

# 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.

1. Wendy Lynn Davis
2. Wendy Williams Davis
3. Wendy Lynn Williams

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.

1. Scott Thomas Davis: Physician (married 34 years).
  - a) Orthopedics Northeast – anesthesiologist. Lt Col serving at the 122<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing as the Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) Doctor, Indiana Air National Guard.
2. Jackson Thomas Davis: youngest son, student (18 years old).

*Older Children out of the house:*

3. Carter Reid Davis: I LT US Army, stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs.
4. Madison Nicole Davis: Client Project Manager for Anderson Merchandisers, Plano, TX.

INDIANA JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

1. 11120 Carnoustie Ln, Fort Wayne, IN 46814, wwdavis5@comcast.net, 260-403-4796

*Previous Employer:*

2. Allen Circuit Court, 715 S. Calhoun, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. 260-449-4246

D. Attorney number. 20727-02

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

1. Admitted to the Indiana Bar 08/1998 – present.

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

a) Indiana Bar – active, in good standing.

b) Texas Bar – inactive.

*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.*

a) Admitted to the Texas Bar 11/1991 – present, inactive.

F. Date and place of birth.

Sherman, Texas

DOB: April 13, 1966

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

I became a resident of Allen County in 1978. I left in 1984 to attend college and law school and returned in 1998; I started my career in San Antonio, Texas while my husband served in the US Army, stationed at Fort Sam Houston.

## 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.*

1. Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois  
1984 – 1988

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (B.A.)

2. American University, Washington, D.C.  
Spring Semester 1987

- Transferred to work on Capitol Hill with Senator R. Lugar.

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.*

1. Valparaiso University School of Law, Valparaiso, Indiana  
1988 – 1991
2. St. Mary's University of Law, San Antonio Texas  
1990 – 1991
  - a. Doctor of Jurisprudence
  - b. Reached an agreement with Valparaiso and St. Mary's wherein I transferred to finish my 3L due to my husband's active-duty military obligation, but still received my Doctor of Jurisprudence from Valparaiso.
  - c. Class rank 34/121.

#### 4. Employment

- A. Provide your employment history since graduation from college. Include name of employer, titles or positions, locations, and dates of employment.
1. Judge, Allen Circuit Court. 2020-2023. 715 South Calhoun, Suite 302, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802. (260)-449-4246.
  2. Judge, Allen Superior Court Criminal Division. 2010 – 2020. 715 South Calhoun St. Suite 305, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, (260) 449-7580.
    - Chief Judge: 2014 – 2015
  3. Partner/Associate, Beckman Lawson LLP. 1998 – 2010. 201 West Wayne St. Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, (260-422-0800).
  4. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Felony Division, Allen County Prosecutor's Office. 2006 – 2010. 602 South Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802. (260) 449-7185.
  5. Assistant Criminal District Attorney, Bexar County District Attorney's Office. 1990 – 1998. 300 Dolorosa St, Suite 5010, San Antonio, Texas, 78205-303, (210) 220-2311.
  6. Law Clerk, United States Attorney's Office (Western District). 1989 – 1990. 601 NW Loop 410, Suite 600, San Antonio, Texas 78216. (210) 384-7100.

7. Law Clerk, Dahlberg & Associates, Attorneys at Law. Summer of 1989. Fort Wayne, IN.

8. Internship, Senator Richard G. Lugar's Office. 1987. Washington, D.C.

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.

1. Judge, Allen Circuit Court – adjudicated cases in a general jurisdiction court pursuant to Allen County Local Rules that included family law, complex civil litigation, criminal felony law, and problem-solving courts alongside Magistrate (now Judge) Ashley Hand and Magistrate Jesus Trevino, both of whom are still on the bench.

Anne Barton, Court Administrator.

Samantha Feistritzer, Law Clerk.

2. Judge, Allen Superior Court – adjudicated criminal felony cases alongside my colleagues Judge David Zent, Judge Jennifer DeGroot, Judge Andrea Trevino, Judge John Surbeck, Judge Nancy Boyer, Judge Lori Morgan, Judge Charlie Pratt, Judge Fran Gull, Judge Craig Bobay, and Judge Andrew Williams.

John McGauley, Court Administrator.

Anne Barton, Court Reporter.

3. Partner/Associate, Beckman Lawson LLP – represented management and corporate clients in federal civil litigation. My primary practice areas involved EEOC claims, labor and employment law, FLSA claims, ERISA, and general federal litigation. My duties as Partner included administrative and management responsibilities of the firm and practice.

Partners: Craig Patterson, Matt Elliott, Gary Johnson, Mark Bloom, and Pat Hess, all of whom are still at the firm.

Apexa Patel, Associate Attorney.

Samantha Gregory, Legal Assistant.

4. Allen County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Felony Division – involved in all aspects of multiple defendant criminal felony trials,

including plea negotiations, pretrial motions, and trial preparation. (Part-time position, while full-time Partner with Beckman Lawson)

I worked closely with the current elected prosecutor, Mike McAlexander.

Adam Mildred: trial partner, still employed in the office.

5. Bexar County Texas Assistant Criminal District Attorney- Practice included plea negotiations, pretrial motion, trial preparation, research and taking cases to trial. Appointed to a Federally Funded Drug and Violent Crime Task Force.

Most former colleagues have moved on or retired. My trial partner, Bert Richardson, is now a Texas High Court Judge.

## 5. Trial/Judicial Experience

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

1. Prior to taking the bench in 2010, I litigated more than 100 jury trials as lead counsel, both as a prosecuting attorney and in private practice.
2. As a private practitioner litigating in Federal Court, I settled most of my litigation through Motions practice and I have extensive experience with Motions for Summary Judgment pursuant to *28 USC, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 56*.

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

1. As a Superior Court Judge, I occasionally presided over bench trials; however, most of my time in Superior Court involved criminal felony jury trials.
2. As Circuit Court Judge, I regularly (averaging one per week) presided over bench trials in family law and complex civil litigation.
3. As a lawyer in private practice, I frequently litigated bench trials in Federal Court, most often in the Northern District of Indiana. Of note, I argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit in *Scott v. Parkview Mem. Hosp.*, 175 F.3<sup>rd</sup> 523 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. Ind. 1999). I was lead counsel for the Defendant, Parkview Mem. Hospital, defending against a claim pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000 *et. seq.* ("Title VII").

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.

1. As a Judge in the Allen Superior Court Criminal Division from 2010 – 2020, I made decisions weekly on multiple pre-trial motions as outlined in the *Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure* and *Indiana Code Title 35* including, but not limited to: Motions to Dismiss, Motions to Suppress, Motions for Competency, Motions to Represent Pro-Se, and Criminal Rule 4 hearings. I presided over 90 felony jury trials while in Superior Court, personally handling all aspects of the trials from all pre-trial motions, jury instructions, to the sentencing hearings pursuant to *I.C. Title 35 and Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure*.
2. As the Allen Circuit Court from 2020-2023, I presided over three (3) certified problem-solving courts, working closely with the Indiana Office of Court Services, pursuant to *Ind. Code 33-23-16*. Problem-solving courts seek to promote outcomes that will not only benefit the defendant problems, including drug abuse/addiction and mental health, but society as a whole. Most all the offenders placed into our problem-solving courts were arrested and charged with low-level, non-violent offenses.

The three (3) certified problem- solving courts I presided over were:

1. Restoration Court (mental health and addiction).
2. OVWI Court.
3. Veteran’s Court.

In addition, I adjudicated all kinds of cases as a general jurisdiction court, including bench trials in complex civil litigation and family law.

## 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. Entered judicial opinion in *Steven D. Guyse, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, v. Fort Financial Credit Union*. Cause No. 02C01-1806-PL-000218. Filed June 2018 in the Allen County Circuit Court; Order on Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment dated April 19, 2022.

2. Entered judicial opinion in *Bankers Life and Casualty Company, v. Nancy Arlene Klapes*. Cause No. 02C01-1709-PL-000331. Filed September 2017 in the Allen County Circuit Court; final Order following bench trial dated January 24, 2022.
3. Entered judicial opinion in *State v. \$2,435 in United States Currency and Alucious Q. Kizer*, No. 23S-CR-72, \_\_ N.E.3d \_\_ (Ind., Oct. 31, 2023). Originally filed in Allen Circuit Court as Case No. 02C01-2109-MI-000825. Circuit Court’s Order granting interlocutory appeal dated January 27, 2022,
4. Entered judicial opinion in *Douglas K Mawhorr, Elpiniki Fournaris, V. Evaggeli Zisis*. Case No. 02C01-1805-PL-000187. Filed in Allen Circuit Court May 2018; final Order following bench trial dated November 2, 2021.
5. Entered judicial opinion in *In Re: The Name Change of I. J. C., A. E. U., Petitioner*. 02C01-2204-MI-000234. Filed in Allen Circuit Court April 2022. Order following bench trial on modification entered March 2, 2023.

*\*I left private practice to run for judge in 2010 and took the bench in 2011. Although very remote in time, I have included some of my private practice filings to show the type of work I performed in private practice.*

- 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.
1. 2014-2015: Indiana Probation Standards. Approved by the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. March 30, 2020, Sept 15, 2020. Published by the Indiana Office of Court Services.
  2. 2018-2023: Indiana Criminal Benchbook, Third Edition, Supplemented through November 2023. Prepared by the Criminal Benchbook Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. Published by the Indiana Office of Court Services.

I was responsible for drafting Sec. 50.00.00.

3. 2017: SB 510. While serving as a Superior Court Judge, along with the Allen County legislative liaison, Beth Lock, I drafted proposed legislation, SB 510. On Feb 1, 17, I testified in front to the Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of SB 510. We were able to get the bill passed to bring in-patient addiction services to justice involved, arrested individuals charged with low-level, non-violent offenses.



- 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.

1. Why I exercise: to keep balanced, RES GESTAE January/February 2016 Vol.59, No.6.

I wrote an article about life balance and how important it is to take care of yourself while balancing faith, family, health, friends, work, and community.

I have written many Opinion Editorials (as a judge approved by Adrienne Meiring) and interviewed for other publications not authored by me.

- 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.

Some of the most significant legal matters entrusted to me:

1. Access to Justice

If I had to sum my legal career up in three words, it would be these. Access to justice is a complicated, multi-faceted problem and is the most important work of those of us who enjoy privilege. As a judge, it was my duty to uphold the Rule of Law while facilitating the ability of all litigants to be fairly heard. As a judicial officer in a trial court regularly interacting with the public, this was most important to me in the context of self-represented litigants. To that end, I made all reasonable efforts, consistent with the law and court rules, to utilize the May 2019 amendments to Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct 2.2 to ensure fair determinations were reached in cases. We are public servants, and I take that duty very seriously; I saw it as my job to make sure that everyone who walked into my courtroom felt seen and heard and understood what was going on.

Similarly, much of my civic engagement centers around access to justice in all its many forms. Access to justice is improved when our legal community more accurately represents our actual communities, which is why my work at ICLEO was so important to me; the Indiana legal system is more just when we are able to provide resources to skilled, diverse individuals who may not otherwise have been afforded the opportunity to be an attorney.

At its core, access to justice also means giving people opportunities to better themselves, which is central to all the work I'm passionate about. It is why I am involved with so many organizations focused on youth advocacy for historically disenfranchised groups. It is also why so much of my work centers around helping

rehabilitate drug addicted, justice involved, individuals that get arrested for low-level, non-violent offenses so they have another chance to better themselves and be productive members of our society.

## 2. Family Law Cases

As a judge in the Allen Circuit Court, family law made up a significant portion of the caseload. Often, the only time community members encounter the court system is through divorce proceedings. The resolutions of such matters are often complicated, emotional, and tough. Family matters are intensely personal and important, and it is not lost on me that, as a judge, I was called upon to make decisions about the most important part of someone's life. My orders dictated things like the time someone got to spend with their child, where a child could live and go to school, and who got to make important, foundational decisions affecting a child's life.

Many times, litigants are representing themselves pro se (without a professional lawyer), which makes it even more challenging on judges, like I discussed above. These cases involve separation of families, custody disputes, and separating finances, all while interacting with individuals dealing with one of the worst and most emotionally taxing experiences of their lives.

Fortunately, in the state of Indiana, I had resources to help guide me through these tough emotional cases. The Indiana Parenting Guidelines, created by members of the Domestic Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana developed the guidelines after reviewing the current and relevant literature concerning visitation, the visitation guidelines of other geographic areas, and the input of child development experts and family law practitioners. Committee members also relied upon data from surveys of judges, attorneys, and mental health professionals who work with children, reviews of court files, and a public hearing.

## 3. Integrity of the Legal System

As a trial court judge, I often dealt with people whose only interaction with the legal system was my courtroom. My actions and decisions directly impacted whether someone believed in the integrity of our legal system, and that is not a role I took to lightly.

As a lawyer, this comes through the lens of the Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct. As a Judge, I was bound by the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct. Attorneys should be competent, diligent, and truthful. As a practitioner, my clients entrusted

me with their legal issues and cases to ensure I zealously represented them with hard work, honesty, and competency. It was important that they knew I had only their best interest in my representation.

As a judge, it is crucial to be competent, diligent, and impartial. I believe the community and overall country is beginning to lose faith in some of our judicial systems. I believe now more than ever we need judges that understand their true oath of office and serve with the utmost integrity upholding the Rule of Law.

4. Rehabilitation of low-level, non-violent offenders through certified problem-solving courts.

a. The Restoration Court began under the Forensic Diversion statute that targeted mentally ill offenders repeatedly arrested and incarcerated for drug or alcohol related offenses. It expanded eligibility criteria to all offenders who are assessed with a co-occurring mental illness and addiction diagnosis after arrested for a level 6 felony.

b. The Veteran's Court is much like Restoration Court, focusing on those that have served our country in the military and now find themselves involved in the criminal justice system suffering from a mental health disorder and/or substance abuse. Many in the Veterans Treatment Court were combat veterans suffering from PTSD.

As a judge presiding over these courts, dealing with cases wherein offenders have serious mental health and addiction problems, many of the issues presented to the Court on a weekly basis can be complicated. However, how the Restoration court/Veteran's court teams and the judge deal with these individuals can be extremely impactful on their lives, their families, and the community at large. It is often a delicate balance as to who is a real threat to the community and who needs a chance to get their mental health and addiction in balance.

My teams and I had special training (much of the training was through the Indiana Office of Court Services and National Association of Drug Court Professionals/NADCP), in collaboration with community providers, to implement therapeutic intervention that may include medication management, substance abuse treatment, housing, job training, and psychosocial rehabilitation.

In Allen County, defendants have their charges or jail sentences deferred if they agree to participate in Restoration Court and Veterans Court, which is a large responsibility for the judge and team to ensure these defendants/participants are

maintaining compliance and ensuring public safety. However, for participants committed to bettering themselves, this grants them a second chance and an opportunity to build a new life for themselves.

5. Implementation of Indiana Victim's Rights statues per *Title 35* and other.

As a prosecutor, Judge, Administrative judge over the Allen County Probation Department, and Vice Chair of Community Corrections, responsibility was entrusted to me to ensure, not only justice and fairness in the criminal justice system pursuant to the law; but also, to victims. I heard so many times that they (victims) feel forgotten.

## 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.

1. 2018-2023: Indiana Office of Court Services Criminal Benchbook Committee.

The Criminal Benchbook Committee writes the Criminal Benchbook distributed to judges who exercise criminal jurisdiction. The goal is to work together as a committee to ensure judges with criminal jurisdiction have the tools to interpret the law correctly and justly. Although not considered substantive law, our committee utilized and relied on current Indiana law and the *Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure*.

As a committee, we were each assigned a different section of the Benchbook to research the law and draft. Once we completed reviewing and drafting our assigned section, we submitted our draft to each member of the committee to review, revise and discuss. Once the entire committee reviewed each section, we voted to publish the entire Benchbook to the Judiciary.

2. 2020-2023: Judicial Administration Committee.

The Administration Committee works together on projects that affect the overall administration of the Indiana Judiciary.

3. 2011-2017: Indiana Office of Court Services Probation Committee. \*Chair of the Committee from Aug. 2014 to July 2017.

The Probation Committee works on probation officer standards and procedures, drafts forms for criminal courts that handle probation matters, and reviews recent legislation affecting probation. The Committee also updates the probation officer salary schedule, as well as the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, all of which I handled firsthand as a Judge.

I was directly involved in the reviewing, revising, and drafting of new probation standards, collaborating with other committee members and the Office of Court Services to achieve the goals of rehabilitation of offenders through probation written standards.

As the Chair of the Probation Committee, I presented three proposals to the Judicial Conference Board of Directors on proposed amendments to Probation Standards, including sexual offender conditions and the Safety/Security Manual. The Probation Standards, sexual offender conditions and Safety/Security Manual were voted on and passed by December 2017 Board of Directors.

4. 2012- 2023: I served on the ICLEO Commission (Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity).

ICLEO was established pursuant to *I.C. 33-24-13* to assist underrepresented individuals, minority, low-income, and educationally disadvantaged students, in pursuit of a law degree in Indiana. The goal is to improve the Indiana legal system through skilled, diverse attorneys who may not have the opportunity and resources to be a lawyer and make our system of justice better.

As a Commission member, I was paired with another member to thoroughly comb through a section of applicants. At an annual meeting the Commission members all meet in a conference room to discuss, review, and collaborate about each candidate. At the end of the meeting the Commission agreed as to which applicants would receive the scholarship.

5. 2015-2021: I served on the Allen County Bar Association Board of Directors. Elected \*Board Chair for 2020.

The Allen County Bar Association has a long history of service to the members of the Bar and community as a whole. The ACBA has three purposes: to assist in the due administration of justice, to promote the continued education of lawyers and laypeople in the fields of law and legal procedure, and to maintain the honor and integrity of the legal profession.

I was involved in many collaborative situations and committees to meet the goal as stated above. As a Board member, and later Chair of the Board, I led committees and discussions to resolve issues and come up with solutions to make our legal system better as a whole.

Additionally, I taught many CLE's to lawyers and judges to ensure integrity in interpreting all laws and procedures. Many times, I collaborated with other lawyers and Judges to teach CLEs agreeing as to the correct interpretation of many laws and procedures.

6. 2019-2023 Allen County Local JRAC (Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council) council member and \*Vice Chair.

*Indiana Code 33-38-9.5-4* established a local justice Advisory Council. As a Council we all took very seriously our requirement to promote the use of evidence-based and best practices in the areas of community- based sentencing alternatives and recidivism reduction. We meet frequently and collaboratively worked together to come up with solutions to many problems facing Allen County.

One of the most significant problems we had to solve together was our jail overcrowding. As the Vice Chair, working with members of the council (which included the elected prosecutor and Sheriff), we all agreed to promote the better use of our problem-solving courts in Allen County as well as our Community Corrections program to decrease numbers in the jail. During our meetings we also came up with a better plan to implement *Criminal Rule 26*.

Working together we also came up with ways to better utilize grant opportunities to not pass all the cost to local taxpayers.

One of the largest collaborative efforts we undertook as a council to achieve the goals of decreasing our jail population, while maintaining evidence-based practices, was to put together a smaller "work group" that could drill down and come up with true solutions to problems in our system and report back to our full local JRAC. The work group was comprised of the local JRAC Chair, Vice Chair, judges, the elected prosecutor, public defender, and Sheriff. This JRAC work group worked diligently together on gathering data, implementation of programs through probation and Community Corrections, drafting reports to send back to the state and overall compliance with the JRAC statute.

7. 2018-2023: Allen County Community Corrections Advisory Board \*Vice Chair 2019-2023.

The Advisory Board's purpose is to come together for the common purpose of providing sentencing alternatives for offenders, and using community corrections as an intermediate sanction for parole, probation, problem-solving courts, and other community-based supervision in lieu of our local jail.

As a Board, and per *Indiana Code 11-12-1-2*, we worked diligently together to develop a coordinated local criminal justice system to divert the appropriate offenders from the jail (much like JRAC but more specific to the community corrections program). We also voted to commit certain resources to our community corrections program in order to better the lives of the offenders on the program, and to decrease recidivism.

One of the most significant projects we worked on as a group was establishing a local work release facility and program under the umbrella of community corrections. It was a large undertaking that a small group of us worked on for over 2 years. It involved purchasing a building and creating a strong evidence-based program. Our small group met often, sometimes weekly, to create policies, rules, guidelines, and funding plans.

As the Vice Chair, along with our Chair and Community Corrections Executive Director, collaborated and with many members of our Allen County Community Council. We presented our plans and ideas formally to Allen County Council many times. Working together as a Board, along with many community partners, we attained our goal together. I believe Allen County now has one of the strongest work release facilities in the state!

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.

1. Some of my most significant efforts, achievements and contributions concerning civic, political or social issues are in the area of drug addicted, justice involved, individuals that get arrested for low-level, non-violent offenses. My contributions are as follows:

(a.) presiding over three problem-solving courts (see above);

(b.) Local JRAC (see above).

When I came to the bench in 2011 in Superior Court, I presided over most of the drug cases. I did not have a certified problem-solving court at that time, so I brought a program called HOPE (Hoosiers Opportunity Probation with Enforcement) to Superior Court. As the presiding Judge, I took on a leadership role to bring this type of diversion program through probation in lieu of incarceration for the entire sentence. I worked with the probation department, prosecutor, defense lawyers, and the Sheriff to put together policies, procedures and a program utilizing benchmarks as a guide drug addicted offenders that were not placed in a certified problem-solving court.

In 2019, as a team, we received the *Innovative Now Award* for the HOPE probation program from a national organization called the Addiction Policy Forum. The team traveled to Indianapolis to receive the award.

2. In 2015 I was appointed to the State of Indiana Governor’s Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment and Prevention. Pursuant to Executive Order 15-09, I was a member of a statewide task force that conducted a series of regional meetings to hear from individuals, families, community and government leaders, treatment providers, medical professionals, and law enforcement officials affected by substance abuse and disorders.

We all worked together to draft a final report, the culmination of the Task Force’s work, which included 19 actionable recommendations for the administration to consider. By the time the final report was implemented, all of our actionable recommendations were either already being implemented or in the process of implementation. The final report was sent to the Governor on Dec. 5, 2016.

The report is voluminous; therefore, I have attached only the portion of the final report that I was instrumental in developing. If interested, the entire final report can be viewed here:

[http://www.in.gov/gtfdetp/files/Governors\\_Drug\\_Task\\_Force\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.in.gov/gtfdetp/files/Governors_Drug_Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf)

3. ICEO (Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity) Commission. I believe this is a social issue we tackled per the statute to ensure we have more diversity in the Indiana Bar. Working together collaboratively with other members of the Commission we reached our goal of filling an ICLEO class each year with law students that otherwise may not have the opportunity to obtain their law degree.



4. I have been on the Fort Wayne United Steering Committee since 2015. I was appointed by the Mayor to begin a new initiative with other community leaders. The Initiative is designed to enhance opportunities, advancing youth advocacy and ensuring the safety of all residents with a focus on black men and boys. The committee has collaborated to bring the Ten Point Coalition to Fort Wayne to keep our downtown streets safe and allow members of the community to take part in reducing crime.

As a committee we also started a program called "late night basketball" which we created to make sure young men ages 16-24 have a safe space to exist during peak crime hours in Fort Wayne. We partnered with the YMC for a facility and brought Parkview Health in to conduct health screenings on many of these underserved kids.

I am happy to report the initiative has been extremely successful, and I helped to spearhead involvement and collaboration with our probation department and community corrections program.

5. In 2019, I participated in the Allen County Bar Association Habitat for Humanity Women's Build. Each year, Habitat for Humanity conducts a "Women's Build". Teams of women are formed to sponsor a "build day" and volunteer on a construction site, mainly in southeast Fort Wayne where so many struggle to obtain affordable housing. My team was comprised of other female members of the Allen County Bar Association Women's Section, including many of my female judicial colleagues. We sponsored a site and worked all day helping to build a home for a family in need.

- 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 years, I have made legal presentations, both individually and collaborating with others, at many local, state, and national conferences and events.

From 2016 – 2023, I have consistently made presentations for Continuing Legal Education for the Allen County Bar Association.

Below are a few specifics:

1. February 3, 2017: Presenter at the 2017 Bench Bar Conference. Topics included “Opioid Crisis” and “Protective Order and No Contact Orders”. Through the Allen County Bar Association, I assisted in drafting materials to present at the conference to educate members of the Bar as to best practices when dealing with the unfortunate realities of the opioid crisis and protective orders.
2. October 18, 2016: I helped organize an event at the Parkview Mirro Center for RemedyLive to bring awareness to mental health issues plaguing our kids and youth. I spoke on violence in our streets and how it disproportionately impacts certain youth demographics, as well as drug addiction and mental health issues in the criminal justice system. The event successfully brought awareness to those navigating turbulent waters and emotional distress and helped promote the mission of RemeyLive.
3. October 6, 2016: Guest speaker and presenter at the Indiana Criminal Justice Association (ICJA). The topic was “Battling the Drug Crisis from the Bench.”
4. November 11, 2016: Guest speaker at the Veterans Day Flag Ceremony – the topic was Veterans Court and Veterans in the criminal justice system, as well as my experience as a military spouse. This event successfully recognized our servicemembers who successfully can reintegrate into society after efforts and resources are invested into their rehabilitation and continued success.
5. June 24, 2016: Guest speaker at the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The topic was women in the criminal justice system.
6. May 2016: Guest speaker and presenter to the Indiana Governor Pence’s Task Force on Drug Prevention, Treatment and Prevention – the topic was the criminal justice system in Allen County. It is the same presentation I gave to ICJA listed above 3.

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

I was a judicial officer for over twelve (12) years of my legal career and have therefore been limited in my ability to provide direct *pro bono* legal services. However, consistent with the Indiana Judicial Code of Conduct, I encouraged lawyers practicing in my court to provide *pro bono* legal services and regularly participated in events recognizing lawyers who did *pro bono* work. Additionally, and as discussed more fully above, my community and civic engagement is largely focused on promoting broader access to justice.

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

I have never taught an official academic class; however, I am often a guest speaker on a variety of legal topics at Indiana Tech. I last spoke in 2023 on Leadership.

## 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.

1. 2019 – present: Parkview Behavioral Health Institute, Park Center.

Park Center is a CMHC (Community Mental Health Center). We are working diligently to become a CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic).

- a.) Board of Directors
- b.) Current \*Vice Chair of the Board

2. 2015 – 2020: Indiana Institute of Technology University (IN Tech).

Indiana Tech is a university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees.

- a.) Board of Trustees member
- b.) Academic Affairs Committee \*Chair
- c.) Institutional Advancement Committee

3. 1999- present: Allen County Bar Association.

The Allen County Bar Association is a professional association for lawyers, judges and paralegals. Two of the most important public services are the Lawyer Referral Service, referring the community members to attorneys; and Legal Line, giving free legal advice by phone to those who cannot afford a lawyer.

- a.) Board of Directors – \*President of the Board in 2020
- b.) Presenter for many CLEs (Continuing Legal Education)

4. 2000- Present: Indiana Bar Association

The Indiana Bar Association is a professional association for lawyer, judges and paralegals. It empowers members to thrive professionally and personally through advocacy, education, and connections.

a.) Member

b.) Presenter for a CLE that was recorded in 2021 for virtual learning regarding problem-solving courts.

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.

1. 2016-Present: Northeast Indiana Base Community Council (NIBCC) for Military Families and Veterans.

NIBCC focuses on education, collaboration, communication, and programs that build, grow and enhance the quality of life for military servicemen/women and their families. The organization raises money for the Military Support Fund. The Military Support Fund was established in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne. The fund offers emergency financial assistance to military families.

a.) Board of Directors, Director

b.) Strategic Planning Committee, Member

2. 2005-Present: Northeast Indiana Youth for Christ.

Youth for Christ is a ministry that reaches young people across Northeast Indiana, working together and collaborating with local churches and other likeminded partners to bring faith and Christ to many of our youth.

a.) Board of Directors, Director

b.) City Life Committee, Member

3. 2015 - Present: Fort Wayne United/ Cities United Task Force

Fort Wayne United is an initiative that is designed to enhance opportunities, advance youth advocacy, and ensure the safety of all residents with a focus on black men and boys.

a.) Member of Task Force and original steering committee member

b.) Justice Committee 2016, Chair\*

4. 2017 - 2019: RemedyLIVE

RemedyLIVE's mission is to advocate and teach the importance of mental health by reducing the stigma in our culture. Additionally, RemedyLIVE reaches individuals and youth personally to connect them with proper services.

a.) Board of Directors, Director

5. 2005 - 2015: United Way of Allen County

United Way's mission is to impact all critical community issues; including, but not limited to, education, food security, housing stability, mental health access and strong neighborhoods.

a.) Board of Directors, Director

b.) 2010- 2014 Executive Committee, Member

c.) 2012-2014 Board \*Chair

d.) Campaign Cabinet, Member

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 of the Fort Wayne Business Forum.

This business forum is over 50 years old and has just recently allowed women to join in the last 5 years. I was one of the few women selected to join in 2021. The

group is working hard to be more collaborative and inclusive as it is so important and integral to business development and overall growth in the community.

D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

Working out, golfing, and spending time with family.

## 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.)

none

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.

none

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.

On Nov. 16, 2017, a Complaint was made to the Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission raising concerns about ex parte communications on State v. Zachary D. Foster (case no. 02D04-1708-F6-933). This case involved an individual, Mr. Foster, that was charged with a low-level, non-violent felony, *Possession of a Syringe*. I recused myself from the case once the Complaint was brought to my attention.

The facts and circumstances are as follows:

Prior to the Court hearing, I received an email from a court staff member letting me know that the staff member knew the Foster family and that the family was looking for “addiction help” for their son. Additionally, the mother of Mr. Foster was sitting in the staff members office after court, and I had a conversation with her. She told me, without lawyers present, that she wanted the Court to help her son.

Accordingly, the Commission conducted an Inquiry and sent me a *Notice of Inquiry* requesting my cooperation and answers to the Inquiry. I complied fully and took the complaint very seriously. Candidly, I was devastated and upset that I did not handle the situation properly. I quickly realized I should have disclosed the email communication and conversation with Foster’s mother immediately to the lawyers, which I failed to do.

On July 23, 2018, after investigation, the Commission found “members suspect that the actions you took were not intended to abuse the prestige of the judicial office but merely were an attempt to assist someone in need . . . the members would be willing to resolve this matter with a private caution if you will formally apologize to the lawyers and attend three (3) additional ethics hours of CLE.” (Letter dated July 23, 2018 from Adrienne Meiring).

I immediately drafted letters to the lawyers involved in the case apologizing for my actions and letting them know that “I do not ever want my position, and my judicial office, to lack integrity. I take my position in the community and criminal justice system seriously.” (Letter dated July 25, 2018 from Allen Superior Court Judge Wendy W. Davis).

The matter was closed out and resolved with a private caution on Aug 7, 2018 via letter from Adrienne Meiring stating, “The Commission members recognize that judges often are faced with situations when third parties approach the judge to communicate about a case; however, the members felt that you did not inform the parties and their attorneys quickly enough about these communications . . . nonetheless, given your receptiveness to adjusting your behavior to avoid such situations, the Commission is confident that this situation will not recur in the future”.

It never happened again. In fact, it has had a major impact on me as a judge and professional. It encourages me to reiterate, whenever possible, the importance of integrity for the judicial office and professional ethics.

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

none

## 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*).

Craig Patterson - Partner, Beckman Lawson LLP.

Bart Arnold – Partner, Arnold Terrill Ridenour, P.C.

Phil Terrill – Partner/Attorney.

- 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*).

Judge Ashley Hand – Judge Allen Circuit Court and former Magistrate.

Chuck Surack - Founder and former CEO of Sweetwater Sound, entrepreneur.

Bill Bean – owner and CEO of NAI Hanning and Bean.

- 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*).

Bob Morris - State Representative District 84.

Brenda Gerber Vincent – Chief Impact Officer for Greater Fort Wayne Inc.

Iric Headley – Director of Business Development at Surack Enterprises. Former Director of Fort Wayne United.