

**STATE JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION
AND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JOINT JUDICIAL APPLICATION**

Please complete this application by placing your responses in normal type, immediately beneath each request for information. Requested documents should be attached at the end of the application or in separate PDF files, clearly identifying the numbered request to which each document is responsive. Completed applications are public records. If you cannot fully respond to a question without disclosing information that is confidential under state or federal law, please submit that portion of your answer separately, along with your legal basis for considering the information confidential. Do not submit opinions or other writing samples containing confidential information unless you are able to appropriately redact the document to avoid disclosing the identity of the parties or other confidential information.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 1. State your full name.**

Mindy Renee Larsen Poldberg

- 2. State your current occupation or title. (Lawyers: identify name of firm, organization, or government agency; judicial officers: identify title and judicial election district.)**

Director of Government Relations, Iowa Corn Growers Association

- 3. State your date of birth (to determine statutory eligibility).**

08/23/1973

- 4. State your current city and county of residence.**

Iowa Judicial District 5A, Panora, Guthrie County, Iowa.

PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

- 5. List in reverse chronological order each college and law school you attended including the dates of attendance, the degree awarded, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree from that institution was awarded.**

Drake University Law School, 1995-98, J.D., Order of the Coif, High Honors, G.P.A. 3.66, Class Rank 5 of 141

Drake University, 1991-95, B.A., Political Science, Minor Spanish, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, G.P.A. 3.92

6. Describe in reverse chronological order all of your work experience since graduating from college, including:
- a. Your position, dates (beginning and end) of your employment, addresses of law firms or offices, companies, or governmental agencies with which you have been connected, and the name of your supervisor or a knowledgeable colleague if possible.
 - b. Your periods of military service, if any, including active duty, reserves or other status. Give the date, branch of service, your rank or rating, and present status or discharge status.

Iowa Corn Growers Association (July 2005-present). Director of Government Relations. 5505 NW 88th Street, Johnston. My current role includes many responsibilities, including the below core areas. I report directly to the CEO, Craig Floss. 515-225-9242.

Board Issue Management and In-House Board Advisor. Over 14 years of experience, including Responsible for advising the Iowa Corn boards in making sound policy and business decisions. Board communications management, conflict management, finding solutions to difficult issues, and coalition building. Responsible for raising issues for board consideration, as well as policy and program implementation, including budget impacts of related items. Collaboration required throughout the organization, including with the President, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, six issue committee members, as well as the staff and CEO.

Management Team and Director of Government Relations. Advise and contribute to the collective decision-making for the in-house internal workings of the organization regarding both internal and external policies. Responsible for legal review, public policies and government relations implementation for the organization including any contact with public officials, for all branches of government.

Communication to Board and Membership. Provide regular written and verbal communication of detailed updates to Board of Directors and Committees. Provide quarterly presentations to the Board as well as quarterly updates to each of the six Issue Committees. Responsible for the policy and regulatory weekly e-newsletter to membership, as well as Day on the Hill, calls to action and policy presentations to the delegates at the Iowa Corn Grassroots Summit. Responsible for management of ICGA grassroots policy development process with our ICGA President, including but not limited to a coordination and implementation of an annual member survey, member input meetings across the state (12), and ICGA

voting delegate document preparation and meeting management of the Grassroots Summit. Provide factual and legal information necessary for voting delegates as well as membership.

Employee Management. Direct and lead the government relations department. Responsible for daily task management, program management, hiring, coaching and annual reviews for government relations team and contract employees for government relations issues.

Budgeting and Financial Management. Responsible for three major budget areas, including all ICGA lobbying (non-checkoff) expenditures for the Board and all Committees, lead for the ICGA Usage and Production Committee annual budget, as well as the ICGA PAC Committee administration and contribution funds.

Advocacy. Legal advocacy with state and federal governmental officials is a core function and priority for ICGA, and the primary expectation of our membership. Responsible for managing state and federal lobbying efforts regarding all agricultural policy, including working directly with elected officials, regulatory and government agencies. Review and analyze proposed laws that may impact ICGA. Provide recommendations to the Board and implement plans to accomplish organizational priorities.

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Director of Legislative Affairs -- State Senate Lobbyist (July 2000- Nov. 2002), then National Policy Advisor -- Federal Lobbyist (Nov. 2002- July 2005). 5400 University Avenue, West Des Moines. Advocate for the farmer members of the IFBF for all policy positions. Job responsibilities in both positions included review and analysis of proposed laws, communications to membership and recommendations to the Director of Government Relations. Responsible for coordination of the policy development process, including working with IFBF Vice President, county leaders, and Iowa voting delegates to the AFBF annual meeting. Best contact is Christina Gruenhagen. IFBF Government Relations Counsel. 515-225-5400.

Beving, Swanson & Forrest, P.C. (Dec. 1997-July 2000). 321 East Walnut, Des Moines. Associate Attorney. I worked in all areas of civil legal practice, including agricultural law, lobbying, litigation, contract law, and other civil disputes. Personally appeared for various clients in trials, hearings, depositions and other litigation and arbitration proceedings. Responsible for legislative bill analysis, as well as drafting of bills and amendments for many of the firm's clients. Assisted our agricultural clients in lobbying the Iowa legislature. Best contact is Eldon McAfee of Brick, Gentry Law Firm. 515-271-5916.

Morain, Burlingame & Pugh, P.L.C. and Iowa Farm Bureau (1996-1997). 5400 University Avenue, West Des Moines. Law Clerk. Worked on projects to support the attorneys representing Farm Bureau, including insurance division work and agricultural research work in support of the federation. Best contact is Christina Gruenhagen. IFBF Government Relations Counsel. 515-225-5400.

7. List the dates you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses or terminations of membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse or termination of membership.

1998. Admitted to Iowa Bar upon examination. Continuous to present, CLE certification annually.

8. Describe the general character of your legal experience, dividing it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years, including:

- a. A description of your typical clients and the areas of the law in which you have focused, including the approximate percentage of time spent in each area of practice.**
- b. The approximate percentage of your practice that has been in areas other than appearance before courts or other tribunals and a description of the nature of that practice.**
- c. The approximate percentage of your practice that involved litigation in court or other tribunals.**
- d. The approximate percentage of your litigation that was: Administrative, Civil, and Criminal.**
- e. The approximate number of cases or contested matters you tried (rather than settled) in the last 10 years, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel, and whether the matter was tried to a jury or directly to the court or other tribunal. If desired, you may also provide separate data for experience beyond the last 10 years.**
- f. The approximate number of appeals in which you participated within the last 10 years, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel. If desired, you may also provide separate data for experience beyond the last 10 years.**

Period 1 (1997-2000). Associate Attorney at Beving, Swanson & Forrest. I completed work for all partners. My typical clients were farmers or agribusinesses, though we represented clients of all types. The majority of my workload (approximately 75%) included civil litigation, and preparation thereof, including appeals. My primary practice area at the firm was agricultural law, including lawsuits where we were representing the defendant, and others representing the plaintiff. Major litigation topics included contract disputes on behalf of livestock farmers (this was a time period of extreme low prices), collections on behalf of cooperatives, and environmental cases such as spray drift. I was

typically the “second chair” for cases, which meant writing the daily work of writing trial briefs, legal research, taking depositions and meeting with clients. BS&F allowed me to represent our clients directly, in a way that many associate attorneys are not allowed to. During this time approximately 10% of my workload was legislative bill tracking and bill drafting for existing clients of the firm. It was this portion of my job that led to my second employer offering me a job, altering my career path. The remaining portion of my work experience was legal research related to miscellaneous client legal questions and giving the client appropriate legal responses to assist them in their business interactions. I did not work on criminal litigation.

Period 2 (2000-present). Iowa Corn Growers Association as well as Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. The majority of my legal work for the past twenty years has been legal advocacy with all three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. Legal Advocacy. In the legislative and executive arena, I work to change the law, whether by new legislation or regulation, or changes to existing laws or regulations. I am responsible for advising my client (farmer members of the IFBF and ICGA) regarding opportunities to change the law to accomplish their objectives. I draft and create laws or amendments to laws to farmers’ benefit, and then advocate with the legislative branch for its passage. I work with our executive branch, especially the two agencies of IDALS and DNR, as well as the Governor’s office directly, in the same fashion. I also look for and review opportunities for farmers to accomplish our policy priorities through litigation. I have impacted hundreds of bills and regulations in the past 10 years. Litigation. I have been involved in litigation each year while working for ICGA, but my role has not been as the courtroom attorney in these matters, rather to surface potential issues, advise the Board or Committees as to whether we ought to engage, and funding for such cases. In almost all cases, I have advised farmer members to work in coalitions with other partners (renewable fuels or agriculture groups) via Amicus Curie, intervenors, or financial support for the parties to a lawsuit. In this role, within the Coalitions, I am the “client” or in-house support for ICGA– reviewing document drafts and contributing ideas that are for the good of the whole. In the last ten years, I have been involved in approximately 15 lawsuits for ICGA/NCGA.

9. Describe your pro bono work over at least the past 10 years, including:

- a. Approximate number of pro bono cases you’ve handled.
- b. Average number of hours of pro bono service per year.
- c. Types of pro bono cases.

n/a

I regularly receive requests for advice and assistance from farmers, friends and neighbors, and I assist them in general terms and then assist in find another source of help or representation. In my current in-house position with ICGA, it would not be appropriate for me to represent individuals.

10. If you have ever held judicial office or served in a quasi-judicial position:

- a. Describe the details, including the title of the position, the courts or other tribunals involved, the method of selection, the periods of service, and a description of the jurisdiction of each of court or tribunal.

I have not held judicial office.

- b. List any cases in which your decision was reversed by a court or other reviewing entity. For each case, include a citation for your reversed opinion and the reviewing entity's or court's opinion and attach a copy of each opinion.

n/a

- c. List any case in which you wrote a significant opinion on federal or state constitutional issues. For each case, include a citation for your opinion and any reviewing entity's or court's opinion and attach a copy of each opinion.

n/a

11. If you have been subject to the reporting requirements of Court Rule 22.10:

- a. State the number of times you have failed to file timely rule 22.10 reports.

n/a

- b. State the number of matters, along with an explanation of the delay, that you have taken under advisement for longer than:

- i. 120 days.

n/a

- ii. 180 days.

n/a

- iii. 240 days.

n/a

- iv. One year.

n/a

12. Describe at least three of the most significant legal matters in which you have participated as an attorney or presided over as a judge or other impartial decision

maker. If they were litigated matters, give the citation if available. For each matter please state the following:

- a. Title of the case and 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, if applicable,**
- 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, if applicable.**

Example 1: *Bormann v. Board of Supervisors*, 584 N.W.2d 309 (Iowa 1998). Opinion by Iowa Supreme Court Justice Waterman. Bormann was judicially important, in that it ruled on Iowa's Right to Farm law, and important for its impact upon all of Iowa livestock producers. The Court found nuisance protections in Iowa's right to farm law unconstitutional under the Takings Clause of the Iowa and United States Constitutions. My role on the case was as the associate attorney under Eldon McAfee, representing the Intervenor. I did a large portion of the research and writing for this case, including involvement with the Iowa Supreme Court appeal and attempt at appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court. The outcome was not a victory for our client, but the precedent setting nature of this case deems it one of the most significant cases I have worked on.

Example 2: *Renewable Fuels Ass'n v. U.S. Env'tl. Prot. Agency*, No. 18-9533 (10th Cir. Jan 24, 2020). Opinion by Circuit Court Judge Briscoe. My role in this case for ICGA was to support our national organization's efforts (NCGA) in filing the lawsuit, and further advising and providing updates to our Board, Committees and membership. I am in constant communication with NCGA, one of four plaintiffs in the lawsuit (RFA, ACE, NFU). The impact of the case is wide-reaching; the Court found the granting of the Small Refinery Exemptions (SRE) for three refineries to be inappropriate. Further, and even more importantly, this case will set the precedent going forward for the EPA's granting of SRE's; resulting in more renewable fuels blended in the US under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS).

Example 3: *Board of Water Works Trustees of the City of Des Moines, Iowa v. Sac Cty Bd. of Supervisors, as Trustee of Drainage Dist. 32, 42, 65, 79, 81, 83, 86, et al.*, No. 16-0076, 890 N.W.2d 50 (Iowa 2017). Opinion by Iowa Supreme Court Justice Waterman. This case primarily preserved the doctrine of implied immunity for drainage districts. See also related opinion for *Board of Water Works Trustees of the City of Des Moines, Iowa v. Sac Cty. Bd. of Supervisors*, 2017 WL 1042072 (N.D. Iowa Mar. 17, 2017) (slip opinion); Opinion by Chief United States District Judge Leonard Strand. My role in this case was to support the County Supervisors, through ICGA and other partners, by providing financial support. I also provided advice and updates to our Board and Issue Committees, including making a recommendation for initial and continued funding for the lawsuit. I worked with our coalition partners on legal strategy. I also continuously

engaged with our members throughout Iowa who had questions about the lawsuit, its status, its potential impact on agriculture, as well as communications to our Board, Committees and farmer members after the court decision was rendered.

13. Describe how your non-litigation legal experience, if any, would enhance your ability to serve as a judge.

For more than twenty years I have worked for farmers, by practicing law in a different way, principally helping to make the law, instead of litigating the laws after they have been passed. I practiced “agricultural law” – a wide field, including many areas such as: environmental law, energy law, tax law, trade law, administrative law, as well as legislative advocacy.

I have experience working with the judicial branch in the form of amicus briefs or third-party support for parties to the case, but also with the administrative and legislative branches of Iowa’s government. I think this is a particular benefit to the Court because I have years of personal observation of our lawmakers, who work very hard to craft each word that is written into a law or regulation. My more than 20 years of experience working with all three branches of government has solidified my philosophy of respecting the role of each branch, designed with separate duties under our Constitution.

14. If you have ever held public office or have you ever been a candidate for public office, describe the public office held or sought, the location of the public office, and the dates of service.

I was elected to the Lake Panorama Association (LPA) Board for two terms of three years each (2013-2018). While on the LPA Board, I was elected by my peers to be Board Secretary for each of the six years. The LPA has approximately 1,750 property owners, and its elected Board functions like a city council, with responsibility over the LPA drinking water system, roads, two golf courses, lake management, and numerous other LPA owned properties. LPA has “taxing authority” through annual dues and assessments, issues property permits, and has an annual operating budget of around \$5 million.

15. 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):

- a. Name of business / organization.** Iowa Corn Growers Association
- b. Your title.** Director of Government Relations
- c. Your duties.** Management Team, budgeting, Government Interactions (administrative, legislative, judicial), advisor to the Board
- d. Dates of involvement.** July 2005 to present

- 16. List all bar associations and legal- or judicial-related committees or groups of which you are or have been a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you held in those groups.**

Iowa State Bar Association 1998 to present
Agricultural Law Section 1998 to present
Environmental Law Section 1998 to present
American Agricultural Law Association: Attend Annual CLE/AALA Meetings (2005 to present)
Alumni Committee for hiring Director of Drake Agricultural Law Center, 2018
Iowa State Bar Review School, 1996-1998 as student member, and several years thereafter as Board member, including serving as Treasurer.

- 17. List all other professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed above, to which you have participated, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation and indicate any office you held. "Participation" means consistent or repeated involvement in a given organization, membership, or regular attendance at events or meetings.**

Lutheran Church of Hope – Member and weekly family attendance for 13 years
Panorama Youth Soccer Club – Parent volunteer coaching for 4 seasons; fundraising
Panorama Youth Basketball – Parent volunteer coaching/assistant coach for 2 years

Board of Directors, National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC), approximately 6 years, beginning in 2005.
Board of Directors and Executive Committee Member, National Waterways Conference (NWC), approximately 6 years, Board term ending in 2015.

- 18. If you have held judicial office, list at least three opinions that best reflect your approach to writing and deciding cases. For each case, include a brief explanation as to why you selected the opinion and a citation for your opinion and any reviewing entity's or court's opinion. If either opinion is not publicly available (i.e., available on Westlaw or a public website other than the court's electronic filing system), please attach a copy of the opinion.**

I have not held judicial office.

- 19. If you have not held judicial office or served in a quasi-judicial position, provide at least three writing samples (brief, article, book, etc.) that reflect your work.**

Larsen Poldberg, Mindy: A Practitioner's Guide to Iowa Manure Laws, Manure Regulations, and Manure Application Agreements, Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, Vol. 3 #2 (Winter 1998).

Larsen Poldberg, Mindy: Deer and Management: A Comprehensive Analysis of Iowa State Hunting Laws and Regulations, Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, Vol. 3 #8 (Spring 1998).

United States Supreme Court Appeals Brief, *Girres v. Bormann*, October Term, 1998. We represented the Petitioners for this brief, and the Intervenors in the Iowa case. *Girres v. Bormann* was an attempt to further appeal our client's loss in the Iowa Supreme Court case of *Bormann v. Board of Supervisors*, 584 N.W.2d 309 (Iowa 1998). U.S. Writ of Cert was eventually denied. For this case, I did a large portion of the writing and was second chair, working under my partner and lead Iowa counsel, Eldon McAfee. McAfee presented the case before the Iowa Supreme Court. After the Iowa Supreme Court decision, we hired a firm specializing in U.S. Supreme Court appeals to assist us on the Petition for Cert. We hired and partnered with Hogan & Hartson L.L.P in Washington D.C., the Honorable Chief Justice John Roberts, prior to his judicial appointment. As for most appeals, this was a group effort.

OTHER INFORMATION

- 20. If any member of the State Judicial Nominating Commission is your spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister, state the Commissioner's name and his or her familial relationship with you.**

n/a

- 21. If any member of the State Judicial Nominating Commission is a current law partner or business partner, state the Commissioner's name and describe his or her professional relationship with you.**

n/a

- 22. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, blog posts, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited.**

I am responsible for the writing and editing of the Iowa Corn Insider, a weekly publication for the members of the Iowa Corn Growers Association and have held this responsibility for over 14 years (over 700 weekly newsletters). In addition, Iowa Corn has a philosophy of farmers first for our publications, thus I regularly write public comments and public materials, but such materials are signed by the ICGA President.

Larsen Poldberg, Mindy: Deer and Management: A Comprehensive Analysis of Iowa State Hunting Laws and Regulations, Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, Vol. 3 #8 (Spring 1998).

Larsen Poldberg, Mindy: A Practitioner's Guide to Iowa Manure Laws, Manure Regulations, and Manure Application Agreements, Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, Vol. 3 #2 (Winter 1998).

23. List all speeches, talks, or other public presentations that you have delivered for at least the last ten years, including the title of the presentation or a brief summary of the subject matter of the presentation, the group to whom the presentation was delivered, and the date of the presentation.

It is impossible to list "all" speeches/public presentations I have given in the last ten years, because this is a regular function of my job each month, and the events are too numerous. However, I will describe groupings of speeches and presentations by topic.

Iowa Corn Crop Fairs – Approximately 6 speeches per year to Crop Fairs for Iowa farmers. Speech topic regularly includes the status of Iowa laws passed, or proposed, regarding all priorities of the Iowa Corn Growers Association.

Iowa Corn Days on the Hill – 2 per year for the past 14 years. Assist farmers in a legal briefing of all the legislative proposals relating to agriculture or corn growers' policy. (see below video clip)

Farm Bill Informational Meetings – Approximately 10 in the two years leading up to the passage of each Farm Bill, to assist Iowa Farmers. I provided speeches for the 2008, 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills while working for Iowa Corn Growers Association.

Iowa Corn Farmer Roundtables – Approximately 5 meetings each July, to ICGA farmer members. Provide information about the agricultural legal cases, regulations, or legislative proposals which may impact farmers in the year to come; to assist farmers in developing policy. (see below video clip)

I have given public presentations to the following groups regularly, at least once per year over the past 14 years.

- Environmental Protection Agency, verbal public comments at hearings or written comments on agency rules

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources, verbal public comments at hearings or written comments on agency rules

- United States Department of Agriculture, verbal public comments at hearings or written comments on agency rules

- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, verbal public comments at hearings or written comments on agency rules

- Iowa Renewable Fuels Association Board of Directors meeting

- Iowa Renewable Fuels Annual Summit

- National Ethanol Conference (see below audio clip)

- Budget hearings to Governor or Congress (see below video clip)

Army Corps of Engineers (Missouri River), verbal public comments at hearings or written comments on agency rules

Transportation Laws, including Harvest Weight Proclamation – to agricultural community and to federal/state government

I am a regular guest for radio programming throughout Iowa on behalf of farmers and agricultural issues. In the past 20 years my public radio interactions would number in the hundreds. I regularly serve as the media contact for ICGA press releases, resulting in a multitude of public comments in the print and electronic news media.

Audio/Video. There are several available audio or videos in the public sphere that capture me speaking. You may click any of the links below as an example of my manner of speaking with the public.

[Iowa Corn Rountables](#) (2016)

[Iowa Corn Day on the Hill](#) (2017)

[Public Comments on Governor's Budget](#) (2017)

[National Ethanol Conference](#) (2019, starting at 2:50)

- 24. 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.**

Facebook: Mindy Larsen Poldberg

Twitter: Mindy Larsen Poldberg @cornpolitics

Snapchat: Mindy Poldberg

Instagram: mindypoldberg

- 25. List any honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition which you have received (including any indication of academic distinction in college or law school) other than those mentioned in answers to the foregoing questions.**

Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors), Phi Beta Kappa, Drake University 1995

Order of the Coif (top 10%), Class Rank 5th, Drake Law School 1998

Cali Excellence for the Future Award (Highest Grade in Class), Drake Law School, Environmental Law, Fall 1997

Cali Excellence for the Future Award (Highest Grade in Class), Drake Law School, Wills & Trusts, Fall 1996

Outstanding Board Member Award, Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, 1997-1998

Drake Law Review, 1996-1997

Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, 1997-1998, Editorial Board, Articles Editor

Drake Law School Merit Scholarship (Full Ride). 1995-1998

Drake University Presidential Academic Scholarship, 1991-1995

Drake University Cross Country, Track and Field Division I Scholarship, 1991-1995

26. Provide the names and telephone numbers of at least five people who would be able to comment on your qualifications to serve in judicial office. Briefly state the nature of your relationship with each person.

David May, Iowa Court of Appeals Judge. 515-348-4949. Judge May was a law school classmate. We have continued our friendship since. Judge May would be able to speak to my legal and intellectual capabilities as well as my character.

Annette Sweeney. Iowa State Senator. 641-373-4899. Senator Sweeney has observed my work and demeanor in a professional capacity many agricultural law issues and legislation over the past 12 years.

John Rutledge. General Manager of the Lake Panorama Association. 641-755-2101. As General Manager, John observed me serving my duties as a decision-maker for my community for six years, and as an elected official. John also lives in my community and would be able to speak to my reputation and character.

Gretchen Jensen. Lawyer and law school classmate. 515-277-4727. Gretchen was a law school classmate. We have continued our friendship since. Gretchen would be able to speak to my character and love for the law. She has also been a great support to me as our family has grown through foster care.

Amanda De Jong. Lawyer and State Executive Director for the Iowa Farm Service Agency. 515-254-1540. Amanda worked for me on the ICGA Government Relations Team for nearly five years. Amanda would be able to speak to my legal abilities as well as my character and demeanor in my work environment, whether with my boss, our Board, my employees, and to the public.

Bill Hanigan. Lawyer with Davis Brown Law Firm. 515-288-2500. In Bill's extensive work in the biofuels industry, we have had many occasions to work together. Bill would have observed me in my work environment, including public speaking at the IRFA Board Meetings.

Lora McCollum. Lawyer for our family for three adoptions. 515-974-6500. Lora worked with our family for nearly two years, through a complicated termination of parental rights case involving multiple states and a sibling group. Lora observed, and worked with me during this time to bring our children back together, and then into our family as a forever home.

Craig Floss. Chief Executive Officer of Iowa Corn. 515-225-9242. Craig is my supervisor and I have directly reported to him for my tenure at ICGA. Craig has observed me in my work environment, helping to solve problems for agriculture through

interactions with our government, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Craig and I also both attend Lutheran Church of Hope, and he has knowledge of our life journey, as our family has grown through foster care and adoption.

27. Explain why you are seeking this judicial position.

I wish to use my time and talents to the best of my ability for our great State of Iowa. I have spent my entire professional and personal life trying to make a positive difference within our state, whether as an agricultural law attorney or as a foster and adoptive parent. As a Supreme Court Justice, I would be able to further use my skills for the benefit of all Iowans.

I grew up as a child of the 1980's, during the farm crisis. At an early age, I was determined to go to law school, and planned to use my skills to support and defend the livelihood of farmers like my dad. I followed through on this dream, and I am the first in my family to graduate from college, as well as earn a law degree. In law school, I discovered that I had a deep love of the law itself, not just the application of the law's practical purposes. I am dedicated to the law and fairness, and I have strengths in listening, reading, analysis and communications that make me a good candidate for this judicial appointment.

28. Explain how your appointment would enhance the court.

I believe that my unique life experiences would be a contribution to our Supreme Court in the following ways:

1. Farm Experience; Life-long Iowan. I grew up on a family farm in Cass County, Iowa, which included hogs, cattle, corn and soybeans, where my father is still farming today. Through this farm upbringing, and my 20-plus years of continuous employment advocating for Iowa farmers, I have a deep-rooted and steadfast passion for the State of Iowa and its roots in agriculture, that would be an asset to the Court and to the State of Iowa. Though I have been blessed to travel around the world and visited a majority of U.S. states through my work or personal travel, I have always called Iowa my home. I was born and raised here, educated here, and worked here all my life. I have a deep love of our home state, and I want to contribute to Iowa's future.
2. Career in Service to Others. I have spent the majority of my legal career in service to others, for the good of Iowa farmers. I work for the 'good of the whole' of agriculture: for the admirable profession of farming and to benefit every Iowa farmer. I would bring this same service mentality to the Court. I would strive each day to interpret the law and facts of each case to the best of my ability, fairly and appropriately, for the State of Iowa and all Iowans.

3. Experience in All Branches of Government. While not without fault, the US has the greatest system of government in the world. Our system is designed with checks and balances in mind, through three separate governmental branches: legislative, executive and judicial. I believe that it is the legislature's role to make the law. Interpreting Iowa law and our Constitution is for the judicial branch. I have more than 20 years of service in working with the legislative and administrative branches, in addition to the judicial branch where most applicants will have served. I would bring a unique experience to the Court with extensive experience in working with all branches of government, and fully and truly valuing each branch's separate and important role.
4. Essential Iowa Issues. I have more than 20 years of experience working in issues that are certain to continue to be important for Iowa in the decades to come: agriculture, environment, conservation, energy (especially biofuels), taxes, regulations, transportation. The law must always be the guide for justice, however, in application of facts to the law, my strengths in these areas would be a benefit to the Court.
5. Budgeting experience. One role of the Iowa Supreme Court is management of the Iowa Courts system. Through my 14 years of experience on Iowa Corn's management team, I have been responsible for implementing the Board's decisions of approximately \$2 million per year. My role includes planning, budgeting, presenting budgeting information, assisting the Board with budget impacts of all expenditures as well as ensuring the legal and appropriate use of ICGA or ICPB checkoff funding.
6. Local Government Experience. I have served in an elected position at the local level; as such, my life experience in this role would be a contribution to the Court.

29. Provide any additional information that you believe the Commission or the Governor should know in considering your application.

My husband and I have been certified foster parents with the State of Iowa since early 2014, continuing through our annual certification classes and fostering children ever since. We have two biological children and have thus far adopted three older children. We have three additional foster cuties in our home presently. The foster and adoption process involves review of court documents and time in court. In addition, through my years of service as an adoptive and foster parent, I have developed a deep appreciation and respect for all parties involved in the legal process to protect and support Iowa's children and families. My life experience would be particularly helpful to the court, given that a large percentage of the Supreme Court's cases involve termination of parental rights and other family law issues.