



PHOENIX MUNICIPAL COURT
APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE

Applications may be completed and printed with this on-line form. Some questions allow limited response space. If additional space is needed, attachments may be added. Applications must be typed. PLEASE NOTE: The Rules of Procedure for the Judicial Selection Advisory Board for the City of Phoenix Municipal Court provide for public access to this application as follows:

Judicial Selection Advisory Board Rules of Procedure, Rule 8(D) provides:

Except as provided in subsection (2) below, information provided to the board by the applicant or by a third-party shall be presumed to be available to the public.

(1) The following shall be available to the public:

(a) The applicant's name, occupation, employer, relevant work history, any other information provided in response to section I of the application form, and any supplemental materials submitted by the applicant relating to Section I of the application form;

(b) Any information that is specifically authorized for release by the source of that information.

(2) The following information shall remain confidential throughout the application and appointment process until destroyed pursuant to the applicable Municipal Court document retention schedule.

(a) The applicant's home address, information regarding applicant's family, and all other information that is provided to the board in response to questions contained in Section II of the application form;

(b) Information provided in writing or orally to the board by third-parties regarding an applicant, and the third party's identity, unless the third-party specifically states in writing that the information may be made public;

(c) Notes of the individual board members that are generated for personal use only and not published to other members of the board;

(d) Any information that is provided to a member of the board after a promise of confidentiality is properly extended to the source by that board member pursuant to rule 9(B) or 10(B) of these rules;

(e) Any information obtained by or submitted to the board that is made confidential by other provisions of law.

SECTION I – Public Information			
Last Name	First Name	MI	
Hudson	John	E.	
How many years have you resided in Arizona immediately preceding this application? 51 years			
Have you had at least five years practice of law? experience you have.		If no, describe what equivalent legal	
I have practiced law since 1993.			
Arizona State Bar Number		Date of Admission	
[REDACTED]		October 1993	
Schools Attended (preparatory, college and law)	Dates: mm/dd/yy		Degree
Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law	From: 1990	Through: 1993	Juris Doctorate
Arizona State University	From: 1988	Through: 1990	Bachelor of Arts
Scottsdale Community College	From: 1986	Through: 1988	N/A
Chaparral High School	From: 1983	Through: 1986	Diploma
Gerard Catholic High School	From: 1982	Through: 1983	N/A

1) Indicate major and minor fields of study.

While attending Arizona State, I majored in Political Science.

2) Indicate college and law school extracurricular activities.

I was a member of the Arizona State football team as an undergraduate student.

3) Indicate all bar admissions, numbers, and dates.

Admitted to the State Bar of Arizona in 1993.

Admitted to United States District Court, District of Arizona in 1999.

4) If you have been certified as a specialist by the Arizona State Bar, identify specialty.

I have not been certified as a specialist by the Arizona State Bar.

5) Explain if you have been denied admission to any State Bar.

N/A

6) Current Job Title	Employer	Date(s) of Employment
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Deputy County Attorney	Maricopa County	From: 6/2020 Through: Present
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7) Describe chronologically, providing dates, your law practice and relevant experience following your graduation from law school, specifically indicating the following:

A. If you have served as a judge, indicate the court(s) and dates of service.

I served as an associate judge for the Town of Gilbert starting in 2002. In 2008, I became the Presiding Judge of the Gilbert Municipal Court until 2019. While a judge, presided over criminal, civil, and traffic matters, conducted jury and bench trials, and issued orders of protection while applying State and Town laws.

As Presiding Judge, I was responsible for the court's overall administration, including budgeting, personnel management, strategic planning, and implementation of operational improvements such as electronic filing systems, case management modernization, and regional problem-solving courts, including the establishment of the East Valley Regional Veteran's Court.

B. If you have served as a clerk to a judge, indicate the name of the judge, the court, and the dates.

N/A

C. If you practiced alone, indicate the addresses and dates.

Starting in 1999 until 2002, I maintained a private law practice providing prosecution and defense services for multiple municipalities, litigating criminal and civil matters in Arizona courts. I advised law enforcement and municipal agencies on legal issues including warrants, evidence procedures, zoning matters, and regulatory compliance.

D. Provide the names, addresses and dates of law firms or law offices, companies, governmental agencies, or other organizations for which you have been employed, and describe the nature of that employment.

May 2023 to Present

Maricopa County Attorney's Office
225 West Madison Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Deputy County Attorney assigned to the Homicide Bureau working with law enforcement agencies across the county on complex homicide investigations and trial preparation.

June 2020 to May 2023

Arizona Attorney General
2005 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Unit Chief Counsel in Fraud Special Crimes where I represented the State of Arizona in complex criminal prosecutions involving individuals and corporations both within and outside the State.

March 2019 to June 2020

DMCantor
40 North Central Avenue #2310
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Associate Attorney representing clients in criminal matters throughout Arizona at all court levels. The representation included navigating discovery, motion practice, evidentiary hearings, bench and jury trials, and post-conviction proceedings.

March 1996- September 1999

Maricopa County Attorney's Office
301 West Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Assistant Bureau Chief prosecuting felony and mentoring new prosecutors. In addition, I supervised the assignment and disposition of cases for attorneys within the trial bureau.

April 1994 to March 1996

La Paz County Attorney's Office
1320 South Kofa Avenue
Parker, Arizona 85344

Deputy County Attorney the sole prosecutor, who represented the State in all misdemeanor and civil traffic offenses in La Paz County.

May 1993 to September 1993

Cook, Meda and Lande
2910 East Camelback Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Associate Attorney for firm that specialized in bankruptcy and civil litigation. During my time at the firm, I participated in litigation in both State and Federal Court, drafted legal memoranda and pleadings in support of clients.

E. Describe the types of major clients you have served and mention areas of law in which you have specialized or focused. Give details of any service you have provided in a fiduciary capacity.

In my career, I have focused on criminal law and public sector litigation, representing the State of Arizona, Maricopa County, La Paz County, and municipalities including Gilbert, Paradise Valley, and Avondale. My work has involved prosecuting and defending criminal matters ranging from misdemeanors to complex felonies, including homicide and fraud cases. In addition, I have advised law enforcement agencies and local government bodies on legal matters involving investigations, municipal regulations, and land use.

**8) Indicate your frequency of appearances in court as a lawyer:
I appear in court almost on a daily basis.**

Describe the nature of your appearances, giving dates, court names, and the nature of the proceedings.

As a Deputy County Attorney assigned to the Homicide Bureau, I regularly appear in Superior Court in Maricopa County, prosecuting serious felony offenses mostly homicides. My court appearances involve a full range of felony criminal proceedings, including initial appearances, preliminary hearings, evidentiary hearings, motion practice, case management conferences, jury trials, and sentencing proceedings. These matters require extensive coordination with law enforcement investigators, presentation of forensic and expert evidence, and litigation of complex legal and factual issues before the court.

I am unable to provide dates due to the sheer volume of my appearances. As previously stated, I appear in court almost on a daily basis and this has been since 2023.

A. Indicate the percentage of these appearances between the listed court types.			
Federal Courts	State Courts 100%		Justice Courts
City Courts		Administrative Boards or Commissions	
B. Indicate the percentage of your litigation practice.			
Civil	Criminal 100%	Traffic	Administrative
C. State the number of cases you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), for each of the following:			
Sole Counsel 15	Chief Counsel 1		Associate Counsel 2
D. What percentage of these trials was:			
Jury 95%		Non-Jury 5%	

E. Describe not more than five significant litigated matters in which you participated and give the citations, if reported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each matter and a succinct statement of the particular significance. Please identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe the nature of your participation in the matter; and the final disposition. Please state, as to each matter: 1) the date of the matter; 2) the name of the court and the judge before whom the matter was presented; and 3) the names and addresses of counsel for the other parties.

1)

State v. Ernesto Luna, CR2023-14441-001

I was assigned this matter a deputy county attorney in homicide and litigated this matter as sole counsel for the State.

A. The date of the matter

On October 5, 2023, the grand jury returned an indictment for Second Degree Murder. The matter went to trial and the defendant was found guilty and sentenced on January 31, 2025.

B. Name of the court and the judge before whom the matter was presented

Maricopa County Superior Court, the Honorable Judge Monica Edelstein

C. Name and address of counsel for the defendant

Rick G, Tosto, crimlawrn@aol.com, P.O. Box 24397, Phoenix, Arizona 85074

Summary

On September 24, 2023, Phoenix Police responded to a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located the victim, lying on the ground with multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The investigation revealed that the victim had recently broken up with his girlfriend, who lived at the residence. Earlier that evening, the victim had been sending his girlfriend messages and appeared upset about the breakup. The victim later went to a bar where his girlfriend, her mother, and the defendant were present. While there, the victim and the defendant engaged in a verbal altercation before security escorted the victim from the bar.

Later that evening, the defendant, the victim's girlfriend and her mother returned to their residence. at 41 West Corona Avenue. While they were sitting outside, the victim arrived, parked across the street, and began walking toward the residence. The defendant met the victim in the street and shot him.

The significance of this matter was that there were strong facts for justification that had to be overcome in this case. The defendant was going to be able to present self-defense, defense of others and property. I addressed justification immediately in my opening by alerting the jury that the matter would not be a "who done it".

2)

State v. Henry Augustus Quarles, CR2021-130880-001

I was tasked with second chair to lead counsel in this matter representing the State.

A. The date of the matter

On August 25, 2021, the grand jury returned an indictment for Second Degree Murder and one count of Tampering with Physical Evidence. The matter went to trial and the defendant was found guilty and sentenced on October 13, 2023.

B. Name of the court and the judge before whom the matter was presented

Maricopa County Superior Court, the Honorable Judge Joseph Kiefer

C. Name and address of counsel for the defendant

William Atkins, michael@atkinslawgrp.com, 2601 North 16th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85006

Summary

On August 17, 2021, the defendant became involved in an argument with the manager of Rollins Market after being asked to leave the store. During the confrontation, the defendant began drawing a handgun from a bag he was carrying. A bystander attempted to intervene and disarm him, and during the ensuing struggle the defendant fired a single shot, striking the victim in the abdomen and causing fatal injuries. The incident was captured on store surveillance video.

The significance of this matter was the manner in which the video captured the death of the victim. It was a difficult trial for the next of kin, one of whom flew in from Europe to be at the trial. During the trial the defendant began to display erratic behavior that was exacerbated by the finding of guilt.

3)

State v. Aaron Aldric Thomas, CR2022-108684-001

I was assigned as co-counsel on this matter representing the State.

A. The date of the matter

On March 18, 2022, the grand jury returned an indictment for two counts of First-Degree Murder, two counts of Armed Robbery and two counts of Burglary in the First Degree. The matter went to trial and the defendant was found guilty and sentenced on May 3, 2024.

B. Name of the court and the judge before whom the matter was presented

Maricopa County Superior Court, the Honorable Judge David Garbarino

C. Name and address of counsel for the defendant

Stephen L. Crawford, lawslc4@gmail.com, 41 West Jefferson Street Ste 501, Phoenix Arizona 85003

Summary

On January 28, 2022, Mesa Police responded to a shooting and located a male and female victim deceased inside a backyard residence with multiple gunshot wounds. Surveillance video showed the defendant being dropped off near the residence, walking to the property, and entering the home where he shot the male victim in the back. When the female victim began screaming, the defendant obtained a

second handgun from inside the residence and shot her multiple times before shooting the male victim again and fleeing with both firearms and the victim's cell phone.

GPS tracking showed the victim's phone traveling to an apartment complex in Chandler where the defendant's phone was activated minutes later at the same location. The individual who drove the defendant to the area admitted dropping him off near the victims' residence and later picking him up as he ran from the scene. A search warrant at the defendant's residence recovered a handgun consistent with the caliber used in the murders. The defendant admitted being in the area but provided a statement contradicted by surveillance video and other evidence.

This matter was very significant because the video of the incident showed the defendant walking into the victim's residence and also running away after the homicide. During the entirety of this case the defendant was in a wheel chair supplied by the county due to previous medical diagnosis. This case was a who done it and the defense was that the defendant could not run let alone walk any distance of note.

4)

5)

9) Describe any significant arbitration, mediation, or litigation experience not discussed above.

N/A

10) If you are or have been a judge, describe not more than five significant cases you have tried, or opinions you have written. For opinions, give the citations if the opinions were reported as well as citations to any appellate review of such opinions. Finally, please attach copies of the opinions, to include any appellate review of those opinions.

During my time on the bench, I have presided over a wide range of significant cases involving misdemeanor criminal offenses, Driving Under the Influence matters, domestic violence allegations, and orders of protection. Many of these cases involved complex factual disputes, contested evidentiary issues, and matters requiring careful consideration of victim safety and defendants' constitutional rights.

I have also presided over numerous bench trials and contested hearings that required evaluating witness credibility, applying statutory and case law, and issuing rulings on evidentiary and procedural issues. In addition, I have handled cases involving significant sentencing considerations and probation compliance, requiring the court to balance accountability, public safety, and fairness.

These matters required careful preparation, thoughtful application of the law, and maintaining a courtroom environment that ensured all parties were treated with dignity and respect while the proceedings were conducted efficiently and fairly.

Two cases over which I presided for purposes of this question are significant because they resulted in appellate review and provided guidance on important legal issues throughout the State. The cases are attached for your review.

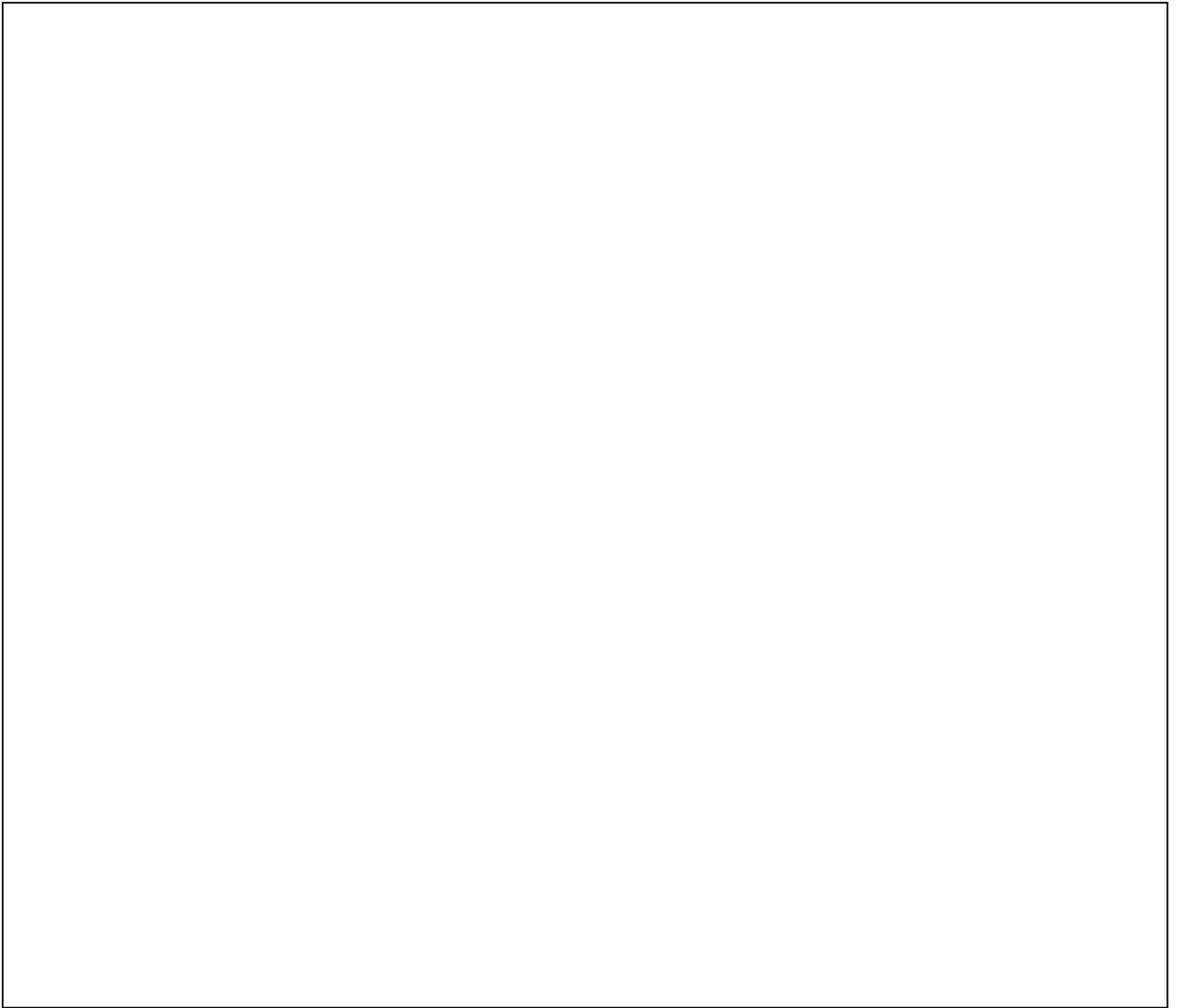
Town of Gilbert Prosecutor's Office v. Downie, 218 Ariz.466, 189 P.3d 393 (2008)

This matter arose from a January 2005 bench trial involving a defendant charged with contracting without a license in violation of A.R.S. § 32-1151. The victims had paid the defendant \$52,784.22 for remodeling work before discovering he was not licensed. Following the trial, I found the defendant guilty and ordered restitution in the full amount paid, over the defense's objection. The case proceeded through appellate review to the Arizona Supreme Court and ultimately addressed the scope of restitution in contracting without a license cases, providing significant clarification of the law and discussion of the doctrine of stare decisis.

I feel it is important to note, if one were to count the judges for versus judges against, my ruling would have stood.

The second case was Gilbert Prosecutor's Office v. Foster, 245 Ariz. 15, 424 P.3d 416 (App. 2018)

A 2018 matter that involved the interpretation of Rule 10.2 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure concerning a notice of change of judge as a matter of right. After the defendant challenged the prosecutor's notice as being filed for an improper purpose, I set the matter for an evidentiary hearing to determine the validity of the notice. The prosecutor sought special action review, and the appellate decision provided further guidance regarding the application of Rule 10.2 and the authority of a presiding judge to examine claims that such notices were filed for improper purposes. The decision has since been cited multiple times by Arizona appellate courts.



11) Please describe your experience in the following areas:

A. Managerial Skills

My managerial experience has been developed through my judicial service and my work as a senior prosecutor. In those roles, I have been responsible for managing high-volume caseloads, overseeing courtroom proceedings, and working closely with court staff, attorneys, and law enforcement to ensure that matters are handled efficiently and professionally.

My experience on the bench has required coordination with clerks, court administrators, and legal counsel to address scheduling, case management, and procedural issues that arise in the day-to-day operation of the court. Including but not limited to, implementing a new case management system and an organizational reclassification. These responsibilities have provided me with practical experience in court administration and the management of courtroom operations.

B. Supervisory Skills

My supervisory skills have developed through my experience as both a prosecutor and a judge, where effective coordination and oversight are essential to the functioning of the courtroom. In these roles, I have worked closely with court clerks, administrative staff, attorneys, and law enforcement to ensure that proceedings are conducted efficiently, professionally, and in accordance with court procedures.

Supervising courtroom operations required clear communication, sound judgment, and the ability to address issues promptly while maintaining an orderly and respectful environment. I have regularly worked with court personnel to manage scheduling, case flow, and procedural matters, ensuring that cases are handled in a timely and organized manner for the effective administration of justice.

C. Budget

During my time with the Gilbert Municipal Court, I participated in the preparation of the court's annual budget. This process required evaluating the operational needs of the court, including staffing, technology, and other resources necessary to maintain efficient court operations.

The Town of Gilbert periodically utilized a zero-based budgeting process, which required departments to justify expenditures from the ground up rather than relying solely on prior year allocations. Participating in this process required careful evaluation of court operations, prioritization of resources, and collaboration with court administration and town leadership.

D. Personnel

Through my judicial service, I have gained experience working closely with court administrators and staff on personnel-related matters necessary to support the effective operation of the court. These responsibilities have included coordinating with court leadership regarding staffing needs, workflow, and the assignment of responsibilities to ensure that court operations run efficiently.

In these roles, I have worked collaboratively with clerks, administrative staff, and other court personnel to address operational issues, provide guidance when needed, and maintain a professional and respectful working environment. My approach emphasizes clear communication, accountability, and respect for the important role that court staff play in the administration of justice.

12) Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law or holding judicial office? If yes, please provide details, including dates.

N/A

13) Are you now, or have you ever been an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? If yes, give details, including the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or other description of your position, the nature of your duties, and the terms of your service.

N/A

14) Is it your intention to resign such position and withdraw from any participation in the management of any of such enterprises if you are appointed? If no, please explain.

N/A

15) Have you ever been sued by a client or a party? If yes, give details, including dates.
I have not been sued by a client or a party.

16) Have you published any legal or other books or articles? If yes, please list them, giving the citations and dates.
I have not published any books or articles.

17) Are you in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to you? If yes, list the courses and dates of attendance for the last two (2) years.
<p>I am in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements.</p> <p>2023 – 2024 APAAC Annual Prosecutor Conference. Dates of Attendance 6/19/2024 – 6/21/2024</p> <p>2024- 2025 Live In-House training on Call Call Outs & Capital Aggravators 3/4/2025 – 3/4/2025</p> <p>Live In-House Elite Trial Academy 3/7/2025 – 6/6/2025</p> <p>Live In-House Introduction to Homicide 5/29/2025 – 5/29/2025</p> <p>APAAC Annual Conference 6/25/2025 – 6/30/2025</p> <p>Webcast New Rules for All Government Lawyers 6/30/2025 – 6/30/2025</p>

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18) Have you taught any courses on law or lectured at bar associations, conferences, law school forums, or continuing legal education seminars? No If yes, please describe by providing the name of the course, the subject matter, the date and the place.

I have not taught any courses on law or lectured at a bar association, conference or forums.

19) List any honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition which you have received.

N/A

20) List any public offices held and dates.

N/A

21) List memberships and activities in professional organizations, including offices held and dates.

N/A

Optional: List memberships and activities in civic organizations, including offices held.

N/A

22) List vocational interests and hobbies.

My vocational interests have always centered on the fair and efficient administration of justice and the role that courts play in maintaining public confidence in the rule of law. Throughout my career as a prosecutor, private practitioner, and judge, I have been particularly interested in judicial decision-making, courtroom management, and ensuring that legal proceedings are conducted with integrity, professionalism, and respect for all participants. I am especially interested in the leadership and administrative responsibilities of the judiciary, including improving court efficiency, supporting judicial officers and staff, and ensuring that the court system remains accessible and responsive to the community it serves.

Outside of my professional responsibilities, I enjoy reading and studying subjects such as history, political science, and legal developments, which provide valuable perspective on the evolution of law and public institutions. I also value maintaining an active lifestyle through exercise and sports, which I find helps promote balance, discipline, and focus. Finally, I also value time with family and community activities, and I take an interest in mentoring younger attorneys and law students who are beginning their legal careers.

23) Has any complaint of professional misconduct ever been filed, in any jurisdiction, where any form of disciplinary action has been taken against you? If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?

I have not had a complaint of professional misconduct filed against me in any jurisdiction where any form of action was taken against me.

24) Have you ever been convicted of any misdemeanor or felony, or violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in the United States, or any foreign country? If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?

I have not been convicted of any misdemeanor or felony. I have never been a member of the United States Military.

25) Phoenix City Code (“P.C.C.”), Section 2-96(C)(3) provides that merit shall be the primary consideration for the Judicial Selection Advisory Board in making recommendations to the City Council for appointment to judicial office. Under P.C.C. § 2-96(C)(3) and consistent with the Arizona Constitution (see AZ Const. Art. 6 § 37(C)), the Judicial Selection Advisory Board has the duty to consider the diversity of the City’s population. Please provide any information about yourself (e.g., your heritage, background, life experiences, etc.) that you believe is relevant to this consideration.

I have lived in Phoenix since 1975 and grew up in the city during a period when the community was experiencing significant growth and change. My parents both worked in Phoenix and instilled in me the values of hard work, accountability, and respect for others. As a young African American growing up in Phoenix in the 1970s and 1980s, I experienced firsthand some of the challenges that can come with being part of a minority community. Those experiences helped shape my appreciation for fairness, equal treatment, and the importance of public institutions that serve all members of the community.

I am the first attorney in my family, and my educational and professional path has been rooted in Arizona. I attended undergraduate school at Arizona State University, where I also played football, an experience that reinforced the importance of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. I also received a Juris Doctor from Arizona State University. My career in public service has provided extensive experience working with individuals from many different backgrounds and circumstances, including victims, defendants, law enforcement officers, and community members throughout the State of Arizona.

Growing up in Phoenix and building my career here has given me a deep understanding of the community the court serves. I believe those experiences contribute to my ability to approach each case with fairness, impartiality, and respect for every person who appears before the court. A judiciary that reflects and understands the community it serves strengthens public confidence in the justice system, and I strive to bring that perspective to my work.

26) Include any further information relative to your candidacy or qualifications that you wish to transmit to the Judicial Selection Advisory Board at this time.

I have spent the majority of my professional career in public service in Arizona and have had the privilege of serving the community in a number of roles within the criminal justice system. My experience includes extensive courtroom litigation, including handling complex and serious criminal matters, as well as judicial service presiding over a high-volume municipal court docket.

These experiences have provided me with a deep understanding of courtroom procedure, judicial decision-making, and the importance of maintaining fairness, efficiency, and professionalism in the administration of justice. My time on the bench has reinforced the importance of ensuring that all individuals who appear before the court are treated with dignity and respect and that proceedings are conducted in a manner that promotes public confidence in the judiciary.

In addition to my legal and judicial experience, I have had the opportunity to work closely with court staff, attorneys, law enforcement, and members of the community. These interactions have strengthened my appreciation for the collaborative nature of the justice system and the importance of effective leadership within the courts.

Finally, to my judicial responsibilities, I served for three years as the head of the Judicial College for the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts. In that role, I was responsible for helping develop and oversee training and educational programming for judges across the state. This experience provided me with valuable insight into judicial best practices, ethics, and the evolving challenges facing courts. It also allowed me to contribute to the professional development of members of the judiciary and to collaborate with judges from courts throughout Arizona.

Since moving to Phoenix in 1975 and building my career in Arizona, I have a deep commitment to this community and to the fair and impartial administration of justice. I would be honored to continue

serving the public and contributing to the work of the Phoenix Municipal Court as Chief Presiding Judge.

Thank you for your consideration.