

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

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

Marian FitzGerald Gaston, née Marian Leigh Gaston

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

United States District Judge for the Southern District of California

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.

Superior Court of San Diego
1110 Union Street
San Diego, California 92101

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

1971; Mobile, Alabama

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.

1993 – 1996, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law; J.D., 1996

1989 – 1993, Emory University; B.A., 1993

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.

2015 – present
San Diego Superior Court
1110 Union Street
San Diego, California 92101
Judge

Assistant Presiding Judge, Juvenile Division (2020 – 2021)

2006 – present
National Institute for Trial Advocacy
1685 38th Street, Suite 200
Boulder, Colorado 80301
Faculty

1996 – 2015
San Diego County Public Defender's Office
450 B Street, Suite 900
San Diego, California 92101
Deputy Public Defender
Assistant Supervisor, Juvenile Division (2012 – 2014)

Spring 2014
University of California San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, California 92093
Adjunct Faculty

Fall 2011
Thomas Jefferson School of Law
701 B Street, Suite 110
San Diego, California 92101
Adjunct Faculty

Spring 2010
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
3200 5th Avenue
Sacramento, California 95817
Adjunct Faculty

2004 – 2009
California Western School of Law
225 Cedar Street
San Diego, California 92101
Adjunct Faculty

Summer 1995
San Diego County Public Defender's Office
450 B Street, Suite 900
San Diego, California 92101
Law Clerk

Spring 1995

United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Unit 36028
San Francisco, California 94102
Law Clerk

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.

San Diego County Public Defender's Office, Exemplary Service Awards (various) (1996 – 2015)

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, Academic Honors
Criminal Trial Practice (1995)
Employment Discrimination (1995)

American Association for Justice (formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America), Student Trial Advocacy State Champion (Spring 1996)

Berkeley Law Foundation, Grant Recipient (Summer 1994)

Emory University
Phi Beta Kappa (1993)
Theta Alpha Kappa, Academic Honors in Religious Study (1993)
Phi Alpha Theta, Academic Honors in History (1993)
Robert W. Woodruff Full Scholarship (1989 – 1993)

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.

American Bar Association

American Inns of Court

California Bar Association

California Judges Association

Collaborative Courts Committee
Ethics Committee
Chair (2020 – 2021)
Vice Chair (2019 – 2020)
Annual Ethics Update editor (2018 – 2019)
Secretary (2017 – 2018)
Juvenile Law Curriculum Committee

California Public Defender Association

Crawford Academy of Law Board of Directors

National Association of Women Judges
Annual Conference International Committee Co-Chair (2023 – present)

Pan-American Commission of Judges on Social Rights and Franciscan Doctrine, United States Chapter

San Diego County Bar Association
Bench Bar Ethics Liaison (2022 – present)

San Diego County Civics Learning Partnership

San Diego County Judges Association

San Diego County Public Defender Community Outreach Committee

San Diego Lawyers Club

San Diego Public Defenders Association

San Diego Psych-Law Society

San Diego Superior Court
Collaborative Courts Committee
Court Clergy Organizing Committee, Co-Chair (2020 – present)
Criminal Courts Policy Committee
Education Committee
Information Technology Education Track, Judicial Officers Focus Group
Juvenile Law Committee

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.

California, 1996

There have been no lapses in membership. My membership became inactive upon my appointment to bench in 2015.

- 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.

Because I am a Superior Court Judge, I am not currently admitted to practice in any court. Before being sworn in as a judge, however, I was admitted to practice in all state courts in California.

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.

San Diego County Child Welfare Services Fetal Alcohol Syndrome workgroup (2021 – present)

National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse Healthy Brain and Child Development Study, and University of California, San Diego, Community Advisory Board Member (2021 – present)

Lawyers Without Borders (2020 – present)

Episcopal Diocese of San Diego Disciplinary Panel (2018 – present)

St. Patrick's School, auction committee (2014 – 2016)

California Coalition on Sexual Offending, Co-Chair (2008 – 2011)

- 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.

To the best of my knowledge, none of the organizations listed above currently discriminates 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.

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.

With Geoff Twitchell & Melinda Hohman, "Preparing Mental Health Professionals to Work with Justice Involved Clients: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Paves the Way," *SOCIAL WORK IN MENTAL HEALTH*, Aug. 2021. Copy supplied.

With Mark Caldwell & Angela Vigil, *IN RE EDDIE W.*, National Institute of Trial Advocacy, 2020. Copy supplied.

The Very Rev. Scott E. Richardson et al, letter to the editor, *SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE*, Mar. 26, 2006. 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.

Nikki Delson et al., *Position Paper on Sex Offender Residence Restrictions*, California Coalition on Sexual Offending, Dec. 6, 2008. 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.

From 2020 to 2021, in my role as the Assistant Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division of the San Diego Superior Court, I provided periodic oral reports to the Juvenile Justice Commission regarding the state of the Juvenile Court. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings.

- 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.

I have searched my files and electronic databases in an effort to locate all responsive materials, but it is possible that I have not been able to identify some items.

December 6 – 9, 2022: Volunteer, Enforcement Training Program on Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking, Lawyers Without Borders, Monrovia, Liberia. I co-taught a four-day program for judges, attorneys, law enforcement and immigration and labor department officials. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The program was organized by Lawyers Without Borders as a subcontractor of Winrock International. The address for Winrock International is 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 700, Arlington, Virginia 22202. The address for Lawyers Without Borders is 51 Louisiana Avenue, Northwest, Washington, DC 20001.

December 1, 2 & 19, 2022: Oath of Office Administrator, San Diego Superior Court, San Diego, California. I swore in new admittees to the California bar at the Superior Court. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the San Diego Superior Court is 1110 Union Street, San Diego, California 92101.

October 20, 2022: Speaker, Opening Remarks to Resource Families, Child Welfare Services (online). I gave brief remarks introducing a training on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders for resource parents working with San Diego County Child Welfare Services. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for San Diego County Child Welfare Services is 7947 Mission Center Court, San Diego, California 92108.

October 19, 2022: Speaker, “The Impact of Forensic Evidence in Courts: A Judicial Perspective,” 6th Annual Lagos Forensic Symposium (online). I addressed a multidisciplinary audience of law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and policy makers, highlighting the usefulness DNA and other forms of forensic evidence. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. There is no physical address for the Lagos Forensic Symposium.

July 19, 2022: Speaker, Greeting to Jurors, San Diego Superior Court, San Diego, California. I gave brief remarks thanking jurors for their service and explaining court procedures. I also greeted jurors on August 10, 2021; September 27, 2016; August 16, 2016; and July 19, 2016. I have no notes, transcript, or recording.

The address for the San Diego Superior Court is 1100 Union Street, San Diego California 92101.

May 20, 2022: Speaker, “Mandated Reporter Requirements and the Role of Child Welfare Services,” San Diego Clergy-Court Conference, San Diego, California. I co-presented regarding the reporting obligations of clergy who encounter childhood abuse and neglect and how the Child Welfare System responds. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. This event was hosted by the San Diego Superior Court at 1110 Union Street, San Diego, California 92101.

April 28, 2022: Panelist, “Hot Topics in Ethics,” California Judges Association Midyear Conference, Santa Barbara, California. I presented on current issues in ethics including ethical implications of COVID-related procedures and technology. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Judges Association is 2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150, Sacramento, California 95833.

April 26, 2022: Panelist, “San Diego Collaborative Courts,” San Diego County Bar Association and Lawyers Club (online). I spoke on a panel addressing San Diego collaborative courts in the adult and juvenile court systems. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the San Diego County Bar Association is 401 West A Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, California 92101. The address for Lawyers Club is 402 West Broadway Suite 1260, San Diego, California 92101.

April 7, 2022: Panelist, “Child Welfare in the United States,” China’s Supreme People’s Court Joint Program on Child Welfare Laws, Dui Hua (online). Remarks supplied.

November 2, 2021: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children (online). I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child’s life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

November 18, 2021: Speaker, “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the Justice System,” Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender (online). I presented to juvenile court attorneys, paralegals, and social workers regarding the prevalence and impact of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in juvenile court and in the community. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender is 210 West Temple Street, Suite 18-709, Los Angeles, California 90012.

November 11, 2021: Panelist, “Trauma Informed Advocacy,” Advocates for Children and Education, University of San Diego, School of Law (online). I was a panelist in a discussion with law students interested in representing children and

families. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Advocates for Children and Education at the University of San Diego School of Law is 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110.

October 2021: Panelist, “Roads to Resilience: Identifying FASD in Court-Involved Youth,” Children’s Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law (online). Recording available at <https://www.sandiego.edu/cai/academic-programs/webinars/road-to-resilience.php>.

September 25, 2021: Panelist, “Identifying the Physical, Neurological, Behavioral and Cognitive Impairments in Children with FASD,” Maryland CASAs 15th Annual Conference on Child Well-Being (online). Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9Eokx2IuAg>.

September 13, 2021: Guest lecturer, “Poverty and the Law,” University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California. I spoke to a Poverty and Law class about the impact of poverty on people involved in the criminal justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The University of San Diego School of Law is located at Warren Hall, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110.

September 9, 2021: Panelist, “The San Diego County Juvenile RISE Court Model,” Free to Thrive (online). I spoke to Ventura County judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers interested in creating a collaborative court for children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Free to Thrive is 1050 University Avenue #E107-84, San Diego, California 92103.

August 10, 2021: Co-presenter, “The Crucial Role of Forensic Evidence: A Judicial Perspective,” 5th Annual Lagos Forensic Symposium (online). Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42kcz3v0TO0>.

June 11, 2021, Speaker, “Ethical Duties and Best Practices Working with Justice Involved Youth,” Children’s Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego, School of Law (online). I addressed common ethical issues and best practices for lawyers working with youth in the juvenile justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the University of San Diego School of Law is Warren Hall, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110.

November 2, 2021: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children (online). I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child’s life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

March 2, 2021: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children (online). I thanked CASA volunteers for their

service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child's life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

October 27, 2020: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children (online). I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child's life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123

September 2020: Co-presenter, "Homelessness and the Court System," University of San Diego, School of Law (online). Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wa3k4glwpig>.

July 6, 2020: Guest lecturer, "Poverty and the Law," University of San Diego School of Law (online). I spoke to a Poverty and Law class about the impact of poverty on people involved in the criminal justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The University of San Diego School of Law is located at Warren Hall, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110.

June 12, 2020: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children (online). I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child's life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

June 11, 2020: Panelist, "The Pursuit of Permanency: The First 90 Days," Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego, School of Law and the Judicial Council of California (online). I addressed best practices for placing children with parents or other relatives during child welfare cases. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the University of San Diego School of Law is Warren Hall, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110. The address for the Judicial Council of California is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

May 29, 2020: Panelist, "En Banc: Judges' Perspectives on Remote Hearings," National Association for Trial Advocacy (online). Video available at <https://www.nita.org/s/product/en-banc-judges-perspectives-on-remote-hearings/01t4W00000DAR21QAH>.

December 17 – 18, 2019: Panelist, "Ethics for Juvenile Court Judges" and "The Role of the Court Appointed Special Advocate," Judicial Council of California Center for Judicial Education and Research, Bi-Annual Conference, San Diego, California. I co-presented to multidisciplinary audiences including judges, attorneys, social workers, and probation officers. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Judicial Council of California Center for Judicial

Education and Research is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

November 21, 2019: Panelist, "Creating a CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) Collaborative Court: The San Diego County Juvenile RISE Court Model," Kempe International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement, San Diego, California. I addressed how to establish a collaborative court for children who have been victims of sex trafficking. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Kempe Foundation is 13123 East 16th Avenue, B390 Aurora, Colorado 80045.

November 14, 2019: Guest Lecturer, "Ethical Witness Preparation," University of San Diego, School of Law, San Diego, California. I lectured on ethical witness preparation for students taking a trial advocacy class. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the University of San Diego School of Law is Warren Hall, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110.

November 11, 2019: Guest lecturer, "Poverty and the Law," University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California. I spoke to a Poverty and Law class about the impact of poverty on people involved in the criminal justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the University of San Diego School of Law is Warren Hall, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110.

September 19, 2019: Speaker, "A Call to Action for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders," Violence Intervention Program, Los Angeles, California. I spoke about the prevalence and impact of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in the criminal and juvenile justice systems to an audience of policy makers, health officials, researchers, and advocates. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Violence Intervention Program of Los Angeles is 1721 Griffin Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90031.

June 11, 2019: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children, San Diego, California. I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child's life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

June 5, 2019: Speaker, "Judges as Agents of Change: Lessons from Collaborative Courts," Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City. I presented to approximately 70 judges and magistrates from the Americas on access to justice for the indigent and for sex-trafficked youth. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Pontifical Academy of Sciences is Casina Pio IV, Vatican City 00120.

May 2, 2019: Co-presenter, “Mandatory Reporting Requirements in Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect” and “Dependency Court and the Child Welfare System,” San Diego Clergy-Court Conference, San Diego Superior Court, San Diego, California. In two separate sessions, I co-presented to local clergy on mandatory reporting requirements and the role of the dependency system in addressing childhood abuse and neglect. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the San Diego Superior Court is 1110 Union Street, San Diego, California 92101.

April 26, 2019: Speaker, “Adolescent Brain Development: Why Do They Do That?,” Santa Clara Superior Court, San Jose, California. Presentation to Santa Clara County Superior Court judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, and probation officers on adolescent brain development and strategies for improving outcomes in the juvenile court system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Santa Clara Superior Court, Juvenile Division, is 191 North 1st Street, San Jose, California 95113.

March 1, 2019: Speaker, “Forensic Evaluations and Testimony from the Judicial Perspective,” Child Welfare Services, San Diego, California. I presented to mental health professionals on judicial expectations for forensic psychological evaluations, report writing, and courtroom testimony. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for San Diego County Child Welfare Services is 7947 Mission Center Court, San Diego, California 92108.

February 19, 2019: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children, San Diego, California. I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child’s life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

January 11, 2019: Speaker, “Special Considerations for Justice Involved Youth,” California Public Defenders Association, Monterey, California. I presented to public attorneys representing minors in court with an emphasis on adolescent brain development and the impacts of trauma and in utero exposure to alcohol and other drugs. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Public Defenders Association is 10324 Placer Lane, Sacramento, California 95827.

November 15, 2018: Guest Lecturer, “Ethical Witness Preparation,” University of San Diego, School of Law, San Diego, California. I lectured on ethical witness preparation for students taking a trial advocacy class. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the University of San Diego School of Law is Warren Hall, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California 92110.

June 2018: Panelist, “Ethical and Zealous Advocacy in Dependency Court,” Annual Conference of California County Counsel, San Diego, California. I addressed common ethical challenges facing County Counsel advocating for Health and Human Services in dependency courts. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for San Diego County Counsel, Juvenile Dependency Division, is 5530 Overland Avenue, Suite 170, San Diego, California 92123.

February 27, 2018: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children, San Diego, California. I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child’s life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

December 19, 2017: Panelist, Judicial Council of California Bi-Annual Conference, Center for Judicial Education and Research, San Diego, California. I do not recall the title of this presentation. I discussed new California laws affecting sex and labor trafficking victims, including trafficked youth. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Center for Judicial Education and Research is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

October 24, 2017: Guest lecturer, “Juvenile Justice in San Diego and Beyond,” San Diego State University, San Diego, California. I gave an overview of the juvenile justice system to undergraduate students in a criminal law class. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for San Diego State University is 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, California 92182.

October 2, 2017: Speaker, “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the Law,” Indian Health Council and Disability Rights California, San Diego, California. I presented on the role of in utero alcohol exposure in the mental health and behavioral problems experienced by children coming before the juvenile court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Indian Health Council is 50100 Golsh Road, Valley Center, California 92082. The address for Disability Rights California’s San Diego Office is 530 B Street, Suite 400, San Diego, California 92101.

September 26, 2017: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children, San Diego, California. I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child’s life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

June 22, 2017: Speaker, “Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: From Foster Care to Juvenile Court,” Disability Rights California and University of California San Diego, Institute for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Discovery,

San Diego, California. I presented on the role of in utero alcohol exposure in the mental health and behavioral problems experienced by children coming before the juvenile court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Disability Rights California's San Diego Office is 530 B Street, Suite 400, San Diego, California 92101. The address for the University of California San Diego is 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, California 92093.

May 17, 2017: Graduation Speaker, San Diego Court Appointed Special Advocates, Voices for Children, San Diego, California. I thanked CASA volunteers for their service and provided examples of cases where a CASA made a difference in a child's life. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Voices for Children is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

May 17, 2017: Speaker, University of California San Diego, Center for Life Course Research, San Diego, California. I do not recall the title of this presentation. I spoke to a multidisciplinary audience including physicians, psychologists, attorneys, and social workers who work with children about the impact of early childhood trauma on a broad spectrum of health and behavioral outcomes. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the University of California San Diego is 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, California 92093.

November 11, 2016: Speaker, "Evidence-Based Sentencing: The New Frontier," California Public Defender Association Annual Conference, Yosemite, California. I addressed current research on the effectiveness of sentencing based on the individual criminogenic needs of the offender to improve outcomes. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Public Defender Association is 10324 Placer Lane, Sacramento, California 95827.

January 14, 2016: Speaker, "Evidence Based Sentencing in High Volume Misdemeanor Courts," Office of the San Diego City Attorney, Criminal Division, San Diego, California. I addressed current research on the effectiveness of sentencing to reduce recidivism. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the San Diego City Attorney is 1200 3rd Avenue, Suite 1620, San Diego, California 92101.

December 2015 (specific dates unknown): Oath of Office Administrator. On two separate days, I swore in new admittees to the California bar at the Superior Court. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings. The address for the San Diego Superior Court, Central Division, is 1110 Union Street, San Diego, California 92101.

April 13, 2015: Speaker, Oath of Office Administration, San Diego Superior Court, San Diego, California. Remarks supplied.

March 18 – 20, 2015: Speaker, “Juvenile Misbehavior as a Public Health Issue: The Link between Adverse Childhood Experiences and ‘Delinquency,’” Forensic Mental Health Association of California, Monterey, California. I spoke to a multidisciplinary audience including physicians, psychologists, judges, attorneys, and social workers who work with children about the impact of early childhood trauma on a broad spectrum of health and behavioral outcomes. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for The Forensic Mental Health Association of California is 4010 Foothills Boulevard, #103-196, Roseville, California, 95747.

October 2014 (specific date unknown): Speaker, Untitled Lecture, San Diego Dependency Legal Group, San Diego, California. I spoke to attorneys representing minors in dependency proceedings about the law and procedure in the juvenile justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Dependency Legal Group is 1660 Hotel Circle North, Unit 200, San Diego, California 92108.

July 2014 (specific date unknown): Speaker, “Kids Who Kill: A Question of Competency,” San Diego Psych-Law Society, San Diego, California. I presented on the laws regarding mental competence as a prerequisite for criminal prosecution in the juvenile justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the San Diego Psych-Law Society is 3914 3rd Avenue, San Diego, California 92103.

April 26, 2014: Panelist, “Combatting Human Trafficking,” the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, the San Diego Law Library, and Lawyers Club of San Diego, San Diego, California. I spoke about the prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children, the role of the juvenile justice system and resources available to survivors. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition is 121 East 31st Street, National City, California 91950. The address for the San Diego Law Library is 1105 Front Street, San Diego, California 92101. The address for Lawyers Club of San Diego is 402 West Broadway, Unit 1260, San Diego, California 92101.

February 2014 (specific date unknown): Speaker, “Findings from an Analysis of 100 Detained Juveniles in 2012,” San Diego Superior Court, San Diego, California. I presented to San Diego Superior Court judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and defense counsel the results of an analysis of abuse and neglect in the lives of 100 wards of the juvenile court. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Division, is 2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, California 92123.

November 5, 2013: Panelist, “Careers in Government,” Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, California. I spoke to law students about the path to becoming a public defender. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Thomas Jefferson School of Law is 701 B Street, San Diego, California 92101.

October 2013 (specific date unknown): Guest Lecturer, “Sexual Deviance, Crime, and the Law,” University of California San Diego, San Diego, California. I spoke to an undergraduate class on Sociology and Law about laws against sexual assault and related mental disorders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the University of California San Diego is 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, California 92093.

April 2013 (specific date unknown): Guest Lecturer, “Mental Health and the Juvenile Justice System,” California Western School of Law, San Diego, California. I spoke to a Mental Health Law class about the impact of mental disorders in the juvenile justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for California Western School of Law is 225 Cedar Street, San Diego, California 92101.

October 2012 (specific date unknown): Speaker, “Advanced Cross-Examination of Adverse Witnesses,” California Public Defender Association, Palm Springs, California. I provided a lecture regarding the cross-examination of experts and other witnesses. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Public Defender Association is 10324 Placer Lane, Sacramento, California 95827.

September 2011 (specific date unknown): Speaker, Annual Conference of the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma, San Diego, California. I presented on post-conviction consequences for individuals convicted of sex offenses. I do not recall the title of this lecture. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma is 10065 Old Grove Road, San Diego, California 92131.

March 2011 (specific date unknown): Speaker, “Lessons of McKee,” American College of Forensic Psychology, 27th Annual Symposium. I presented an analysis of an Equal Protection challenge to California’s Sexually Violent Predator law. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the American College of Forensic Psychology is P.O. Box 2269, Huntington Beach, California 92647.

April 2010 (specific date unknown): Speaker, “Sexually Violent Predators: Community Notification and Release,” San Diego Psych-Law Society, San Diego, California. I addressed the law regarding release conditions for sex offenders on supervised release in the community. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the San Diego Psych-Law Society is 3914 3rd Avenue, San Diego, California 92103.

December 2009 (specific date unknown): Speaker, “Sexually Violent Predators: Community Notification and Release,” California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, San Francisco, California. I presented about new and existing laws governing

convicted sex offenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice is 1610 Arden Way, Suite 140, Sacramento, California 95815.

May 2009 (specific date unknown): Lecturer, California Coalition on Sexual Offending, Torrance, California. I do not recall the title of this presentation/training. I co-taught a day-long training on law and ethics for psychologists treating sex offenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. I am unable to locate a physical address for the California Coalition on Sexual Offending.

December 2008 (specific date unknown): Speaker, "Anticipating the Consequences of 'Jessica's Law,' Sexually Violent Predator Laws, and Other Punishments," California Public Defender Association, Palm Springs, California. I reviewed new and existing laws governing sex offenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Public Defender Association is 10324 Placer Lane, Sacramento, California 95827.

June 2008 (specific date unknown): Speaker, on "Partnering for Success: The Importance of Community Collaboration," Leadership Against Sexual Offending, San Diego, California. I presented to community leaders about evidence-based strategies for reducing recidivism by sex offenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. I am unable to find an address for this organization, which appears to no longer exist.

October 2007 (specific date unknown): Speaker, "Sex Offenses, Residence Restrictions, and the Impact of Probation or Parole," San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association, San Diego, California. I reviewed existing and new laws governing sex offenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. I am unable to locate a physical address for the San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association.

May 2007 (specific date unknown): Speaker, "The Sexually Violent Predator Act and 'Jessica's Law' - What Every Defense Lawyer Needs to Know," California Public Defender Association, San Diego, California. I reviewed existing and new laws governing sex offenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Public Defender Association is 10324 Placer Lane, Sacramento, California 95827.

December 2006 (specific date unknown): Speaker, "Negotiation and Sentencing with Sex Offender Cases," California Public Defender Association, Palm Springs, California. I reviewed existing and new laws governing sex offenders. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the California Public Defender Association is 10324 Placer Lane, Sacramento, California 95827.

October 2003 (specific date unknown): Speaker, "Effective Cross-Examination of Opposing Witnesses," State Bar of California, Anaheim, California. I lectured

on techniques for cross-examination of opposing witnesses. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the State Bar of California is 180 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

Additionally, since 2003, I have taught trial skills for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) throughout the United States and in Lagos, Nigeria, on topics including legal ethics, jury selection, opening statements, direct and cross-examination, examining expert witnesses, and closing argument. I have provided at least one lecture per year and have participated in as many as four multi-day programs in a year. I have no notes, transcripts, or recordings, and I have not recorded the exact dates. The address for NITA is 325 West South Boulder Road, Suite 1, Louisville, Colorado 80027.

- 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.

“50 Tips for 50 Years,” National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Podcast (Mar. 2, 2021). Recording available at <https://www.nita.org/s/product/16-50-tips-for-50-years-part-2/01t4W00000CP0xXQAT>.

Sandra Dibble, *More Teens Smuggling Meth*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, Dec. 2, 2013. Copy supplied.

Dana Littlefield, *Facility Found for Boy, 11, Accused in Fatal Stabbing*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, Dec. 22, 2012. Copy supplied.

Dana Littlefield, *Funding Boy’s Treatment at Issue*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, Sept. 23, 2012. Copy supplied.

Dana Littlefield, *Trial Puts Focus on Prenatal Abuse*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, August 27, 2012. Copy supplied.

Dana Littlefield, *Boy in Stabbing Case Not Fit for Trial*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, Aug. 22, 2012. Copy supplied.

Dana Littlefield, *Does Sex Offender Release Program Work? Most Freed Since 2005 Lasted Just Months Outside Hospital*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, April 10, 2009. Copy supplied.

Dana Littlefield, *Sex Predator in Jacumba Ordered Back to Hospital*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, Sept. 20, 2008. Copy supplied.

Alex Roth, *Man Ordered to Prison for Hate Crime*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, June 28, 2000. Copy supplied.

Renée Harrison, *Representing Defendants in Domestic Violence Prosecutions: Interview with a Public Defender*, JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY LEGAL ISSUES 63 (2000). Copy supplied.

Bill Mason, *Norman "Kyoti" King Wants His Medical Marijuana, Cuts CD*, SAN DIEGO READER, Oct. 9, 1997. 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.

I was appointed in 2015 by California Governor Jerry Brown to the San Diego Superior Court, a court of general jurisdiction. Until 2017, I presided over a high-volume misdemeanor department where I arraigned defendants, presided over settlement negotiations, heard pleas, and sentenced defendants for crimes including theft, driving under the influence, battery, and drug possession.

For the next five years I served in the juvenile court where I presided over hundreds of bench trials involving child abuse and neglect, making determinations about whether the court had jurisdiction and, when assuming jurisdiction, ordering an appropriate disposition which could include out of home care for the children. I presided over hearings in the furtherance of reunification of children with their parents, and, when reunification was not possible, ordered a permanent plan for the children that could include termination of parental rights and adoption, guardianship, or foster care. During my time in the juvenile court I also presided over a collaborative court dedicated to youth on probation who were survivors of human trafficking, and from 2020 to 2021 I served as the Assistant Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division.

Since January 2022, I have presided over adult criminal hearings and trials, mental health cases, and collaborative courts. The adult criminal hearings have included motions to suppress evidence, probable cause hearings on felony cases, and jury trials. The mental health cases have included hundreds of conservatorship bench trials, other hearings related to conservatorship, hearings regarding a patient's capacity to consent to electroconvulsive therapy, and writ petitions filed by patients seeking release from involuntary detention in local psychiatric hospitals. The collaborative courts where I have presided include a drug court, two collaborative courts serving veterans, and courts dedicated to defendants on probation or serving community-based sentences.

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

I have presided over more than 500 trials.

- i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials: 1%
bench trials: 99%

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings: 99%
criminal proceedings: 1%

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

I have not written any opinions. As a Superior Court judge, my decisions are issued orally and recorded by the courtroom clerk as minute orders or in a court reporter's stenographic notes.

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. *People v. Juanillo, Olea, and Torres* (SCD291560)

I presided over this three-day, multi-defendant preliminary hearing at which the defendants were charged with first-degree murder. It was alleged that the murder was committed with a weapon and for the benefit of a street gang. I ruled on the admissibility of more than 100 exhibits including cell tower records and data related to the defendants' social media and cell phone accounts and heard testimony from twelve law enforcement witnesses. After hearing closing argument, I found that the prosecution had established that there was probable cause to hold the defendants to answer the charges of murder, and found probable cause to believe that the allegations were true. The case is pending trial.

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2. *People v. Castillo* (SCD294774)

Mr. Castillo was a mentally ill man accused of making criminal threats against his mother and violating a protective order. I presided over his three-day jury trial and ruled on all pre-trial motions including a motion by the prosecution to admit Mr. Castillo's prior conviction for a similar offense, which I granted. The jury found Mr. Castillo guilty of both crimes. Mr. Castillo could have been sentenced to state prison for a maximum of four years. After consulting with the victim and other family members, I sentenced him to participate in an intensive mental health program with GPS monitoring, medication management, housing, drug testing, and counseling services.

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3. *People v. Santana* (SCD294057)

Mr. Santana was accused of felony indecent exposure with an allegation that he had a prior conviction for the same conduct. I presided over the three-day jury trial and heard multiple pre-trial motions regarding the admissibility of Mr. Santana's prior convictions, making rulings in the alternative depending on whether Mr. Santana chose to testify. The jury convicted Mr. Santana. Mr. Santana's sentencing possibilities ranged from probation to 4 years in state prison; I sentenced him to 32 months in state prison.

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4. *People v. Markley* (SCD209934)

Ms. Markley had stalked an acquaintance and was found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity in 2009. She was subsequently committed to the state hospital. In 2022, the People of the State of California filed a petition alleging that respondent Markley continued to be Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, which would result in an extension of her commitment. The prosecution had the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that Ms. Markley suffered from a mental disorder and that as a result of that mental disorder, she posed a substantial danger of physical harm to others and had serious difficulty controlling her behavior.

I presided over the three-day bench trial at which Ms. Markley represented herself. After hearing the testimony of four experts, two for the prosecution and two for Ms. Markley, I determined that the prosecution had met its burden of proof and extended Ms. Markley's commitment to the state hospital.

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5. *People v. Jerome* (M280583DV)

I presided over this two-day jury trial at which it was alleged that Mr. Jerome had made criminal threats toward his girlfriend and had repeatedly violated a restraining order, resulting in multiple misdemeanor charges. I ruled on pretrial motions and, after hearing evidence, ruled against instructing the jury on a lesser included offense that the prosecution sought to prove. The jury convicted Mr. Jerome of all counts. I sentenced him to one year in county jail, the maximum term for a misdemeanor offense, followed by a three-year term of probation and ordered a criminal protective order for the victim.

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6. *In re D.G., I.G., and K.G.* (NJ15641)

In this multi-day bench trial the Health and Human Services Agency sought jurisdiction over three siblings whose 13-year-old brother had died, alleging that the mother had caused the child's death. The primary legal issue was whether the mother's neglect of the child was a significant factor in his death as defined by case law.

After hearing testimony from opposing experts, I determined that the Agency might not be able to meet its burden of proof and put the parties on notice that, at the close of the evidence, I would consider whether the court could take jurisdiction under a different code section which merely required that the parents' behavior placed the children at risk of significant physical harm. I provided all counsel with additional time to call witnesses, if necessary, to refute that allegation. Both County Counsel and parents' counsel objected to the court

taking jurisdiction under any law other than the code section alleged in the County's petition.

After hearing additional evidence and closing argument, I found that the Agency had not proved that the mother caused a child's death and took jurisdiction over the siblings under the alternative code section, citing case law stating that Due Process is not violated when the court assumes jurisdiction under a code section not pled in the original petition so long as the parties are not deprived of an opportunity to be heard. I left the older children in the home, at their request, and placed the youngest child, a six-year-old, in foster care. My decisions were affirmed on appeal. 2021 WL 3027956. After the parents completed counseling and parenting classes, the youngest child was returned to their care and the court's jurisdiction was ultimately terminated by another judicial officer.

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7. *In re P.V.* (0519635)

Minor P.V. was removed from her parents' custody and placed with prospective adoptive parents. The Health and Human Services Agency reached out to the caregiver for P.V.'s two siblings to ask whether they would like placement of P.V. The Agency also located out-of-state relatives who had never met P.V. or the siblings but indicated a willingness to adopt all three children.

Almost two years after her placement with her non-related caregiver, P.V.'s case was set for trial on the issue of placement and the best permanent plan for the child: adoption, guardianship, or foster care. I presided over the trial, where I applied the relevant statutes governing relative versus non-relative placement and analyzed case law where the reviewing courts had weighed placement with foster parents against placement with a sibling. I determined that it was in P.V.'s best interest for her to remain with the current caregiver, terminated parental rights, and freed P.V. for adoption. My decisions were affirmed on appeal. 2020 WL 7654232

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8. *In re I.J.* (050083)

At this three-day bench trial the Health and Human Agency had filed a petition asking the court to take jurisdiction of a minor under three separate sections of the Welfare and Institutions Code, with two counts alleging that he was at risk of serious physical harm and the third count alleging that he was at risk of serious emotional damage as the result of his adoptive mother's conduct.

The facts emerged that for years the mother had attempted to convince him that he was mentally ill like his biological mother, and that he was developmentally delayed, rendering him eligible for multiple services and making his adoptive mother eligible for enhanced payments for his care. The evidence showed that he was not, in fact, mentally ill or cognitively or developmentally delayed, but that he had been made anxious and distressed by his mother's verbal abuse and her insistence that he was mentally ill and impaired.

I found that two counts in the petition relating to the adoptive mother had been proved and assumed jurisdiction over the child, allowing the court to place him outside the home and order counseling services for him. I dismissed a count based on a physical struggle between I.J. and his brother, finding that their altercation did not establish that I.J. was at risk of significant physical harm. My decisions were affirmed on appeal. 2020 WL 1429253.

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9. *In re C.E. and L.E.* (CEJ04123)

This dependency case came before me for trial after the parents had initially been provided with support services aimed at reunifying them with their children, but they stopped participating due to drug abuse. The primary legal issues were the appropriate permanent plan for the minors, and placement. I found that there was no legal exception to the general legislative preference for adoption and terminated parental rights. After hearing testimony from the non-relative caregivers who had cared for the children intermittently for more than two years and from relatives who had recently decided that they would be willing to take custody of the children, I applied statutory and case law to the facts and ordered that the minors remain with the current caregivers.

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10. *In re J.C., B.B., and K.C.* (0518671)

The Health and Human Services Agency filed a petition asking the court to take jurisdiction over three children due to drug use by their mother and the mother's partner. The County also recommended that the court not provide services, or "bypass," the mother and the father of the older two children, not giving them the opportunity to reunify with their children because of prior Child Welfare Services cases.

I presided over the bench trial where the father of the older minors presented evidence that despite the multi-year methamphetamine addiction that preceded his prior child welfare case, he had completed a drug treatment program and was a regular participant in a Twelve Step program, he had a sponsor that he spoke to nearly every day, and he was living with a girlfriend who had never been part of a drug-using lifestyle. I found that the father was not "treatment resistant" under case law and ordered that reunification services be ordered for the father, allowing him the opportunity to take custody of his children in the future.

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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.

I have not written any opinions. As a Superior Court judge, my decisions are typically issued orally and recorded by the courtroom clerk as minute orders or in a court reporter's stenographic notes.

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

I have not had any cases where certiorari was requested or granted.

- 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.

Over the course of five years in juvenile court, during which I presided over more than 1,500 cases, six of my decisions were reversed and remanded on appeal.

People v. Juan A., JCM244028 01, 2022 WL 15117113 (Cal. Ct. App. Oct. 27, 2022). Minor Juan A. filed a motion to suppress evidence in a case where he was accused of possession of a concealed firearm. His motion to suppress was denied by another judicial officer and he admitted the truth of the charge against him. I presided over his disposition and sentencing hearing, at which I did not state whether I was placing the minor on probation for a felony or misdemeanor and I misstated the maximum penalty that had been reduced by law the month before. The case was remanded to the juvenile court for clarification and was heard by another judicial officer.

In re J.A. (J519822), *rev'd*, 2021 WL 3826502 (Cal. Ct. App. Aug. 27, 2021). In this dependency case both parents claimed no Indian heritage but the Health and Human Services Agency learned that the paternal grandmother claimed Native American ancestry. The Agency represented to the court that it had “conducted further investigation and found no reason to believe that ICWA (the Indian Child Welfare Act) would apply,” when in fact the Agency had not conducted such an inquiry. Following the mother’s notice of appeal, the mother’s attorney and the Health and Human Services Agency stipulated that the Agency’s investigation had been inadequate and agreed to a limited reversal to ensure compliance with ICWA. Upon receiving the remittitur and learning of the Agency’s updated efforts, I confirmed my previous finding.

In re F.N. (J520491), *rev'd*, 2021 WL 3011388 (Cal. Ct. App. July 16, 2021). I made a reported record finding that the Indian Child Welfare Act did not apply in this dependency case. However, the clerk’s minute order indicated that “Notice pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act is required because the court has reason to know the child may be an Indian child...” The Court of Appeals remanded for clarification. Upon receipt of the remittitur, my court corrected the clerical error.

In re B.D., EJ4324A, *rev'd*, 66 Cal. App. 5th 1218 (2021). This case was set for a trial to determine the best permanent plan for children who had been removed from their parents’ care and whose parents had not completed court-ordered counseling services to address domestic violence and addiction. I terminated parental rights and freed the children for adoption by their grandmother, finding that there was no parent-child bond exception sufficient to thwart the legislative preference for adoption at this stage of the proceedings. I was initially affirmed on appeal. However, parents’ counsel filed a motion for reconsideration in the appellate court following a California Supreme Court case that provided new criteria for analyzing the parent-child bond when determining whether to terminate parental rights. Pursuant to the new case law, the Fourth District Court of Appeal reversed and remanded for further hearing. The parties then resolved the matter without additional litigation.

In re J.H., (J520237), *rev'd in part*, 2020 WL 6054331 (Cal. Ct. App. Oct. 14, 2020). I removed an infant who was born with controlled substances in his blood from the care, custody, and control of his mother. The Court of Appeal reversed

and remanded for further explanation of my decision. By the time the trial court received the remittitur, the issue was moot as the mother had fled the jurisdiction.

In re C.M. (EJ3650B), *rev'd*, 2017 WL 3498922 (Cal. Ct. App. Aug. 16, 2017). After the Health and Human Services Agency had conducted an initial inquiry to determine whether the child was a Native American child pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act, the mother provided additional information that was not provided by the Agency to the relevant tribes or to the court. The case was remanded for further ICWA noticing, which was completed with no finding that the child was a Native American child.

- 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 have not written opinions. As a Superior Court judge, my decisions are issued orally. My orders are recorded by the courtroom clerk as minute orders that are kept in the files maintained by the clerk's office. In addition, all juvenile court and adult felony matters are reported by court reporters. Transcripts of preliminary hearings are generated in all cases; transcripts of other hearings are generated by the court reporter upon request or upon an appeal. All adult misdemeanor matters are recorded on the court's audio recording system.

- 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.

I have not written opinions. As a Superior Court judge, my decisions are typically issued orally and recorded by the courtroom clerk as minute orders or in a court reporter's stenographic notes.

- 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.

California judges are ethically barred from hearing cases for the reasons enumerated at California Code of Civil Procedure 170.1. My process for determining whether to recuse myself is to review the Canons of Judicial Ethics and the relevant disqualification statutes and analyze whether I could ethically hear the matters before me. My recusal has never been requested by a party; I have three times, on my own motion, recused myself from hearing cases.

Twice I recused myself from cases where I had presided over other cases involving the parties. One was a dependency case where I knew the mother because of her prior history in juvenile justice court; the other was a conservatorship hearing where I knew the proposed conservatee and her family because I had presided over their dependency case. Because I had personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceedings, presiding over the new cases would have violated the mandate of California Code of Civil Procedure § 170.1(a)(1)(A).

The third case where I recused myself was a misdemeanor arraignment where the defendant was a former client whom I had represented over the course of several years. I believed it was appropriate to recuse pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 170.1(a)(6)(A)(iii), which states that a judge is disqualified if a person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt that the judge would be impartial.

I do not have the case numbers for the cases from which I recused myself, as they were immediately transferred to other judges.

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.

I have never held public office other than my judicial office. I have had no unsuccessful candidacies for public office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

- 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;

I have never served as a clerk to a judge.

- 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;

1996 – 2015

San Diego County Public Defender's Office

450 B Street, Suite 900

San Diego, CA 92101

Deputy Public Defender

Assistant Supervisor (2012 – 2014)

- 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.

I have never served as a mediator or arbitrator.

- b. Describe:

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

As a deputy public defender from 1996 to 2015, I represented indigent

criminal defendants at all stages from arraignment to trial and at sentencing. From 1996 to 1999 and for one year between 2003 and 2004, I represented clients accused of misdemeanor offenses including petty theft, driving under the influence, domestic violence, and drug charges. I was responsible for all aspects of representation including settlement negotiations, pre-trial motions, trial, and sentencing briefs.

From 1999 to 2003 and again from 2004 to 2011, I represented adults charged with felonies ranging from drug possession to murder. I also represented adults facing civil commitment. I remained responsible for all aspects of litigation including the preliminary hearings mandated by California law in all felony cases.

Between 2011 and 2014, I was assigned to my office's Juvenile Division where I represented minors accused of violating the law and I served as the Assistant Supervisor for two years. In that capacity I was also responsible for writing the office's writs and for developing policy.

From 2014 to my appointment to the bench in 2015, I primarily worked on implementing changes to the law pursuant to a proposition that reduced many drug and theft offenses from felonies to misdemeanors and required resentencing for any defendants who were in prison or on probation for those crimes. I also appeared on civil commitment cases.

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

My clients were indigent adults in the criminal justice system or minors in the juvenile justice system facing criminal charges from petty theft to murder. I also represented adult respondents facing civil commitment.

- 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.

As a deputy public defender, for most of my career I appeared in court on a daily basis. From 2012 to 2014, I acted in a supervisory role in my office's Juvenile Division and appeared in court less frequently, averaging two court appearances per month. From 2014 to 2015, I was assigned to special projects and appeared in court less than once per month.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
 - 1. federal courts: 0%
 - 2. state courts of record: 100%
 - 3. other courts: 0%
 - 4. administrative agencies: 0%

ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

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

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 tried 60 cases to verdict, most of which were in the San Diego Superior Court. These included 51 jury trials and 8 bench trials, as well as one trial before an administrative law judge on an educational rights issue. I was sole counsel in all but one of these cases, and in that case I was co-counsel.

i. What percentage of these trials were:

1. jury: 87%
2. non-jury: 13%

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 not 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. *In re Micah P.*, JCM230662, San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Justice Division (2012) (Judge Cynthia Bashant)

I represented ten-year-old Micah P., who was charged with first-degree murder and felony assault relating to the stabbing death of his best friend. The victim's death was

crushing to the community who knew and cared for both boys and their parents. Multiple psychological evaluations revealed that Micah suffered from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, brain damage from prenatal alcohol exposure, which explained why his adoptive mother's efforts at psychological treatment had failed.

The prosecutor and I agreed to provide the court with competency evaluations prepared by two experienced mental health professionals. Both experts concluded that Micah was not competent to stand trial. The court found Micah incompetent to stand trial and he was transported to a residential treatment facility.

Opposing Counsel

Victor Barr
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County of San Diego
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2. *People v. Calderon*, SCD127067, San Diego Superior Court (2011) (Judge Robert O'Neill)

I represented Mr. Calderon at his second jury trial following a mistrial due to a hung jury. Mr. Calderon was charged with the first-degree murder of the boyfriend of a woman with whom he had had an affair. I conducted all aspects of the second trial, including pre-trial motions, a motion for new trial following conviction, and sentencing.

Because Mr. Calderon had been convicted based in part on one juror's stated opinion that Mr. Calderon must be guilty because he chose not to testify, the conviction was overturned by the Court of Appeal. 2011 WL 1259519 (Cal. Ct. App. Apr. 5, 2011). I did not represent Mr. Calderon at his third trial, where he was again convicted.

Opposing Counsel

Corrine Miesfeld (formerly of the Office of the District Attorney, County of San Diego)
San Diego Superior Court
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San Diego, CA 92112
(619) 746-6200

3. *People v. Jackson*, SCD190366, San Diego Superior Court (2006) (Judge Peter C. Deddeh)

Shortly after his eighteenth birthday, Mr. Jackson shot and killed his cousin after the cousin challenged him to a fight. I represented Mr. Jackson on his first-degree murder case. Witnesses at Mr. Jackson's jury trial characterized him as a dedicated student who was the type to walk away from a fight despite growing up in a violent neighborhood.

Teachers and an employee of the local recreational center described him as quiet and non-confrontational.

Following his conviction for second-degree murder, I filed a motion asking the court to find that the penalty of 15 years to life in prison for second-degree murder was “grossly disproportionate” to the offense pursuant to *People v. Dillon*, 34 Cal.3d 441 (1983), and inviting the court to reduce Mr. Jackson’s conviction to manslaughter. I submitted letters from jurors stating that while they believed Mr. Jackson was guilty under the letter of the law, they wanted his punishment to reflect his youth and circumstances. I provided a psychological evaluation that concluded that Mr. Jackson was not a threat to the community. The mother of the victim, Mr. Jackson’s aunt, spoke to the court about her love for Mr. Jackson and her desire for him to be released from prison in the future.

The court reduced the verdict from second-degree murder to manslaughter and sentenced Mr. Jackson to 16 years in state prison.

Opposing Counsel

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San Diego, CA 92112
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4. *People v. Stamper*, MB81299DV, San Diego Superior Court (2003) (Judge Kerry Wells)

I represented Mr. Stamper at trial. Mr. Stamper was a young, dedicated United States Marine accused of misdemeanor domestic violence against his estranged wife. The two were in the midst of a heated divorce and Mr. Stamper was adamant that he was innocent. If convicted, he would have been discharged from the military. I successfully argued to prevent the admission of hearsay testimony regarding the alleged incident and the jury found Mr. Stamper not guilty.

Opposing Counsel

Judy Taschner
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County of San Diego
330 West Broadway, Suite 750
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-4040

5. *People v. Evans*, SCD166507, San Diego Superior Court (2002)

I represented Mr. Evans who, based on eyewitness identifications, was charged with two residential burglaries on two separate days. He faced a maximum penalty of seven years

and four months in state prison. The perpetrator of each theft was described as smelling of alcohol, and in one case fled the scene of the crime by jumping over a series of fences.

Investigation showed that Mr. Evans was a decades-long member of Alcoholics Anonymous who was likely attending an AA meeting at the time of one of the crimes. A medical examination proved him to be incapable of jumping over a fence. After I presented this exonerating information to the District Attorney's office, the case was dismissed.

Opposing Counsel

Kristin Spieler (retired)

6. *People v. DiCarlo*, SCD158105, San Diego Superior Court (2001) (Judge Robert O'Neill)

I represented Ms. DiCarlo, who was arrested for transporting seven pounds of cocaine through San Diego International Airport and faced eight years in state prison. Investigation revealed that her imprisoned son's life had been threatened by another inmate if she did not transport the drugs.

At a pretrial motion to admit evidence, I presented expert testimony that supported Ms. DiCarlo's contention that her son was an inmate in a prison where prison gangs did sometimes threaten inmates' families to coerce them into performing criminal acts. The court ruled that I would be allowed to argue the defense of necessity if Ms. DiCarlo testified in her own defense and, following his ruling, indicated his sympathy for Ms. DiCarlo's situation. Ms. DiCarlo then pled guilty and was placed on probation by the court.

Opposing Counsel

Honorable Sherry Thompson-Taylor (formerly of the San Diego District Attorney's Office)

San Diego Superior Court

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(619) 456-4100

7. *People v. Ruffin*, SCD153122, San Diego Superior Court, 2000 (Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund)

Mr. Ruffin was sitting in his parked car when he was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance and in possession of 15 grams of methamphetamine. Because of the large amount of controlled substance, he was charged with possession with intent to sell and faced more than ten years in state prison. He insisted that he had just purchased the drugs for personal use, not for sales.

I represented Mr. Ruffin at trial and presented expert testimony from a recovered addict who ran a residential treatment facility who stated that addicts do purchase large quantities of drugs when possible due to reduced cost. I also called as a witness Mr. Ruffin's mother, who testified to his long history of addiction and his pattern of immediately spending any money he received on methamphetamine. The jury could not reach a verdict and Mr. Ruffin was offered the opportunity to plead guilty to simple possession of drugs rather than possession for the purposes of sale. He pled guilty and was sentenced to the state prison's drug rehabilitation center.

Opposing Counsel

Browder Willis (retired)

8. *People v. Gortney*, SCD153928, San Diego Superior Court (Judge Henry Wien)

Mr. Gortney was the passenger in a truck that pulled up to the victim's house in the early morning hours. Both Mr. Gortney and the driver then stepped out of the truck, lifted a large industrial paint sprayer out of the victim's driveway, put it in the back of the truck, and drove away. Hearing noise, the victim woke up, saw that his paint sprayer was missing, and called police. A patrol car pulled over Mr. Gortney and his companion, who fled. Mr. Gortney spoke with police and insisted that he had been hired to do a painting job by the driver and that he thought they were picking up a piece of equipment with the permission of its owner. Mr. Gortney was charged with felony grand theft.

I represented Mr. Gortney at trial which included his thorough testimony regarding the details of the morning of the theft and his understanding with the driver of the vehicle. Mr. Gortney was acquitted by the jury.

Opposing Counsel

William Collins (formerly of the Office of the District Attorney)
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San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 281-3500

9. *People v. Crowel*, SCD153109, San Diego Superior Court (2000) (Judge Peter C. Deddeh)

Mr. Crowel pled guilty to one count of check fraud and admitted a prior conviction for an assault with a deadly weapon. At issue was whether the prior conviction was a serious or violent "strike" prior under a newly enacted provision of California's recidivism law. If it were, Mr. Crowel would have faced mandatory prison and a maximum sentence of six years rather than having the possibility of probation and a maximum term of three years in the state prison.

I filed a motion arguing that, using standard principles of statutory construction, the prior conviction was not a serious or violent "strike." I further argued that, even if Mr. Crowel's prior were a serious or violent offense, the prosecution was estopped from so

alleging because they had specifically contracted for a non-strike conviction in the prior case. The prosecution agreed and did not file a response to my motion. Mr. Crowel pled guilty and received a grant of probation.

Opposing Counsel

Douglas M. Rose (retired)

10. *People v. Esquivel*, T171767 (1997) (Judge Howard C. Coates)

Mr. Esquivel was charged with hit and run after his car hit another vehicle and the driver fled. Mr. Esquivel had brothers who had access to the car, and he strongly disputed that he was driving at the time of the accident. I represented Mr. Esquivel at trial. He testified that he was not the driver and his employer testified that Mr. Esquivel had been at work at the time of the incident. While the jury was deliberating, they submitted a note to the court asking for copies of transcripts of the witnesses' testimony. Without notifying counsel, the judge entered the jury room and denied the jury's request, explaining later that he did not notify counsel or make a record of the interaction because he had a pressing appointment. Shortly after the judge's unrecorded ex parte communication with the jury, the jury reached a verdict of guilty. Upon learning of this judicial misconduct I negotiated a dismissal.

Opposing Counsel

Tracy Rogers (formerly of the San Diego Office of the City Attorney)
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Colorado Springs, CO 80906
(719) 300-7631

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.)

From 2018 to 2021, I presided over the San Diego Superior Court's RISE (Resilience Is Strength and Empowerment) Court, a collaborative court serving youth on probation who are survivors of commercial sex trafficking. These children had all experienced high rates of trauma, and most suffered from substance abuse disorders along with co-occurring mental health disorders often involving suicidal ideation.

Each child was seen at a review hearing in court a minimum of once per month, and the multidisciplinary team consisting of the court, prosecution, defense attorneys, probation, treatment providers, lived experience experts and others met weekly to ensure that the youth were safe and that we were meeting their educational, psychological and physical health needs.

In addition, since 2019 I have been a regular lecturer for the Judicial Council of California's Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), the body responsible for training California judges and subordinate judicial officers. When assigned to juvenile court, twice I taught judges newly assigned to dependency courts an intensive week-long dependency Primary Assignment Orientation. Topics included substantive law, the dependency court process, and compliance with federal requirements under the Indian Child Welfare Act and Title IV of the Social Security Act. Three times I have taught judges new to criminal assignments how to handle probation violations, and in October 2022 I lectured on mental health and addiction issues at a training required of all new California judges.

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.

University of California San Diego, Spring 2014: I designed and taught an undergraduate sociology class in Social Control and the Law that examined criminal law as written and as enforced, the theoretical explanations for who commits crime, mental health law and the juvenile justice system. Syllabus supplied.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Fall 2011: I taught a course on Sexual Deviance and Crime examining the interplay between mental health diagnosis and treatment, and the law. I am unable to locate a copy of the syllabus.

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Spring 2010: I co-taught Advanced Trial Advocacy, an eight-day intensive trial advocacy program for students who had completed courses in basic trial advocacy and the rules of evidence. I am unable to locate a copy of the syllabus.

California Western School of Law, Adjunct Professor, 2004 to 2009: For five years, I taught trial skills classes and coached trial teams, culminating in mock jury trials or mock trial competitions. I am unable to locate 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.

A case I have decided in the Superior Court could be heard in the District Court on collateral review. It is also possible that a former client could appear in District Court, or that the employer of my husband may be a party to a matter. Should any of these situations arise, I will adhere to the applicable ethical standards.

- 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, I will adhere to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, 28 U.S.C. § 455, and other applicable authority in resolving any conflicts of interest.

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 entire legal career has been devoted to serving the public. My years as an attorney were dedicated to indigent defense, and for the past eight years I have served my

community as a Superior Court judge, including five years presiding over juvenile cases involving children who have been trafficked, abused, or neglected.

Beginning in 1995, I volunteered at Stand Down, an annual, multi-day event where services are provided to homeless veterans including a temporary court designed to help veterans clear warrants and resolve cases. I would typically work for one full day in the temporary court and ceased this activity upon being appointed to the bench.

From 2012 to 2015, I was a member of the Public Defender Outreach Committee. One of our accomplishments was the creation of a Casino Night to raise money for worthy causes including Village of Promise, a non-profit serving the children of incarcerated parents.

As a judge, I have continued serving the community by being active in Success Inside and Out, an annual one-day of workshops for women in jail who are preparing to re-enter the community. I have also participated in a book club held at the women's jail and in Mentor Jet, which provides an opportunity for students from historically marginalized groups to connect with judges.

For two years I served on the board of the Crawford Academy of Law, which mentors students from an under-resourced high school on their journey to college and law school, and from 2015 to 2019 I was a member of the San Diego Civics Learning Partnership, a collaboration of educators, business-people, lawyers, judges, and concerned citizens advocating for civics education and engagement in California schools. As a member of the Partnership, I spoke to school boards and principals encouraging them to pass pro-civics education resolutions and to weave civics education through their curricula and met with parents' groups to encourage their involvement.

As a bench officer, I have been engaged with the Court Clergy Conference that originated in 2016 and I am serving as a co-chair this year. The biannual conference brings together San Diego County clergy of all denominations who select workshops on topics relevant to their congregations, including family court processes and child custody, immigration law, and elder abuse including financial crimes. The conference also offers a plenary session on mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting requirements for clergy under California law.

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.

In January 2021, I submitted my application for the United States District Court for the Southern District of California to Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla. On March 15, 2021, I was interviewed by the local selection committee for Senator Feinstein. On April 20, 2022, I was interviewed by Senator Padilla's statewide committee. On April 27, 2022, I was interviewed by Senator Padilla's counsel. On May 10, 2022, I was interviewed by Senator Padilla. On May 17, 2022, I interviewed with the chair of Senator Feinstein's statewide committee. On July 26, 2022, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office. Since that date, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice. On December 21, 2022, 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.