

ROMONDA D. BELCHER

June 21, 2018

Todd Nuccio, Commission Secretary
State Court Administrator's Office
Iowa Judicial Branch Building
1111 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Iowa Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Mr. Nuccio and Members of the Commission:

It is with great pleasure that I submit my application as a candidate for nomination to the Iowa Supreme Court. As a District Associate Judge for the past eight years, I am living my childhood dream and making a difference in the lives of those who appear before me. I have earned the respect of counsel and my colleagues as one who has the character, tenacity, calm judicious temperament, patience and solid legal work ethic exemplary of the judiciary.

My years on the bench, along with my educational background, extensive experience as a criminal and civil litigator and my life experiences, have prepared me for Iowa's highest court. I recognize the necessity for a fair and impartial judiciary. Equally as important, I understand the need for public confidence in a judiciary that reflects the community it serves.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you individually and can be available anytime on June 28, 2018, or as your time permits. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination to the Iowa Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Romonda D. Belcher

Enclosures

Iowa Judicial Branch
Application for a Supreme Court Justice Position

(Revised: 5-7-2018)

Part 1: Personal Background Information Form
For Submission to the State Judicial Nominating Commission
See the "Instructions for Applicants" (a separate page)

1. Applicant's full name:

Romonda Denise Belcher

2. Current occupation/title. (Lawyers: identify name of firm, organization, or government agency; judicial officers: identify title and judicial election district):

District Associate Judge, Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

3. City and county of residence:

Des Moines, Polk County

4. Age:

50

5. Gender (Female / Male):

Female

6. Race/ethnicity:

Black/African

Please provide this information so we can determine the extent to which the Iowa courts are attracting candidates from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds. *Please write in the one or two categories that best fit(s) your background.*

- Asian/Pacific Islander (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistani, Filipino, Indonesian, native Hawaiian)
- Black/African ■ Hispanic/Latina(o) ■ Native American (e.g., Meskwaki, Sioux, Inuit)
- White/Caucasian ■ Other (write it in one of the boxes)

7. Are you related (within the third degree of consanguinity) to any of the members of the State Judicial Nominating Commission involved in the selection process for the position for which you are submitting this application? (Yes or No) If your answer is "yes," please explain.

No

8. Have you ever had a social relationship or business relationship (e.g., as a business or law partner) with any of the members of the State Judicial Nominating Commission involved in the selection process for the position for which you are submitting this application? (Yes or No) If your answer is "yes," please explain.

No

9. Explain why you are seeking this judgeship position:

As a first generation college graduate, my mother taught me the importance of my faith, the importance of an education and the importance of treating others the way I want to be treated. Growing up in the south, I realized at an early age that people were treated differently because of their race, socio-economic background or lack of education. My experiences sparked my interest in public service and my desire to make a difference and ensure people are treated fairly.

Somehow, I believed judges were in a position to make a difference, and from a young age, I have always only wanted to be a judge. I am grateful to have actualized my childhood dream and for the chance to make a difference as a District Associate Judge. Every day, I am blessed to have the opportunity to impact the lives of others and influence the way they view the justice system. I endeavor to make sure everyone is treated fairly, treated with respect, have an opportunity to be heard and treated with compassion.

I am seeking this position because I recognize I can continue to be impactful and make a difference more globally, throughout the State. While my visibility in the community may change, the impact of my rulings would resonate statewide in ensuring equal justice under the law. My ability to be decisive, yet thoughtful and base my decisions solely on the facts and applicable law, in addition to my 15 years as a trial attorney with extensive criminal and civil experience, have prepared me for the appellate bench. Being appointed to the Supreme Court would enhance my intellectual curiosity and satisfy my passion for public service.

10. Explain how your appointment would enhance the court:

The judiciary should be reflective of the community that it serves to ensure public confidence that all persons are treated fairly and impartially. As judges, our decision-making is not only influenced by our legal education, training and abilities, but our personal backgrounds and life experiences also help formulate our opinions.

My appointment would enhance the court by providing collaboration with another perspective, a different viewpoint and sound application of the facts and interpretation of the law that is enriched by my experience in litigating substantive juvenile, criminal and civil matters and my own life experiences. My appointment would enhance the court by adding a social awareness in how our decisions impact those most affected and ensuring compassion is not lost in our decision-making.

11. Identify any offenses for which you have ever been **convicted** or pled guilty for the violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, *excluding* convictions that have been properly *expunged*. Do not include traffic violations for which the court imposed a fine of \$250 or less, unless you were arrested. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Convicted of (describe offense)	Seriousness of charge (e.g., serious misdemean., felony)	Location of court (County, State)	Disposition type (Plea, judge ruling, jury verdict)	Sentence / Penalty	Sentence date (mo/day/yr)

None					
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12. Has any local, state, or federal office/agency ever assessed or threatened to assess you with a civil or criminal penalty in connection with the reporting of, or **failure to report, your federal, state, or local taxes?** (Yes or No) If yes, provide details.

No

13. Have you ever been the subject of a **no-contact order?** (Yes or No) If yes, provide details (case number, county, state, date issued, date rescinded, and reason for the NCO).

No

14. Have you ever been a **party** in any **legal proceeding** (excluding traffic violation cases for which a fine of \$250 or less was imposed, unless you were arrested)? If yes, provide the following information: (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Case number	County, State	Date filed	Date close	Description of case and outcome
CDCD058755	Polk Co., IA	Sept. 1998	Feb. 1999	Uncontested annulment/divorce granted
CD81958	Wake Co., NC	Feb. 2006	2007	I was a named party of a permanent custody matter regarding my niece and nephew after my younger sister was murdered by their father. The paternal grandmother had contested my older sister's request for custody. Custody was granted to my sister.

CDCD081958 Polk Co. IA Sept. 2010 Sept. 2010 Uncontested divorce granted

Over the course of my 15 years as a prosecutor, I was named as a co-defendant in matters filed by dissatisfied defendants who, customarily, filed complaints or law suits against the State. No wrongdoing was found on my behalf in any of those matters.

15. Have you ever been **publicly disciplined** in any manner for a breach of professional ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary board, or other professional group? If yes, provide the following information: (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Name of discipline board or agency	Date discipline imposed	Description of the ethics violation	Description of the public discipline
No			

16. List each **college and law school** you attended, including the dates of attendance, the degree awarded, and your reason for leaving each school if you did not receive a degree from that institution was awarded. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

College(s) and Law School(s) – and reason for leaving, if applicable	Dates Attended (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr)	Degree(s)	Month/Yr Received
Howard University	8/1986-5/1990	BA	May 1990
Drake University Law School	8/1992-5/1995	JD	June 1995

17. List any relevant **honors, prizes, awards**, or other forms of recognition that you have received for educational, professional, or community contributions/achievements. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Name/Title of Honor, Prizes, Awards	Awarded by:	Month/Yr Received
Maple Grove Wall of Achievement	Maple Grove Middle School	May 2018
Performance Achievement Award in Drama	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority	April 2018
Words of Wisdom and Dedicated Service	Drake Black Students Association (BLSA)	September 2017
Portrait Unveiling – Sutton Gallery	Drake Law School	January 2015
Mentoring Recognition	Drake BLSA	September 2015
14 People to Watch in 2014	Des Moines Register	January 2014
African American History Makers Award	Iowa African American Museum	September 2011
Gubernatorial Proclamation	Governor Branstad	September 2011
Willie Stevenson Glanton Award	Polk County Women Attorneys Association	March 2011
Citizen of the Year Award	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity	November 2010
Outstanding Committee Chairperson Award	Iowa State Bar Association	June 2009
Gertrude Rush Award	Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys	June 2008
Member of Creative Class	Meredith Corporation	2005

18. List all **articles and books** you have published; include the citations and dates. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

The Importance of Women and the Judiciary, 17 J. Gender, Race & Just., 421, 421-426 (2014) (A Personal Perspective)

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19. List all **public presentations** you have made at educational, professional, or other public forums; include the citations and dates. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Title of Presentation	City, State	Event Sponsor	Month & Year
Honoring Our Mothers	Des Moines, IA	Elim Christian Fellowship	May 2018
All In Life's Blueprint – Graduation Speech	Cedar Rapids, IA	George Washington High School	May 2018
Trauma Informed Judges	Des Moines, IA	Iowa Association of Administrative Law Judges Training	April 2018
Equality, Justice and Unity	Ames, IA	Ames/Story County	January 2018
Trauma Informed Courts	Des Moines, IA	Iowa Judicial Branch Magistrate Conference, Juvenile Judges Training, New Judges Training	November 2017, June 2017
Juvenile Court Overview	Des Moines, IA	Iowa Judicial Branch	November 2017
Edna Griffin's Civil Rights Legacy	Des Moines, IA	Family of Edna Griffin	July 2017
Live Law 7 – Schooled in the Law	Des Moines, IA	Tides Center, Drake University	April 2017
Honoring Women's History Month	Des Moines, IA	Nationwide	March 2017
The 14 th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy	Des Moines, IA	Polk County Bar Association	May 2017
The Agape Love of God	Des Moines, IA	Central District Women's Auxiliary	February 2016
Increasing Diversity on the Bench	Des Moines, IA	Iowa State Bar Association	February 2016
Celebrating 50 Years of Higher Quality Through Equality	Des Moines, IA	Iowa Civil Rights Commission	May 2015
Public Service: Why it Matters	Des Moines, IA	Drake Law School	November 2014, 2013, 2010
It's Time for a Showdown	Des Moines, IA	National Baptist Regional Workshop	October 2014
Racing to the Top	Des Moines, IA	Morris Scholarship	July 2014
Generations of Strength: Supporting Women Leaders of Tomorrow	Des Moines, IA	Young Women's Resource Center	July 2014

Thurgood Marshall Guest Lecturer	Vermillion, South Dakota	University of South Dakota Law School	April 2014
Remembering Martin	Cedar Rapids, IA	United Way, Rockwell Collins, Rotary International	January 2012
Time to Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./Pre-Law Hubbard Program Speaker	Iowa City, IA	University of Iowa	January 2012/June 2011
Diversity Day Speaker	Des Moines, IA	Wells Fargo	May 2011
Having It Defined - Commencement Speech	Des Moines, IA	Drake Law School	May 2011
My Journey to the Bench	Des Moines, IA	Iowa Association of Court Reporters	May 2011
I have performed life perspectives of historical African Americans and recited poetry	Des Moines, IA	Black History Programs, Civil Rights events, conferences, schools, businesses, breakfast clubs, churches, etc.	2005-present

20. List all part-time and full-time **teaching positions** you have held. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Name of School / College	City, State	Name of Course(s)	Month/Yr to Month/Yr	Full-time or Part-time
N/A				

21. List the courts or **jurisdictions** in which you are, or have been, **admitted to practice law**, including any administrative bodies with special admission requirements, and the dates of admission for each. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

State and federal jurisdictions in which you are, or have been, admitted to practice law	Month/Yr Admitted
Iowa state courts and the Supreme Court of Iowa	June 1995

22. List chronologically the **employment** you have had *since your initial admission to practice law* in any state or federal jurisdiction. For each time period, provide the following information as applicable:

a. If you served as a law clerk to a judge, provide the name of the judge, the court, and the court's location.

Dates (From -- To)	Name of judge, name of court, and court location
N/A	

b. If you have practiced law, provide the following information for each position you have held:

- (1) Name of the law firm(s), company, or government agency that employed you,
- (2) City and state where the office was located,
- (3) Number of attorneys in the law firm or agency,
- (4) Whether you were a partner in the firm,
- (5) The areas of law in which you practiced, and
- (6) A description of the typical clients you represented. *(Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)*

Dates (From -- To)	Description of law practice (address topics in 22(b)(1) – (6) for each time period)
9/1995-8/2010	<p>I was an Assistant Polk County Attorney with Polk County Attorney's Office, Des Moines, Iowa, with @ 38 staff attorneys. During my last three years as a prosecutor from 2007 - 2010, I was assigned to the Civil Division. I represented the Department of Human Services in numerous Guardianship and Conservatorship Hearings. I represented the general public in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Civil Commitment Hearings. I defended Small Claims Actions and Civil Rights Complaints against Polk County. In addition, I served as Counsel to the Polk County Recorder, Auditor and General Services Departments, writing briefs and presenting arguments on their behalf in areas of marriage licensing, government contracts and real estate forfeitures.</p> <p>As the Senior Attorney assigned to the Operating While Intoxicated (OWI), Felony Eluding and Traffic Offense Docket from 1999 - 2001 and 2004 - 2007, I reviewed approximately 1500 cases yearly, 546 of which I managed personally. From 2001 - 2003, I managed the County Attorney's Criminal Domestic Abuse Docket. From 1995 - 1999, I was part of the team handling the Juvenile Court Docket. I personally conducted approximately 200 non-jury cases monthly, including Children in Need of Assistance and Delinquency Hearings.</p> <p>In my 15 years with the Polk County Attorney's Office, all of my work assignments included pre-trial and trial preparation, trials, motion practice and student intern supervision, in addition to probation violation and bond review hearings.</p>

23. Regarding your legal experience:

- a. Approximately what percentage of your court appearances have been in the following types of courts?

Type of court	% of appearances
(1) Federal courts	0%
(2) State courts	100%
(3) Administrative agencies	0%
(4) Other tribunals	0%

- b. Approximately what percentage of your time have you spent on the following types of cases?

Types of cases	% of your time
(1) Administrative	0%
(2) Civil	20%
(3) Criminal	45%
(4) Domestic	15%
(5) Juvenile	20%
(6) Probate	0%
(7) Other (describe):	

- c. In the past **10 years**, approximately how many cases have you **tried to a conclusion** (rather than settling) before a judge and before a jury? Indicate the number in which you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel. ****As I have been a judicial officer since August 2010, my response reflects my nine years as a prosecutor assigned to the criminal docket. Over the course of three years assigned to the juvenile docket, I averaged @ 70 non-jury trials a month.***

Type of trial	Total # of trials	# as sole counsel	# as chief counsel	# as associate counsel
Tried before a jury	@ 216-324	2-3/month	0	2

Tried before a judge	@2,700	25/month	0	0
Column Total	@2,916-3,024	27-28/month	0	2

d. In the past **20 years**, in approximately how many cases have you have represented a party in an **appeal to an appellate court in any state or federal jurisdiction?** Indicate the number in which you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

Appellate court*	Total # of appeals:	# as sole counsel	# as chief counsel	# as associate counsel	# in which you presented oral argument
Iowa Supreme Court	0				
Iowa Court of Appeals	0				
Other state appellate court (identify):	0				
Other state appellate court (identify):	0				
Other state appellate court (identify):	0				
Other appellate court (identify):	0				
Federal Circuit Court(s)	0				
U.S. Supreme Court	0				
Total	0				

* Count it as an appeal to an intermediate court of appeals (ICA) -- e.g., Iowa's Court of Appeals -- if the state intermediate court of appeal initially handled it; count it as a separate appeal to the supreme court (SC) if the SC accepted it upon a petition for further review from the ICA; count an appeal to the supreme court if the SC retained jurisdiction without first assigning it to the ICA. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

e. Describe the general nature of your **current law practice**, including the substantive areas of the law in which you practice (e.g., civil, domestic, criminal) and the approximate percentage of time you have spent on each area over the **past five years**:

N/A

24. Describe three of the most significant legal matters that you have personally handled. For each of the significant legal matters include the following information:

- a. Title of the case and the county and state of venue,
- b. A brief summary of the substance of each matter,
- c. A succinct statement of what you believe to be the significance of it,
- d. The name of the party you represented,
- e. The nature of your participation in the case,
- f. Dates of your involvement,
- g. The outcome of the case,
- h. Name(s) and address(es) [city, state] of co-counsel (if any),
- i. Name(s) of counsel for opposing parties in the case, and
- j. Name of the judge before whom you tried the case.

Note: if the matter was *confidential*, please avoid the use of any information that may allow disclosure of the identity of the parties.

Significant legal matter #1:

OMOW058259 Polk County, Iowa

A defendant was charged with Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated (OWI), having a breath alcohol concentration of .245, over three times the legal limit, Interference with Official Acts and a number of traffic citations. The defendant was involved in a single car accident after he lost control of his vehicle in a construction zone, hitting the over-pass wall. He walked to a nearby gas station with tow service and asked for assistance. While at the gas station, the defendant was observed having a smell of alcohol, watery eyes and mumbled speech. He admitted to drinking alcohol but denied being intoxicated and indicated that he wanted to avoid any law enforcement involvement.

The defendant was taken to the police station and given field sobriety tests. While waiting in the room where the breath test was conducted, the defendant made several telephone calls. The room was under 24-hour surveillance. The videotape of the defendant was preserved and intended to be offered for admission at trial. The defendant filed a motion to have the videotape and his statements excluded at trial.

This case is significant for two reasons: 1) it clarified my interpretation and application of Iowa Code Section 804.20; and 2) it involved a prominent local resident, and despite the public nature, I had the confidence and skill to proceed to trial and was not intimidated or swayed by influence.

As a prosecutor, I filed the trial information on October 5, 2004. The defendant was represented by Attorney Brad Schroeder, Des Moines, Iowa. I represented the State in response to the motion and tried the case to a jury before the late Honorable Judge Don Nickerson. The motion was denied, and the defendant was found guilty. The defendant appealed the verdict but later dismissed his appeal on September 29, 2005.

Significant legal matter #2:

SMAC324729 Polk County, Iowa

The defendant, along with about 30 other defendants, was charged with Trespass by a complaint filed on October 10, 2011. The defendants, involved in Occupy Iowa, were

protesting on state property. The State argued that the proposed jury instructions did not take into account the constitutional challenge and allowing the defendants to make such argument would lead to jury nullification.

As a District Associate Judge assigned to the trial docket, this case was significant because it presented a new constitutional challenge. After a careful review of the statute and relevant case law I ruled the law imposed an additional element that the State had to meet to establish its burden beyond a reasonable doubt. This case also garnered public interest and media attention which I did not allow to affect my rulings on the many motions filed by the State and the defendants.

The first trial involved a prominent public official, who was found not guilty by a jury. He was represented by Joseph Glazebrook, Des Moines, Iowa. The other defendants were represented by Sally Frank, Drake Legal Clinic, Des Moines, Iowa. Several of the other defendants were found guilty and others resolved their cases by plea negotiations. One of the defendants filed an appeal to district court, and Judge Richard Blane upheld the conviction.

Significant legal matter #3:

In the Interest of V.L. and L. L. Polk County, Iowa

As a District Associate Judge currently assigned to the juvenile bench, my decisions affect parents’ ability to maintain their parental rights and whether they will retain or regain custody of their children. While the best interest of children is the overriding principle, I give the parents an opportunity to demonstrate they can safely parent their children.

The State filed a termination of parental rights petition. I found that despite a slow start in the parents’ compliance with services, they were making an effort and should be given a six-month extension to demonstrate they could comply with the recommended services and safely parent their children.

My ruling was upheld on appeal where the Court of Appeals held that “despite the mother’s delays and inconsistencies in complying with services, she had made recent progress, even if belated and somewhat limited, that supported and warranted a six-month extension pursuant to *Iowa Code Section 232.104(2)(b)*.”

This case is significant because it was one of my first termination rulings to be appealed, and as an independent jurist, it assured me that I can exercise compassion in rendering my judgment, giving the parents every opportunity, under the law, to be reunified with their children and retain their parental rights. In this case, despite the time and services provided, the parents later realized they could not safely parent their children, and I terminated their parental rights. It was not, however, for the lack of the court giving them an opportunity.

The children were represented by the Juvenile Public Defenders Office. Jessica Chandler represented the father, and Kate Strickler represented the mother.

25. Have you served as a judicial officer in any state? (Yes / No): Yes No If “No” – skip to # 26.

a. If “Yes” - provide the following information: (Use “Tab” in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Judicial title	County or District	Types of cases within your jurisdiction
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8/2010-present	District Associate Judge	Fifth Judicial District (Polk County)	Juvenile court delinquency, dependency, termination of parental rights, civil committal and adoption proceedings; civil for damages up to \$10,000; and criminal court for misdemeanors and Class D Felonies that carry a maximum term of up to five years of incarceration

b. If you have been a judicial officer in **Iowa** during the previous **five years**:

(1) How many times did you **fail** to file the monthly Rule 22.10 reports by the report deadline?

@ three may have been filed a day late

(2) During the past **five years**, how many **cases** did you list on your Rule 22.10 reports that were more than the following number of days old from the time they were submitted for a ruling?

	120 days old	180 days old	240 days old	One year old
# of cases more than:	0	0	0	0

26. If you are **currently** an officer, director, partner, sole proprietor, or otherwise engaged in the **management of any business enterprise or nonprofit organization** other than a law practice, provide the following information about your position(s) and title(s): (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Name of business / organization	Your title	Your duties	Dates (From -- To)
N/A			

27. List all county, state, and national **bar association and professional organization memberships** and the years you have been a member of each (e.g., 1998 to present), and identify any committees on which you have served and offices you have held in those organization(s) - and the titles and dates of any offices you have held. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Professional associations to which you have belonged	Committees / Offices	Dates (From -- To)
Iowa Judges Association	District 5 Representative	2010-present 2012-2018
Iowa State Bar Association	Women & Minorities Committee, co-chair	2006-2010; 2017-present

	Fellow Best Practices for Inclusiveness Task Force, co-chair	2006-2010 2008-present 2008-2009
Polk County Bar Association	Drake Law Peer Partner	2005-present 1997-present
Polk County Women Attorneys Association		2005-present
National Bar Association		1995-2008; 2016-present
Iowa National Bar Association	President Membership Chair National Monument Project Coordinator Acting Secretary	1997-present 2009-2010 2006-2007 2006-2010 1999
Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys	Award Nomination Committee	2009-present 2009-2013
C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court	Barrister/Master Emeritus	2007-2015 2015-present
Drake Law School Board of Counselors		2006-2010
National Black Prosecutors Association		2004-2010
Gertrude E. Rush Legal Education Institute	Founder Legal Education Project Coordinator	2003 2007-2009

28. List all local, county, state, and national government (including but not limited to judicial branch) **commissions, task forces, or advisory committees** on which you have served - and any titles (e.g., chair) you have held on such commissions or committees. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Government commissions, task forces, etc. on which you served
2017-present	SMART on Juvenile Justice Project
2016-present	Council of State Governments – Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative
2016-2017	Judicial Workload Formula Committee
2014-2016	Juvenile CASP – Detention Alternatives Committee Chair
2013-present	Community and Strategic Planning (CASP) Advisory Council
2013-present	Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB)
2013-present	Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Advisory Committee

2008-2010	Morris Scholarship Board of Directors
2008	Des Moines University Glanton Scholarship Board
2006-2009	Iowa Arts Council
2003-2006; 2005	Metro Arts Alliance Board of Directors, Education Chair
1999	Mayor's Local Option Sales Tax and Voter's Registration Task Force, Committee Chair
1998	Good Samaritan Urban Ministries Board of Directors

29. Describe your pro bono work during the past 10 years:

a. Approximate number of pro bono cases you've handled:	None. As a prosecutor and a judicial officer, I cannot otherwise practice law, which has precluded me from any pro bono services.
b. Average number of hours of pro bono service per year:	N/A
c. Types of pro bono cases:	N/A

30. List any employment outside of the legal profession that you have had since graduating from law school that may be relevant to this application; include: (a) the dates, (b) organization or business for whom you worked, and (c) duties you performed. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Business / Organization Name, City, State	Your Duties
N/A		

31. Have you ever held public office or have you ever been a candidate for public office? If the answer is "yes," describe the public office held or sought, the location of the public office, and the dates. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Public office(s): Indicate "Held" or "Sought" and Location
N/A	

32. Provide the following information on your military service (if any): (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Military branch	Current Rank	Location and dates of service in other countries	Current Status (Active/Inactive)
N/A				

33. List any civic, charitable, religious, educational, social or fraternal organization(s) to which you belong or provide volunteer services. Describe the nature of your involvement with the organization(s), including any offices you have held with the organization(s). (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Organization Name	Nature of your involvement
2006-present 2014-present/2004-2006 2011-2016 2008-2010 2008 2008 2006-2008	Des Moines Chapter of the Links, Incorporated	Parliamentarian Ethics and Standards Chair President Central Area Ethics and Standards Committee National Program Review Team Leadership Institute Fellow
2000-2004/2010-present 2017-present	Elim Christian Fellowship	Member/Teacher (age 5 and younger) Kingdom Council
2006-2010	Ryane Ensemble	Dramatist
1997-present	Langston Hughes Players	Dramatist

34. List all the **social media applications** (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, LinkedIn) that you have used in the past **five years** and your account name or other identifying information (excluding passwords) for each account. *(Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)*

Social media application name	Account name or other identifying information
None	

35. **References:** List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least **five persons** who are in a position to provide knowledgeable comments about your qualifications for this judicial position.

Name	Address	Telephone number
Jerry Anderson	2608 Forest Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311	515-271-2658
Roxanne Conlin	319 7 th Street, Suite 600, Des Moines, IA 50309	515-243-7987
Arthur Gamble	Polk County Courthouse, Des Moines, IA 50303	515-286-3853
Michael Hurst	1907 Willowmere Drive, Des Moines, IA 50313	515-202-7324
Jerry Foxhoven	Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319	515-281-5452
Alfredo Parrish	2910 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312	515-284-5737
Artis Reis	Polk County Courthouse, Des Moines, IA 50309	515-979-9938
Colin Witt	222 5 th Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309	515-419-1202

36. Provide any **additional information** that may reflect positively on you or which you believe would assist the State Judicial Nominating Commission in selecting nominees for this position.

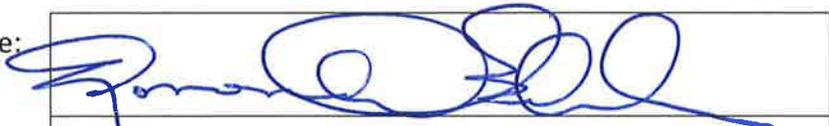
As a District Associate Judge over the past eight years, I have presided over many substantive small claims, civil, criminal and juvenile matters. Currently assigned to the juvenile bench, I preside over a high volume court and manage close to 500 cases monthly utilizing the electronic filing system. My cases include Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases which involve abused, abandoned or neglected children and termination of parental rights; delinquency cases which involve delinquent acts that would be considered criminal acts if committed by an adult; commitment proceedings placing children in hospitals or treatment facilities for mental illness or substance abuse problems; and adoptions. In the month of May, I had 47 active termination of parental rights cases, 303 active CINA and mental health cases and 105 active delinquency cases. I work efficiently and effectively, rendering sound, decisive and timely rulings.

I was selected by Chief Judge Arthur Gamble to preside over Polk County Family Treatment Court, a weekly, therapeutic, peer-based court designed to assist parents with services toward maintaining sobriety and reunification with their children. Judge Gamble recognized my passion for equality in the law and compassion for people, as well as my patience and temperament, needed to be a trauma informed family treatment court judge.

As a judicial officer, I cannot solicit letters of recommendations from attorneys who practice before me and who may know my work best. However, in a 2012 Iowa State Bar Association Judicial Performance Review, I was rated by 184 attorneys who had appeared before me or who were familiar with my work. I received good to excellent ratings for punctuality, attentiveness, courtroom management, temperament, promptness of rulings, courtesy, patience and deciding cases on the basis of applicable law and not being affected by outside influences. I received an overall approval rating of 85 percent. I have demonstrated an ability to treat others with respect, preside over substantive legal matters and rule decisively.

37. When you submit this **application** form, attach at least **two writing samples** (e.g., brief, opinion, or book) that reflect your personal work. Note: **Do not** submit a writing sample that includes confidential information about you or any other person unless you remove / redact the confidential information to obscure the identity of the parties and any information that may allow disclosure of the parties' identity. **I have enclosed a proposed order that I prepared as a prosecutor assigned to the OWI docket for then Judge James Birkenholz and a recent termination of parental right ruling.**
38. **Certification.** I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the information I have provided above is true and correct.

Applicant's signature:



Attorney PIN:

AT0002579

Date:

June 21, 2018