

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:

Lana Lee Luhring

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

Lawyer – Managing Partner Laird and Luhring Law Firm

3. City and county of residence:

Center Point, Iowa – Benton County

4. Age:

47

5. Gender (Female / Male):

Female

6. Race/ethnicity:

White/Caucasian

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:

I believe deeply in the legal process and feel that a change in my career could offer new challenges to me. I have over twenty years of legal practice experience and strong academic credentials. During my time in college and law school, I earned degrees with honors and believe an appellate position would allow me to further my scholarly interests while continuing to serve lowans in a new capacity.

10. Explain how your appointment would enhance the court:

Academically, I always excelled in school and since that time I have devoted 23 of my professional life to the people of Iowa serving my community by providing high quality legal services. During this 23 years, I have worked in a county seat practice, maintained a contract with the Iowa Public Defender, served as the Bremer County Bar President, litigated extensively in the trial courts, handled appeals for clients, accepted pro bono work, served as a licensed foster parent, accepted mental health cases, taught legal concepts to Iowa college students, and worked tirelessly on behalf of clients. It is my well rounded experience that sets me apart from other candidates. I have been the benefactor of a general trial and office practice. I have tried felony cases, probated estates, handled child custody disputes, prepared tax returns, fixed title problems and litigated civil disputes. I believe this vast legal experience and significant trial experience offers me the type of well-rounded background necessary to understand complicated issues and render just decisions.

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)
N/A					

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
SCSC006087	Bremer, IA	11-11	12-11	Default Judgment for Attorney Fees
SCSC001685	Bremer, IA	4-99	7-99	Default Judgment for Attorney Fees
SCSC001161	Bremer, IA	10-97	12-97	Default Judgment for Attorney Fees

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

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
Wartburg College (attended while in high school)	01/88 to 4/88		
University of Iowa (graduated with honors)	8/88 to 5/92	BA	05/92
Drake University Law School (graduated with honors)	8/92 to 5/95	JD	05/92

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
STAR – Student to Assist Recruiting	Univ. of Iowa	1991-1992
Mortar Board Society College Senior Honor Society	Univ. of Iowa Chapter	1991-1992
Honors Program Designee (Advanced honors student only symposiums completed to earn honors degree)	Univ. of Iowa	1988-1992

Moot Court –Client Counseling Team Member	Drake University	1994-1995
Foster Parent License Recipient	State of Iowa	2001-2005 (est)
Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service	Iowa Governor and Volunteer Iowa	06/2018

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

Article: Let Go of the Invisible Leash, Barn Hunter Magazine, Initial Issue March 2017 (Electronic Mag)

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
Ticks and Tricks – Civil Litigation	Des Moines, IA	Iowa State Bar Assoc.	Est. 1998
A Legal Guide for Foster Parents	Allison, IA	Allison Area Foster Parent Support Group	Est. 2006
Title IV Compliance in the Age of Sexual Harassment	Waverly, Ia	Bremer County Bar	12/2017
Appealing Child Abuse Assessments	Waverly, Ia	Bremer County Bar	12/2015

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
Univ. of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, IA	Legal and Social Environment of Business	08/1997 to 05/2002 (Est)	Part-time
Wartburg College	Waverly, IA	Business Law I	08/01-present	Part-time

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
State of Iowa	06/1995

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

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)
1995-1998	1) Laird and Laird Law Firm, 2) Waverly, Iowa 3) two attorneys, 4) associate attorney, 5) Criminal Law, Family Law, Real Estate, 6) I represented individual and business clients
1998-Present	1) Laird and Luhring Law Firm, 2) Waverly, Iowa, 3) two attorneys, 4) Managing Partner, 5) General Practice (Family Law, Juvenile Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law, Real Estate, Civil Litigation, Estate Planning, Probate, Guardianships and Conservatorships, Appeals,

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	1
(2) State courts	94

(3) Administrative agencies	5
(4) Other tribunals	

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

Types of cases	% of your time
(1) Administrative	3
(2) Civil	20
(3) Criminal	15
(4) Domestic	50
(5) Juvenile	2
(6) Probate	10
(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.

Type of trial	Total # of trials	# as sole counsel	# as chief counsel	# as associate counsel
Tried before a jury	8	8		
Tried before a judge	65	64	1	
Column Total	73	72	1	
I do not keep exact records but have a public defense contract to take Felony Appointments – requiring more than 10 jury trials to completion.				

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	# as sole counsel	# as chief counsel	# as associate	# in which you presented oral

	appeals:			counsel	argument
Iowa Supreme Court	1 Further Review Request ed	1	1		
Iowa Court of Appeals	10	8	8		1
Other state appellate court (identify):					
Other state appellate court (identify):					
Other state appellate court (identify):					
Other appellate court (identify):					
Federal Circuit Court(s)					
U.S. Supreme Court					
Total	11	9	9		1

* 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**:

I have a general trial practice in a county seat. A computer search reveals I have served as counsel on hundreds of criminal, juvenile and civil matters. The computer only provides 200 records and I exceed that amount. I am well known to judges in the first and second judicial districts (2A). I spend considerable time litigating family law and various civil matters. However, I have extensive experience in criminal defense and frequently attend the Public Defender's Association Seminar to keep current. My practice also includes real estate matters (I participate as an Iowa Title Guaranty Attorney), probate, estate planning, adoption, juvenile law and guardianships. Though the years I have represented various builders, implements and other institutional clients as well. The largest transaction I have been involved with was a business sale that exceeded ten million dollars. My civil case (family law and civil litigation) load is about 50% of my practice. My office practice (Probate, Taxes, Real Estate...) is about 35% of my practice. The remainder of my practice would include client consultations, criminal law, appeals, juvenile matters and other miscellaneous cases for the remaining 15% of my practice. I also spend time working on matters for the Bremer County Bar Association as their president.

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:

A. State v. Ouassou, b. Criminal Case – Theft Charge, c. This case taught me that there is no small matter to the client and to persevere when the cause is just. Prosecutors and judges, to some degree, expect defendants to accept plea deals. The innocent should not and the jury decided on innocence. d. Karim Ouassou, e. Defense Counsel, f. 2015 to 9-2015, g. Not Guilty Jury Verdict, h. none, i. Black Hawk County Attorney, j. Jeffrey Harris

Significant legal matter #2:

In the Interest of A.R.N. and E.M.N., Minor Children, b. Private Action to Terminate Parental Rights, c. Losing a case, even when you believe the cause is just, can teach a litigator more than winning. This case provided guidance for family law practitioners regarding stipulation drafting with a parent is inappropriate. This case was discussed in case law updates and blogs as a cautionary tale when drafting settlement documents in dissolutions. d. the children’s mother, e. I was trial counsel and appellate counsel, f. 2011-2012, g. Reversal of termination of parental rights, h. None at trial, An associate in my firm Shannon Michael assisted with the appeal i. Patrick Dillon Sumner, Iowa – Guardian Ad Litem, David Kuehner, Charles City, Iowa- appointed for incarcerated father J. Peter B. Newell – trial judge / Eisenhauer, Vogel and Vaitheswaran Appellate Panel

Significant legal matter #3:

A. Cook v. Lampe – Trial and Appellate Counsel b. January 2010 through appeal June 2011, c. The case involved an odd custody arrangement with month on/month off arranged by original counsel. Argued successfully before court of appeals that stability and family relationships are properly considered when determining which home would bring minor child to a successful maturity. d. the child’s father Crager Cook, e. I was trial and appellate counsel, f. 2010 -2011 g. affirmed modification of primary placement with Crager Cook, h. none, i. Jennifer Chase –

Waterloo, Iowa was trial counsel, Andrew Howie – Des Moines was appellate counsel, j. Bradley Harris – trial judge / Sackett, Doyle and Danilson Appellate Panel

25. Have you served as a judicial officer in any state? (Yes / No): 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

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?

(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:				

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)

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 State Bar Association	Bench Bar Committee	1995 to Present
Public Defender's Association of Iowa	Only Private Attorney Board Member (served 4 years)	1997 to Present

Bremer County Bar Association	President (last five years)	1995 to Present
Polk County Women Attorneys		1993-1995
American Bar Association		1995-1997
Allison Area Foster Parent Support Group		2001-2007

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

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

a. Approximate number of pro bono cases you've handled:	20
b. Average number of hours of pro bono service per year:	10
c. Types of pro bono cases:	Referrals from Volunteer Lawyers Project and Cedar Valley Friends of the Family

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
1995-1996	Olive Garden, Waterloo, Iowa	Corporate Trainer (opening this store) Key Employee – Swing Manager, Floated as needed working mostly Friday nights for my longtime manager from Des Moines.

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
1997	Primary Candidate for Bremer County Attorney, Waverly, Iowa –Sought

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)

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
2001-2007	Allison Area Foster Parent Support Group	Assisted in drafting the request for 501(c)3 status probono, served on the board of directors
2018	Fort Dodge 133 rd Test Squadron	Provided support to deployed troops – this group nominated me for a Governors Volunteer Award
2014-2018	Pawsitive Paws Academy Pet Pals	Provided legal support for 501(c)3 non profit that offers shelter to homeless animals
1995-Present	Volunteer Lawyers Project Iowa Legal Aid	Accepted referral work on a volunteer basis

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
Lana Luhring and Laird and Luhring	Facebook
Lana Luhring	Linked In
Lana Luhring	Twitter

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
Patrick Dillon	107 E. First Street, Sumner, Iowa 50674	563-578-1850
Michael and Mary Humes	2711 Eagle Heights Ct., Bettendorf, Iowa 52722	563-355-7889
Karim Ouassou	1118 Tiffany Place #6, Waterloo, Iowa 50701	319-429-0020
Brad Hjelmeland	506 E. Bremer Ave, Waverly, Iowa 50677	319-559-1065
Dr. Christopher Egan	516 S. Division Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613	319-215-5507
Chris Wickwire	320 S. Prairie Street, Shell Rock, Iowa 50676	319-404-7454
John Wood	620 Lafayette St. Ste 300, Waterloo, Iowa 50704	319-234-1766

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.

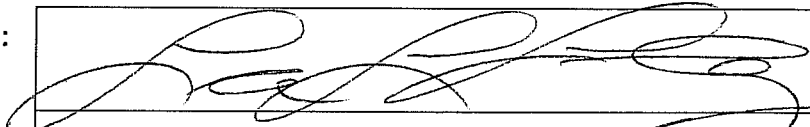
I approached this application a bit differently than I know others who have applied in the past. It is altogether too easy to get a stack of letters from attorneys who are your friends and peers that provide recommendations as to your legal skills. I have little doubt that most who apply have appropriate legal skills. I chose to approach this application in a different manner. A number of the individuals listed above are either professionals I have worked with or prior clients or both. I am satisfied you will not find my intellectual skills lacking based on my credentials. However, I believe it is equally important that explore my ability to be civil, prompt, professional and polite from those who have had professional interactions with me. I believe that it immensely important that those in the judicial branch exercise the utmost professionalism and civility. I thought it much more important that you explore how those who have had relationship outside of the courtroom view my skills, disposition, knowledge and abilities. I strive hard to treat others with respect and dignity. My many clients with diverse backgrounds have taught me how to be a professional worthy of appointment to the bench. Those are lessons I can never repay in full.

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.
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:

Date:


AT0004830
6-25-2018