged fraud or mistake. The court granted our motion in December of 2020, without prejudice. Though Plaintiff did re-file, the ruling ultimately facilitated resolution by way of a settlement.

*SBD Event Management, LLC v. Certain Underwriters of Lloyd’s, London, et al.*

Case Number: 49D06-1807-CT-028007

Case Type: Civil Tort

Filing Date: July 16, 2018

**Case Summary:**

The lawsuit arose out of Plaintiff receiving an insurance coverage denial under an event cancellation insurance policy issued by our client. Plaintiff asserted breach of contract and bad faith for denying the claim. We disputed that our client breached the contract with the Plaintiff and that not providing Plaintiff coverage under the operative policy constituted bad faith. We moved for partial summary judgment on the bad faith count in May of 2023. Plaintiff filed a cross-motion for summary judgment. The parties ultimately resolved the case at mediation, rendering the pending motions moot.

- 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.

*Anna Mandula, A Few Estate Planning Strategies for Peace of Mind, The Indiana Lawyer, Aug. 5-18, 2020, at 6.*

**This article addressed some simple and practical considerations and strategies to assist in end-of-life and estate planning.**

- 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.

**Impact on Family and Community**

In my career, the most significant and rewarding legal work I have practiced is with adoptions, primarily foster care adoptions. It is my obligation to ensure that the adoption is completed legally and ethically. I am there to guide the adoptive parent(s) through the legal process and to facilitate communication between the adoptive parent(s) and other involved parties. Adoption is a delicate undertaking, with many lives and emotions on the line. Adoption impacts the adoptee, their family, extended family, and at times, the community. Frequently, it is vital I provide the parties with emotional support and guidance while, at the same time, serve to protect the rights and interests of my clients.

In short, children need to be a part of a family. Family creates a foundation. It promotes consistency, values, and a sense of belonging. That becomes generational and impacts our communities at large.

**Impact on Protecting our Most Vulnerable**

The appellate matter referenced above, *Anonymous Hospital v. A.K.*, was significant in terms of implication and timing. As discussed, it was a matter of first impression where the Indiana Court of Appeals concluded that a hospital's statutory immunity for reporting suspected child abuse to authorities extended to its underlying diagnosis. The decision advanced the purpose of the child abuse reporting statute, which is to encourage effective reporting of suspected abuse or neglect, promote prompt investigations, and protect children. This case further promoted the legislative intent to protect healthcare providers attempting to comply with the reporting statute without fear of civil or criminal liability.

In terms of timing, I was entrusted with writing the appellate brief not long after I was licensed as an attorney. The importance of being involved with such a crucial topic at the appellate level, so early in my career, has always stayed with me.

**Impact on Commerce**

My law partner and I currently represent a freight broker in a state court action, where Plaintiff alleges property damage. We raised as an affirmative defense that the negligence claims against our client are preempted under the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act, 49 U.S.C. § 14501(c)(1), because the negligence claims amount to regulation or curtailment of freight transportation that cuts directly against federal law.

This litigation (and similar litigation across the United States) is significant because the conveniences of modern industrial society require the constant movement of raw materials

and finished goods throughout the country daily. Moreover, consumers demand products, fresh food, and other necessities (and luxuries) of contemporary life to not only be readily available, but available quickly. The transportation of these raw materials and finished goods inevitably has wide-ranging impacts on the communities through which they are transported. If additional burdens are placed on freight brokers when arranging for the transportation of goods, requiring them to check the rules for every state through which a shipment might travel and, in essence, forcing them to predict where an accident might occur, then the ramifications and the impact to supply chains nationwide are arguably monumental, much like what the country experienced during the pandemic.

### Significance of Preparation

As a young attorney, I gained invaluable lessons through my involvement in the matter of *Eads v. Community Hospital*, Case No. 45S03-1001-CV-00033. In that case, the Indiana Supreme Court reversed a ruling by the trial court that the Court of Appeals affirmed. The Supreme Court determined general negligence claims filed with the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) can continue an action already filed in state court, if related to medical malpractice issues.

Plaintiff originally filed a negligence complaint against our hospital client nearly two years after sustaining injuries in a fall on the hospital's premises. In 2007, the hospital argued for dismissal of Plaintiff's lawsuit because Plaintiff failed to timely file the lawsuit with the IDOI, which was the proper venue. Plaintiff re-filed the proposed medical malpractice claim with the IDOI, relying on the same facts as in the negligence case.

In a split decision in July 2009, the appellate court determined the Journey's Account Statute, Ind. Code § 34-11-8-1, did not apply to the medical malpractice claim filed after the two-year statute of limitations expired. Thereafter, the two-judge majority affirmed summary judgment in favor of the hospital in the medical malpractice claim. While the trial and appellate courts ruled against the Plaintiff, the Supreme Court found in her favor.

Not only did I have the opportunity to draft some of the briefing, but I was also extensively involved in preparing my colleague for oral argument before the Indiana Supreme Court. At the oral argument, I saw firsthand the importance of staying composed, continuing to represent the client to the best of one's ability, and focusing on what brought the party before the court initially. These are lessons I have carried with me throughout my legal practice, and are the same lessons I teach young lawyers.

**Impact of Client Relationships**

**I have represented, and continue to represent, diverse clients from a multitude of backgrounds. This includes representing professionals and non-professionals as well as business entities both as a plaintiff’s attorney and a defense attorney.**

**In one particular matter, I represented a plaintiff in a medical malpractice case, involving a retained foreign body post-surgery. Ultimately, the matter concluded favorably for my client. The significance of the matter was not the “win” itself, but the relationship and trust forged with the client and her husband. In fact, because of that trust, accountability, and respect between myself and the client, I had the honor and privilege of representing this client twice more in a trust administration matter and in a residential real estate transaction.**

**While every attorney hopes for a “win” for his or her client, when we serve our clients with loyalty, competency, and honesty, oftentimes the rewards are more than just success in the courtroom. It is a testament to the notion that we, as attorneys, using our skills and expertise, are here to help people and the community.**

**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.

**Promoting our legal system and the fair administration of justice is what I aim to do every day in my personal and professional interactions. It is our charge as attorneys after all to protect the rule of law, due process, and fairness, and I try to honor that commitment to the best of my ability in spoken word and action.**

**As an Officer of the Court, I strive to reflect professionalism and civility, too. My goal is to always treat my clients, colleagues, and the judiciary with the utmost respect, fairness and, perhaps above all, kindness. I work hard to maintain a reputation as a respected member of the Indiana legal community, even in the face of adversity. As a testament to my efforts, I am honored to have been recognized as an Indiana Rising Star by *Super Lawyers* (2013-2015, 2018-2019), and a 2012 Up and Coming Lawyers recipient presented by *The Indiana Lawyer*.**

- 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.

**I have not had the opportunity to engage directly in such efforts, but remain open to doing so should the opportunity arise.**

- 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.

**Over the course of my career, I have had the opportunity to present at the following speaking engagements within my local community:**

**Speaker, Suncrest Christian Church, Saint John, Indiana, Estate Planning, 2022**

**Speaker, Local Department of Child Services, Gary, Indiana, and local area churches, Indiana Adoption Process, May and June 2019**

**Speaker, Emergency Detention & Hospital Intervention: What Physicians and Staff Need to Know, St. Catherine Hospital, January 2014**

**Speaker, several Northwest Indiana public middle schools to promote the legal profession to students, including participation in Law Day, May 2013**

**Speaker, Accelerated Physician MBA Program presented by Compass Integrated, March 2012**

**On the personal side, my husband and I are parishioners at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Crown Point, Indiana. I am proud to say that I have been a parishioner at this Church my entire life. I also attended Saint Mary Catholic School, where I met my husband in the seventh grade. In 2020, we were married in the Church. My husband and I support the Church and School through regular charitable giving, including attendance at annual fundraisers.**

**In further support of our local community, in 2021, my husband and I offered the public to tour our home as part of the Tri Kappa Annual Kitchen & Tour Tasting. The funds raised from this event were used to support Tri Kappa's continued focus on culture, education, and charity within the Crown Point community.**

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

**While employed at Giorgi & Bebekoski, I had the opportunity, together with my colleagues, to provide some *pro bono* legal services in the Family and Juvenile Law sectors.**

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

**During law school, I was employed as a Legal Writing Teaching Assistant from the Fall Semester of 2006 until my graduation in 2008. I worked under Marcia L. Gienapp, Esq., Professor.**

## 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 State Bar Association, Member since 2008**

**Lake County Bar Association, Member since 2008**

**Calumet American Inn of Court, Member since October 2009**

**Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana, Member since 2022**

- 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.

**I have not had the opportunity to serve in such organizations.**

- 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.

**Member, Innsbrook Country Club, Merrillville, Indiana, since 2019**

**Former Member, Youche Country Club, Crown Point, Indiana, 2013 until 2015**

**Former Board Member (served in roles of President and Treasurer for nine years), Princeton Town Home Owners' Association, Crown Point, Indiana**

D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

**Outside of the legal arena, I find joy in a variety of hobbies that contribute to my well-being and invite balance into my personal and professional life, including:**

**Travel – Trips around the country and abroad help me recharge and provide an opportunity for quality time with my husband.**

**Gardening – Promotes patience and attention to detail while appreciating the beauty of nature and being outside “unplugged.”**

**Exercise – Promotes discipline and accountability and really helps manage stress.**

**DIY Skills – Promotes creativity through interior home design/decorating and outdoor landscaping projects.**

**Reading – Promotes expansion of knowledge, maintenance of a strong vocabulary and grammar skills, and a welcomed escape from the day-to-day grind.**

## 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.)

**I have not been involved in any such legal proceedings.**

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.

**Jasper Circuit Court**

**Infraction – Charges: Speeding construction zone – workers present**

**Filed: June 26, 2012**

**Decided: November 28, 2012**

**Lake Superior Court, County Division 1**

**Infraction – Charges: Exceeding maximum speed**

**Filed: March 27, 2000**

**Decided: December 19, 2003**

**Lake Superior Court, County Division 1**  
**Infraction – Charges: Expired plates – vehicle registration**  
**Filed: April 22, 1996**  
**Decided: May 17, 1996**

- 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*).

**W. Brent Gill, Gill Law Firm**

**Douglas Walker, Gladish Law Group**

**Holly S.C. Wojcik, Theodoros & Rooth**

- 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*).

**Renee J. Mortimer, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP**

**Siobhan M. Murphy, Clyde & Co US LLP**

**Paul G. Stracci, Stracci Law Group**

- 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*).

**Joseph Bombagetti, Friend and Fellow Colleague**

**Laura Lowing, Friend and Former Employee**

**Meghan Tweed, Friend and Law School Classmate**