

Application of
Gina L. Jones
for the Court of Appeals of Indiana



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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.

Gina LaTrice Jones is my full name.
Gina LaTrice Green, my maiden name 1984-2004.
Gina LeTrice Jenkins birth until 1984.

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.

Children

- a. Daryl Tyler Jones, Son age 23
- b. Micah Jacobi Jones, Son age 18
- c. G.C.J. Son age 15

C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

Lake Superior Court, Criminal Division III
2293 N. Main Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
Jonesgl@lakecountyin.org
219.755.3500

D. Attorney number.

20145-45

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

November 1997

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.*

Not applicable

F. Date and place of birth.

March 23, 1971, Gary, Indiana

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

I was born and raised in Gary, 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.*

Indiana University — Bloomington

August 1989 — May 1993

Bachelor of Science — Public Affairs Management

Transcripts attached

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

I N D I A N A J U D I C I A L N O M I N A T I N G C O M M I S S I O N

- 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 School of Law
 1994 - 1997
 Juris Doctorate
 Transcript attached

4. Employment

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

ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	POSITION	DATE
Enterprise Rental	Merrillville, IN, 46410	Management Trainee	1993 – 1994
Blessed Sacrament School	1775 W. 41 st . Avenue, Gary, IN 46408	Interim teacher	1994
Law Offices of Bessie M. Taylor & Associates	501 Broadway, Ste. 201 Gary, IN 46402	Associate	1997-2001
Lake County Prosecutors Office	2293 N. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307	Deputy Prosecutor	1997-2001
City of Hammond	5925 Calumet Avenue, Room 232 Hammond, Indiana 46320	Judge Pro Tem	Jan. 2001 – June 2001
Lake County Prosecutors Office	2293 N. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307	Deputy Prosecutor Director of Child Support	2002- Dec. 2010
Town of Merrillville	7820 Broadway Merrillville, IN 46410	Judge	Dec. 2010 – 2019
Law Offices of Gina L. Jones	P.O. Box 11757 Merrillville, IN 46410	Sole Practitioner	2011 - 2019
Geminus Corporation	8400 Louisiana St. #200 Merrillville, IN 46410	Special Programs Attorney	2012-2014
Lake County Public Defenders' Office / Conflicts Division	2293 N. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307	Felony Public Defender	2012 - 2018
Lake Superior Court, Civil Division Room 6	2293 N. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307	Judge	2019 - 2021
Lake Superior Court, Criminal Division Room III	2293 N. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307	Judge	2021 - Present

- 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.

Bessie M. Taylor (now Davis)

26 E. 15th Avenue

Gary, IN 46402

Upon becoming barred in 1997, I began my legal career with two employers simultaneously. One, as an associate in the Law Offices of Bessie M. Taylor. The second as a Deputy Prosecutor with the Lake County Prosecutor's Office on a part time basis. While employed as an associate for Bessie Taylor, my practice consisted primarily of domestic relations, wills and estates, personal injury, worker's compensation, medical malpractice, municipal defense, small claims and evictions. In 1999, I entered a partnership with Bessie Taylor creating Taylor & Green. My practice remained the same except for the addition of handling civil forfeitures for the Lake County Prosecutor's Office. Our partnership ended in April 2003.

Lake County Prosecutors Office

Bernard A. Carter

2293 N. Main St.

Crown Point, IN 46307

As I began my career as a Deputy Prosecutor in 1997 with Lake County Prosecutor Bernard A. Carter, my first assignment was in the Child Support Division. My responsibilities included my representation of the State of Indiana and its interest in every aspect of paternity establishment, child support, and medical coverage. In 1998, I was transferred to the Merrillville Town Court and remained until 2001. As the sole Deputy Prosecutor for that court, I reviewed and charged defendants with class misdemeanors, traffic infractions and some D felonies. I represented the State of Indiana in numerous Bench trials and negotiated plea agreements.

In 2002, I resumed my tenure as Deputy Prosecutor with the Child Support Division and in April 2003, I became Executive Director until December 2010. As Director, I started with the management of 44 support staff, seven Attorneys, and 70,000 cases. Realizing change was inevitable, I began to focus on improvement. My first priority was to mandate staff usage of the statewide child support tracking system, allowing our office to efficiently and effectively track child support throughout the State and Nation. The transition into information technology was challenging. Upon my arrival, it became imperative that I became a liaison with state level officials and focus on the formulation of ways to increase overall county performance on a statewide scale. The practice of law is not just limited to research or Court room time, as I found my administrative skills refined and sharpened during this experience.

I oversaw the consolidation of our offices from two locations to one. Learning how to navigate human resource issues as well as providing annually a prepared budget with appearances before the County Council. Process improvement was necessary, so I implemented a system overhauling the case management system used to handle child support cases and continued to tweak the system as time progressed. The greatest experience in this position that prepared me for the bench because every case revolved around pro se litigants. Only 5% of the cases our office had the appearance of private counsel. The litigants usually came into the office mad, not upset or agitated just plain mad, either because they were not receiving any funds, or they felt that they were paying too much child support. Setting the example on how to deal with individuals with respect and patience truly enabled me to become a problem solver. I appeared in Court sporadically while serving in my primarily administrative role until I left the Prosecutors office for another job opportunity in December 2010.

Law office of Gina L. Jones

**6111 Harrison Street
Merrillville, IN 46410**

In December 2010, I was appointed by special election as Merrillville Town Court Judge. As a Town Court Judge, I had the ability to maintain a private practice. My areas of concentration could only consist of those legal areas that I did not preside over as Judge. I opened an office as a sole practitioner in 2011 and focused on child support, adoption, divorce, custody, and paternity cases. During 2011-2013, I also represented Fathers Pro-Bono that were trying to obtain Paternity and custody of their children that were designated as a Child in Need of Services. I preferred accepting civil clients that had challenging cases often when the individual felt they were being taken advantage of by the legal system. Unfortunately, within three months of assuming the seat, I discovered financial impropriety within the court, and I was required to devote a considerable amount of time only to the management of the court.

Lake County Public Defender's Office

**Lemuel Stigler
2293 N. Main Street
Crown Point, IN 46307**

I have always had a strong desire to be well rounded. In 2012, I began work as a Contract Attorney with Lake County Felony Public Defenders Office, Conflict Division. My caseload included Felony Criminal cases ranging from high level felonies such as Dealing Cocaine and Armed Robbery, and low-level felonies such as Theft, Forgery, and Fraud. My clients were indigent and had a pending felony case with a co-defendant or was previously my client possibly facing a Petition to Revoke their probation. I voluntarily

ended my contract in July 2018 so that I may sit as Felony Judge Pro Tem. My private practice continued through November 2019 when I was appointed Judge, Lake Superior Court Civil Division.

5. Trial/Judicial Experience

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

Attorney: Private Practice 1997-2003

Within my couple of years as an associate with the Law office of Bessie M. Taylor, I was able to participate and try three (3) civil jury trials. The subject matter consisted of medical malpractice, a Pedestrian involved auto collision personal injury, and auto collision personal injury. The Medical Malpractice case was of note because as a Law Clerk for the office for a while, I was extremely familiar with the case. The trial began within weeks of my passing the bar and I was able to assist not only as a law clerk, but an Attorney of record. I quickly realized that my mental visualization of the practice of law was clouded by rose colored glasses. I was fortunate to have a front row seat to the legal system at work. The trial began, there was an immediate interlocutory appeal and a stay of the trial, granting the interlocutory appeal, a resumption of the trial, a final appeal, and subsequent transfer to the Supreme Court.

My first trial as lead counsel was a pedestrian personal injury trial. Although this case was not as dramatic as the other, it was a learning experience that challenged my creativity and knowledge of the legal system. The trial began and concluded in the Plaintiffs favor, however the jury found liability but did not apportion any monetary damages even though the damages were not disputed. I successfully filed a Motion to Correct Error and the trial court set aside the jury verdict, award and judgement then granted the plaintiff a new trial on all issues.

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

Lake County Prosecutor's Office

I can only estimate that I have tried over 100 bench trials during my prosecutorial career.

Deputy Prosecutor – Merrillville Town Court 1997-1998

If a Defendant requested a trial on their charges, I was responsible for representing the State of Indiana. I tried criminal misdemeanor cases and traffic infractions against opposing counsel and self-represented litigants. Although there was no court reporter, our record was maintained via audio recording (cassette tape) and all rules of evidence and procedure were maintained and enforced.

Deputy Prosecutor – Child Support Division

As a representative of the State of Indiana, I was tasked with multiple bench trials. As a unique experience, there are normally three (3) parties in IV-D cases: Mother, Father, and the State of Indiana. It is a common misconception that the Prosecutor represents either Mother or Father when it is simply the interest of the State of Indiana. Even in situations where there is no money owed the State of Indiana, as a Prosecutor, we must pursue the interest of all children to be entitled to an establishment and enforcement of paternity, child support, health insurance, visitation. This is where I learned to seek justice overall. Additionally, this is the court where I developed patience and the ability to deescalate emotions. In child support cases, all parties present are upset, one because they must pay money and the other because they are not getting money. Most bench trials were volatile situations for all.

- 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.

Hammond City Court 2001

As a Deputy Prosecutor for Merrillville Town Court, I watched eagerly and soaked up not only courtroom experience, but watched how the Judge managed his Court staff, the attorneys, the officers in the Courtroom, and the witnesses. I quickly resolved that if I wanted to sit upon the bench, I would need to become well versed, not only in the law, but in the administrative aspect of running a Court, a skill I believe may be vastly overlooked at times.

This became important when I was appointed by the Indiana Supreme Court to fill the vacancy in the Hammond City Court created when the presiding Judge moved into a different judicial position. Knowing it was temporary, I used the time wisely to become familiar with Judicial rules and ethics, as well as establishing a Judicial temperament. I was already familiar with the type of cases having voluntarily terminated my position as a Deputy Prosecutor for Merrillville Town Court to accept the Judge Pro Tem position. There was a staff of six (6) and two (2) referees. I presided over criminal

misdemeanors, traffic, and ordinance infractions as well as small claim civil matters. We often had bench trials, sentencings, plea agreement disposition, as well as civil eviction bench trials and collections.

Merrillville Town Court 2010 - 2019

In 2010, I had the honor of being elected to the bench as the Merrillville Town Court Judge. A town court is different in that the Court clerks not only manages the docket but also is bonded and receives money. I was elated to have come full circle and preside over the Court where I began my career. However, that elation was short lived, when I realized that a Court employee was stealing public funds through the Court. There was an investigation launched immediately and in the midst of it all, I still needed to manage the courts' heavy civil and criminal dockets and attempt to restore faith and confidence in the judicial system I served. It quickly became apparent that the lack of technology and supervision created the space and opportunity for the malfeasance. I immediately mandated that all staff be trained and use the court management system, Courtview. Again, I was thrust into using my proficiency in guiding technological change and improvement. It would take my entire tenure to resolve many of the issues created by the 6+ years and over \$600,000.00 of financial malfeasance and "creative case management" that occurred. I completed the unexpired term of my predecessor and was elected for two additional terms. Similar to my time at the Hammond City Court, my docket in Merrillville included criminal misdemeanors, traffic and ordinance violations, and civil collections and evictions. I presided over numerous bench trials and motion hearings. While in Merrillville, there were increasing incidents of youthful offenses occurring during school hours by truant youth. As a member of the Board of Managers for the Merrillville Boys and Girls club, I had firsthand knowledge of how afterschool care as well as bullying, inadequate supervision and feelings of failure due to lack of educational engagement can have on an impressionable child. I partnered with another agency in which I was also on the Board of Managers - Geminus Corp. and developed a Truancy Court for the Town of Merrillville entitled C.A.P.S. or Consistent Attendance Promotes Success. The Truancy Court offered students and their families an all-inclusive approach, in home tutoring, transportation, after school snacks, peer and adult mentoring, and even parenting skill classes. The Truancy Court is still going strong.

I was appointed to serve as a member of JLAP in 2014. My time on JLAP has allowed me to discern and develop a level of sensitivity that I always knew I had, but never truly understood the breadth of its purpose. I will forever be grateful to everyone that I have served with as well as the many people I have met and assisted. As a

member of the committee, I have also served in the capacity of the Treasurer and currently Secretary.

Lake Superior Court – Civil Division Room VI

In November 2019, I was appointed by Governor Eric Holcomb to preside over the Lake Superior Court – Civil Division Room III. In the Civil Division addressing various legal disputes including property rights, car accidents, breach of contract, medical malpractice, mortgage foreclosures, collection of debt, protective orders and name changes.

The year of 2020 brought its own challenges, namely "Covid 19". Case management via zoom became the norm. I successfully guided the court staff, attorneys, and litigants through every type of hearing possible, including but not limited to summary judgments, protective order, motions to dismiss, all discovery disputes and motions to correct errors. Becoming zoom proficient, kept our caseloads moving.

From June 2020- July 2021, the Court participated in the Compromise and Payment Program (CAPP) developed to assist debtor defendants in Civil Collection case types avoid the entry of a judgment. The purpose of CAPP was to encourage debtors to negotiate with creditors by providing an opportunity to participate in a Payment Agreement Conference ("PAC") during Court business hours in the Court's conference rooms. Debtors choosing to participate in the PAC will have the opportunity to meet with the creditor's attorney and discuss payment options in order to avoid entry of a default judgment. An Agreement provides the debtor with the opportunity to pay his/her debt without the negative impact of a judgment. We were able to successfully assist over 100 individuals avoid a judgment on their record. For the duration of the project, the percentage of default judgments on new case filings decreased by twenty (20) percent.

Between November 2019 – November 2021, I presided over four (4) bench trials, four (4) Jury trials, and many oral arguments on dispositive motions, discovery complications, and other pretrial motions.

Lake Superior Court – Criminal Division Room III

In October 2021, our County suffered the tremendous loss of the Honorable Diane Ross Boswell. She was a mentor and a friend. I was encouraged by many to succeed her and assume the seat in the Lake County Criminal Felony division in December of 2021. It has been my honor and privilege to preside over Felonies, Murder, and a few misdemeanors. There are regularly over 2,000 cases pending in this courtroom at any time. Navigating this caseload, staff and creating

innovative methods to ensure timely resolution is the challenge I accept and meet daily. From 2022 – present, I have presided over 16 Jury trials including but not limited to Murder, Child molest, and Resisting law enforcement.

In addition to my regular Judicial responsibilities, I have been the representative of the first District on the Indiana Judges Association Board of Managers since 2021.

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.

1. WRITING SAMPLE #1 (Judicial Order)

FCL Recovery Indiana, LLC, v. C.L. Partners, Inc., Chris Lozanovski and Sabrina Lozanovski, Occupant Unit 1, Occupant Unit 2, and Occupant Unit 3
45D10-1212-MF-000458

*Order Denying Hoosier Property Services Inc.'s Motion for Summary Judgement
May 27, 2021*

In this case, an Order discharging the Receiver and closing Receivership was filed with the Court and a final report and accounting was received. After a subsequent accounting, there was a dispute as to financial errors stemming from undisclosed receipts. The Receiver objected to a further review alleging the Defendants failed to object to the final report and that any objections should be waived. The Receiver filed a motion for summary judgement. After researching, I agreed with the Defendant that it is inequitable to permit the discharge of the Receiver where the accounting document is facially incorrect and demonstrates a three-part mutual mistake of fact.

2. WRITING SAMPLE #2 (Judicial Order)

Richard Wendel v. Stephen W. Robertson, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Insurance, as Administrator of the Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund / Richard Wendel v. Automobile Mechanics Local Union #701 and ArcBest Corporation
45D10-1704-PL-000031

21A-PL-2912

Order Granting Petitioner's Request for Lien Adjudication

December 6, 2021

Court of Appeals – Affirmed

Plaintiff was injured at work in Illinois. Plaintiff had a surgery for the injury which was performed on the wrong side of his body which led to a medical malpractice claim in Indiana. After settlement of the medical malpractice claim, this action was filed to adjudicate the liens that stemmed from medical malpractice case. There were lengthy arguments, testimony, motions to strike experts, and briefing. After research and review, I found that although the parties agreed in many respects, we were present for a mathematical calculation. Of which was not given to the court by way of evidence nor expert testimony. An appeal ensued. I am particularly proud of this case because it was one of the last cases I handled in the Civil division and the 25-page Court of Appeals decision affirmed all of the issues that I researched and concluded.

3. WRITING SAMPLE #3 (Attorney Motion)

In RE: The Paternity of L.O.W. S.B v. L.W.

45D06-9508-JP-03669

45A03-0103-JV-81

Respondent's Motion to Set Aside and Motion to Correct Errors/ Memorandum of Law

I represented a very young lady who had a child out of wedlock and was the custodial parent. The father of the child filed a petition for change in custody based on visitation interference. Prior to hiring me, the mother failed to appear at two hearings for contempt for visitation interference. Although it is possible that the mother had in fact ignored the father's requests for visitation, I had a procedural notice argument. We filed a motion to correct error that was denied and appealed. The case was remanded. This case was significant for me as a new practitioner, as the facts were not extremely favorable to our position, but I was able to make a convincing argument in support of my client.

4. WRITING SAMPLE # 4 (JUDICIAL ORDER)

State of Indiana v Charles Johnson

45G03-1907-F4-000091

Order to Correct Credit Day calculation

In a sentencing hearing, the defendant provided the court with a credit time calculation that in addition to time served in jail and good time credit, he would receive accrued time for the 781 days he spent on pretrial home detention. However, after the hearing, I determined that the calculation was in error and had a rehearing on the issue of the calculation. I subsequently removed the 781 accrued days. My interpretation of the applicable Indiana Code and the General Assembly's response by amending that particular section was remedial in nature. The Court of Appeals formulated a memorandum decision affirming the decision but for different reasons.

- 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.

2000 – City of East Chicago employee handbook updated and revised.

2023 – Lake County Criminal Courts Division employee handbook. Lead review / update with Heather Faulks.

- 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.

"I am not your Superwoman, but I do have superpowers" The Indiana Lawyer, April 2024

I wrote this article on behalf of JLAP as a representative piece on self-care. Although it is written in the voice and perspective of a Judge that is a woman, I hoped it would resonate with many women in any field. In addition, when anyone gets so caught up being everything for everyone, we often forget to take care of ourselves. The way to manage those expectations often requires the use of "superpowers".

- 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.

Jordan v. Deery, 778 N.E.2d 1264, (Ind. 2002) (Attorney for Plaintiff)

Parents filed medical malpractice action as next friend of disabled child against hospital and doctors in connection with complications occurring during childbirth. The Starke Circuit Court Judge Matsey granted defendants' motion in limine to have child excluded from courtroom during liability phase of trial. Jury verdict was entered judgment in favor of defendants. The plaintiff child appealed. The Indiana Supreme Court held that the constitutional right to a jury trial entitled the child to be present in the courtroom during both the liability and damage phase of her malpractice action. The Supreme Court held that Healthcare providers failed to show

that extraordinary circumstances existed warranting exclusion of the disabled plaintiff from courtroom in the liability phase of her malpractice action, and thus disabled child's constitutional right to a jury trial entitled her to be present in the courtroom during both the liability and damage phases of her action.

SIGNIFICANT because the right to be present at the civil trial was firmly established. Plaintiffs injured because of the negligence of a defendant can no longer be prohibited from attending their trial because of the prejudicial effect their injuries may have on the sympathies of the jury. This was the first trial that I participated in as an Attorney and everything about the case was a memorable moment. There were instances that I was confused by the Attorneys and Judges approach, demeanor, and behavior during the trial. As a new lawyer, I was given a front row seat to a non-textbook scenario in a courtroom.

State of Indiana v Brian R. Thiel – Judge, Town of Merrillville
45I01-1611-CM-000684, 45I01-1705-CM-00029, 45I01-1706-CM-000335

A young man was having some challenges both mental health and substance abuse. He had various charges in multiple courts. His father would try to appear on his behalf and would try to speak with the Court. With 3 cases pending, I refused to give him a bond. His father begged for his release to allow him to be put in an inpatient facility. I voiced my concern to the father that every time Brian got arrested, his father would post his bond. Although the father assured me this was the final time, I released him on ankle monitor with home detention. Less than a week later, the father was shot and killed. No one will know what happened in that house as the stories from Brian and his mother were inconclusive.

SIGNIFICANT because I had to learn that I was not at fault for the father's death. My legal mind knew I made a reasonable legal decision. However, my emotional mind said he would be safer in jail. At that time in my career, a mental health court would have been an avenue worth pursuing. Learning how to navigate defendants with mental health needs was a lesson that I carry with me now.

Battery – 2017 (Presiding Judge)

As presiding Judge in Merrillville, a defendant was accused of battery against his neighbor. In a bench trial, the defendant proceeded as a self-represented individual. When I inquired why he wanted to proceed as a self-represented individual he replied, "because all of my previous attorneys told me no, I couldn't take the stand and tell my side". I reviewed all the pros and cons and questions and found he was able to represent himself and the case proceeded. As the events unfolded, he elicited testimony on cross examination from the victim that he had, been having an affair with the Defendants wife.

After the Defendant broke down in tears, sobbing, I asked him if he wanted to continue, and he said yes. During the Defendants testimony, he confessed to the battery but testified that after the affair, his wife subsequently died of alcohol poisoning while trying to deal with the guilt. The defendant was raising their children as a single parent and although he received the answers he so desperately wanted, the result was just as devastating as the truth.

SIGNIFICANT because, this was one of the cases I had that exemplified the facts vs the law; basically, when the law says you must convict but the facts move your emotions. I found the Defendant guilty, but I was able to craft his sentence to require him to obtain the help he needed to deal with the situation which included grief counseling.

State of Indiana v Ray Timothy Dampier 45G03-2205-MR-00019 (Presiding Judge)

This case was transferred to my courtroom as a result of random selection after the Defendant requested a change of venue from Judge. In review of the docket, the Defendant had been held in contempt multiple times primarily for a failure to adhere to court decorum and rules. Additionally, he previously requested to represent himself and the motion was pending at our first hearing. It was clear that the Defendant possessed a deep distrust of the legal system he expressed it often. I was also able to discern that his level of offense arose from feeling unheard and what he considered "disrespect as a Black man". Therefore, it was my desire to ensure that I lessen that sentiment. Understanding and recognizing implicit bias as well as possessing the sensitivity needed allowed me to combat his barriers at the onset of his appearance in my courtroom. He became my first self-represented individual in a Murder trial.

SIGNIFICANT because this case was going to require patience and a particular demeanor to ensure justice was served on both sides of the aisle. I was able to rely heavily on what I learned in the many contempt seminars and my normal demeanor throughout my time involved in this case. A seasoned attorney has difficulty navigating trial preparation and evidence, however ensuring that an angry, defensive, self-represented African American man can walk away feeling heard while trying to act like a lawyer is a challenge in itself. I consider our interaction a success because he was never disrespectful to me nor my staff. He did not complain that I was rude or demeaning to him. I did not have to warn him with contempt findings because he did not exhibit any behaviors that warranted it. At the end of this case, I was realized that understanding cultural differences can allow you to work smarter and not harder.

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.

REAL Fathers Initiative 2004

While serving as the Director of Child Support for Lake County, it became apparent that there was a need to assist Fathers when their child was deemed a “child in need of services”. There were many cases where Paternity had not been established or the child was about to go into placement with a relative. The program began by connecting IV-D Fathers with Geminus provided ProBono contract attorneys to represent their interest. The IV-D office shared a goal in establishing paternity and modifying child support to a collectable amount while the human services of Geminus focused on empowerment, employment, and the general well-being of an engaged Father with his child/children.

Continuing Judicial Education Presenter

- *Indiana Office of Court Services (formerly Indiana Judicial Center)*
 - 2022 New Judge Orientation-Part 1
 - City and Town Court Judges Conference
 - Panel Discussion “Transition to the Superior Court Bench” (2023)
 - Panel Discussion “City and Town Hot Topics” (2023)
 - Presented on behalf of JLAP 101 (2015)
 - City and Town Annual Meeting (2019)
- *Kimbrough Bar Association*
 - Presented on behalf of JLAP - Mental Health and The Bar (2022)
- *Lake County Bar Association*
 - The Newest Judge of Room 3 in the Lake Superior Court will Discuss Her Approach to the Bench (2022)
 - Volunteer Training JLAP (2021)
 - In conjunction with Calumet Inns of Court – “Caught between Novel and Normal: Well-Being in Difficult Times” (2021)
 - No One Said It Would Be Easy, But No One Said It Would Be (2020)
 - Do's and Don'ts in Judge Parent/Judge Jones' Courts - Civil Division (2020)
 - Implicit Bias - Prospectives in Diversity (2019)
 - Volunteer Training JLAP (2017)
- *Indiana Child Support Alliance / ERISCA (Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association State Conference 2004-2009)*
 - Indiana Child Support Alliance - As a Member of the Board representing the second largest county in the State, I often presented to Attorneys as well as Child support staff at our yearly State Conference on various Child support related

topics specifically affecting IV-D.

- 06/17/2009 Indiana Child Support Enforcement Conference
- 06/04/2008 Indiana Child Support Enforcement Conference
- 02/23/2007 New Child Support Deputy Training
- 06/14/2006 Div. Of Family & Children update
- ERISCA – As a representative from Indiana, I worked with Marion County and Allen County to present information that specifically challenged our state during the ERISCA conference and our Chicagoland / Wisconsin partners.
- *Calumet Inns of Court / Local branch of American Inns of Court* – participated as a speaker almost yearly (10 times) from 2002-2014

- 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.

Lunch and Learn with Judge Gina L. Jones -2017-2018

In 2017, there were some incidents of racial insensitivity at my sons’ high school located in Merrillville. As a community leader that is a person of color, I volunteered to speak to the student leaders and assist in healing the student body by providing a safe space to learn how to navigate sensitivity and lead by example. “Lunch and Learn with Judge Gina L. Jones” was developed. I met with the Student Council for lunch once a week and we had unrestricted conversations and developed tools to employ and pass to others. This was one of my most fulfilling community engagement.

The Great Debate – 2018, 2021, 2023

Host an activity for the Teen Group of Jack and Jill of America in October. The Teens are given a choice of topics and must develop an argument in favor and against. Other teens are placed in the Jury box to ask questions of the debaters and participate in voting on the winning argument.

Graduation Speech – 2012 (see attached)

The Region Dean of Indiana Wesleyan University requested that I inspire their recent graduates at their Winter commencement. I had recently begun to preside at Merrillville town court. It was an honor and privilege because many of the graduates were non-traditional students and were aiming to make a difference in our community. The topic I was given was “The Voice of Change” I am proud of the written speech because years later, I realized not only was I speaking to those students, but I was speaking to my inner self.

- 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.

Regional Care Group Board of Managers 2013-2023: Regional Care Group (RCG) is the largest comprehensive conglomerate of health care and social service providers. The goal of RCG is to treat the whole person by offering a wholistic approach to the community. I am honored to have been integral in the expansion of its services and accomplishing the purpose of providing affordable, diverse care to all people in our community and beyond.

While a member, I was involved in the growth and development of RCG including the name. In 2018, I had the pleasure of participating as one of 4 members of a special committee tasked with finding a new CEO for the organization. Participating in a national search for the next CEO was an experience I will not forget. My 10 years as a member of this Board expanded my sense of community and business knowledge. It was a truly humbling experience, and I am honored and forever grateful for the experience working with every Board and staff member.

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

Handled 1-2 family law cases a year pro bono while in private practice.

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

I have not taught law school. Prior to the closing of Valparaiso School of Law, as a member of the Kimbrough Bar Association, I would mentor the students of color. I have delivered, as mentioned above, numerous presentations to judges and lawyers. I have been invited to participate as a panelist in conferences conducted over the years.

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.

Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program 2014 – Present

Justice Robert Rucker appointed me to JLAP in 2014. JLAP assists members of the legal community with a wide variety of issues that impact legal professionals. Although many people only recognize JLAP as dealing with substance abuse, the diverse services include mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, life stressors, and age-related illness and impairment. My time as a member of JLAP has increased my awareness of crisis situations and has influenced my Judicial presence. Being a JLAP volunteer is one of the most fulfilling roles I have experienced. I have served as Treasurer 2022-2023 and Secretary 2023-2024.

Indiana Judges' Association ("IJA") - Member of Board of Managers, August 2021 – Present

Nominated by a colleague, I was elected to represent District 1 (Lake County) in this association. The IJA advocates to the Indiana General Assembly issues that are important to the State's judiciary. On this Board, we participate in meetings to actively monitor legislation of interest to the judiciary and preserving the rule of law. As our District representative, I provide updates and details that are upcoming topics and anything happening around the State. Although we don't advocate for substantive law changes, on occasion items that may have unintended consequences arise. The goal is always supporting changes that improve our ability to do our jobs to the best of our ability.

Lake County Bar Association (Member 1997 – Present)

The Lake County Bar Association serves as a bridge that strengthens the relationship between the individuals in the legal profession. The common ground provided by the bar provides a Switzerland for education, comradery, and community engagement.

Elected to the Board of Managers 2019 – 2023

Kimborough Bar Association (Member 1997 – Present)

The Kimborough Bar Association (KBA) is a specialty bar that is an affiliate of the National Bar Association (NBA). The NBA is America's oldest and largest national network of predominately Black attorneys and Judges. The KBA is cemented in serving the legal community with the aims grounded in Justice, Equality and Fairness for all.

President 2014

Vice President 1999

Secretary 1998

Calumet Inn of Court (Member, 2003 – 2018)

The Calumet Inn consists of approximately 100 attorneys and judges in various stages of their careers. The members have a monthly networking event to discuss

ethical and substantive issues related to the practice of law. The evening usually consists of mingling, conversations, and a robust CLE. Our CLE presentations provide a non-traditional approach to learning. Skits with scripts and games with dramatic interpretation are frequently accepted methods. Watching Judges and lawyers use their creative side of their brains and have fun while learning is refreshing.

- 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.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Gary/Northwest Indiana Chapter 2005 – Present

Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated is a national organization of mothers dedicated to raising the next generation of African American leaders while enhancing the lives of all children. It has more than 50,000 family members in 262 chapters nationwide. The children are from age 2-18. We work to accomplish our mission through diverse programs focused on leadership development, cultural exposure, community service, legislative advocacy, and philanthropic giving. For example, the teens lead their own events, work on leadership skills, have fundraisers, and serve the community with impactful events. Since joining Jack and Jill, I have served in the following capacities:

Chapter Elected offices: Financial Secretary 2006, Recording Secretary 2007, Vice President 2008-2009, President 2009-2001; 2011-2012, Corresponding Secretary 2014-2015, Nominating Committee 2019-2021

Chapter Appointed: Parliamentarian 2012-2014, Age group chair 2013-2014; LTA 2021-2022, Co-LTA 2022- Present

Regional Elected office: Regional Secretary 2015-2017; 2017-2019

Regional Appointed: Regional Parliamentarian 2012-2014, Regional Competitions Co-Chair 2011-2015.

National Appointed: National Constitution and Bylaws Chair 2012-2014

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. 1998 - Present

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated[®] (AKA), an international service organization, was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women. It is comprised of more than 360,000 initiated members in graduate and undergraduate chapters located in 12 countries. The mission is based in high scholastic and ethical standards, promotes unity and friendship among college women, to study and alleviate problems concerning girls and women, promote positive collegiate experiences and to be of Service to all mankind. As a member, I have served in the

following capacities in my local chapter: Recording Secretary 2000-2001, Financial Secretary 2001-2003, Foundation Chair 2003-2006, General member presently.

- 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.

I am an avid reader of anything non-fiction. It is my escape and quiet time. However, as a mom of three boys that have been 2-3 sport athletes all their lives, I am a true SPORTS mom. My middle son is a recent high school graduate with dreams of playing college football, it is still an option. My youngest son is still living the dream and plays football, basketball and runs track so I am loving being their biggest fan!

I love writing. Within the last couple years, I started to collect my pieces which are primarily short stories and poetry. Most of what I write has been therapeutic and serves as a release for emotions. I hope to publish one day and until then, I will keep writing.

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.)

DIRECTV, Inc. v. Gina Green

A case of identity theft. I was sued and the case was resolved and dismissed with prejudice.

Bank of America, N.A. v. Gina Green

45D10-1905-CC-005378 Decided 10/2019

A collection matter that was resolved and dismissed with prejudice.

Robert Mclee Holland, III, et al. v. State of Indiana, et al.

24A-PL-00856

45D11-2308-PL-000610

Currently pending

I was named as a party to a lawsuit while serving as my official capacity as Judge. I am one of 27 Respondents.

Gina L. Jones v Daryl D. Jones

45D03-2310-DC-616

Dissolution – Decided 1/26/24

- 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.

Dismissed - Advisory letter. Lashawnda Norman

While presiding in Merrillville Town Court a young woman appeared for a bench trial for a traffic ticket. It was her first appearance, and the State requested a continuance. I granted the continuance over her objection and during our exchange, she was verbally combative, disrespectful and was visibly getting increasingly agitated. As she was one of the first cases called, I had her removed from the courtroom to give her time to calm down and to not further disrupt the proceedings. Although my actions were intended to give her time to calm down, I learned my error was failing to conduct a Contempt hearing prior to having her removed into the hallway. She filed a disciplinary complaint alleging I mistreated her. The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualification required that I attend a CLE on the Contempt process, answer sample questions, and after six months, the incident was resolved. I learned a lot from the entire situation and carry it all with me every day.

- 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*).

- 1. Maureen Koonce**
- 2. Paul Stracci**
- 3. Derrick Julkes**

- 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*).

- 1. Bernard A. Carter**
- 2. Judge Bruce Parent**
- 3. Michael Tolbert**

- 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*).

- 1. Bessie M. Davis**
- 2. Nadine Gibson**
- 3. Lemuel Stigler**