

SECTION I – Public Information

Last Name	First Name	MI
Lue Sang	Michelle	C
How many years have you resided in Arizona immediately preceding this application? 43		
Have you had at least five years practice of law? If no, describe what equivalent legal experience you have.		
Yes		
Arizona State Bar Number	Date of Admission	
██████████	May 10, 1986	
Schools Attended (preparatory, college and law)	Dates: mm/dd/yy	Degree
Orange High School	9/1976 6/1979	Diploma
University of South Florida	8/1979 12/1982	BA
Arizona State University Law School	8/1983 12/1985	JD
	From: Through:	
	From: Through:	

1) Indicate major and minor fields of study.

My undergraduate degree was in Mass Communications, specifically journalism.

2) Indicate college and law school extracurricular activities.

While in college, I volunteered regularly at START, Short-term Adolescent Residential Treatment, a treatment center for delinquent boys.

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

State Bar of Arizona-██████████ May 10, 1986
U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona-December 8, 1986
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit-December 15, 1986

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

6) Current Job Title	Employer	Date(s) of Employment
Associate Magistrate	City of Chandler	From:8/2021 Through:Present

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.

September 1986 to October 1987-Maricopa County Public Defender
November 1987 to January 1991-Assistant City of Phoenix Prosecutor
January 1991 to June 1993-Arizona Assistant Attorney General
June 1993-May 1998-Maricopa County Public Defender
May 1998-June 2018-Mesa Municipal Court Magistrate
July 2018-August 2021-Judge Pro Tempore, interim Presiding Judge in Apache Junction
August 2021 to present-Associate City Magistrate in Chandler

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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.

Maricopa County Public Defender-Deputy Public Defender-620 West Jackson Street, Suite 4015, Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1986-1987 and 1993-1998

City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office-Assistant City Prosecutor-Phoenix Municipal Courthouse, 300 West Washington Street, 8th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1987-1991

Arizona Attorney General-Assistant Attorney General-Office of the Attorney General, 2005 North Central Avenue, Phoenix Arizona 85004-1991-1993.

Mesa Municipal Court, Municipal Court Magistrate-250 East First Avenue, Mesa, Arizona 85210-1998 to 2018

I also served as a judge pro tempore for Glendale, Maricopa County Justice Courts and the City of Apache Junction from July 2018 to July 2021. In Apache Junction, I was appointed interim Presiding Judge from April 2021 to July 2021.

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.

During my 12 years of practice prior to being appointed to the bench, I represented juvenile clients who were incorrigible, delinquent or dependent. I represented the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services in Juvenile Court and I represented the agency at administrative hearings. As an Assistant City Prosecutor for Phoenix, I represented the State of Arizona.

8) Indicate your frequency of appearances in court as a lawyer: I have not appeared in court as a lawyer since 1998, when I was appointed to the bench, so I will indicate the percentage of appearances prior to my appointment to the bench.

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

From September 1986 to October 1987 I appeared in Maricopa County Superior Court Juvenile Division as a public defender representing delinquent and incorrigible children from the advisory stage to appeal. From November 1987 to January 1991 I appeared in Phoenix Municipal Court representing the State of Arizona as a trial attorney handling pre-trial conferences, bench trials, jury trials and suppression hearings. From January 1991 to June 1993, I appeared in Maricopa County Superior Court as an Assistant Attorney General representing the Arizona Department of Economic Security(ADES) in dependency proceedings and I also represented ADES at administrative hearings. From June 1993 to May 1997 I appeared in Maricopa County Superior court as a public defender for delinquent and incorrigible children from the advisory stage to appeal. From May 1997-May 1998 I represented dependent children in Maricopa County Superior Court.

A. Indicate the percentage of these appearances between the listed court types.

Federal Courts 0	State Courts 50	Justice Courts 0
City Courts 45	Administrative Boards or Commissions 5	

B. Indicate the percentage of your litigation practice.

Civil 0	Criminal 48	Traffic 50	Administrative 2
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C. State the number of cases you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), for each of the following:

Sole Counsel 100s	Chief Counsel	Associate Counsel
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D. What percentage of these trials was:

Jury 25	75
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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) Because I have been on the bench since 1998, my litigation is too remote for me to answer this question accurately.

2)

3)

4)

5)

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

Not Applicable

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.

1. I presided over a traffic fatality case. A young boy was killed and his father severely injured when the Defendant failed to yield while making a left turn. She did not strike the victims, who were walking, but the car that made an evasive movement did, resulting in death and injuries. There was a lot of media coverage of the accident. I had to decide how many cameras to allow in the courtroom and the parameters of media coverage. The Defendant pleaded guilty to the court and I was responsible for imposing a sentence. The sentencing took four hours and was very emotional. The Defendant was a special education teacher who was not impaired, distracted or reckless. The Defendant's two young children were in the car with her. When the Defendant saw what had happened, she rushed to the boy and held him until paramedics came. It was heart wrenching, by the end of the sentencing I felt as if I knew the child who had lost his life.

2. I presided over an animal hoarding seizure case that garnered a lot of media coverage and stoked the emotions of many because there were dead dogs in the freezer of the woman's home. There was so much interest in this case that the court administrator put procedures in place for safety reasons. There were picketers around the court building. I also had to decide how many cameras to allow in the courtroom and the parameters of media coverage. The public lined up for hours to be able to sit in the courtroom. The courtroom was packed.

3. I presided over a case where the Defendant had five monkeys of various breeds and sizes. The neighbors complained that her backyard was unsanitary and she was charged with violating a city code that prohibits unsanitary conditions. The entire neighborhood was in the courtroom as well as reporters. I found the Defendant guilty and the State asked me to require the Defendant to get rid of her monkeys, I did not. The monkeys were like children to her, she even had a family portrait taken of her and the monkeys. I placed her on probation and ordered that she keep the premises clean, even if that meant cleaning the monkey run and yard twice daily instead of once. The Defendant was successful on probation and the City Of Mesa passed a city ordinance limiting non-human primates to three per household.

4. I presided over a case where the Defendant was a friend of the mayor of Mesa. She was very involved in refurbishing houses in downtown Mesa. One evening, she was not happy that a car with people in it was parked in front of her house so she called the police to have the car and its occupants moved. There was no illegal activity so the officer who responded refused to take any action. The Defendant became upset and started lecturing the officer while pointing her finger at him. Somehow, the officer's fingernail broke and the Defendant was charged with assault. The Defendant retained a high-profile defense attorney. The courtroom was a sea of blue because it was filled with police officers who were there to support their fellow officer. To the dismay of the victim and the Mesa Police Department, I found the Defendant not guilty.

11) Please describe your experience in the following areas :

A. Managerial Skills

From my employment with the Maricopa Public Defender's Office in 1993 to 1998, I managed the attorneys and office staff.

From 2002 to 2018, when I left the Mesa Municipal Court Bench, I managed pro-tem judges because I was responsible for training them.

As chair of the Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation program, I managed newly appointed limited jurisdiction judges. Some of them resented being required to take the program. It was my job to hold them accountable.

B. Supervisory Skills

When I returned to the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office in 1993, I was hired as the supervisor for the Southeast Facility Juvenile Public Defenders. I supervised approximately 12 people, attorneys, support staff and investigators. Supervising attorneys is challenging, but I was successful. I gained the respect of the attorneys, most of whom were older than me and the Juvenile Court bench.

C. Budget

When I was tasked with opening the Dependency Unit of the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office in 1997, I had to budget for office space, salaries, office supplies and office equipment.

The intent in opening the unit was to provide better representation for children at less cost. Paying contract attorneys to represent dependent children was astronomical and the representation was not always good. I left that position upon appointment to the bench in 1998, but the groundwork I laid resulted in an office that thrived and still exists today.

D. Personnel

Other than being trained on the Fair Labor Standards Act and the American with Disabilities Act, I do not have any specific experience.

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.

No

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.

No

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.

Not Applicable

15) Have you ever been sued by a client or a party? If yes, give details, including dates.

No

16) Have you published any legal or other books or articles? If yes, please list them, giving the citations and dates. If yes, please list them,

"A Juvenile's Dilemma," For the Defense, Volume 6, Issue I, January 1996, page 1.

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.

Yes

1/5/2024-2024 Cyber Security Update

Judicial Conference 2024

6/18/2024- Leadership, Obstructionist Courtroom Tactics, Legal Writing, Approving DV Treatment Programs

6/19/2024-Network Security, Hearing Voice Simulation, Treatment Courts, Effect on Blind Justice on Procedural Fairness

6/20/2024-AI and Access to Justice, Passing of the Gavel

6/21/2024-Workplace Harassment

1/24/2025-2025 Cyber Security Update

Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation January 27-31, 2025

Judicial Conference 2025

6/25/2025-Synthetic Media Capabilities, Criminal Year in Review, Evidence for LJ Courts, Healthy Judge.

6/26/2025-Personal Security. US Supreme Court Updates, NJO 2.0, Network Security

6/27/2025-Law and Literature, How to Spot BS in Statistics

11/3/2025-DUI Misdemeanor Time Standards

2025 Limited Jurisdiction Judges Association Conference

9/3/2025-And Justice for All, Firearms Compliance in DV & OP, Code of Conduct, Use of AI and its Guidelines

9/4/2025-High Conflict Cases, Perfecting Jury Engagement, Hot Topics in LJ Courts, Rules and Legislative Updates, IA/Arraignment Refresher

9/5/2025-Achieving Time Standards, Inspiring public Trust, Leadership & Professionalism

10/16/2025-Harassment

2025 Judicial Traffic Conference

12/3/2025-Jury Trial Academy

12/4/2025-Automated Vehicles, MVD Updates, Hands-On Arizona Traffic Law, Hot Topics in Arizona Traffic Law

12/5/2025-The Big, Wide World of Motions, Misdemeanor DUI-Getting Across the Finish Line While You Are Still Standing

18) Have you taught any courses on law or lectured at bar associations, conferences, law school forums, or continuing legal education seminars? If yes, please describe by providing the name of the course, the subject matter, the date and the place.

I was the chair of the Limited Judge New Judge Orientation for more than 10 years. In that capacity I have taught too many classes to list individually. The sessions included effective case management, domestic violence, criminal procedure, initial appearances, arraignments, jury trials, among other topics. I have also taught at the Arizona Judicial Conference and I taught a class for the State Bar of Arizona. The State Bar of Arizona session was "Connecting with the Audience." The session I taught at the Judicial Conference was almost 10 years ago and I do not remember the details. I have continued to teach at the Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation Program, most recently, I taught "Effective Case Management." I also taught a session entitled "DUI Evidentiary Hearings and Motions" for the Maricopa County Justice Courts. Most recently, December 2025, I presented a session at the Governor's Office of Highway Safety on handling jury pre-trial motions.

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

City of Phoenix Law Department Barrister Award for Outstanding Trial Advocacy Skill, June 1989 and June 1990. I was awarded the Civil Justice Leader Award by the George Washington Carver Center in 2012. I was awarded a certificate in recognition of my contributions to the Arizona Judiciary as the Dean and as a member of the Judicial College of Arizona in November 2012.

20) List any public offices held and dates.

Not Applicable

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

Committee on Leadership and Workforce Excellence 2025 to present
Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee-2012-2018 and 2023 to present
Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts-2004-2008
Committee on Judicial Education and Training-2008-2012
Arizona Judicial College-2006-2012, Associate Dean-2008-2012, Dean 2010-2012
Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation Planning Committee-2003 to 2006

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

I was a member of Soroptimistic International.

22) List vocational interests and hobbies.

I enjoy doing puzzles, reading, sewing, baking, hiking, jogging and biking.

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?

Yes

Three complaints have been filed against me with the Commission on Judicial Conduct. All were dismissed. One of the complainants who filed a complaint with the Commission on Judicial Conduct filed the same complaint with the State Bar of Arizona a few years later, and the result was the same, no disciplinary action was taken.

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?

No

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 am the American Dream. I emigrated from Trinidad to the United States when I was 6. My father, who was a steel worker, decided that his skills would give his children a better chance of success in the "Land of Milk and Honey."

We moved to Brooklyn, New York ; the culture shock was instantaneous, the food was different, and the English was hard to understand. Trinidadian English is not the same as American English. My siblings and I talked about stowing away on a plane to go back to Trinidad.

My phenomenal parents did everything in their power to help us adjust. They moved us to the suburbs of New Jersey where it was safer after my brother was held up at knifepoint on his way to school. That meant a longer commute for my parents, who both worked in New York.

In New Jersey, a well-meaning teacher sent me to speech therapy to rid me of my Trinidadian accent to help me assimilate. My siblings were never sent to speech therapy.

My parents' mantra, "You are a guest in this country, so you must treat this country with respect and be grateful that you are here," was constantly in my head. My parents knew that America is the place for people to succeed and they were right. They worked hard, raised five children on limited income, and empowered us to be successful. Four of their children graduated from college, three of those graduates have advanced degrees, including a PhD. When I reflect on where I am and where I came from I know anything is possible.

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 am committed to public service. When I was 13 and too young to work, I volunteered at the Neighborhood Development Corporation where I spent countless hours helping underprivileged children. Technically, if underprivileged meant poor, I was one of those children because we were poor in funds, but rich in love and support. In college, while working 20 hours per week and taking 18 credit hours per quarter, I still found the time to volunteer at a treatment center for delinquent youth. I have painted houses, landscaped yards, read to children, and ate lunch with children in local schools over my lunch hour. I believe we are better as a society if we care about each other and help those who are less fortunate.

For the past 13 years I have mentored a young man who I met during one of my teaching sessions at a high school in Mesa. He is a first generation American, his parents are from Mexico. He was 15 and thinking about going to college but did not know anyone who had gone to college. He came to my court to observe proceedings and discuss his future. He graduated from ASU and when I took him to lunch recently I told him that he inspired his older sisters to go to college because they did not go to college until he went to college. They are both nurses now and one of his younger sisters is a junior at ASU.

Because I have been so heavily involved in judicial education, I know almost every judge on the Phoenix Municipal Court and have trained many of them.