

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name**: State full name (include any former names used).

LaShonda Annette Hunt (née LaShonda Annette Stewart)

2. **Position**: State the position for which you have been nominated.

United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois

3. **Address**: List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 756
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Residence: Elmhurst, Illinois

4. **Birthplace**: State year and place of birth.

1970; Clarksdale, Mississippi

5. **Education**: List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

1992 – 1995, University of Michigan Law School; J.D., 1995

Summer 1992, Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Summer Institute at the University of Iowa College of Law, no degree received

1988 – 1992, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; B.S., 1992

6. **Employment Record**: List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2017 – present
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 756
Chicago, Illinois 60604
United States Bankruptcy Judge

2015 – 2016
State of Illinois
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
General Counsel, Illinois Department of Central Management Services (2016)
Chief Legal Counsel, Illinois Department of Corrections (2015 – 2016)

2010 – 2015
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Assistant United States Attorney

2009 – 2010
Com Ed, an Exelon Company
440 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Regulatory Outreach Manager

2007 – 2009
Exelon Business Services Company
10 South Dearborn Street, 49th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60680
Assistant General Counsel

2006 – 2007
Just the Beginning Foundation (now Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization)
70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Schools Project Director

Fall 2005
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
25 East Pearson Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Adjunct Professor – Appellate Advocacy

2003 – 2005
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois

219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Assistant United States Attorney

2001 – 2003
United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1225
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Law Clerk to the Honorable William J. Hibbler

1998 – 2001
United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
219 South Dearborn Street, 27th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Staff Attorney

1995 – 1998; Summer 1994
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal (now Dentons US LLP)
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 5900
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Associate (1995 – 1998)
Summer Associate (Summer 1994)

Summer 1995
Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago – Northwest Office (now Legal Aid Chicago)
120 South LaSalle Street, Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Public Interest Law Initiative Fellow

Summer 1993
Chicago Legal Clinic (Greater Chicago Legal Clinic)
17 North State Street, Suite 1710
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Environmental Law Intern

1993 – 1995
University of Michigan Law School
625 South State Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
Senior Judge/Writing & Advocacy Instructor (1994 – 1995)
Assistant to Writing & Advocacy Instructor (1993 – 1994)

Other Affiliations (uncompensated):

2022 – present
Elmhurst Memorial Hospital

155 East Brush Hill Road
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
Cancer Care Center Volunteer

2019 – present
Chicago Bar Foundation
321 South Plymouth Court
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Board of Directors

2018 – 2020
Chicago Bar Association
321 South Plymouth Court
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Board of Managers

2013 – 2017
Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.
321 South Plymouth Court
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Ex-Officio (2016 – 2017)
President (2015 – 2016)
Vice-President (2014 – 2015)
Scholarship Fund Board (2014 – 2015)
Board Member-at-Large (2013 – 2014)

2009 – 2013
Just the Beginning Foundation (Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization)
70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Board of Directors

2010
Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Committee of the Supreme Court of Illinois
130 East Randolph Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Hearing Board Member
Oversight Committee Member

2009 – 2010
Cabrini Green Legal Aid
6 South Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Board of Directors

2008 – 2013

1312 Idabright Partnership
358 West Army Trail Road
Bloomington, Illinois 60108
Partner (real estate investor)

2002 – 2004
Covenant Realty Management, LLC
629 South Highland Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60304
Member (real estate investment)

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I did not serve in the military. I was not required to register for the selective service.

8. **Honors and Awards:** List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Vanguard Award Honoree of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. (2021)

Cook County Bar Association Judicial Award (2017)

American Law Institute (2016)

Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow (Class of 2013)

Illinois Legal Aid Online "Attorney of the Month" (November 2008)

Public Interest Law Initiative Distinguished Alumni Award (2007)

"40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch," The Law Bulletin Publishing Company (2006)

Senior Judge Award for Teaching, University of Michigan Law School (1995)

Writing & Advocacy Book Award, University of Michigan Law School (1992)

Council on Legal Education Opportunity Fellow (1992 – 1995)

Dean's List, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1991)

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts
Human Resources Advisory Council (2022 – present)

American Bankruptcy Institute (2017 – present)

American Bar Association (1996 – 1997, 2009 – 2013, 2017 – 2022)

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois
Hearing Board Member (2010)
Oversight Committee Member (2010)

Black Women’s Lawyer Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. (2000 – present)
Ex-Officio (2016 – 2017)
President (2015 – 2016)
Vice-President (2014 – 2015)
Scholarship Fund Board of Directors (2014 – 2015)
Judicial Evaluation Committee, Chair (2014 – 2015)
Board Member-at-Large (2013 – 2014)
Professional Development & Programming, Chair (2013 – 2014)

Chicago Bar Association (1995 – 1997, 2004 – 2009, 2013 – 2016, 2018 – present)
Board of Managers (2018 – 2020)
Strategic Planning Committee Member (2021 – 2022)
Judicial Evaluation Investigations Committee Member (2014 – 2016)
Federal Civil Practice Committee, Co-Vice Chair (2014 – 2015)
Government Service Committee, Chair (2005 – 2006)

Chicago Bar Foundation
Board of Directors (2019 – present)
Strategic Planning Committee Member (2020 – 2021)
CBA/CBF Task Force on the Sustainable Practice of Law and Innovation, Limited
Scope Subcommittee Chair (2019 – 2020)
Pro Bono Week Planning Committee Member (2009)

Cook County Bar Association (2014 – 2017)

Federal Bar Association (2012 – 2013, 2017 – present)

Federal Judicial Center
Bankruptcy Judge Education Advisory Committee Member (2020 – present)

Illinois Judicial Council (2017 – present)

Illinois State Bar Association (1995 – 1997, 2007, 2016 – 2017)

Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, *Roadways to the Federal Bench: Who, Me? A Bankruptcy Judge?*, Judicial Co-Chair (Chicago Program) (2019)

Just the Beginning Foundation (now Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization)
Judicial Advisory Committee Member (2019 – present)
Board of Directors (2009 – 2013)
Youth Programs Chair of the 2012 Biennial Conference

National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (2017 – present)
Elections Committee Member (2021 – 2023)
Public Outreach Committee Member (2020 – present)
Conference News, Co-Editor (2017 – 2019)

Seventh Circuit Bar Association (2017 – present)

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Local Rules Committee Member (2017 – present)
United States Trustee Liaison Committee, Chair (2018 – present)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Pro Bono Advisory Committee Member (2016 – present)

10. Bar and Court Admission:

- a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Illinois, 1995

There has been no lapse in membership.

- b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (2004)
United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (1999)
United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (1996)

There have been no lapses in membership.

11. Memberships:

- a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

American Law Institute (2016 – present)

Center for Conflict Resolution
Volunteer Mediator (2006 – 2008)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (1991 – present)

Leadership Greater Chicago (2013 – present)

Percy Julian Middle School PTO
6th Grade Co-President (2009 – 2010)

- b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is an international public service organization that extends membership only to women. To the best of my knowledge, none of the organizations listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the bases of race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

12. Published Writings and Public Statements:

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

Based upon my recollection and a thorough review of my files and searches of publicly available databases, I have identified the following responsive materials,

but it is possible that there are a few that I have been unable to recall or identify.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Observations on Trial Practice from the Other Side of the Bench, American Bankruptcy Institute Journal (Oct. 2021). Copy supplied.

Meet the 2019 Blackshear Presidential Fellows, NCBJ Conference News (Winter 2019). Copy supplied.

From Blackshear Fellow to Bankruptcy Judge: A Conversation with Charles "Chuck" Walker, NCBJ Conference News (Winter 2017). Copy supplied.

A Message from the President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. Spring Fundraiser Event Program, "The Rise of the Black Female GC: Capitalizing on our Presence in the C-Suite" (Apr. 22, 2016). Copy supplied.

Greetings from the President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., E-Blast (week of Mar. 28, 2016). Copy supplied.

Greetings from the President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., E-Blast (week of Jan. 18, 2016). Copy supplied.

Greetings from the President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., E-Blast (week of Sept. 28, 2015). Copy supplied.

Greetings from the President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., E-Blast (week of Sept. 9, 2015). Copy supplied.

- b. Supply four (4) copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

Based upon my recollection and a thorough review of my files and searches of publicly available databases, I have identified the following responsive materials, but it is possible that there are a few that I have been unable to recall or identify.

Chicago Bar Foundation Strategic Plan (adopted July 2021). Copy supplied.

CBA/CBF Task Force on the Sustainable Practice of Law & Innovation, Task Force Report (Sept. 28, 2020). Copy supplied.

- c. Supply four (4) copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your

behalf to public bodies or public officials.

Illinois Department of Corrections, State Compliance Examination Management Assertion Letter (Apr. 10, 2015). Copy supplied.

- d. Supply four (4) copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

Based upon my recollection and a thorough review of my files and searches of publicly available databases, I have identified the following responsive materials, but it is possible that there are a few that I have been unable to recall or identify.

March 23, 2022: Interviewee, Educational Video on Bankruptcy Judges' Role and the Process for Selecting and Appointing Bankruptcy Judges, Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, Washington, DC. This was a question-and-answer session for a video being developed to educate the public about the role of bankruptcy judges within the judiciary and the process by which they are selected and appointed. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Judicial Conference on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System is c/o Administrative Office of the United States Courts, One Columbus Circle, Northeast, Washington, DC 20544.

March 10, 2022: Panelist, "IJC Presents – A Virtual Legal Information and Resources Series," Illinois Judicial Council, Virtual Presentation. Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXHqJlHsyDg>.

August 10, 2021: Moderator, Federal Judges Panel, JTB/Jumpstart Federal Court Day, Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, Virtual Presentation. Recording supplied.

June 24, 2021: Administration of Oath, CBA Annual Meeting, Chicago Bar Association, Virtual Presentation. Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoEZMTN9msQ>.

June 17, 2021: Panelist, "COVID's Disruption of the Insolvency World," American Bankruptcy Institute Central States Conference, Virtual Presentation. Moderator's PowerPoint and notes, on which my presentation was based, supplied.

June 15, 2021: Presenter, Installation of 2021-22 Officers and Board of Directors and 2021-22 Scholarship Fund Officers and Board of Directors, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Virtual Presentation. I thanked outgoing board members for their time and efforts, and then administered the oath of office to incoming officers and directors. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Black Women Lawyers' Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

June 9, 2021: Panelist, "How To Be An Effective Advocate: A View From The Bench," Public Interest Law Initiative, Virtual Presentation. Video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nb1826D_VJA.

June 8, 2021: Panelist, "View From the Bench," Judicial Intern Opportunity Program Orientation, American Bar Association, Virtual Presentation. The panelists discussed our backgrounds and experiences with law student judicial interns. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the American Bar Association is 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

April 28, 2021: Award Recipient, Vanguard Awards Ceremony, Chicago Bar Association, Virtual Presentation. Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWiW69GwZ6U>.

March 1, 2021: Panelist, "Can I Ask That?," Diversity Week Program, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Virtual Presentation. The panel was on issues surrounding diversity and cultural competence in the legal field. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Chicago-Kent College of Law is Illinois Institute of Technology, 565 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661.

February 10, 2021: Panelist, "The Road to the Federal Bench," Cook County Bar Association, Virtual Presentation. I spoke about my background and experience leading to my selection as a United States bankruptcy judge. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Cook County Bar Association is 2925 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616.

August 13, 2020: Moderator, "Federal Judges Panel," JTB/Jumpstart Federal Court Day, Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, Virtual Presentation. I moderated a panel discussion about tips for success in law school and the practice for incoming law students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism is 180 North Stetson Street, Suite 1950, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

August 13, 2020: Speaker, PILI End of Summer Celebration, Public Interest Law Initiative, Virtual Presentation. I spoke about the importance and value of public interest work. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

July 15, 2020: Speaker, “Judges Chat,” JTB Summer Judicial Internship Diversity Program, Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, Virtual Presentation. Recording supplied.

June 10, 2020: Speaker, Installation of 2020-21 Officers and Board of Directors and 2020-21 Scholarship Fund Officers and Board of Directors, Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Virtual Presentation. Speech supplied.

March 11, 2020: Interviewer, William J. Hibbler Schoolhouse to Courthouse Event: Discussion with Judge Arlander Keys (ret)., Federal Bar Association Chicago Chapter, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

January 9, 2020: Moderator, “Road to the Robe: The Federal Judiciary,” Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. I moderated a panel discussion about the paths to the bench of several federal judges. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Black Women Lawyers’ Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

October 24, 2019: Roundtable Participant, “Roadways to the Federal Bench—Who Me, a Bankruptcy Judge,” Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about the process involved in my appointment as a bankruptcy judge. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Judicial Conference of the United States is c/o Administrative Office of the United States Courts, One Columbus Circle, Northeast, Washington, DC, 20544.

October 21, 2019: Panelist, “The P’s of Evidence: Proper Preparation, Presentation, Pitfalls, and Practice Pointers,” National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, Washington, DC. Notes supplied.

August 13, 2019: Moderator, “A Day at the Federal Courthouse,” Chicago Consortium of Law School Diversity Professionals and Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, Chicago, Illinois. I moderated a panel discussion about tips for success in law school and the practice for incoming law students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for JTB-APO is 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

June 4, 2019: Panelist, “Lighting the Way: Practical Mentoring Strategies,” Seventh Circuit Bar Association Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Chicago, Illinois. Video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0K1ark_VNk.

April 25, 2019: Panelist, “Lessons Learned About Challenges and Changes: Moving from Advocate to Judge and Maintaining Judicial Independence,”

American Bar Association Judicial Division, Chicago, Illinois. The panel was on judicial service and the challenges facing courts and judges. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the American Bar Association is 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

February 28, 2019: Speaker, Black History Month Luncheon: “Truths and Reconciliation,” Office of the United States Attorney, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about justice and equity in the legal system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the United States Attorneys’ Office is 219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

February 6, 2019: Speaker, “The Value of a Judicial Internship,” JRC-JTB Judicial Internship Interview Training, Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

December 8, 2018: Panelist, Judges Panel, NextGen Leadership Meeting, Turnaround Management Association, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

December 3, 2018: Speaker, Installation of Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, Chicago, Illinois. I offered words of encouragement to the high school attendees about dreaming big and working hard, and then administered the oath of office to the new assessor. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but press coverage is supplied. The address for the Cook County Assessor is 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

November 14, 2018: Speaker, JTB/Jumpstart for Middle School Students Judges’ Panel, Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, Chicago, Illinois. I discussed my path to the bench and work as a judge. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for JTB-APO is 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

October 26, 2018: Roundtable Leader, Pro Bono Week Breakfast with Judges, Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois. I facilitated discussions with lawyers about the value of pro bono service. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but press coverage is supplied. The address for the Chicago Bar Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

October 5, 2018: Moderator, “Best Practices and Initiatives for Serving Self-Represented Litigants,” State & Federal Seminar: Fair, Equitable, and Efficient Administration of Justice, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

August 17, 2018: Participant, Young Lawyers Division “Case Today” Program, Federal Bar Association Chicago Chapter, Chicago, Illinois. I judged mock oral arguments of high school students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but press coverage is supplied. The address for the Federal Bar Association Chicago Chapter is P.O. Box 1200, Chicago, Illinois 60690.

August 9, 2018: Panelist, “A Day at the Federal Courthouse,” Chicago Consortium of Law School Diversity Professionals and Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed tips for success in law school and the practice with incoming law students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for JTB-APO is 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

June 8, 2018: Panelist, “Chapter 13 Hot Topics,” American Bankruptcy Institute Central States Conference, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Notes supplied.

April 20, 2018: Panelist, “Racial Bias and Consumer Bankruptcy,” National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, Denver, Colorado. PowerPoint supplied.

April 19, 2018: Panelist, “Getting Over the Rockies: Evidence in Bankruptcy Court,” National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, Denver, Colorado. Notes supplied.

November 17, 2017: Speaker, Judicial Retirement Celebration of Judge Ann Claire Williams, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

October 11, 2017: Panelist, “Ethics, Decision-Making, and Social Science: What Makes Good People Do Bad Things and What Judges Do About It?”, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, Las Vegas, Nevada. PowerPoint supplied.

June 27, 2017: Speaker, “Chambers Lunch,” Federal Bar Association Chicago Chapter, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about my career path and experiences prior to being appointed a bankruptcy judge. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but press coverage is supplied. The address for the Federal Bar Association Chicago Chapter is P.O. Box 1200, Chicago, Illinois 60690.

June 20, 2017: Panelist, “How To Be An Effective Advocate: A View From The Bench,” Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed tips for success in law school and the practice with summer interns and fellows. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

March 3, 2017: Participant and Speaker, “Investiture Ceremony for LaShonda A. Hunt, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois,” Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

February 8, 2017: Speaker, “The Value of a Judicial Internship,” JRC-JTB Judicial Internship Interview Training, Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, Chicago, Illinois. I discussed the benefits of law students externing

for judges. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for JTB-APO is 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

January 26, 2017: Speaker, "IWIRC Chicago Judges' Roundtable," IWIRC Chicago Network, Chicago, Illinois. I discussed best practices for lawyers appearing before me. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but press coverage is supplied. The address for the International Womens Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation is P.O. Box 249, Stanardsville, Virginia 22973.

October 15, 2016: Panelist, "Explore the Possibilities: Public Interest Law Opportunities for Law Students," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed public interest opportunities with law students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

May 5, 2016: Speaker, "State of Illinois Bar Admission Ceremony," Chicago, Illinois. Notes supplied.

January 21, 2016: Panelist, "Lawyers in Charge: Meet GCs in Illinois Government," Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed our experiences serving as general counsel for state agencies. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Black Women Lawyers' Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

June 4, 2015: Panelist, "Careers in Public Interest," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed public interest opportunities and tips for success in the practice with summer interns and fellows. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

June 2, 2015: Speaker, Annual Awards & Installation Ceremony, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. I discussed my goals for the upcoming year as president. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Black Women Lawyers' Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

September 5, 2014: Moderator, "Introductions and Practical Tips from District Court Judges Durkin, Ellis & Wood," Chicago Bar Association Federal Civil Practice Committee, Chicago, Illinois. I moderated a panel discussion about best practices before new federal judges in the district. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Chicago Bar Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

July 18, 2014: Panelist, "Planning Your Public Interest Career," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed strategies for private sector

attorneys to incorporate public interest into their careers. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

June 3, 2014: Speaker, Annual Awards & Installation Ceremony, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. I discussed my role as vice-president in supporting the new president and her agenda for the bar year. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Black Women Lawyers' Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

February 19, 2014: Panelist, "BWLA's Best and Brightest Sound Off: How to Promote and Distinguish Yourself Through Awards and Recognitions," Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. The panel was on the importance and process of applying for prestigious awards and leadership programs. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Black Women Lawyers' Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

February 4, 2014: Panelist, Annual Circuit Court of Cook County Black History Month Courthouse Tour, Chicago, Illinois. The panel spoke to middle and high school students about our legal careers and involvement with local bar associations. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Cook County Circuit Court, Office of Chief Judge Timothy Evans is 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

September 25, 2013: Faculty, Motion Practice & Brief Writing for New Civil Attorneys, U.S. Department of Justice, Columbia, South Carolina. We used a PowerPoint for this presentation, but because the materials are law enforcement sensitive they are not provided.

March 7, 2013: Panelist, "Been There, Don't Do That," Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. The panel was on advice for new lawyers about professionalism. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Black Women Lawyers' Association is 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

February 13, 2013: Faculty, Motion Practice & Brief Writing for New Civil Attorneys, U.S. Department of Justice, Columbia, South Carolina. We used a PowerPoint for this presentation, but because the materials are law enforcement sensitive they are not provided.

September 21, 2012: Convener, "Conversations on Life Lessons with Judicial Trailblazer U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Hon. Ann Claire Williams (7th Cir.)," Just the Beginning Foundation Town Hall Meeting, Chicago, Illinois. I welcomed attendees and then introduced the featured speakers. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Just the

Beginning Foundation (now JTB-APO) is 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

August 7, 2012: Speaker, Memorial Service for the Honorable William J. Hibbler, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Transcript supplied.

July 10, 2012: Panelist, "Career Paths in Public Interest Law: PILI 2012 Educational Summer Series," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed ways to establish and maintain a career of public service. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

February 15, 2012: Panelist, "Diversity Connections: Dinner & Conversation," Office of Diversity, John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about my work as a government lawyer. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the UIC/John Marshall Law School is 315 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

February 10, 2012: Panelist, Annual Circuit Court of Cook County Black History Month Courthouse Tour, Cook County Circuit Court Office of Chief Judge Timothy Evans, Chicago, Illinois. The panel spoke to middle and high school students about our legal careers and involvement with local bar associations. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but press coverage is supplied. The address for the Cook County Circuit Court is 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

July 13, 2011: Panelist, "Career Paths in Public Interest Law: PILI Educational Seminar Series," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. The panel discussed ways for law students to incorporate pro bono and public service in law school and throughout their careers. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative, 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

August 11, 2010: Panelist, "PILI Alumni All-Stars," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about my legal career and pro bono activities. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

August 4, 2010: Co-Presenter, Summer Legal Institute, Just the Beginning Foundation, Chicago, Illinois. I discussed the 14th Amendment rights of juveniles with high school students. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Just the Beginning Foundation (now JTB-APO) is 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

April 8, 2010: Panelist, "PILI Alumni Series: Service Opportunities in the Public Interest Law Community: Board Service, Pro Bono Work and Other Volunteer Roles," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. I discussed my involvement in community service projects, pro bono work, and board service. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

April 29, 2009: Panelist, "PILI Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable," Public Interest Law Initiative, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke about my volunteer role as pro bono and community service coordinator at Exelon. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

December 6, 2007: Award Recipient, Distinguished PILI Alumni Award, Public Interest Law Initiative Annual Awards Luncheon, Chicago, Illinois. I made brief remarks acknowledging the organization and the award. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Public Interest Law Initiative is 105 West Madison Street, Unit 610, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

Spring/Fall 2007 (exact date unknown): Speaker, Loyola Law Day, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois. I spoke with minority high school students about the practice of law. I have no notes, transcript, or recording, but press coverage is supplied. The address for the Loyola University Chicago School of Law is 25 East Pearson Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

September 29, 2006: Keynote Speaker, Luncheon Address, JTBF Biennial Conference on "JTBF in the Schools Project," Cincinnati, Ohio. I highlighted the various programs for high school students including internships in the chambers of federal judges and the inaugural Summer Legal Institute. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Just the Beginning Foundation (now JTB-APO) is 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

- e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and four (4) copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Based upon my recollection and a thorough review of my files and searches of publicly available databases, I have identified the following responsive materials, but it is possible that there are a few that I have been unable to recall or identify.

"The Honorable LaShonda A. Hunt: The Bankruptcy Quarterback," Consumer Bankruptcy Journal, Fall 2021. Copy supplied.

"40 Under Forty Feature from the Bench: The Hon. LaShonda A. Hunt," Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Blog (Sept. 16, 2020). Copy supplied.

Chicago Bar Foundation Pocket Chat on Recommendations #3A-D: Improve the Rules of Limited Scope Representation (Aug. 2, 2020). Recording available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldi8SqnhHuU&list=PLPEBA85Ap2FkRmscnYxjDyC-_N71nHpl6&index=4.

Behind the Bench with Judge Hunt, Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee Newsletter (Summer 2018). Copy supplied.

Patricia Manson, *Hollis takes the helm in bankruptcy court*, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin (Jan. 17, 2017). Copy supplied.

Chicago Bar Association's Justice & Law Weekly with CBA President Patricia Brown Holmes and me discussing my work at the Illinois Department of Corrections and criminal justice reform; WYCC TV 20 (Dec. 14, 2015). I am unable to locate a recording or transcript.

Chicago Bar Association's Justice & Law Weekly with CBA President Aurora Abella-Astriaco, Judge Ann Claire Williams and me discussing the upcoming JTBF 20th Anniversary Conference for which I chaired the Youth Programs; WYCC TV 20 (Aug. 5, 2012). Recording available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZZzxeFx5DQ&feature=share&list=UUvF-veojGYbRsLgq-MJwgLQ>.

PILI Alumni Spotlight (Apr. 15, 2011). Copy supplied.

Illinois Legal Aid Online Pro Bono Attorney of the Month, Lawyers in the Classroom/Mock Trial program (Nov. 2008). Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EihRlqwjvyU>.

PILI Informational Brochure, *Cultivating a Lifelong Commitment to Public Interest Law* (2008). Copy supplied.

Cheryl Ricci, *Program minority students early start on legal career*, Medill News Service (Dec. 5, 2006). Copy supplied.

Eloise Marie Valadez, *51st Annual Housewalk Benefits Local Charities*, Daily Southtown (May 31, 2006). Copy supplied.

Nancy Millman, *The Real McBeals: Life, love and the law in Chicago*, Chicago Tribune (Aug. 30, 1998). Copy supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

Since 2017, I have served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. I was appointed to this position by the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in January 2017. Under section 1334 of Title 28, and the order of reference from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the bankruptcy court has jurisdiction over proceedings that arise under Title 11 (the Bankruptcy Code) or arise in or are related to a case under Title 11.

a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment?

Since 2017, I have presided over approximately 22,000 bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings. Due to the nature of bankruptcy cases, each case can involve multiple contested matters as well as related adversary proceedings that are all separately resolved. I have presided over approximately 75 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials:	0%
bench trials:	100%

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings:	100%
criminal proceedings:	0%

b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.

See attached list of citations.

c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).

1. *In re Channel Clarity Holdings LLC*, No. 21-bk-07972, 2022 Bankr. LEXIS 1985 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. July 19, 2022); *Channel Clarity Holdings, LLC v. Klaas (In re Channel Clarity Holdings LLC)*, No. 21-ap-00110, 2022 Bankr. LEXIS 2408 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. July 18, 2022)

The debtor operated an email marketing business. It filed a chapter 11 petition after a creditor (former business partner) obtained a state court judgment and attached liens to the company's bank accounts. The creditor moved to dismiss the bankruptcy petition as unauthorized because the debtor's CEO did not secure

majority shareholder approval before proceeding with the filing. I denied the motion, relying on state law to find that the shareholders ratified the CEO's action by failing to object.

The debtor also initiated a separate adversary complaint against the creditor, seeking to subordinate his unsecured claim under 11 U.S.C. § 510(b), as arising from the sale of a security interest in the debtor or an affiliate of the debtor. The debtor moved for summary judgment, but I denied the motion, finding genuine issues of material fact existed as to the underlying details of the sale transaction.

At the parties' request, I set a combined hearing on confirmation of the debtor's proposed plan of reorganization and subordination of the creditor's claim. I presided over a four-day virtual trial and issued two comprehensive opinions. First, I ruled against the debtor in the adversary proceeding, concluding that the evidence did not establish a basis for subordination of the creditor's claim. The appeal of that decision to the district court is still pending. Second, I held that the plan did not satisfy the statutory requirements for confirmation under subchapter V of chapter 11.

The creditor subsequently filed another motion to dismiss or convert the case for cause, due to the debtor's failure to timely file monthly operating reports and to disclose a severe decline in revenues. I presided over a half-day virtual trial. In another written decision, I held that the debtor had not been transparent about its finances, a feasible plan could not be confirmed in a reasonable amount of time, and that administrative expenses of the estate exceeded the value of the debtor's assets. Therefore, I dismissed the bankruptcy case.

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2. *In re Fitness Blueprint, LLC d/b/a The Foundry Chicago*, No. 20-bk-17260, Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay to Allow State Court Proceedings to Continue, Dkt. 49 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Dec. 4, 2020). Opinion supplied.

The debtor owned a fitness gym that operated out of leased commercial space in downtown Chicago. Prior to the bankruptcy filing, the debtor's landlord had initiated eviction proceedings in state court and obtained a judgment of possession and award of money damages. With its business operations significantly disrupted due to COVID-19 shutdown orders, the debtor filed for bankruptcy to obtain a stay of the eviction and to repay the debt to the landlord through a chapter 11 plan of reorganization. The landlord moved to lift the automatic stay for cause under 11 U.S.C. § 362. Following expedited briefing and oral

argument, I granted the landlord's motion. I relied on Seventh Circuit precedent holding that "cause" for stay relief is established where a tenant debtor has lost the right to possession. I further held that bankruptcy court reconsideration of the state court's rulings would violate the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine which prohibits lower federal courts from reviewing state court judgments. The debtor appealed to the district court and asked me to stay my ruling pending appeal, but I denied the motion since the debtor had no likelihood of success on the merits. The debtor subsequently dismissed the appeal, thereby terminating the bankruptcy case, and closed the business.

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3. *In re Park Transportation, Inc.*, No. 20-bk-12058 (Bankr. N.D. Ill.)

The debtor operated a logistics business that imported goods from China. Business was negatively impacted in late 2019 and early 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions on commerce. The debtor filed this chapter 11 case when trade reopened in mid-2020, and sought to resume operations using cash collateral of its main lender. After initially agreeing to the proposal, the lender opposed continued use as the debtor's sales declined and accounts receivables aged further. I presided over a virtual two-day cash collateral hearing. I ultimately entered orders allowing the debtor to continue to use some funds for operations but I imposed specific limitations and reporting requirements due to concerns about insider dealing. Shortly thereafter, the lender filed an emergency motion to convert the case to a chapter 7 liquidating because the debtor was mismanaging assets and violating its fiduciary duties. The evidence adduced at multiple hearings supported those contentions; therefore, I granted the motion. A chapter 7 trustee was appointed to investigate the debtor's financial affairs and liquidate assets. The case is still pending.

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4. *In re Cook*, 610 B.R. 852 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2019), *rev'd in part by Chern, et al. v. Layng*, 20-cv-5381 (N.D. Ill. June 17, 2021)

The United States Trustee moved for sanctions and examination of attorney fees against a consumer law firm, its principals, and the debtor's attorney for engaging in a pattern and practice of filing inadequate disclosures in multiple chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. I managed a contentious discovery process for almost a year. The case finally proceeded to a four-day bench trial over which I presided. I concluded that the law firm had violated statutory obligations to clients and the duty of candor with respect to bankruptcy court filings and imposed a civil penalty on the firm. I further ordered disgorgement of fees paid to the firm by the chapter 7 debtor. Finally, I sanctioned the principals of the firm for engaging in abusive litigation tactics throughout the case and subsequently awarded reasonable attorney fees and costs to the U.S. Trustee. The principals appealed the fee award to the U.S. Trustee only, and the district court reversed that fee award on the ground that I had not given them sufficient notice of the possibility of individual sanctions before proceeding. The case is now closed.

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5. *Steege v. Canon U.S.A., Inc. (In re Calumet Photographic, Inc.)*, 594 B.R. 879 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2019)

The chapter 7 trustee filed this adversary proceeding to recover nearly \$3 million in preferential transfers to a creditor in the 90 days preceding the bankruptcy filing. The creditor raised affirmative defenses of contemporaneous exchange and new value. After protracted fact and expert discovery, the creditor moved for partial summary judgment on its new value defense, urging a novel interpretation of established Seventh Circuit case law. The trustee cross-moved for partial summary judgment. Applying binding precedent, I granted the trustee's motion. I presided over a one-week bench trial on the remaining issues. Just prior to the deadline for the parties to submit their post-trial briefs, they settled the case and dismissed the complaint by agreement.

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6. *Eby-Brown Co. LLC v. Najimi (In re Najimi)*, No. 14-ap-00859, 2018 WL 2213977 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Mar. 27, 2018) (order denying summary judgment for plaintiff/creditor); 2019 WL 2992054 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. July 8, 2019) (post-trial ruling of judgment in favor of defendant/debtor)

The debtor owned several convenience stores located in gas stations. He had ordered goods from the creditor for the business but failed to pay the final invoices. After the debtor filed for bankruptcy, the creditor filed this adversary complaint objecting to dischargeability of its debt as fraudulently incurred. The creditor moved for summary judgment, but I denied the motion because fraudulent intent was questionable and therefore disputed. I presided over a three-

day bench trial. I ruled against the creditor and found the debt dischargeable because intent to defraud had not been proven.

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7. *In re Jimmar*, No. 17-bk-11666, Order Denying Application for Confirmation and Plan Confirmation, Dkt. 88 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. April 23, 2018). Opinion supplied.

The standing chapter 13 trustee challenged applications for compensation filed by several law firms representing consumer debtors in chapter 13 cases. The trustee argued that the firms failed to disclose their agreements with debtors to prioritize payment of attorney fees in proposed chapter 13 plans in violation of multiple provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and the local rules of the bankruptcy court. The issue affected hundreds of pending chapter 13 cases. After briefing and extensive oral argument, I ruled in favor of the trustee on the merits of most of her claims and denied counsel's fee applications without prejudice. I gave the law firms time to obtain and file appropriate conflict disclosures signed by their debtor clients and to amend debtor's plans to satisfy the good faith confirmation requirement under 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(3). In bankruptcy cases where they complied, I confirmed the debtor's chapter 13 plans and granted counsel's fee applications.

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Counsel for Chapter 13 Trustee Marilyn Marshall:

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8. *In re Soynut Butter Co.*, No. 17-bk-14970, 2018 WL 3689549 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2018)

This chapter 7 liquidation case was filed by a company facing numerous tort claims from consumers who ingested allegedly contaminated products. The chapter 7 trustee sought bankruptcy court approval of a global settlement with debtor's insurers that channeled insurance proceeds into a fund for distribution to injured parties and enjoined all further claims by any entity under the policies. Several distributors and vendors of debtor's products objected to the breadth of the release as impairing their independent contractual rights as additional insureds entitled to request indemnification and a defense from the insurers. After briefing and extensive oral argument, I ruled that the proposed injunction was too broad and could not be approved. The trustee eventually reached a resolution with the objecting parties and the settlement was finally approved with modified release language.

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9. *In re Higenbotham*, No. 18-bk-31185 (Bankr. N.D. Ill.)

This individual chapter 11 case was filed by a debtor who had been ordered by the state court in Illinois (as well as other foreign courts) to pay significant back and ongoing child support to the mother of his minor triplet sons. The debtor had ample assets to fund a plan of reorganization, but he wanted time to structure a deal that would impose the least onerous tax consequences on him and his wife. Counsel for the objecting parties—the mother and children—moved to lift the automatic stay to force the debtor to litigate before the state court where his requests to stay enforcement of the child support orders had been denied. I presided over several lengthy hearings. I granted the objecting parties' stay relief motion in part, allowing the bankruptcy case to continue but ordering the debtor to provide \$2 million in adequate protection to be deposited with a state court receiver for the benefit of the children and to procure life insurance policies in the

amount of \$1 million for each child. The debtor proposed several plans of reorganization but the objecting parties moved to dismiss the bankruptcy case as an improper two-party dispute that belonged in family court. After multiple hearings, I ruled orally that the debtor had no legitimate reorganization purpose and dismissed the case to allow the parties to return to state court.

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10. *Williams v. U.S. Dep't of Educ.*, No. 16-ap-00110, 2018 WL 1229719 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Mar. 8, 2018)

The *pro se* debtor filed an adversary complaint seeking to discharge more than \$400,000 in student loans incurred over 30 years for which he had made only one payment. Although the debtor held two master's degrees, he lived with his aunt and had worked only a part-time seasonal job for years. He claimed that a learning disability prevented him from securing better positions. The defendants moved for summary judgment, arguing that the debtor could not establish undue hardship under 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(8). I orally denied their motion, finding that while the debtor's case was not strong, he had presented enough evidence to raise triable issues of fact. I presided over the half-day bench trial. I concluded that the debtor had not met his burden of showing either that his inability to pay would persist in the future or that he had made good faith efforts at repayment. The debtor appealed; both the district court and the Seventh Circuit affirmed.

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- d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.
1. *In re Channel Clarity Holdings LLC*, No. 21-bk-07972, 2022 Bankr. LEXIS 1985 (July 19, 2022); *Channel Clarity Holdings LLC v. Klaas (In re Channel Clarity Holdings LLC)*, 21-ap-00110, 2022 Bankr. LEXIS 2408 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. July 18, 2022)

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2. *In re Sorensen*, No. 11-bk-33448, 2022 WL 2718871 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. July 13, 2022)

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3. *Metrou v. Kaczor-Mauriello, et al. (In re Mauriello)*, No. 18-ap-00290, 2022 WL 1241434 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Apr. 27, 2022).

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4. *Royal Garden Produce v. Sanchez (In re Sanchez)*, 20-ap-00063, 2021 WL 5893993 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Dec. 13, 2021)

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5. *In re Alcantar*, No. 19-bk-24926, 2021 WL 4192680 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Sept. 10, 2021)

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6. *Takada v. Carhart (In re Carhart, Inc.)*, No. 18-ap-00273, Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Third Amended Complaint, Dkt. 123 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. June 15, 2021). Order supplied.

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7. *In re Wildeman*, No. 13-bk-04868, 2021 WL 816068 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Mar. 3, 2021).

Counsel for Debtors:

Kyle B Hanson
Hanson Law Group LLP
1000 Hart Road
Barrington, IL 60010
(847) 277-9988

Counsel for Respondent:

Robert O. Lynch
Assistant Attorney General
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 814-5195

8. *In re Montanez*, No. 18-bk-24734, 2020 WL 1644286 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Apr. 1, 2020)

Counsel for Debtors:

Brianna Czajka
Geraci Law LLC
55 East Monroe Street, Suite #3400
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 332-1800

Counsel for the Chapter 7 Trustee:

Cindy M. Johnson
Johnson Legal Group LLC
140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1510
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 345-1306

9. *In re Howard*, No. 19-bk-22444, Order Granting Motion to Avoid Lien, Dkt. 23 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Jan. 2, 2020), *aff'd*, *City of Chicago v. Howard et al.*, 20-cv-00372 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 29, 2021), *dismissed by agreement on appeal*, 21-1364 (7th Cir.). Order supplied.

Counsel for Debtor:

Ross Briggs
1525 East 53rd Street, Suite 423
Chicago, IL 60615
(773) 220-7007

Counsel for the City of Chicago:

Charles A. King
Assistant Corporation Counsel
121 North LaSalle Street, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 744-0200

10. *In re Williams*, 583 B.R. 453 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2018).

Counsel for Debtor:

Rae Kaplan
Adam R Quigley
Kaplan Bankruptcy Firm, LLC
25 East Washington Street, Suite 1501
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 294-8989

Counsel for Lender:

Christopher H. Purcell
Sherman & Purcell Ltd.
112 Cary Street
Cary, IL 60013
(312) 372-1487

e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.

In re Wade, No. 15-bk-01035 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. June 6, 2018), *appeal dismissed*, 926 F.3d 447 (7th Cir. 2019), *cert. denied*, 140 S. Ct. 1293 (March 9, 2020).

f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

My decisions have been reversed or remanded in the following cases:

In re Cook, 610 B.R. 852 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2019) (post-trial ruling granting sanctions in part) & No. 14-bk-36424, Order Awarding Attorney Fees and Costs to the United States Trustee, Dkt. 169 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Aug. 26, 2020), *rev'd in part*, *Chern et al. v. Layng*, 20-cv-5381 (N.D. Ill. June 17, 2021). The United States Trustee moved for sanctions and examination of attorney fees against a consumer law firm, its principals, and the debtor's attorney for engaging in a pattern and practice of filing inadequate disclosures in multiple chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. I managed a contentious discovery process for almost a year. The case finally proceeded to a four-day trial over which I presided. I agreed with the U.S. Trustee that the firm had violated its statutory obligations to clients and

duty of candor with respect to bankruptcy court filings. I imposed a civil penalty on the firm and ordered disgorgement of fees paid by the chapter 7 debtor. In addition, I sanctioned the principals of the firm for engaging in abusive litigation tactics throughout the case and subsequently awarded reasonable attorney fees and costs to the U.S. Trustee. The principals appealed the fee award to the U.S. Trustee only, and the district court reversed the fee award on the ground that I had not given them sufficient notice of the possibility of individual sanctions before proceeding. The case has been closed. Copies supplied.

West Suburban Bank v. Brown (In re Brown), No. 19-ap-00975, Order Granting Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Amended Adversary Complaint, Dkt. 32 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. Aug. 7, 2020), *remanded*, *West Suburban Bank v. Brown*, No. 19-cv-00975, Dkt. 46 (N.D. Ill. March 12, 2021). In this adversary proceeding, the creditor bank alleged that the debtor intentionally transferred funds from various corporate bank accounts into his personal accounts, and that those actions constituted fraud by a fiduciary and/or willful and malicious injury that excepted the bank's debt from discharge under 11 U.S.C. § 523. I granted the defendant's initial motion to dismiss the complaint for failure to state a claim, finding the allegations insufficient to plead a fiduciary relationship or fraudulent scheme. The bank filed an amended complaint and the defendant moved to dismiss again. I held that the amended complaint failed to cure the defects and dismissed it with prejudice. On appeal, the district court remanded with instructions to consider whether the complaint could proceed beyond the pleading stage on a fraud or intentional tort theory. On remand, I concluded that the complaint was sufficient. After the defendant answered the complaint and the parties engaged in some discovery, they settled their dispute and dismissed the case. Copies supplied.

- g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.

I make decisions on hundreds of routine motions and objections each week orally at hearings. These comprise more than 90 percent of my rulings. Nearly all of my substantive decisions are available on Lexis or Westlaw and/or posted for the public on my webpage on the court website. If I rule from the bench on a motion, a docket entry reflecting that decision is entered on the docket available to the public on the court's Electronic Case Filing System (CM/ECF).

- h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

None.

- i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether

majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

I have not sat by designation on any federal court of appeals.

14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself sua sponte. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:
- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;
 - b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
 - c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
 - d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois maintains an automated system that flags newly assigned cases based on the recusal criteria that each judge identifies. The system would prevent me from being assigned to those cases. In addition, I review motions for possible conflicts, mostly involving close friends or my former law clerks.

I follow the federal recusal statutes and the Code of Conduct for United States Judges. If I were to have any personal or financial interest in a matter, I would recuse, but I have sought to minimize the need for recusal by avoiding investments and other relationships likely to cause recusal. For example, I do not currently own any individual shares, stocks, bonds, or equities in any public or private companies or businesses. If any issues as to potential recusal arise, I review the Code of Conduct and applicable statutes and I am always prepared to seek advice from the Committee on Codes of Conduct of the Judicial Conference (or one of its individual members or counsel to the Committee).

In six years on the bankruptcy bench, I can recall only one instance where my recusal was requested by a party who sought to disqualify me for alleged bias. *In re Genesis I LLC*, 19-bk-26358 (Bankr. N.D. Ill.) involved a defunct chapter 7 debtor that owned multiple real estate properties. After the chapter 7 trustee filed a routine motion to question a third-party receiver about his management of estate assets and I granted that request, the third party and his lawyer filed multiple motions to disqualify me for bias because I allowed the trustee more time to speak at the court hearings and I ruled in the

trustee's favor. I conducted several hearings where I applied 28 U.S.C. § 455 and determined that my conduct was appropriate and adverse rulings were not proper grounds for recusal. The third-party appealed my rulings to the district court; the district court dismissed them for lack of appellate jurisdiction.

15. Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

None.

- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

None.

16. Legal Career: Answer each part separately.

- a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

From 2001 to 2003, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable William J. Hibbler, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I have never practiced alone.

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each;

Summer 1995

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago-Northwest Office (now Legal Aid Chicago)

120 South LaSalle Street, Suite 900

Chicago, Illinois 60603
Public Interest Law Initiative Fellow

1995 – 1998
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP (now Dentons US LLP)
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 5900
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Associate

2003 – 2005
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Assistant United States Attorney

2006 – 2007
Just the Beginning Foundation (now Just the Beginning—A Pipeline
Organization)
70 West Madison Street, Suite 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Schools Project Director

2007 – 2009
Exelon Business Services Company
10 South Dearborn Street, 49th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60680
Assistant General Counsel, Litigation

2009 – 2010
Com Ed, an Exelon Company
440 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Regulatory Outreach Manager

2010 – 2015
United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Assistant United States Attorney

2015 – 2016
Illinois Department of Corrections
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Chief Legal Counsel

2016
Illinois Department of Central Management Services
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
General Counsel

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

From 2006 to 2008, I served as a volunteer mediator for the Center for Conflict Resolution in Chicago, Illinois. During that time, I mediated more than a dozen *pro se* cases at Cook County Circuit Courts in the Chicagoland area. These cases typically involved contract disputes in small claims court and landlord/tenant issues in housing court. I did not keep personal records of these matters.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

In the summer of 1995, as a Public Interest Law Initiative Fellow at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago Northwest Office (now Legal Aid Chicago) with a 711 license, I sought orders of protection and handled housing disputes in state court. I also represented clients seeking unemployment compensation benefits at administrative hearings.

From 1995 to 1998, as a general litigation associate at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP (now Dentons US LLP), a national law firm, I handled a range of civil matters, including mortgage fraud, consumer fraud, insurance coverage issues, class actions, franchise disputes, breach of contract, and labor and employment disputes.

From 1998 to 2001, I served as a staff attorney for the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I reviewed motions filed in civil appeals, provided a substantive analysis to the assigned judge(s), and drafted memoranda and orders. On several occasions, I assisted the judges at short oral argument days by reviewing briefs, conducting research, drafting bench memoranda, attending oral argument, and drafting opinions. In that role, I worked on appeals involving immigration rulings, employment discrimination, criminal matters, and prisoner civil rights litigation.

From 2001 to 2003, I served as law clerk to the Honorable William J. Hibbler, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. I did legal research and drafted opinions in civil cases involving

employment discrimination, civil RICO class actions, intellectual property claims, habeas corpus petitions, ERISA actions, social security appeals, and contract disputes.

From 2003 to 2005, I served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. I defended civil lawsuits against the United States and federal agencies arising under the Federal Tort Claims Act, FOIA, and employment discrimination laws. I also handled immigration appeals and challenges to administrative rulings. I managed all aspects of the litigation process, from developing defense strategy to investigating claims, engaging in written and oral discovery, drafting pleadings, negotiating settlements, trying cases, and arguing appeals.

From 2006 to 2007, I worked as a Schools Project Director for Just the Beginning Foundation (now JTB-APO), where I developed and implemented pipeline programs designed to interest high school students in pursuing legal careers. I did not actively practice law during that time. However, I did obtain my mediator certification from the Center for Conflict Resolution and I started mediating as a volunteer with the state court mediation program.

From 2007 to 2009, I returned to private practice as an Assistant General Counsel of Litigation at Exelon Business Services Company. I provided legal support and advice to business units on commercial disputes ranging from breach of contract to property damage, intellectual property, tax appeals, real estate matters, and bankruptcy litigation. I oversaw outside counsel on significant matters. I also represented the company as counsel at some state court hearings and first-chaired a three-day arbitration hearing.

From 2009 to 2010, I worked at ComEd, an Exelon-owned company, on the business side as a Regulatory Outreach Manager. I monitored proceedings before administrative law judges and regulators at the Illinois Commerce Commission.

From 2010 to 2015, I returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. I continued to represent the United States and federal agencies in civil cases, and handled more complex medical malpractice defense and employment discrimination cases. I also pursued affirmative litigation, prosecuting civil rights violations and investigating health care fraud, including *qui tam* complaints of complex fraudulent billing schemes.

From 2015 to 2016, I served as Chief Legal Counsel for the Illinois Department of Corrections, where I managed department-wide legal functions and supervised a team of attorneys and support staff. I served on

the executive leadership team as a direct report to the Agency Director and the General Counsel for the Governor of Illinois. I advised on policy and other legal matters and conducted internal investigations. I focused most of my time on a dozen complex class actions pending in federal court that alleged unconstitutional practices with respect to mental health care, medical services, prison conditions, and parole decisions.

In 2016, I served as General Counsel of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, the agency supporting centralized statewide operations. I managed a legal team that covered procurement, compliance, property management, employee relations, finance, and business enterprise programs.

Since 2017, I have served as a United States bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

While in private practice at a law firm from 1995 to 1998, I represented large and small public and private companies, partnerships, and governmental entities. I specialized in commercial litigation and labor and employment law. I also represented indigent clients on a *pro bono* basis. As in-house counsel from 2007 to 2009, I represented the company and its business units. I focused on commercial and civil litigation and collections/bankruptcy matters.

As an Assistant United States Attorney from 2003 to 2005 and then from 2010 to 2015, I defended the United States and its departments, agencies, employees, and officers in civil litigation brought by plaintiffs under employment discrimination laws and the Federal Tort Claims Act, alleging personal injury, death, or property damage caused by negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of federal employees. I also litigated affirmative civil enforcement matters under the False Claims Act and civil rights laws.

As state agency counsel from 2015 to 2016, my clients were the agency directors and individual employees. I oversaw prisoner civil rights litigation, contract disputes, and labor and employment matters.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

Prior to my appointment to the federal bench in 2017, except when I was serving as a Seventh Circuit staff attorney and as a federal law clerk, I regularly appeared in federal and state court between 1995 and 2016.

While in private practice from 1995 to 1998, I appeared in state court frequently, approximately several times a month, and in federal court occasionally. I tried to verdict or judgment two contract disputes in state court, as second-chair of a jury trial, and as co-chair of a bench trial.

As an Assistant United States Attorney from 2003 to 2005 and from 2010 to 2015, I appeared in federal court frequently, approximately once a week. I tried to judgment a bench trial as co-counsel and a bench trial as lead counsel.

In 2006, as a program director at a not-for-profit, I appeared in state court as a volunteer mediator approximately once per month.

As in-house counsel from 2007 to 2010, I supervised litigation matters and attended state and federal court proceedings, and administrative hearings as a client. I appeared in court infrequently, approximately once every few months. I also served as lead counsel at an arbitration hearing.

As state agency counsel from 2015 to 2016, I directly oversaw litigation matters and frequently attended hearings in federal court as the client representative, approximately twice a month.

i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. federal courts: | 75% |
| 2. state courts of record: | 20% |
| 3. other courts: | 1% |
| 4. administrative agencies: | 4% |

ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. civil proceedings: | 95% |
| 2. criminal proceedings: | 5% |

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I have tried four cases to verdict, judgment, or final decision: a week-long jury trial in state court as second chair, a three-day bench trial in state court as co-counsel, a three-day bench trial in federal court as co-counsel, and a two-day bench trial in federal court as lead counsel. I also served as lead trial counsel at a three-day arbitration hearing. Furthermore, I briefed more than a dozen federal appeals and argued five cases.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:
 - 1. jury: 25%
 - 2. non-jury: 75%

- e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply four (4) copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

I have never practiced before the Supreme Court of the United States.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

- 1. *Rasho v. Jeffreys et al.*, No. 07 CV 1298 (C.D. Ill.) (Mihm, J.), 22 F.4th 703 (7th Cir. 2002) (Sykes, Ripple, Kanne, JJ.)

Offenders incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections had been litigating a class action alleging lack of access to adequate mental health treatment in violation of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments since 2007. In 2015, when I assumed the role of Chief Legal Counsel for the Illinois Department of Corrections, I began facilitating negotiations between agency leadership, the governor’s office, and opposing counsel about the types of treatment facilities needed and appropriate staffing levels required. I also helped craft policies relating to segregation, protective custody, and discipline. We reached a comprehensive settlement in December 2015, one month before the scheduled trial. Thereafter, I worked closely with the appointed monitor to track progress and provide oversight during the implementation phase until my departure from the agency in 2016.

Dates of Representation: 2015 – 2016

Co-Counsel:

Magistrate Judge Karen McNaught (formerly Illinois Attorney General’s Office)

124 U.S. Courthouse
600 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 492-4396

Terrence Corrigan
Illinois Attorney General's Office
500 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 782-1090

Opposing Counsel:

Harold Hirshman
Dentons US LLP
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 5900
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 876-8000

Alan Mills
Uptown People's Law Center
4413 North Sheridan
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 769-1411

Marc Kadish
Mayer Brown LLP
71 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 782-0600

2. *United States v. Sabbia et al.*, No. 10 CV 5967 (N.D. Ill.), related to *Willborn v. Sabbia et al.*, No. 10 CV 5382 (N.D. Ill.), 2011 WL 1900055 (N.D. Ill. May 19, 2011) (Der-Yeghiayan, J).

I represented the United States as co-counsel in a Fair Housing Act lawsuit filed against a white couple and their realtor, who had negotiated to sell their house to a Black couple for \$1.7 million but then the couple refused to sign the sales contract. The buyers retained their own counsel and filed a separate civil rights lawsuit; the cases were consolidated. The realtor initially moved to dismiss the complaints, and I helped draft the brief in opposition. The trial court held that dismissal would be premature. Shortly thereafter, the parties agreed to mediation, where we settled with the realtor and his company. As litigation proceeded against the sellers, I handled discovery disputes over the scope of production and relevance of certain subpoenaed documents, and deposed witnesses. We eventually obtained a consent decree against the sellers which included injunctive relief and money damages.

Dates of Representation: 2010 – 2012

Co-Counsel:

Patrick W. Johnson
United States Attorney's Office
219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-5300

Charles Peckham
Peckham, PLLC
800 Bering Drive, Suite 220
Houston, TX 77057
(713) 594-9044

Lead counsel for the buyers and their children in the related case, 10 C 5382 (N.D. Ill.)

Opposing Counsel:

Mike Kralovec (for the sellers)
Kralovec Meenan LLP
53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1102
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 788-1111

Edward Feldman (for the individual realtor)
Miller Shakman Levine & Feldman LLP
180 North LaSalle Street, Suite 3600
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 263-3700

David Holmes (for the realty company)
Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker
53 West Monroe Street, Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 704-0550

3. *McClinton v. United States*, No. 09 CV 7607 (N.D. Ill.) (Cox, J.)

I served as lead counsel for the government in this medical malpractice action filed by a federal prisoner who sought millions in damages from the Bureau of Prisons for allegedly failing to treat his diabetic foot condition which led to a below-the-knee amputation. Because the plaintiff had been treated by medical personnel at prisons in two different states and had also received treatment from non-federal actors at outside facilities, I reviewed volumes of medical records from various providers in an effort to pinpoint critical events and associated players. I handled the investigation and all fact and expert discovery. A week before trial, the case settled for a fraction of the amount the plaintiff had originally sought.

Dates of Representation: 2010 – 2011

Opposing Counsel:

Craig Sandberg (formerly at Muslin & Sandberg)
Sandberg Law Office, P.C.
P.O. Box 182
Deerfield, IL 60015
(833) 726-3237

4. *434 W Melrose Company v. Commonwealth Edison Co.*, No.,2006 CH 6112 (Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division) (Preston, J.)

I represented the defendant utility company in this dispute by a real estate developer who had been developing a luxury condominium building on the north side of Chicago. During construction, his crew found an underground power line that was not disclosed on the survey and for which there was no recorded easement. The plaintiff requested an injunction to have the line removed immediately but the utility company argued that the land-locked area offered limited options for physical relocation of the line and the cost to move it was not feasible. Plaintiff eventually dropped the request for injunctive relief but continued to seek millions of dollars in damages as the building project stalled and the real estate market declined. I was lead counsel at an unsuccessful mediation but those discussions laid the groundwork for a reasonable settlement reached several weeks before the scheduled trial date.

Dates of Representation: 2007 – 2008

Opposing Counsel:

Randy Wolff
Randall A. Wolff & Associates, Ltd.
3325 North Arlington Heights Road, Suite 500
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 222-9465

5. *Joyce Brothers v. Exelon Business Serv. Co.*, AAA Case No. 51-125-1273-07 (Arbitrator Collins Fitzpatrick)

I defended the company in this breach of contract dispute. The plaintiff movers contracted with the company to execute a large-scale relocation to new headquarters space for a set price. However, at the end of the project, the movers sought to recover nearly double the contract price in “extras.” I represented the company at the initial day-long mediation which was unsuccessful. The parties proceeded to arbitration. As lead counsel, I conducted all pre-arbitration discovery, including written and oral discovery, argued motions in limine, and drafted the pre and post-trial briefs. At the three-day arbitration hearing, I examined the company’s key witnesses. The arbitrator rejected the mover’s claim for further compensation.

Dates of Representation: 2006 – 2007

Co-Counsel:

Veronica Gomez (formerly at Exelon Business Services Company)
4443 North Hermitage Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 551-1920

Opposing Counsel:

Anthony Nasharr
Polsinelli PC
150 North Riverside Plaza, Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 819-1900

Carina Segalini (formerly at Polsinelli PC)
Circuit Court of Cook County
Richard J. Daley Center
50 West Washington Street
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 603-3291

6. *Chicago ACORN et al. v. U.S. Dep't of Housing and Urban Dev.*, No. 05 CV 3049 (N.D. Ill.) (Manning, J)

In this proposed class action, residents of subsidized housing in Chicago sought a preliminary injunction to prevent HUD from foreclosing on certain rental properties and replacing project-based Section 8 contracts with vouchers. The plaintiffs contended that HUD's actions violated various statutes that govern disposition of defaulted HUD-insured multifamily projects. I represented HUD as lead trial counsel and participated in two unsuccessful settlement conferences with the magistrate judge. Subsequently, we moved to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction, raising an issue of first impression in the circuit, namely whether APA review was precluded by another statutory provision granting HUD broad discretion with respect to its decisions about multifamily housing. The district court agreed with our position and dismissed the case. The plaintiffs appealed and sought expedited review, but prior to undertaking briefing in the Seventh Circuit, the parties agreed to try resolution again. The matter settled a few months after I left the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Dates of Representation: 2005

Opposing Counsel:

Katherine Walz (formerly at Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law)
National Housing Law Project
1663 Mission Street Suite 460

San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 546-7000

Raj Nayak (formerly at Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law)
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
S2007 Frances Perkins Building
Washington, DC 20210
(202) 693-5277

Gary Caplan (formerly at Sachnoff & Weaver, Ltd.)
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 814-5154

7. *Zmijewska v. Gonzales*, No. 03-4998, 426 F.3d 99 (2d Cir. 2005) (Meskill, Cabranes, Mukasey, JJ.)

I represented the Department of Justice in this appeal of a Board of Immigration decision denying petitioner's motion to reopen proceedings on the grounds that her failure to depart as ordered rendered her statutorily ineligible for relief. I briefed and argued the case. The Second Circuit remanded the case to the BIA for reconsideration of the issues based in part on the government's identification at oral argument of an erroneous assumption about the departure deadline that all parties in the case and the BIA had labored under that could have favorably affected the outcome for petitioner.

Dates of Representation: 2005

Opposing counsel:

Kerry William Bretz
Bretz & Coven LLP
305 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
(212) 267-2555

8. *Hoover v. United States*, No. 01 CV 2372 (N.D. Ill.) (Schenkier, J)

I represented the United States in this personal injury action under the Federal Tort Claims Act. I served as co-counsel at a three-day bench trial arising out of a collision between a Postal Service minivan and a United Airlines fuel truck on a runway at O'Hare Airport. Complicating matters were three diametrically opposed "eyewitness" statements as to how the accident happened and the fact that all photos and evidence of damage to the UAL truck had been destroyed. Although I joined the case just prior to trial, I spent many hours prepping our witnesses and experts. At trial, I delivered the opening statement, examined the key Postal employees and our expert witness, and cross-examined several of plaintiff's family members. Although the government was found

liable, the government succeeded in limiting damages to well under half of the amount plaintiff sought, and convinced the judge to apportion 20 percent fault to the plaintiff.

Dates of Representation: 2003

Co-Counsel:

Samuel Brooks (formerly at the U.S. Attorneys' Office)
FDIC
300 South Riverside Plaza, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 382-6503

Opposing Counsel:

Allen Wiederer (retired)

9. *Sutton v. Potter*, No. 02 CV 2702 (N.D. Ill.) (Leinenweber, J.)

Plaintiff was a Postal Service employee who claimed that her dust allergy had not been accommodated in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act. I took over as lead counsel for the government at the beginning of discovery, and defended approximately 20 depositions, produced over 10,000 pages of documents, and deposed multiple witnesses, including plaintiff's treating physicians. Following cross-motions for summary judgment, the judge granted plaintiff partial relief on a narrow portion of her damages claim. The case settled for a nominal amount but plaintiff's counsel sought significant attorney's fees, which the government challenged. I briefed the issue. The government prevailed, with fees cut in half.

Dates of Representation: 2003 – 2004

Opposing Counsel:

Jennifer Soule
Soule, Bradtke & Lambert
402 Campbell Street, Suite 100
Geneva, IL 60134
(630) 333-9144

10. *Rosebud Sales and Marketing Inc. v. Clark d/b/a Reggio's Pizza, Inc.*, No. 1996 L 001229 (DuPage County Circuit Court) (Duncan, J.)

I was co-counsel for this three-day bench trial where we represented the defendant, a small business owner. The defendant hired plaintiff's company to market the defendant's pizza in various groceries stores. The plaintiff filed suit after the defendant terminated their contract, seeking to recover unpaid sales commissions and attorney's fees under the Illinois Sales Representative Act. I defended depositions, developed trial strategy, prepared witnesses and participated in pre-trial preparations. At trial, I examined witnesses and delivered the closing argument. The judge found for the defendant.

Plaintiff appealed. After I left the firm, in an unpublished order dated May 27, 1999, the Illinois Appellate Court reversed the trial court judgment and remanded the case for further proceedings. The parties eventually settled the dispute.

Dates of Representation: 1997 – 1998

Co-Counsel:

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Opposing Counsel:

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18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

Many of the civil matters that I worked on at the U.S. Attorney's Office resolved short of judgment or verdict, often on the eve of trial, after I had completed significant pre-trial preparations. Furthermore, I gained familiarity with criminal cases through my work on parallel prosecutions with criminal AUSAs involving large-scale claims of health care fraud carried out through kickback arrangements, overbilling, upcoding, and other sophisticated measures designed to disguise illegal conduct. Finally, after criminal prosecution was declined in certain student loan and social security fraud cases, I handled civil prosecutions of those individuals.

In addition to my litigation practice and work on the bench, as a judge, I have given lectures on bankruptcy and insolvency law, trial practice and procedures, evidence, and ethics and professionalism throughout the United States. I currently serve on the Bankruptcy Judge Education Advisory Committee by appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. And I was recently appointed to an advisory council of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

Locally, I have held leadership positions within the Black Women Lawyers' Association

of Greater Chicago, Inc., the Chicago Bar Association, and the Chicago Bar Foundation, and served on a number of other court committees.

Within the broader legal community, I have worked to encourage professionalism and civility in new lawyers and the administration of justice by regularly speaking on these topics. I have also focused on diversity initiatives by hosting law student externs in my chambers each summer and serving as a local Judicial Co-Chair of a national program, sponsored by a committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, to encourage diverse lawyers to consider applying for bankruptcy judgeships .

I have not performed lobbying activities on behalf of any client. However, during my employment with ComEd from 2009 to 2010 as a Regulatory Outreach Manager, I believe that I, along with other employees in my department, was required to register as a lobbyist with the state and local government and undergo company training on ethical and legal requirements for lobbyists, all of which I would have completed.

19. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide four (4) copies to the committee.

In fall 2005, I served as an adjunct law professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, teaching a second-year course in appellate advocacy. I am unable to obtain a copy of the syllabus.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

None.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? If so, explain.

None.

22. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

When my nomination is formally submitted to the Senate, I will file my Financial Disclosure Report and will supplement this Questionnaire with a copy of that Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

- a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

Since becoming a United States Bankruptcy Judge in 2017, I have followed the federal recusal statutes and the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and I have sought to minimize the potential for conflicts of interest by avoiding investments and other relationships likely to warrant recusal. If confirmed, I will continue to follow the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and all other applicable principles covering recusal.

- b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

If confirmed as a district judge, I would continue to resolve any potential conflict of interest by adhering to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, 28 U.S.C. § 455, and all applicable policies and procedures of the United States Courts.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

My pro bono service began in law school and has continued throughout my career. In 1994, I spent about 20 hours representing domestic violence victims seeking orders of protection. The following summer at my law firm, I volunteered about 75 hours on an asylum case where I drafted significant portions of the brief and prepared our client for his immigration hearing. After graduating from law school in 1995, I completed a Public Interest Law Initiative Fellowship at Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, while also preparing for the bar exam. Upon joining my law firm as an associate attorney, from 1995 to 1998, I continued handling a range of pro bono matters including a successful appeal of an unemployment compensation benefit denial.

From 2007 to 2009, I served as as the Pro Bono and Community Service Coordinator for the Exelon Legal Department, contributing well over 200 volunteer hours on various projects including a Street Law Seminar that we designed for high school students on topics covering contracts, landlord/tenant law, criminal law, affirmative action, civil rights, and negotiations; Wills for Heroes day-long events offering free wills and other basic estate planning services to first responders; training on assisting immigrants with preparing and filing their adjustment of status paperwork; and a mock trial program for middle school students.

As a staff attorney, law clerk, and Assistant United States Attorney, from 1998 to 2005 and from 2010 to 2015, I was not permitted to engage in outside legal activities. However, my entire career has been public-interest oriented. As a bankruptcy judge, although I cannot represent clients in any capacity, I routinely contribute my time to continuing legal education organizations and participate in educational seminars sponsored by local bar associations, law schools, and public interest organizations. I also serve on various boards and committees.

26. Selection Process:

- a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

On October 25, 2021, I submitted an application to Senator Dick Durbin's office for an opening on the United States District Court in the Northern District of Illinois. On November 13, 2021, I interviewed with the Northern District of Illinois Judicial Screening Committee. I was then interviewed by Senator Durbin on December 1, 2021, and by Senator Tammy Duckworth on December 7, 2021. I was informed on December 16, 2021, that I would be included on the list of finalists submitted to the White House for consideration. I first received an email communication from White House Counsel's Office on October 14, 2022, and interviewed with attorneys from that office on October 17, 2022, and was advised that I was being considered for one of the district judge vacancies in my district. Since October 18, 2022, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice. On January 18, 2023, the President announced his intent to nominate me.

- b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or

implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.