

# 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.

Stephanie E. Steele

Stephanie E. Steele Singleton

- 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.

Paul Singleton: 42; spouse; Judge; United States Bankruptcy Court

E.S.: 15; child

E.S.: 12; child

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

101 S. Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601

[ssteele@sjcindiana.com](mailto:ssteele@sjcindiana.com)

(574) 235-9550

- D. Attorney number.

29073-71

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

May 17, 2010

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

Active, In Good Standing

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.*

N/A

F. Date and place of birth.

October 27, 1980

Elkhart, Indiana

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

St. Joseph County, Indiana

May 2009

## 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.*

| <b>Name of College or University</b> | <b>Dates Enrolled</b> | <b>Degree or Certificate Earned</b>     | <b>Academic Honors, Awards, or Scholarships Received</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| Coppin State University              | January 2005-May 2005 | Teaching Certificate                    |  |
| Johns Hopkins University             | July 2003-May 2004    | N/A—Credits toward Teaching Certificate |  |

|                             |                               |   |   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Glen Oaks Community College | May 1999-<br>August 1999      | N/A—Summer Semester<br>Chemistry and<br>Chemistry Lab |   |
| University of Michigan      | August 1998-<br>December 2002 | B.A. in<br>Psychology<br>B.A. in Political<br>Science | Scholarship based<br>on ACT scores<br><br>Study abroad<br>program in<br>Venezuela |

- 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).*

N/A

### 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.*

| <b>Name of College or University</b> | <b>Dates Enrolled</b> | <b>Degree or Certificate Earned</b>                     | <b>Rank, Academic Honors, Awards, or Scholarships</b>        |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| Harvard Kennedy School of Government | July 2018             | Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program | Bloomberg Harvard Scholarship through Bloomberg Harvard City |

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

|  |                      |      |  |
|--|----------------------|------|--|
|  |                      |      | Leadership Initiative  |
| Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University | August 2006-May 2009 | J.D. | <p>Graduated top third of class</p> <p>Graduated with Pro Bono Distinction</p> <p>Scholarship based on AmeriCorps participation</p> <p>Study abroad program in Italy</p> |

#### 4. Employment

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

| <b>Employer</b>                         | <b>Title or Position</b> | <b>Location</b>       | <b>Dates of Employment</b> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| State of Indiana                        | Superior Court Judge     | St. Joseph County, IN | May 2021-Present           |
| City of South Bend<br>Department of Law | Corporation Counsel      | South Bend, IN        | August 2017-May 2021       |
| City of South Bend<br>Department of Law | Assistant City Attorney  | South Bend, IN        | February 2015-August 2017  |

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

|                                       |                             |                 |                            |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office | Deputy Prosecuting Attorney | South Bend, IN  | February 2011-January 2015 |
| SES Agency                            | Owner and Agent             | South Bend, IN  | March 2010-January 2011    |
| Teach for America                     | Program Director            | New York, NY    | August 2005-August 2006    |
| Teach for America                     | Corps Member Advisor        | Los Angeles, CA | June 2005-August 2005      |
| Baltimore City Public Schools         | Teacher                     | Baltimore, MD   | August 2003-June 2005      |

- 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.

Judge, St. Joseph Superior Court; 2021-Present: As a Judge in St. Joseph Superior Court, I am employed by the State of Indiana to preside over trials and manage a court docket. I spent three years presiding over a high-volume felony docket and now preside over a general civil docket. As part of my duties, I have presided over 35 jury trials and 7 bench trials. As well, I have the honor of presiding over our County's Drug Court and Commercial Court. I trained and implemented our county's first Drug Court dog to reduce anxiety of Drug Court participants. I have created procedures to streamline cases, increase communication between attorneys, and resolve cases efficiently. I also enjoy representing our Court when I speak with students at the grade schools, colleges, and Notre Dame Law School.

My associates include all of the judicial officers in St. Joseph County and the State, such as Jenny Pitts Manier, Steve Hostetler, and April Drake. My office mates are Carrie Piechocki, Marc D'Amore, and Jeanne Groth.

Corporation Counsel, City of South Bend Department of Law; 2015-2017: When I became Corporation Counsel, I was responsible for managing all legal affairs for the City of South Bend, which has a population of 101,000 people and over 1,100 employees. I also managed the City's Department of Law, working with eight Assistant City Attorneys, four Administrative Assistance, and outside counsel. I represented the City in mediation

and settlement conferences as well directed the City's defense in state and federal litigation. I reduced the City's litigation expenses by 50% and led a proactive litigation strategy to obtain over \$1,000,000 to aid the City in its environmental remediation efforts. Additionally, I provided ethics opinions and legal advice to City employees, department heads, and mayors.

My supervisors at the time were now-Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Mayor James Mueller. My associates included Geneveive Miller, Mark Bode, Eric Horvath, and Chief Carl Buchanon. My office mates included Geovanny Martinez, Jeff Haupt, and April Goodson.

Assistant City Attorney, City of South Bend Department of Law; 2015-2017: As an Assistant City Attorney, I represented the South Bend Police Department, South Bend Fire Department, and South Bend Animal Control. My duties included analyzing state and federal law and recommending policies and procedures to minimize liability, recommending training, and providing general legal advice to those three departments. I also worked to update the policies and duty manuals for the departments. I had the privilege of participating in the union negotiations for both the Police and the Fire Departments. While I was the City's Chief Negotiator, we negotiated the City's first concurrent four-year agreements between the City and the unions representing the Police and Fire Departments.

My supervisor at the time was now-Judge Cristal Brisco. My associates included then-Chief Stephen Cox and Chief Scott Ruzkowski. My office mates included Dani Weiss and Aladean DeRose.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, St. Joseph County Prosecutors Office; 2011-2015: I began as a Misdemeanor Deputy and was promoted to Felony Deputy and assigned to the Special Victims Unit. I maintained a high-volume case load, gathered evidence, prepared witnesses, and conducted depositions. I organized and prepared hundreds of cases, representing the State in hearings, bench trials, and jury trials. As a Special Victims Deputy, I prepared child and adult survivors of violent and sex crimes to testify and face their abusers at trial. I also enjoyed training and working with detectives and street officers to help them better understand what to look for when deciding if a case was ready to submit for review. I was privileged to represent the office on the St. Joseph County Child Protection Team, the CASIE Center Case Review Sessions, and community outreach and awareness events.

The elected Prosecutors, Michael Dvorak and Ken Cotter, were my supervisors. My associates included the police officers throughout the county, but especially those assigned to the Special Victims Unit, such as Detectives Dave Sult and Jason Biggs. My office mates included Sean Towner, Linda Lawder, and Kristi Gates.

## 5. Trial/Judicial Experience

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

As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I represented the State in many jury trials of offenses ranging from Strangulation to Rape. As a judge, I have presided over 35 jury trials of offenses ranging from Battery to a Public Safety Officer to Murder. Having been both a litigator and a judge, I have drafted and selected jury instructions and have participated in and conducted voir dire. I make a point of asking for jury feedback after trials. Jurors usually come into the courtroom unexcited about judging a trial, but once it is done, they usually tell me that they had a good experience and are glad they participated.

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

I have participated in numerous bench trials, both as an attorney and as a judge. As a Misdemeanor Deputy Prosecutor, I and three others would rotate weeks of trial duty in which several bench trials were scheduled each day and at least one would usually proceed. As a judge, I have presided over bench trials when the parties waive trying the matter before a jury. I have presided over approximately five bench trials.

- 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.

I was appointed as a judge by Gov. Eric Holcomb in April 2021 and began presiding over a high-volume felony court. I presided over at least 35 jury trials in matters ranging from Battery to a Public Safety Officer to Murder.

I also served as judge pro tem in St. Joseph Traffic and Misdemeanor Court on September 15, 2020.

## 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.

As a Judge, I have drafted the following opinions:

Robert J. Pelley v. State of Indiana, 71D01-1003-PC-00020, April 28, 2024.

Cullen Walker v. State of Indiana, 71D01-1110-PC-000049, March 21, 2024.

Tommy Webster v. State of Indiana, 71D01-2011-PC-000035, November 28, 2023.

Patrick Talley v. State of Indiana, 71D01-1603-PC-000016, September 7, 2022.

Jason M. Gibson v. State of Indiana, 71D01-1902-PC-000005, September 13, 2022.

- 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.

As an Assistant City Attorney and as Corporation Counsel, I drafted many resolutions, was involved in drafting or amending ordinances, and drafted Executive Orders, including:

Resolution No. 15-2020 of the City of South Bend Board of Public Safety in Support of One-Time Mid-Year Salary Increase for City Police Officers.

The Police Department Disciplinary Matrix, adopted by the City of South Bend Board of Public Safety on July 15, 2020.

Disaster Emergency Declaration for City of South Bend, Indiana, February 21, 2018.

Ordinance No. 10549-17, An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of South Bend, Indiana, Fixing the Annual Pay and Monetary Fringe Benefits of Sworn Members of the South Bend Fire Department for Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

As a judicial officer, I worked with our chief judge to amend the local rule for our case allocation plan, LR71-AR1-107, in order to create an even distribution of cases among the felony courts.

- 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.

Stephanie Steele & Paul Singleton, *Debtors, Defendants, Defenses & Dismissals: Dinner and Depositions with the Judges*, AM. BANKR. INST. J. June 2022. The article discusses the importance of judges and attorneys realizing the intersections between bankruptcy and criminal law, the Fifth Amendment, and notifications of rights. We were honored when it was included in the American Bankruptcy Institute's *Best of ABI 2022: The Year in Consumer Bankruptcy*.

- 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.

Drug Court: Drugs have had a huge impact on our community. Most of the cases in our felony courts involve drugs in some way. Our Drug Court was developed as a problem-solving court to help low-level non-violent felony offenders to find sobriety and earn a dismissal of their felony charges. Many times, these defendants are caught up in



detrimental cycles brought on by their drug abuse. They may have lost their homes, jobs, and children. They have trouble thriving after being charged with a felony. I own and trained our county's first service dog to work in our Drug Court. He sits with the participants and helps to reduce their anxiety during hearings. In Drug Court, we hold them accountable while helping them lay a foundation for success. We require them to engage in counseling and treatment therapy. We also require them to obtain a job and teach them the importance of healthy sober relationships. For those with open DCS cases, they must also comply with all DCS requirements. Once they comply with all requirements of Drug Court and maintain their sobriety, they earn a dismissal of their felony charges. For many, this means a brand-new start at life. But the effect reaches beyond them. For those with children, it means providing their children with the chance to know their parent as a sober stable adult. For their employers, it means having a productive reliable member of their workforce. For their families, it is an opportunity to reclaim relationships that, for many, were lost to addiction.

Commercial Court: Business is important in Indiana. Any opportunity to make companies choose to do business here or litigate here is important to our economy. When businesses have litigation, they want to know that their matter will be addressed swiftly and fairly. Our Commercial Courts encourage businesses to keep coming back to Indiana because they know that, should they face litigation, they will have a predictable process and a just outcome.

Mental Health Duty: Mental health continues to be a problem for our community. I am routinely on-call for mental health duty. When on mental health duty, I must review petitions to hold someone in a medical facility so that they may receive care, sometimes against their will. These are important evaluations and deal with some of the most vulnerable population. I take the duty very seriously and evaluate both the safety risk of the individual and the risk to the safety of the community members.

Search Warrants: As a felony judge, I participated in a rotation of search warrant and probable cause reviews. I received affidavits from officers and/or prosecutors and evaluated whether law enforcement had met its burden to search or seize someone's property without their permission. Protections against search and seizure are enshrined in both our State and US Constitutions. I have engaged in additional training, including the Digital Evidence for Judges course provided by the National Forensics Institute, to ensure that I remain current on best practices and have a deep understanding of the considerations to be made while reviewing warrants.

Jury Trials: Most people are not excited when they receive a jury summons. Those who respond to a jury summons are serving our community and giving up time with their families to ensure that our legal system works correctly. It is important that they understand their vital role and how to fulfill it. When potential jurors arrive at the courthouse, it is my job to make them comfortable and to explain to them their duty in plain English. I also monitor the voir dire process and make sure that the jury is selected

appropriately. I have a duty to make sure that each trial is conducted fairly. I have presided over at least 35 jury trials. I appreciate the questions jurors ask and the feedback they give. When they leave saying they were comfortable and appreciative of their experience, even though it was difficult, I know that the process has affirmed their faith in the judicial system.

## 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.

Technology Application Committee of the Commission on Indiana’s Legal Future;  
 May 2024-Present: Indiana is currently facing a shortage of attorneys. The Indiana Supreme Court created the Commission to address the looming shortage and the negative impact on our State. I am on the Technology Application Committee. We are tasked with identifying ways technology can fill in gaps in legal representation and aid rural practitioners.

Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana; April 2023-Present: The Board directs the activities of the Indiana Judicial Conference. I have the pleasure of being a representative of our district.

Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana; June 2021-Present: The Committee works to maintain a positive relationship between the courts and the media as well as other issues related to the public image of the courts.

Coalition for Court Access; July 2020-Present: The Coalition for Court Access coordinates Indiana Supreme Court programs designed to provide civil legal aid to those with limited financial resources. I am currently the Chair of the Self-Help and Court Access Working Group in which we work to ensure there are easy to use resources for those who are representing themselves. I also participate in the Rural Legal Services Working Group in which we strive to ensure that the judges, attorneys, and litigants living in rural areas of our State have access to materials and services they need.

Commission for Continuing Legal Education; January 2020-Present: The Commission works to develop, administer, and regulate continuing legal education requirements for judges and attorneys. I work with other Commission members from around the State to ensure that our legal community continues to improve and meet high standards.

Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program Volunteer; 2018-Present: JLAP works to support law students, lawyers, and judges who are struggling with things such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and secondary trauma. I enjoy encouraging other members of

the legal profession and letting them know they are part of a community that wants them to succeed.

Externs and Law Student Activities; 2013-Present: I have made an effort to work with a law student extern at least one semester each year. I think it is important for law students to see the day-to-day work of attorneys, ethics in action, and appropriate office behavior. I enjoy mentoring them and watching their legal skills grow.

I have participated in many events for Notre Dame Law School. I have spoken to the incoming students as well as the students in the Galilee Program for public interest work. Additionally, I frequently preside over mock trial competitions. I enjoy working with the students to hone their skills and encourage them to stay in Indiana.

- 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.

Galilee Public Service Law Discussion, Panelist, Notre Dame Law School;  
September 9, 2020: I was invited to speak to a group of law students who were considering working as public service attorneys after law school.

Conversations on Ethics and Race, Group Facilitator, St. Joseph County Bar Association;  
December 2020: The American Bar Association created the 21 Day Challenge and encouraged lawyers to read about each other's experiences. A lawyer in our community modified the program so that lawyers were able to earn continuing legal education credits and our local bar association supported the program. We held small group discussions centered around asking frank questions, listening carefully, and seeking to understand one another.

Faithful Women of Color, Panelist, St. Mary's College; September 8, 2020: I was invited to speak to a group of students about walking in their faith while working in the professional world.

Discussion of Intersectionality of Religion, Race, and Gender with South Bend City Church; June 14, 2020: I was invited to speak at a local church about my experiences as a Christian woman of color in our community.

Voting 101; February 2020: I was asked by Indiana University South Bend to present a non-partisan explanation of the history of voting in the U.S. and the U.S. census and its relevance to voting.

St. Joseph County Bar President Inauguration Speech; May 2019: Each president of the St. Joseph County Bar Association gives a speech previewing the Bar's main goals for the year. I talked about the importance of communication, mentorship, and service.

Professional Women's Panel at Success Academy of South Bend, Panelist; March 7, 2019: I was invited to join a panel of professional women of color to speak to students at a local elementary school about various jobs and careers available and the steps needed to be successful in those careers.

Women in the Law Panel, Moderator; November 27, 2018: Our local bar organized a panel presentation of women who are attorneys working in various areas of the law and whose careers have taken different paths. I was asked to moderate the panel.

Engaging Women Conference, Panelist; May 23, 2018: Saint Mary's College holds an annual conference for women who are professionals and leaders in the community. I was a participant on a panel discussing employment law issues.

Applied Professionalism, Representing a Public Entity, Panelist; April 28, 2017: Our local bar association offers an applied professionalism continuing legal education program. I was a panelist discussing ethical considerations one may face while representing a public entity.

City of South Bend First Annual Black History Month Celebration, Welcome Speech and Moderator; February 28, 2017: I was asked to present the welcome and to moderate the speakers at the City of South Bend's first Black history month celebration honoring local leaders.

- 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.

Constitution Day; 2021-Present: For the last three years, I have had the privilege of participating in Constitution Day activities. I have spoken individually in elementary classrooms as well as on a local panel at the library. I enjoy letting children know how the three branches of government work together. I also enjoy talking with them about what it is like to work in the legal field and how they too can become a lawyer or judge.

Salvation Army Kroc Center, Board Member; April 2019-Present: I have been on the board of the Salvation Army Kroc Center for the last five years. The Kroc Center provides opportunities, activities, utility assistance, and a food pantry to our community. It provides care for the physical and spiritual needs of our residents. I have participated on the Program Committee, organizing events. Each year, I participate in the Christmas toy drive and help to organize donated gifts for distribution.

"Concurrent State and Federal Jurisdiction and Ethics," Austin, TX; October 2023: I was a co-presenter at the National Bankruptcy Judicial Conference. Our presentation was focused on the overlap of state and federal issues and ethical considerations for judges.

“St. Joseph County Problem-Solving Courts,” December 2022: I joined other judicial officers on a panel presenting to our local bar association about problem solving courts. My presentation was about Drug Court and what attorneys need to know and be prepared for when representing clients in the program.

Stephanie Steele & Paul Singleton, *Debtors, Defendants, Defenses & Dismissals: Dinner and Depositions with the Judges*, AM. BANKR. INST. J. June 2022: The article discusses the importance of attorneys and judges realizing the intersections of bankruptcy and criminal law, the Fifth Amendment, and notification of rights.

"A Conversation with the Justices," May 2022: Indiana Supreme Court Justices Chris Goff and Geoffrey Slaughter were kind enough to visit St. Joseph County and join the local bar for a luncheon. I was honored to moderate a conversation with our local bar members and Justices Goff and Slaughter.

“Women in the Law,” November 2019: I moderated a conversation with our local bar and a panel of women attorneys from varying practice areas.

“Engaging Women,” June 2018: I was a panelist at the Engaging Women Conference held at St. Mary’s University. I joined other panelists in discussing issues of employment law.

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

In law school, I regularly participated in pro bono service. I graduated with pro bono distinction. Because I had committed to participating prior to being hired by the Prosecutor’s Office, the Office permitted me to participate in one last Ask a Lawyer Event in which I could be consulted on civil matters. However, once I became a government attorney, I followed the policies of my offices and did not provide legal advice to others.

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

Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law; 2007-2009. While in law school, I was a Professor’s Assistant to our Legal Writing Professor as well as a tutor for Lawyering Theory and Practice. For the Legal Writing classes, I met with students, reviewed their writing, and gave them feedback and suggestions to improve. As a tutor, I reviewed completed practice exams and gave students feedback on how to improve their exam essays and outlines.

I was invited to teach two classes of Constitutional Law to aspiring paralegals at Brown Mackie College in 2010. After learning of the loan practices of the College, I did not teach any other courses there.

## 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.

Robert A. Grant Inn of Court, Member; September 2015-Present: I have enjoyed connecting with other attorneys in our area who, like me, believe that excellence in legal skills, professionalism, ethics, and civility are not only important but are required in the bar.

St. Joseph County Bar Foundation; September 2017-May 2021: I was honored to be the Board of Governor's representative to the Bar Foundation. The Bar Foundation is the non-profit philanthropic arm of the County Bar.

St. Joseph County Bar Association Board of Governors; June 2013-May 2020: I have been a general board member, as well as Vice President (2017), President-Elect (2018), and President (2019) of the St. Joseph County Bar Association. The Bar Association works to provide training and experience to attorneys and also to provide community members with access to quality, trained attorneys.

Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County, Board Member; December 2016-December 2019: I and other volunteer board members advised the administration of a local shelter for youths who are experiencing homelessness.

Indiana State Bar Association Leadership Development Academy, Graduate; May 2018: The LDA brings together a cohort of leaders and focuses on developing them personally and professionally while focusing on Indiana's needs. I am honored to be an LDA graduate and love watching my fellow graduates continue to become leaders around our State.

Local Practice Seminar Planning Committee, Committee Member; March 2017-November 2017; I and other St. Joseph County Bar Association members plan a full day of continuing legal education opportunities for area attorneys.

- 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.

Salvation Army Kroc Center Advisory Board; April 2019-Present: I have been a Board Member as well as Vice-Chair. The Salvation Army Kroc Center is a community center, event center, aquatics and fitness center, and a place of worship. It is devoted to enrichment of education, physical health, and arts. It also has a food pantry and resource center to provide assistance to families in need. Each year we participate in the Christmas toy distribution. It is wonderful to see people have the opportunity to give gifts to their children at Christmas.

Indiana University South Bend Arts Foundation Board; November 2017-Present: I and other volunteer board members seek to improve access to the arts in the community and affordability of the education of the students at IUSB. We determine distribution of scholarship funds.

Memorial Hospital Board of Directors; April 2020-May 2024: I have been a Board Member, Vice-Chair, and Chair of the Board. Memorial Hospital is our region's only Level 2 trauma center. It is a non-profit hospital. I have also enjoyed serving on the Ethics Committee for the hospital.

Homes for Hope Taskforce; August 2013-February 2016: The Taskforce was a collaboration with volunteers from the Family Justice Center, local police agencies, Habitat for Humanity, and community members. We worked to provide stable housing for victims of domestic violence.

CASIE Center Case Review Sessions; April 2013-February 2015: The Review Sessions were a collaboration of representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, local police departments, victim advocates, DCS case managers, and CASIE Center child interviewers. We reviewed cases to identify ways to improve delivery of resources to children who had been victims of sexual or physical abuse or neglect.

St. Joseph County Child Protection Team; February 2013- February 2015: The Team was comprised of representatives from DCS, the local police, prosecutor's office, and local physicians; we reviewed cases that were referred from the police or DCS to improve services provided to children who suffered trauma. I was the representative of the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office.

- 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.

N/A

- D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

Between trial settings and driving my children to their activities, I do not have much time for leisure activities. However, I enjoy spending time with my family watching movies or traveling. I also enjoy ballroom dancing with my husband.

## 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 never been charged by any court or authority with misconduct or dishonest or unethical conduct. However, I, along with several other public officials, was listed as a defendant in a civil lawsuit in which a person convicted of rape in the 1990's claimed that he was wrongfully convicted and that all of the listed defendants were somehow involved. *Mario Sims v. Pete Buttigieg, et al.*, 71D06-2001-CT-000024. The Answer and subsequent filings point out that I and several others were not in any way involved in that case, and moreover, were in high school in the 1990's. The case was dismissed at the trial court level and the Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal although it reversed the award of attorney's fees. 20A-CT-02390.

- 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.

N/A

- 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.

N/A

- D. If you have any outstanding federal, state, or local tax obligations, please itemize and explain.

N/A

## 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*).

Tasha Reed Outlaw

Loris Zappia

A. Robert Masters



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

- 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*).

Hon. April Drake

Linda Brotherson

Geovanny Martinez

- 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*).

Greta Roemer Lewis

Beth Graybill

Paul Szrom