

Application for Judicial Vacancy Indiana Appellate Courts

PART ONE

1. Contact/General Information

- A. Full legal name and any former names.

Mary Ann DeBoer

Mary Ann Dahab, Mary Ann Walton and Mary Ann Vogt

- B. State the full name, age, and relationship of each person residing in your household. For each adult living in the household, also state the person's occupation and employer.

Mary Ann DeBoer, age 56

Occupation: Porter Circuit Court Judge

Employer: State of Indiana

David Lee DeBoer, age 74, husband

Occupation: Retired trial attorney

Employer: Not applicable

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

Porter Circuit Court

16 East Lincolnway, 3rd Floor

Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

mary.deboer@porterco.org

(219) 465-3425

- D. Attorney number: 17596-64-A

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

October, 1993

- a. *Indicate current law license status.*

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.

August 4, 1967
Chicago, Illinois

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

Porter County, Indiana
August, 1990

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.

Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, Michigan
August 1985-May 1989
Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Political Science
Cum Laude in College of Arts and Sciences
Honors College
Department Honors, both majors

Other achievements:

- Certificate of Academic Achievement 1989
- Undergraduate Research Award in Criminal Justice 1988-1989
- Undergraduate Assistant in Criminal Justice Department and Sociology 1987-1989
- Dean's List multiple semesters
- Treasurer of the Pre-Law Society 1988
- Member of Criminal Justice Student Association 1988-1989
- Recipient of State of Michigan Competitive Scholarship for ACT scores
- Summer internship at the United States District Court Western District of Michigan for Honorable Richard A. Enslin

I was expected to pay for my own college expenses. To do so, I worked multiple part-time jobs throughout my college career to defray costs. These jobs included waiting tables, working in a bridal store, selling shoes and selling women's suits. In

addition to these jobs, I also worked for the Department of Sociology as an Undergraduate Assistant for Dr. Susan Caringella-MacDonald.

- 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.

Not applicable.

3. Post-Secondary Education

- A. List all law schools, graduate schools, and post-J.D. programs attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; class rank; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when.

Valparaiso University School of Law Valparaiso, Indiana
August 1990 through May 1993

Juris Doctorate

See attached transcript

- Legal Writing Teaching Assistant 1991-1992
- Phi Alpha Delta

Midwest Mediation Center/ Indiana Association of Mediators Indianapolis, Indiana
April 2008

Mediator Training Certificate for family law cases.

Graduate Program for Judges French Lick, Indiana
June 2017 and June 2018

The Graduate Program for Judges is a two-week program that accepts 30 judicial officers from around the State who want to expand their commitment to the law and the judiciary by attending high-level classes, developing and fostering positive collegial relationships and taking “blue book” examinations to test their working knowledge of the materials taught.

National Judicial College—Faculty Development Workshop Indianapolis, Indiana
October 2018

This course taught us how to effectively draft learning objectives, design learning activities to further the objectives, design PowerPoints incorporating the learning activities and teach with confidence.

Indiana Graduate Program for Judges Reunion French Lick, Indiana
June 2019

Indiana Judicial College

2019

The Indiana Judicial College is a program offered by the Indiana Office of Court Services that requires the completion of 120 hours of judicial education to graduate.

**National Center for State Courts—Institute for Court Management
Court Management Accountability and Court Performance Program**

Certified Court Manager Certification

November 2020 through October 2022

This six-course program provided education in critical areas related to court operations to be more effective managers of our courts.

**First Things First Porter County/Purdue University Northwest Westville, Indiana
2022 Strosacker Early Learning Fellowship**

September through November 2022

The Strosacker Fellowship gathered stakeholders from Northwest Indiana for a four-part educational series about the importance of high-quality early childhood learning to a child's brain development and to help us develop strategies to implement such practices in our communities. (<https://www.firstthingspc.org/elf>)

4. Employment

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

Cork 'N Cleaver Kalamazoo, Michigan

Server: 1985-1990

Blachly, Tabor, Bozik & Hartman, LLC Valparaiso, Indiana

Law Clerk: June 1991 to August 1992

Porter County Prosecutor's Office Valparaiso, Indiana

Prosecutor James Douglas

Extern: Fall 1992

Voluntary Intern: Spring 1993

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Valparaiso, Indiana: August 1994 through November 1996

Portage, Indiana: November 1996 through April 1997

Starke County Prosecutor's Office Knox, Indiana

Prosecutor Kim Hall

Investigator: August 1993 to October 1993
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney: October 1993 through August 1994
April 1997 through December 2004

Prosecutor Julianne Havens

Domestic Violence Deputy Prosecutor: September 2007 through March 2010

Stutsman, Mulvaney & DeBoer Elkhart, Indiana

David Stutsman, Douglas Mulvaney, David DeBoer

Assistant Attorney: 1999-2004

Starke Circuit Court Knox, Indiana

Honorable Kim E. Hall

Chief Probation Officer: January 2005 through April 2005
Magistrate: April 2005 through December 2006

Self-Employed Valparaiso, Indiana

Attorney: January 2007 through September 2007
March 2010 through November 2010

Porter Superior Court 1 Valparaiso, Indiana

Honorable Roger V. Bradford and Honorable Mary R. Harper

Temporary Judge: February 2007 through April 2007
Probate Commissioner: August 2010 through November 2010

Honorable Roger V. Bradford (Supervising Judge), Honorable William E. Alexa;
Honorable Julia M. Jent; Honorable David L. Chidester; Honorable Mary R. Harper, and
Honorable Jeffrey L. Thode

Magistrate: August 2011 through December 2019

Brown Mackie College Michigan City, Indiana

Dean of Academic Affairs James Cheslek

Adjunct Instructor: 2008

Porter Circuit Court Valparaiso, Indiana

Judge: January 2020 through 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.

Over my 31-year legal career, I have worked on or presided over civil and criminal matters of practically every case type for adults and juveniles. In the criminal realm, my experience spans:

- Infractions and Misdemeanors
- Level 6 felonies through murders
- Juvenile delinquency
- Post-conviction relief

In the civil arena, my litigation and judicial experience has provided me with knowledge in a wide variety of areas, including:

- Adoptions
- Name/Gender Changes
- Condemnations
- Contracts
- Business
- Medical malpractice
- Personal Injury
- Insurance
- Collections
- Property
- Mortgage Foreclosures
- Products Liability
- Judicial Reviews
- Employment
- Government/municipal
- Tax Sales/Deeds
- Small Claims

As detailed below, between 1993 and 2010, I served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Starke and Porter Counties, sat as the Starke Circuit Court Magistrate for approximately two years (explained further in question 5 C below), worked part-time as an Assistant Attorney at Stutsman, Mulvaney & DeBoer, and was in private practice with my husband.

As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Starke County, I was assigned high-level felonies and assisted Prosecutor Hall with the most serious felony cases ranging from murders and sex offenses to crimes in which victims suffered large monetary losses. I assisted the prosecutor by organizing the files, preparing witnesses, conducting legal research, and otherwise preparing these cases for trial in addition to arguing motions and examining witnesses in court. Working for Kim Hall as his Deputy Prosecutor was one of the most fulfilling jobs I ever had as an attorney.

I also served as Prosecutor Haven's Domestic Violence Deputy Prosecutor in Starke County and worked each domestic or family violence case reported in Starke County from charging through sentencing. Given the nature of family violence cases, I appreciated the importance of providing the victims of these crimes with a focused attentiveness that reassured them that they were being heard and I allotted additional time, as much as needed, to talk them through aspects of the system and their cases.

In Porter County, my primary role as a Deputy Prosecutor was to manage all of the juvenile delinquency cases filed, something I thoroughly enjoyed because I had the ability to thoughtfully fashion creative recommendations for sanctions and programming and balance the needs of our youth while protecting our community. I was also assigned low-level felony and misdemeanor dockets in the county courts as well as select high-level felony cases in the superior courts.

As needed, I would assist my husband and his law partners at Stutsman, Mulvaney & DeBoer with personal injury, products liability, and medical malpractice cases. Similar to the work I did for Prosecutor Hall when processing pending cases, I deconstructed the files for SM&D and reorganized them in anticipation of settlement conferences, mediations or trials. I also researched issues, drafted demand letters and created chronologies incorporating pleadings, medical records, and other documentary evidence. Working in this arena, I gained experience in complex civil litigation matters while continuing to grow in criminal cases.

My work as a private practice attorney with my husband focused primarily on family law, personal injury and medical malpractice cases. After I was appointed to the bench in 2011, David continued his practice of law as a solo practitioner until his retirement.

At the Starke County Prosecutor's Office, I worked for and with the following individuals: Kim E. Hall, Richard Ballard, Mark Caruso, Julianne Havens and Scott Duerring.

At the Porter County Prosecutor's Office, I worked for and with the following individuals: James Douglas, Gwenn Rinkenberger, Brian Gensel, Todd Shellenbarger, T. Matthew Frost, Michael Drenth, and Alan Naggatz.

At Stutsman, Mulvaney & DeBoer, I worked for and with the following individuals: David Stutsman (deceased), Doug Mulvaney and David DeBoer.

At the Starke Circuit Court, I worked for and with the following individuals: Hon. Kim E. Hall and Probation Officers Kristi Nolcheff and Jaime Fletcher.

At Porter Superior Court 1, I worked for and with the following individuals: Hon. Roger V. Bradford (Ret.), Hon. William E. Alexa (Ret.), Hon. Julia M. Jent (Ret.), Hon. David L. Chidester (deceased), Hon. Mary R. Harper (deceased), Hon. Jeffrey L. Thode, Hon. Jeffrey W. Clymer, Hon. Michael J. Drenth until I took the bench as Circuit Court Judge.

At Brown Mackie College, I worked for James Cheslek, the Dean of Academic Affairs.

At the Porter Circuit Court, I work(ed) with the following individuals: Hon. Gwenn Rinkenberger (my former magistrate) from January to May 2020 and Hon. Kristen R. Mulligan (my current magistrate) from July 2020-present. Currently, my judicial colleagues are Hon. Michael A. Fish, Hon. Jeffrey W. Clymer, Hon. Michael J. Drenth, Hon. Christopher Buckley, Hon. Jeffrey L. Thode, Mag. Ana Osan, Mag. Mark Hardwick, Mag. Kristen Mulligan and Comm. Lisa Moser.

5. Trial/Judicial Experience

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

In Starke County, I sat second chair for dozens of high-felony jury trials with Prosecutor Hall which allowed me to work on the most serious types of cases while having an experienced and talented mentor from whom I learned during each step of the process. Prosecutor Hall fueled my desire to learn everything I could in the criminal arena. I also conducted a few jury trials as a Deputy Prosecutor under Prosecutors Hall and Havens, including a domestic battery case where the female victim had suffered significant injuries.

As a Porter County Deputy, the bulk of my responsibilities centered on juvenile delinquency matters so my access to jury trials was limited. However, my work in the County Courts and the occasional assignments to work on high-felony matters provided me with a few opportunities to participate in jury trials.

In Circuit Court, I have presided over jury trials as detailed in Question 5 C below.

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

As a Porter County Deputy Prosecutor, I was initially assigned to the Juvenile Court where I gained significant experience doing bench trials. In my two years as a Juvenile Court deputy, I prepared for and conducted fact-finding hearings and waiver hearings in delinquency matters on a regular basis.

Besides handling domestic violence cases in Starke County from 2007 through 2010, I was also assigned to the Knox City Court to manage the misdemeanor and infraction docket. My assignment in city court provided me with an endless stream of bench trials to hone my skills as they were the norm in that court.

As a magistrate in Porter Superior Court 1 for almost nine years, I was assigned one half of the probate and divorce cases filed in Porter County. Between final dissolution hearings and post-dissolution issues, I presided over hundreds of bench trials, thus strengthening my knowledge of the rules of evidence and giving me experience in working with every kind of litigant.

In Circuit Court, I have conducted a couple civil bench trials related to breach of contract matters.

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.

My growth and experience as a judicial officer have evolved over the almost fifteen years I have served as a jurist as I moved from being a magistrate in Starke and Porter Counties to my current position as the Porter Circuit Court Judge.

As the Starke Circuit Court Magistrate, my experience grew substantially by managing my own caseload and presiding over hearings for whatever civil and felony cases fell under the Circuit Court umbrella, reviewing and researching hundreds of motions and writing the orders for my cases. Additionally, when Judge Hall took office, he brought a completely new staff to the court which made our transition challenging. Because the learning curve for all of us was steep, I took on a variety of administrative tasks to keep the day-to-day operations of the court moving and to ease the workload on Judge Hall and our administrative team as we all became acclimated. Doing so gave me valuable insight and practice with administrative matters as a magistrate.

I was fortunate to have had two opportunities to help out my Porter County judicial colleagues by filling in for one of the judicial officers who needed time away from his court for other matters. In 2007, I sat as Temporary Judge in Superior Court 1 for three months during which time I presided over domestic relations and probate hearings, wrote and entered orders as required and processed incoming filings. Then in 2010, I was able to serve in Superior Court 1 for another three months as the Probate Commissioner thereby allowing me to keep the family law and probate cases moving.

In 2011, I began serving as the Porter Superior Court 1 Magistrate. In this capacity, I was assigned one half of all domestic relations and probate cases filed in Porter County as well as hundreds of protective orders. I also served as Special Judge on dissolution and paternity matters from within and outside of Porter County's borders as well as on several complex civil litigation cases. When I began my service in Superior Court 1, my goal was to have the court consistently function at the same stellar level that the other courts in Porter County did.

On January 1, 2020, I stepped into my role as the Porter Circuit Court Judge. The Circuit Court Judge oversees the entire Porter County juvenile justice system, including its court, probation department, detention center and the hundred plus employees who work for each. My magistrate presides over delinquency, Child in Need of Services (CHINS), termination of parental rights (TPR) and paternity matters.

In addition to administering the Juvenile Justice Center, my day-to-day caseload consists of a superior court docket including one third of all of the county's complex civil cases as noted in Question 4 B as well as the Circuit Court cases to which I am statutorily assigned, including tax sales and the issuance of tax deeds, minor name changes and condemnation matters.

I currently also preside over one third of all criminal cases and post-conviction cases designated at a Level 6 or higher. Although overseeing a mixed docket of criminal and civil cases can present challenges, I have found ways to run the court more efficiently and to enable civil litigants their day in court while protecting the time-sensitive deadlines attached to criminal cases. I thoroughly enjoy my varied caseload. Deciding whether a business gets injunctive relief in the morning, conducting a change of plea hearing in the afternoon and then presiding over one of our juvenile problem-solving courts in the early evening has made my work life incredibly interesting. My combined docket of criminal and civil matters has provided me with a broader knowledge of the law than a more limited docket would.

One of my favorite aspects of my job as the Circuit Court Judge is presiding over Porter County’s three juvenile problem-solving courts: the Juvenile and Family Drug Court, the Truancy Court, and the Transformation (mental health) Court. Being actively involved in the creation and development of the Truancy and Transformation Courts has provided a lovely balance to all of the work I do with adults.

Since my appointment to the Circuit Court bench, I have conducted approximately a dozen civil and criminal jury trials encompassing medical malpractice claims as well as murder and sex crimes. As a trial court judge, researching issues in anticipation of pretrial motion hearings and trials and drafting jury instructions has allowed me to deepen my legal knowledge in the subject matter of each of my cases. Additionally, being well versed in a wide variety of legal areas to appropriately rule on objections and make evidentiary calls requires an ongoing commitment to reading and studying the law which I have always enjoyed.

6. Professional Experience

- 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.

While I have never personally filed an appeal, as a judicial officer I frequently and consistently enter orders and judicial opinions on a variety of legal matters. I have listed five such orders and included four of these orders in my Supplemental Materials for your consideration and review:

- 1). ***In Re: The Marriage of: Wendy Challoner v. Dennis Challoner***,
64D01-1601-DR-694
Decree of Dissolution of Marriage in a contested divorce. (April 23, 2018).
Affirmed by the Indiana Court of Appeals in Case No. 18A-DR-1241.

- 2). ***State of Indiana v. Shaun Thompson***,
64D05-1911-MR-10998
Order on Motion to Suppress for juvenile waived to adult court for murder.
(February 11, 2021).

- 3). ***In Re: The Adoption of S.R.B.***,
64D05-2011-AD-9430
Order on Contested Adoption Hearing Held January 26, 2022. (February 14, 2022). (Amended 5/20/24 for redaction of caption for the minor’s confidentiality).

- 4). **Jean-Christophe Scheere v. Kraft Auction Service, LLC et al.**,
64D05-1911-PL-011180
Amended Order of Hearing Held on All Pending Motions including analysis of mandatory versus permissive statutes and numerous motions for summary judgment. (April 5, 2022). Affirmed by the Indiana Court of Appeals in Case No. 22A-PL-00914.

- 5). **Helen Kralovansky, Individually and on Behalf of all Others Similarly Situated v. Lakeshore Bone and Joint Institute, P.C.**,
64C01-2206-CT-5119
Order on Motion to Dismiss on data breach case. (April 24, 2023).

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.

On behalf of the Porter County Courts, Porter County Adult Probation and our Juvenile Justice Center, I drafted **Porter County Courts' Transition Plan** which was filed with the Indiana Supreme Court on June 12, 2021. It consisted of the following:

- Superior Courts: Administrative Rule 17 Components, Planning, Employment Procedures, Courthouse Facility Plan, Screening Procedures for the Public, Resuming Non-Emergency Hearings, Jury Trials, Court Supervised Service, and CASA as Officer of the Court.
- Porter County Adult Probation COVID Practices for Employees' Return: Employee Health, Facilities, Staff, Appointments, and Courts.
- 4-Phase Program for Porter County Juvenile Justice Center: Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Court and Juvenile Detention encompassing Preparing to Reopen Courts, then Resuming Non-Emergency Hearings and Operations, into Further Expansion of Operations, ending with the New Normal.

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.

Juvenile Probation Standards Report: (August 2022 through June 2023)

<https://www.in.gov/youthjustice/files/2023-06-probation-standards-final-report.pdf>

I actively served on the Juvenile Probation Standards Workgroup charged with developing statewide standards for juvenile probation and service that met the requirements of House Enrolled Act 1359. These revised standards took into consideration the use of evidence-based best practices as well as validated risk and needs assessments to provide more individualized services to Hoosier youth. Our workgroup collaborated and coordinated efforts with the Screening and Assessment and Diversion workgroups to account for areas in the standards that overlapped. I had the

privilege of serving as a member of a subcommittee that met with the Youth and Family Workgroup Committee to review our draft of the report and to openly discuss their comments and concerns prior to submitting the final draft of the report to the Judicial Conference Board of Directors.

Criminal Bench Book

The Criminal Bench Book is a resource published and accessible to all Indiana Trial Court Judges in our 92 counties to provide guidance in criminal matters. For each of these chapters, I reviewed every section, case and statute cited and drafted and revised each as required. I also studied all relevant case law and rules to ensure that changes in the law were appropriately added, deleted, or modified.

Chapter 21: Penalty Enhancements: (May through November 2022) This chapter of the bench book had not been revised since 2017.

Chapter 2: Interrogations and Confessions: (December 2022 through May 2023) This chapter of the bench book had not been revised since 2013.

Chapter 15: Guilty Pleas: (June 2023 through January 2024) This chapter of the bench book had not been revised since 2019.

Western Michigan University Honors College

As an undergraduate student at Western Michigan University, I wrote and defended my honors thesis on the issue of corporate crime. The purpose of my paper was to examine a variety of proposals to improve the capability of the criminal justice system to control the problem of corporate crime, and to make specific recommendations for reform.

Vogt, Mary A.: “Controlling Corporate Crime Through Reform of the Criminal Justice System” (1988).

Honors Theses. 2085.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/honors_theses/2085

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.

1. As a relatively young attorney, I had the privilege of working on a medical malpractice case with the attorneys at Stutsman, Mulvaney & DeBoer. The case was entitled **Robert D. Jackson, Jr. v. Zabaneh Medical Corporation, et al.**, Cause No. 45D10-0106-CT-000237. Robert Jackson drove his wife, Marsha, to the hospital to deliver their fifth child by cesarean section. After the baby was delivered, the doctor left the operating room. However, Marsha continued to bleed to such an extent that her body lost all of the platelets that would allow her blood to clot. Once this occurred, she bled profusely from every orifice and ultimately died on the delivery table. Despite the nurses’ efforts to locate her physician before Marsha’s situation became dire, her doctor was nowhere to be found.

The Jacksons left their home that morning full of excitement at welcoming their new baby into the world and instead, Robert left the hospital a widower and a single father of five small children. On a personal level, because of our close contact with the Jackson family throughout the progression of the case, my familiarity with and fondness for the family drove me to spend countless hours pouring through Marsha's medical records to make the physician and nurses' notes decipherable and usable for negotiations and settlement. I couldn't let them down. Helping the Jacksons pursue justice was immensely satisfying to me because we were able to provide them with financial security which allowed Robert to breathe a little easier as he raised his children.

On a professional level, this was the first big civil case to which I significantly contributed. My skills and work on this file directly and positively impacted the firm's ability to settle this case for statutory limits by laying out a detailed timeline of what transpired from the moment the baby was born until Marsha died.

My involvement in this particular case was important to me because I learned that I was a competent and insightful attorney in the civil arena as well as the criminal realm. I recognized that my proficiency in an area of the law was directly related to the time I spent to **learn** it and that I had the patience and determination to enjoy the journey. Realizing these two things set me on a path to embrace the many legal issues that come my way without fear and with the belief and security to know that I can use my skills to help litigants obtain justice and receive the appropriate relief to which they are entitled.

As a judge who presides over medical malpractice cases today, and having conducted medical malpractice jury trials, I understand that the impact of the litigation on both sides is enormous. I also understand the importance of providing a fair and neutral forum for the parties to litigate their issues and ensuring the parties' right to have a jury hear the case. The stakes are so high in these matters, anything less would be exacerbating the harm to the parties.

2. As a magistrate in Starke County, one of the most significant matters on which I worked was in the case of ***In Re the Marriage of: William B. Shaw v. Lora L. Barlow***, Cause No. 75C01-0210-DR-000126 where Mother had custody of the parties' minor child, L.S., but Father had filed a Motion for Modification of Custody. Mother repeatedly took L.S. to physician after physician where she alleged a multitude of ailments, conditions and symptoms for treatment—including autism and ADHD—despite medical diagnoses to the contrary. In just two years, Mother reported forty-three (43) different issues with L.S. for which she sought treatment and for which he was subjected to repeated chiropractic appointments for manipulations, pumped full of medications and supplements and placed on

very restricted diets to combat “illnesses” he did not have. As the case with L.S. progressed, Mother began subjecting the youngest child, T.S., to treatments that he did not need as well.

I removed L.S. from Mother’s custody when the investigation revealed that L.S. had flourished and developmentally progressed while he was in Father’s care for the summer, and he did so without any medications, supplements, diets or treatments. The pediatrician confirmed the issues for which L.S. had been treated didn’t exist. Ultimately, I removed the parties’ younger son, T.S., from her custody as well since she was demonstrating the same pattern of abuse with him.

As a judicial officer working through the facts of this case and discovering the history of the family, I quickly understood the gravity of the situation in which these two boys existed. In writing my order modifying custody from Mother to Father, I felt the weight of the authority I possessed and I understood the life-changing significance of my decision on these two children. The magnitude of knowing that I was a part of having these two young boys removed from Mother’s abusive care and placed in a home where they could both flourish still continues to bring me peace.

3. ***In re: The Matter of the Paternity of L.J. and E.J.***, Cause No. 64D01-0706-JP-648.

Well before I was appointed to serve as special judge in this case, Mother had developed a pattern of accusing Father of sexually, physically and emotionally abusing the parties’ two children. The pattern was: Mother would file a petition alleging Father abused the children; the juvenile court judge would deny Father parenting time until a hearing could be held; as the hearing date neared, Mother and Father would “reach an agreement” alleviating the need for a hearing; and Father would resume parenting time with his two boys until Mother became upset with him again. Then the cycle would repeat. Mother’s actions made no sense to me. If he sexually, physically, or emotionally abused the children, why would she keep sending her boys back to him for overnight parenting time?

I ordered the two boys to undergo a forensic examination to determine if there were, in fact, signs of sexual or other abuse by Father. The forensic exam revealed no concerns that the two boys had suffered abuse at the hands of their father.

Pending before me was Father’s petition to modify custody from Mother. After conducting a lengthy hearing and reviewing the evidence, I modified custody from Mother to Father finding that it was in the boys’ best interests to live with Father and to have only supervised parenting time with Mother until she went through individual counseling to address her parental alienation practices. I also found that her accusations were emotionally harmful to the two young boys.

Mother's behavior not only impacted Father and the boys, but also other people related to this case whose views did not align with Mother's. Throughout my involvement with this family, Mother and her boyfriend harassed and bullied the Guardian Ad Litem and the boys' therapist causing dissention and even fear for those individuals.

At the time of the custody hearing, Father was married to a woman who loved and cared for Father's sons and together the couple provided a warm, safe home for the children. Ultimately, Stepmother adopted L.J. and E.J. after Mother continued to violate parenting time, child support and counseling orders. Once the adoption was granted, those two young boys had a loving home without Mother's disruptions and toxic behaviors.

Having prosecuted individuals for sex crimes, it was incomprehensible to me that a **parent** would go to such lengths to falsely accuse **the other parent** of criminal behavior as leverage to further her own agenda. Because Mother's pattern of making false allegations had persisted for years before I was assigned the matter, I knew it was imperative that I devote my immediate attention to find the truth. If the forensic interview had revealed that there was a basis for Mother's allegations, I would have protected those two boys from further exposure to the harm inflicted by Father. Thankfully, the interview revealed the allegations were false and provided me with the direction I needed to help this family. I removed the boys from Mother's custody and put a safe distance between her and the children while she obtained help. Father's absence from his sons' lives for significant lengths of time caused him **and** the children to suffer emotionally from Mother's lies. I find comfort knowing that I was able to provide Father, Stepmother and the children with a fresh start to be a family without Mother's interference.

As a judicial officer, this case reinforced the importance of being a neutral presence in the midst of family and legal chaos and tamping down any inclinations toward believing one side over the other until the facts are fleshed out. My history of prosecuting sex crimes and working closely with legitimate victims of such offenses gave me little experience with people who fabricated allegations to further their agendas in family law matters. This case showed me otherwise.

4. On April 25, 2024, C.M. was shot and killed after he exchanged gunfire with police who had been called to the scene to investigate reports that he was flashing a gun around at a public park in Valparaiso. He was 20 years old. He was one of my juvenile drug court participants a few years ago. When he died, he died an addict.

One of the reasons I sought the judgeship in Circuit Court was because of my love for children and my desire to do as much as I can in the legal system to protect them and improve their status in our community. While I was able to protect children and assist families in dissolution matters, I have always had a special fondness for working with juveniles caught in the criminal justice system. Porter County's three juvenile problem-solving courts provide a solid, evidence-based way to lend the support, resources and supervision for the young participants and their families. I thoroughly enjoy being a part of the problem-solving court team because it allows me to convert my personal and legal experiences into a unique perspective to help the participants.

Because the kids who are accepted to our problem-solving courts are assessed as medium to high risk to offend, we are working with kids who are more challenging to help. We don't take the easy, low-risk kids because they don't need the intensive supervision the medium and high-risk youth require, so it is not surprising that some of our participants do not successfully complete our program despite the attention, care and resources we provide to them and their parents. Everyone on the team understands that we are not going to have a perfect track record because these kids are tough.

When I learned that the young man who had been killed was C.M., my heart sank because I know how hard our team worked to help him and his mother while he was in Drug Court. Unfortunately, C.M. did not successfully complete the program and had been terminated. Since then, he had been in and out of jail as an adult still struggling through life and using drugs.

After reflecting on C.M.'s death, I understand even more the importance of the work we do in our problem-solving courts for our future generations. First, I believe that even if the youth is not fully ready to embrace the programs we offer or the philosophies we advocate while in our court, we have planted a seed that may grow someday. Second, our team strives to learn from every case—whether our growth comes from something a participant taught us or from something that we, as a team, can do better, our goal is to set up the next participant for success. I never regret working with these kids or their families and I know the time we spend with them is not a waste.

While C.M. did not graduate from our Juvenile and Family Drug Court Program, I have witnessed how our drug, truancy, and mental health courts positively impact the futures of the kids and families with whom we work. I find immense satisfaction and joy in the young people who give our programs their best efforts, graduate and continue to flourish. It is also very fulfilling to see the relief on parents' faces when they come to a hearing and can report that their son or daughter has been compliant and is slowly adjusting his or her behaviors in a positive way. Seeing the light bulb go off in these kids' minds is priceless.

5. Being the Porter County Circuit Court Judge has, in itself, been one of the most significant things to ever happen to me. I am very honored that the Governor selected me to fill the vacancy left by Judge Mary Harper when she retired in 2019 and I am humbled by the fact that my community elected me to remain their judge in 2020. If not for these two life-changing events, I would not have had the opportunity to experience the personal growth that I have while holding this position in our judiciary. And it is my personal growth that has allowed me to accomplish so much for the court, with our judiciary, in our Juvenile Services Center, in my community, on my committees, and with our youth. Having this position has allowed me the opportunity and the platform to work with all segments of our society and with a multitude of stakeholders for the benefit of our community.

Since serving in my current role, and with the help of a talented and devoted staff, I have been able to voice, explore, test out, and implement all kinds of programs and ideas to help our youth find alternatives to getting caught up in the juvenile justice system. I have reveled in collaborating with individuals and agencies in our community so that young people on probation or in one of our problem-solving courts can be exposed to pro-social activities and positive mentors. I continue to be excited and optimistic about all that can be done for our adults and youths. Having the title of Judge is one thing, but being able to engender the confidence of people in the community so they are willing to help or work with me on projects doesn't get any more impactful. My community knows that I will work as hard as I possibly can for them, and I have seen how hard they are willing to work for me as well. What better way to instill confidence in our judiciary?

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.
- I preside over the **Juvenile and Family Drug Court**, an evidence-based problem-solving court, where our Drug Court team works with youth and their families who commit delinquent and risk-taking behaviors due to their substance abuse and addiction.

- In assessing Porter County’s needs, it was clear that truancy had been an ongoing issue that our diversionary program, Project ATTEND, was not able to completely resolve. This realization prompted us to develop a problem-solving court addressing truancy. In September of 2020 (and despite COVID), Porter County became the first certified **Truancy Court** in the State of Indiana. Creating and running our Truancy Court has been extremely gratifying. This program uniquely pulls in truant youth and adult offenders charged with educational neglect as participants allowing the team to confront the family issues and dynamics causing these young people to skip school. Getting to the bottom of these kids’ issues and realigning the family dynamics in a positive way has proven elusive at times, but with the determination of our team, we have given these young people tools to make their own lives better.

- Last year, our problem-solving court team recognized another gap in our system we believed we could bridge. It was the pervasive issue of youth becoming entangled in the juvenile justice system due to their uncontrolled mental health issues. In February of 2023, with our provisional certification, we accepted our first two Transformation Court participants. Our court envelopes its participants and their families with services and intensive supervision to stabilize their mental health issues, connect them with counseling services, and redirect the youth in positive ways within our community. In August of 2023, our **Transformation Court** became the first certified juvenile mental health court in Indiana.

- As the Domestic Violence Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Starke County, I oversaw the submission of domestic violence grants each year for the **STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program** funded by the Department of Justice. This grant was integral to the position I held and for our Victim Advocate.

- As a Porter County magistrate, I witnessed firsthand the growing number of self-represented litigants in my court. In an effort to streamline the procedural aspects for pro se litigants in family law matters, I **created a questionnaire for all pro se litigants** to fill out when they initially filed their divorces in my court. The questions addressed areas in their dissolutions that would be particularly problematic for non-lawyers to work through. I would set the case for a status hearing and walk the litigants through the procedural logistics of their case. Although those status hearings added a substantial number of hearings to my docket, I felt it was important to give these self-represented litigants an opportunity to ask questions to better understand the court system—especially at such an emotional and volatile time in their lives.

- I spearheaded **the implementation of the Guardianship Registry Program** in Porter County. As a Magistrate presiding over probate matters, I was concerned that Porter County did not have an adequate system in place to keep tabs on guardians legally responsible for caring for incapacitated individuals and their finances. On January 2, 2017, Porter County began registering all new guardianships in the registry.

- In my current capacity as the District 2 Representative on the **Board of Managers for the Indiana Judges Association**, I serve on the Technical Assistance Subcommittee to work with and guide judges seeking to add another court or judicial officer within their counties. I have also served on the IJA Nominating Committee to accept and vet applications for judges interested in serving as an officer on the IJA board.

- From 2018 through 2020, I served on **the Judicial Community Relations Committee**. While on this committee, I participated in activities geared toward expanding the public’s knowledge about the judiciary and the law, including getting cameras into courtrooms. By promoting and engaging in activities such as Constitution Day, I spread a positive message about the courts and our Constitution to the members of our communities—particularly our youth.

- In June of 2021, I began serving on the Criminal Bench Book Committee. I have updated several chapters of our bench book as well as edited any updated chapters colleagues submitted to the committee for review. After serving as a member for my first term, I was asked to chair the committee effective July of 2023. As the **Chair of the Criminal Bench Book Committee**, I am implementing my goal to conduct more regular meetings with our team and to motivate our committee to conduct revisions to our bench book in a more efficient and timely manner.

- I revised the Domestic Relations section of our Porter County Local Rules in 2017. I also have conducted extensive **edits on our local rules** we are currently in the process of revising.

- I served as the Porter County judicial representative to lead our community stakeholders at the Opioid Summit in Indianapolis and the Sequential Intercept Model training in Northwest Indiana. For the past five years, I have had the honor of leading our **Justice Partners Addiction Response Team** in applying for grants provided by the Indiana Supreme Court and using those funds in creative ways unique to Porter County to combat opioid and drug addiction as well as mental health issues. Porter County has applied these monies to create and maintain a Recovery Support Plan whereby we provide certified peer recovery coaches who meet with individuals in

need. These recovery coaches have experienced addiction in their own lives and have received the training and certification to actively guide and support those struggling with substance abuse and mental health. This program has served 108 participants since its inception. We also apply these funds to host free conferences open to the public, treatment providers, the legal community, law enforcement, attorneys, and educators at which speakers present on issues tied into addiction and mental health.

- I have hosted numerous **undergraduate and law student internships and externships** in my family, probate and general jurisdiction courts.
- I regularly volunteered as a **judge for the Indiana High School Mock Trial** competitions.
- I also contribute to the improvement of the law by regularly **presenting at continuing education events:**
 - ❖ In July of 2012, I presented “The Perfect Storm: Unrepresented Litigants and Family Law” at the Northwest Indiana Volunteer Lawyers, Inc. and District One Pro Bono Bench/Bar CLE.
 - ❖ In January and February of 2017, I was a Co-Presenter at the General Jurisdiction Orientation Program. I co-taught the sessions on Juvenile Law with the Honorable Darrin Dolehanty and on Self-Represented Litigants in Civil Cases with the Honorable Kim Dowling.
 - ❖ In October of 2017, I spoke at the Women Lawyers Seminar called *Intimate Partner Violence . . . Ramifications at Work, School, Home, Court*. My topic was “The Do’s and Don’ts of Testifying in Court.”
 - ❖ In April of 2018, I served as a panel member at a Women Lawyers Association Women in the Law event speaking about issues surrounding women in the legal profession.
 - ❖ In September of 2018, I served as a panel speaker for dissolution cases at an Advanced Guardian Ad Litem Training Seminar.
 - ❖ Along with my Porter County judicial colleagues, I conduct annual presentations to our Porter County Inns of Court on various legal issues. In March of 2024, I presented about programming options for youth in our community, including three new juvenile programs we are in the process of implementing.

- ❖ In 2022, as the presiding judge of (then) two juvenile problem-solving courts, I served as part of a panel discussing adult and juvenile problem-solving courts at a community-wide summit that addressed the co-morbidity related to mental health and addiction.

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.

- **Working with school superintendents to create more uniform county-wide attendance policies:** My truancy court team and I have been working diligently with the superintendents across our county to reform the attendance policies amongst our schools. The importance of this uniformity is key in consistently targeting the same class of students who are routinely missing school. If a call-off by a parent is considered excused in one school but not in another, the application of truancy laws will be less consistent within our county's borders.
- **Leading the Domestic Violence Committee.** Every month I lead a group of community stakeholders in a meeting to discuss issues related to domestic and family violence in Porter County. At this meeting, law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, victim advocates, mental health professionals, DCS and our Porter County Clerks update each other about problems or issues with protective orders, court proceedings, services offered to victims of domestic violence and other matters to work through them in a cooperative and timely fashion. I am always on the lookout to invite other relevant agencies to join our discussions because I believe our collaboration provides an additional layer of protection to our community from the harms brought about by domestic and family violence.
- **Engaging community partners to work with at-risk youth** and those in the juvenile justice system:
 - Our Juvenile Justices Services team is in the early stages of working with the Chancellor at Ivy Tech Community College to create opportunities for juveniles on probation to engage in educational programs—whether at the Juvenile Justice Services building, the youth's school, or at the Ivy Tech campus. Our goal is to provide these young people with a vision to see themselves as capable of earning trade certificates or associates degrees to further their future.

- As one who participates in community theater, our Juvenile Justice Services team has partnered with Chicago Street Theatre and Nana Clare’s Kitchen in Valparaiso to form an “Immersion in the Arts” program. This program provides youth on probation glimpses into various aspects of community theater (acting, directing, costuming, sound and lighting design, set building, stage combat and stage managing) and the culinary arts and encourages these young people to participate in the arts as a pro-social activity while on probation. Once they have attended an evening orientation, youth interested in a particular area of the program will be partnered with a theater or culinary mentor for further “immersion” into their area of interest. Participation in these pro-social activities can be credited toward the youth’s community service obligation.
- Our Juvenile Justice Services team has visions of expanding the Immersion of the Arts program to incorporate other community leaders who are knowledgeable in photography, entrepreneurialism, cosmetology and other fields to create programs in which low to medium risk youth may participate for credit toward their probation time.
- As the Circuit Court Judge, I was asked to lead our local substance abuse coalition, the Tobacco Education and Prevention Coalition for Porter County, A Positive Approach to Teen Health, and the Porter County Health Department in forming a county wide “task force” to present a coordinated and united front to our schools related to prevention, education and restorative practices for vaping, substance abuse, mental health and other youth-related issues. Our ASK Initiative team, (Adolescent Supports and Knowledge) team is working on putting together policies and programs to present to the schools this summer. The goal of this initiative is to provide the schools with community-based prevention and educational programming—already in existence but not utilized to the extent that it could be—for students in Porter County.
- **Speaking and educating various civic groups in Porter County:**
 - In July of 2019, I was the featured speaker at the Chesterton Rotary Club about issues surrounding guardianships.
 - I have spoken at the Valparaiso Noon Kiwanis, the Valparaiso Sunrise Kiwanis, the Chesterton, Portage, and Valparaiso Rotaries, and the Portage Exchange Club about the importance of tamping down truancy in our communities and the implementation of Porter County’s Truancy Court to address this need.

- In September of 2020, I spoke to the Faith Action Network in Portage about truancy and our efforts to combat this issue through programming with our schools and our Truancy Court program.
 - **Speaking and educating our youth in Porter County:**
 - I regularly present programs to 6th through 8th grade students about the Constitution and the role of the judiciary in our government for Constitution Day.
 - I presented to a group of fifty students during a Presidents' Day event which allowed me the opportunity to engage them in discussions about the branches of government and the balance of powers.
 - In October, during Red Ribbon Week, I serve as a co-presenter with law enforcement to 6th through 8th graders on substance and alcohol abuse, tobacco use and vaping.
 - I invite students ranging from elementary to high school age to view court proceedings and ask general questions about our legal system as well as those pertaining to the cases they observed.
 - In November of 2023, I spoke to a group of young ladies belonging to the Girls to Women group at Benjamin Franklin Middle School about leadership and activism in the community.
- 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.
- In early fall of 2020, I joined leaders from our Porter County Juvenile Services Center in hosting a **community-wide truancy summit** at the Porter County Expo Center to share with superintendents, principals, school resource officers, attendance officers, juvenile probation officers and prosecutors information about the programming we offer to reduce truancy in our schools, such as Project ATTEND and our Truancy Court.
 - Since 2022, as the chair of our Justice Partners Addiction Response team, we organized and hosted **two free community conferences** to educate the public, treatment providers, law enforcement, the legal community and educators on the very important and persistent issues of mental health and addiction. These conferences bring keynote and plenary speakers to Valparaiso to educate our attendees. We have scheduled our third conference for September. It is called "Coping with Modern Day

Challenges Impacting Mental Health and Addiction” and it will be held at Valparaiso University.

- As a member of the Valparaiso Noon Kiwanis, I created and co-chaired the **Backpack and Snacks Committee** which allowed our organization to provide food and monetary resources to schools in Valparaiso for food insecure children. Along with other members of the committee, I packed bags of food for children to take home with them for consumption over the weekend or to sustain them through the holiday breaks. I also am a member of the Community Volunteer Committee which completes one-day service projects or recurring projects for not-for-profit institutions in our community.

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

- In May of 2019, I **instituted a mediation or facilitation clinic for pro se litigants** in dissolution matters. Whether the parties were already in the process of getting divorced or had sought the court’s assistance for a modification of custody, parenting time or child support, I provided self-represented parties with the opportunity to attend a free mediation facilitated by experienced family law attorneys who volunteered to help these litigants work through their issues. The attorneys received pro bono credit which allowed them to contribute to the legal system in a positive way. The parties benefitted from this program by reaching a resolution without contentious courtroom litigation and at no cost to them. And the Court benefitted because every case that was resolved was one less case on my docket. The people participating in these mediations had a resolution-based success rate of approximately 75%.
- I oversee the **Alternative Dispute Resolution Program** in Porter County. This program provides free mediation and facilitation for paternity and dissolution matters in Porter County. With 5 mediators/facilitators on hand, we provide services to approximately 30 families per year with a 74% success rate—all at no cost to the parties.

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

- In 2008, I served as an **adjunct professor** at Brown Mackie College where I taught Legal Writing as a part of its Paralegal Studies Program. I also taught Sociology and Business Ethics. In Legal Writing, I provided instruction on how to research legal issues, convert that information into solutions to the issues posed, and properly convey the solutions they found into the basic legal document or memoranda that had been assigned.

- Throughout my tenure as the Porter County Magistrate, I always had an open-door policy with professors and students from Valparaiso University Law School. I **worked with adjunct professors at the VU Law Clinic** in areas of family law and mediation.
 - When the law school was still in operation, the Law Clinic permitted second and third-year law students to serve as Certified Legal Interns to present cases in my court.
 - I appointed students from the Law Clinic to serve as Guardians Ad Litem in many of my dissolution cases when the parties had little money but their child(ren)'s interests required protection.
 - To assist VU law students with fulfilling the requirements of their Family Law Practicum course each semester, I worked closely with the professor so his students could attend court hearings and discuss the legal issues involved in the cases they observed.
 - To assist with VU Law School's mediation program, I assigned some of my contentious cases to VU's mediation clinic to participate in student-managed mediations. This allowed the litigants to attempt to resolve their matter for free and provided the law students with practice mediating emotionally-charged cases.
 - I served as a member of a judicial panel in a Judicial Rotation Exercise for an Introduction to Experiential Learning Course for first year law students while students practiced presenting their cases to the "court." After "court" concluded, we discussed the case with the students and how their presentations of the case impacted the outcome.

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.

- **Porter County Bar Association: 2011-present.** Member.

I have been invited by the bar to present on various topics.

- In November of 2018, I spoke to the Porter County Probate Bar about probate matters and e-filing.

- In February of 2019, I organized and led a Family Law Town Hall Meeting for the Porter County Family Law Bar in which I discussed e-filing issues and proposed the creation of a mediation clinic for pro se litigants.
- In 2020, as I transitioned into my Circuit Court role, I invited the Civil Bar to meet with me about their questions and concerns as it pertained to civil matters.
- In 2022, I participated in a presentation to the bar on improving operations in our courts.

- **Lake County Bar Association: 2012- present.** Member.

In December of 2022, I spoke at a Family Law educational event about the qualities that make good family law practitioners and judges.

- **Porter County Inns of Court: 2011-2012.**

I was a member of the Inns of Court upon becoming a magistrate in Porter County. Although I am no longer a member, I continue to present to the Porter County Inns of Court annually. Almost every year I present about legal topics specifically pertaining to our courts or other relevant legal matters.

- **Drug Court & Juvenile Services Foundation: 2020-present.** President/Executive Director.

This 501(c)(3) foundation was originally created to raise community support for the Juvenile & Family Drug Court, Porter County’s first juvenile problem-solving court. The donations received through this organization benefit the youth in the Porter County’s Juvenile Justice system by providing education, goal-oriented incentives and sanctions, and counseling services. The Foundation now encompasses all three of Porter County’s juvenile problem-solving courts (Drug, Truancy, and Transformation/Mental Health).

- **Porter County Community Corrections Advisory Board: 2020-present.** Member.

This advisory board approves grants, grant fund transfers (when needed), works with the program staff in reviewing data and other forms of program reports. The advisory board reviews performance measures and establishes the direction of programming and is responsible for ensuring the county’s plan (including our collaboration plan) is focused on fulfilling the grant priorities (target population, risk levels, use of evidence-based models, etc.). This board agreed to serve as our Local Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC).

- **Porter County Juvenile Justice Advisory Board: 2020-present.** President.

This board was created to provide a community-based forum for input regarding the Porter County Juvenile Justice system. The board is comprised of a host of community stakeholders from social services, government, education, mental health, law enforcement and other areas to collectively think through juvenile justice matters. Through this board, we keep members of Porter County abreast of our current programming, our works in progress, and we are held accountable to our community through our quarterly meetings.

- **Indiana Judges Association: 2016-2020; 2022-present.**

IJA is a voluntary legal organization comprised of members of the Indiana judiciary ranging from magistrates to Indiana Supreme Court Justices. Amongst IJA's goals are to maintain relationships with other governmental departments, to advocate for judges when issues arise pertaining to judicial compensation, to assist in providing judicial experience and perspective relative to legislation, and to preserve judicial independence.

- In 2016, I was elected by my judicial colleagues to serve as the District 18 Representative on the **Board of Managers** for the Indiana Judges Association. In this capacity, I represented the northern half of all magistrates in our State. I retained my position until 2020 when my appointment as Circuit Court Judge made me ineligible to serve as the magistrate representative. When a vacancy appeared in my district in 2022, I ran for and was elected to serve on the Board of Managers as the District 2 representative in my capacity as a judge.
- As a member of the Board of Managers, besides the work that I outlined in Question 7A, I also attend events hosted by IJA for legislators who serve on committees pertaining to the judiciary. This allows me to remain actively involved with this association and use my talents to facilitate and maintain good relationships with our legislators in a way that benefits the judiciary and the public.

- **Women Lawyers Association: 2011-present.** Member.

WLA's members consist of law students, attorneys and judges. The organization promotes the advancement of women in the legal profession while providing excellent legal educational opportunities and performing charitable works. The Lake County contingency of the WLA has members from Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. Collectively, we endeavor to shine a light on the legal profession and encourage and assist those women who want to ascend to the bench. I have spoken at seminars and served on panels at educational events hosted by WLA.

- In addition to educational outreach, I also participate in activities organized by the association, such as the “Sisters in the Law” event, which brings lawyers and judges together from across the state.
- We participated in the 2019 Heart Walk in support of the American Heart Association in Chesterton.

- **Indiana State Bar Association: 1993-present.** Member.
- **National Association of Women Judges: 2022-present.** Member.

As a member of the NAWJ, I served on the Education Committee for the national annual conference held in Indianapolis in October of 2023. I am also a member of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee.

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.

- **Valparaiso Noon Kiwanis: 2018-present.**

- I serve on the Kiwanis Scholarship Committee. Each year we assess dozens of applications made by high school seniors seeking scholarship monies for college and award numerous scholarships to Valparaiso youths.
- In December of 2018, I instituted the “Backpack and Snacks Program” through Kiwanis to serve “food insecure” children in our schools whose only meals are consumed at school. We sent food home with these children each weekend and over breaks to fill the gaps in their meals until they returned to school. Since then, local food pantries have taken over the program; however, as Kiwanians, we still pool resources to assist the food pantries who serve these children. I will continue to fight for kids to be as healthy as they can be so they attend school and receive an education. This simple formula reduces delinquency and provides young people with options to better their lives.
- I enjoy volunteering at our Pancake Breakfasts each year because of the sheer number of people who attend. This event always brings out many members of our community to share a meal and bond with each other. I have been the “cotton candy lady” for the children (and some kid-like adults), I clear and clean tables and offer refills on food or beverages, and I have served pancakes and sausage to the masses.

At our annual “Corn Roast,” every year I aid in setting up the event, roasting corn, or taking tickets. I go wherever I am needed that day.

- **Women United-United Way of Porter County: 2019-present**

- As a member of Women United, I volunteer my time and talents in any way needed. Women United chose Recovery Connection to assist this year. Recovery Connection is a program that supports women recovering from addiction by providing them with educational events and teaching them life skills to increase their chances of success. I attended a training session at Recovery Connection to enable me to serve as a teacher or speaker to these women in recovery.
- I have participated in United Way’s Day of Caring where I joined many other volunteers to clean up the grounds of Family House, a safe haven where parties can exercise supervised parenting time with their children. We cleaned, weeded, planted flowers, trimmed bushes and mulched the entire area to make the front yard and play areas beautiful for the families who use this facility.

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.

- **Community Theatre Guild n/k/a Chicago Street Theatre: 2002-present.**

- Board of Directors and Development Committee in 2004.
- I have performed on stage in dozens of plays at CST over the years. I have costumed, managed props, and served as an assistant director and co-director as well. I am also very active in other theaters across Northwest Indiana. Since my first audition at CST in December of 2002, I have performed in plays and musicals in Michigan City, Chesterton, Portage, Hammond, Crown Point and three theaters in Valparaiso.
- I have received twelve acting nominations from the Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation (NIETF) for roles I have performed and from those nominations, I won an award for Best Principal Actress in a Play and two awards for Best Featured Actress in a Play.

- **Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation (NIETF): 2018**

- Served as an At-Large Member on the Board of Directors.
- Led the NIETF Scholarship Program offering scholarships to high school and early college students in Porter, Lake and LaPorte Counties.

D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

I enjoy working out at a local “boot camp” during the week and walking during my lunch hours. My workouts give me strength and help me maintain flexibility as I get older. The walking provides me with a respite from my busy work day and refreshes me for the afternoon projects that await. Recently, our adult daughter moved back to Valparaiso and attends boot camp with me again. Also, since she works nearby, I am blessed that we can spend several lunch hours together walking which lets us have more quality time together.

I also love theater. My twenty plus years in community theater have brought me a lot of joy. The roles that I have performed by night have been a wonderful and creative outlet for me and the perfect foil for the serious work I do by day.

My husband and I also make time to cook together. Finding new recipes, assembling the ingredients, preparing the food and ultimately, enjoying the dinner with each other has become something we look forward as a way to relax.

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.

- ~1974
 - Cook County, Illinois
 - I was adopted by my step-father.

- September 26, 1991
 - Porter County, Indiana
 - 64D02-9106-DR-1471
 - *In re the Marriage of Mary Ann Vogt v. Daniel Eric Vogt*
 - I was a party in a dissolution of marriage.

- October 25, 2007
 - Hendricks County, Indiana
 - 32D01-0708-DR-99
 - *In re the Marriage of: Mary DeBoer v. David DeBoer*
 - My current husband and I divorced. We remarried in 2009.

- January 6, 2012
 - U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana
 - 3:12 CV 09
 - *Dr. Richard Hass v. The RICO Enterprise: Estates of Lewis Hass, Jr. and Ludwig Hass, Sr.; Estate of Randall Hass; Monique and Phil Herren; Jeff and Julie Hass; Ed Miranda in his personal capacity; Pam Payne Hass; James Johnson, for his actions and deeds in his personal and liable capacity; William Alexa, in his personal and liable capacity; Roger Bradford, in his personal and liable capacity; Julia Jent, in her personal and liable capacity; Mary DeBoer, in her personal and liable capacity; David Lane, in his personal and liable capacity; Russell Harders; Loren and Chrissy Dzur; Paul Dzur, in his personal and liable capacity.*
 - This lawsuit was filed by a party in an extremely contentious supervised estate filed in Porter Superior Court 2 under Cause Number 64D02-0211-ES-9577 in which Magistrate James Johnson served as Special Judge and in which I then served as Special Judge when Magistrate Johnson retired. The allegations Dr. Hass cited in his complaint included violations of civil rights, lack of due process in state courts, civil RICO violations, criminal predicate acts, assault and battery and numerous other charges. This matter was dismissed with prejudice on May 14, 2013 by the Honorable Joseph S. VanBokkelen.

- January 9, 2024
 - U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana
 - 2:23-cv-00005-JD-APR
 - *Reginald Darnell Porter v. Kevin Murphy, Mary A. DeBoer, Gary S. Germann, Mary K. Ryan, and Austin Haynes*
 - This lawsuit was filed by a sovereign citizen who appeared before me for a probation revocation following his criminal case in which he pled guilty. Reginald Porter filed this case against me, prosecutors and law enforcement. As of the date I submitted this application, I have not been served with this lawsuit, but have been made aware of its filing by the Attorney General's Office.

- 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.
- Summer, 1985
 - South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan
 - My friends and I were cited for having open intoxicants on the beach.
- 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.

I have only had what may be considered an informal caution by the Commission on Judicial Qualifications on one occasion related to Cause No. 64D02-1301-DR-684. On October 10, 2020, Richard Flower, a litigant in a post-dissolution matter in which I served as Special Judge, filed a disciplinary complaint against me. The substance of the complaint was that I would conduct improper discussions with the parties “off the record” during his hearings. On September 20, 2021, I received a Notice of Inquiry from the Commission on Judicial Qualifications regarding his complaint. The Commission required me to respond to Mr. Flower’s allegations.

On October 1, 2021, I filed my response along with copies of orders documenting the tumultuous nature of the cause largely due to Richard Flower’s consistent failure to comply with the court’s orders and noting that he had filed complaints against each of the other judicial officers, attorneys, and both of the Guardians Ad Litem who had worked on his case. The reason I had gone off the record in Mr. Flower’s hearing was to work with the parties on a parenting time schedule that I could reduce to an order. Upon reaching an agreement, I had the court reporter “go back on the record” and the parties recited their agreement and my adoption of their agreement into the record.

On November 22, 2021, I received a notice that the Commission dismissed the complaint; however, the Commission provided a written suggestion that, “in order to avoid similar complaints in the future” I should no longer turn off the record while remaining in the courtroom to resolve global issues in the case.

- 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.

1. Nancy J. Townsend, Esq.
2. Russell W. Brown, Jr., Esq.
3. Brian L. Bennett, Esq.

- B. Provide the names of three professional references other than those listed in Question 10A.

1. Honorable Richard R. Stalbrink, Jr.
2. Debra Lynch Dubovich, Esq.
3. G. Anthony Bertig, Esq.

- C. Provide the names of three personal references other than those listed in Question 10A or 10B.

1. Honorable John E. Martin
2. Mark A. Roscoe, Esq.
3. Barbara Malangoni