



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
Solomon	Tina	C
How many years have you resided in Arizona immediately preceding this application? 30		
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	
██████████	10/18/1997	
Schools Attended (preparatory, college and law)	Dates: mm/dd/yy	Degree
Fairfield High School, Fairfield, Iowa	From: 08/84 Through: 05/87	HS Diploma
Central College, Pella, Iowa	From: 08/87 Through: 05/91	B.A.
Drake Univ. Law School, Des Moines, Iowa	From: 08/93 Through: 05/96	J.D.
	From: Through:	
	From: Through:	

1) Indicate major and minor fields of study.

Law School: Law

College: Major: Accounting
Minor: Business Management

2) Indicate college and law school extracurricular activities.

I was not involved in extracurricular activities in college or law school. I was able to attend college because of an academic scholarship so my primary focus was academics. During my first year of law school, my younger brother passed away. After that, my focus shifted to caring for my family and completing law school.

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

State Bar of Arizona, [REDACTED] October 1997

Iowa State Bar Association, [REDACTED] June 1996 (currently inactive status)

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

N/A

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

N/A

6) Current Job Title	Employer	Date(s) of Employment
Municipal Court Judge	City of Phoenix	From: 10/4/18 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.

City of Phoenix Municipal Court
October 2018 - present

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

Honorable Maurice Portley, Superior Court of Maricopa County, Juvenile Division
September 1997 – September 1999
Law Clerk / Bailiff

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

N/A

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.

City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office, Law Department
300 W. Washington, 8th Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85003
1999 – 2018
Assistant City Prosecutor / Team Captain / Assistant Trial Bureau Chief

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.

While in the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office, I represented the State of Arizona in misdemeanor criminal cases and civil traffic cases within the jurisdiction of Phoenix.

8) Indicate your frequency of appearances in court as a lawyer: Frequent			
Describe the nature of your appearances, giving dates, court names, and the nature of the proceedings.			
<p>From 1999 – October 2018, while serving as an Assistant City Prosecutor, I frequently appeared in the City of Phoenix Municipal Court to handle the following proceedings:</p> <p>Pre-trial disposition conferences Non-jury trials Jury trials Pre-trial motion hearings Arraignment Bond review court Restitution hearings Sentencings Probation revocation matters</p>			
A. Indicate the percentage of these appearances between the listed court types.			
Federal Courts	State Courts	Justice Courts	
City Courts 100%	Administrative Boards or Commissions		
B. Indicate the percentage of your litigation practice.			
Civil	Criminal 97%	Traffic 3%	Administrative
C. State the number of cases you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), for each of the following:			
Sole Counsel 750 (estimate)	Chief Counsel	Associate Counsel	
D. What percentage of these trials was:			
Jury 14%	Non-Jury 86%		

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) In September 2012, I was the sole prosecutor in a domestic violence assault trial in the Phoenix Municipal Court. The police officer observed bruises all over the victim's body and the 24-year-old pregnant victim told the officer that the defendant, her boyfriend, beat her almost daily. She reluctantly testified at the trial despite her fear. Judge Alice Wright found the defendant guilty. Since the trial, the victim left the defendant and was raising her child. She enrolled in school and was doing well. I believe this case is significant because the defendant was held accountable and the victim was able to change the course of her and her child's future. Defense counsel was David Kephart, P.O. Box 25106, Phoenix, AZ 85002.

2) In July 2012, I was the sole prosecutor in a DUI jury trial before Judge Carol Scott Berry in the Phoenix Municipal Court. The defendant had committed two minor civil traffic violations while driving after consuming alcohol. The defendant's blood alcohol concentration was .082 which was just above the legal limit. The defense called a forensic toxicologist to testify that the blood was retested and was actually .076. The jury found the defendant guilty of DUI. I believe this case was significant because I was able to successfully argue to the jury that even at a low alcohol concentration, this defendant was impaired to drive a motor vehicle. Defense counsel was Leila Reynolds, 570 W. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85201.

3) In March 2011, in the Phoenix Municipal Court before Judge Deborah Griffith, I was the sole prosecutor in a domestic violence trial in which the defendant violated an order of protection by calling the victim. The victim and defendant were married with children, and the victim was extremely afraid of the defendant's controlling and manipulative behavior. After several days of emotionally charged testimony, the defendant was found guilty. He appealed the conviction, and it was later upheld. The defendant ultimately served a significant jail sentence. The victim later thanked me for "making a huge impact" in her life. Since the trial, she was able to graduate from nurse's college and safely raise her children out of state. Defense counsel was Lisa Aubuchon, address unknown.

4) In November 2010, in the Phoenix Municipal Court before Judge Harold Merkow, I was the sole prosecutor in a domestic violence assault trial. The victim had extensive injuries and initially lied to hospital staff as to how the injuries were caused. She later told police, and testified at trial, that her live-in boyfriend caused the injuries, but she was too afraid to tell anyone for fear of what he might do. The defendant had two prior DV convictions. Despite the victim's delayed reporting, and her false story to hospital staff, I persuaded the court to find the defendant guilty of DV assault. The victim had left the defendant after the assault with the help of her family and, after trial, was relieved to know that the defendant was held accountable for his actions. Defendant's counsel was Alan Zimmerman, 1617 E. Pinchot Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016.

5) In January 2007, in the Phoenix Municipal Court before Judge Elizabeth Olson, I was the sole prosecutor in a domestic violence threats trial in which the defendant was accused of threatening to kill his wife at their child's daycare facility. The victim had moved out of state before trial and refused to return for safety reasons. Even in the victim's absence, I was able to secure a conviction which led to a significant jail sentence as well as supervised probation. This case was significant because not only was the defendant held accountable, but the victim was no longer in a very negative and dangerous situation. Cliff Girard was trial counsel (now deceased).

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.

I currently preside over an in-custody criminal trial division where I adjudicate cases that involve allegations of misdemeanor criminal, traffic, and civil violations that occur in the City of Phoenix, including violations of state statutes and Phoenix City Code violations.

Many of the cases I adjudicate involve allegations of domestic violence and, although I consider all of them significant, I've listed a few cases below.

In August 2023, I presided over a non-jury trial where the defendant had been charged with failing to obey an order of protection in 2022. The case was significant not only because of the facts of the case but also because of the victim's concern for her safety and the safety of her children. After numerous pre-trial motions, the case was finally tried and after considerable testimony, I found the defendant guilty. The defendant was sentenced to probation and significant jail time. The defendant appealed and his conviction was affirmed in 2024. The defendant's probation was eventually revoked for violation of the terms of probation, and defendant served the remainder of his 6-month maximum jail sentence. The defendant was later committed to the AZ Department of Corrections for a conviction on a separate felony charge.

In October 2019, I presided over a non-jury trial where the defendant had been charged with multiple counts of failing to obey an order of protection. The victim had serious concerns the defendant would kill her. I found the defendant guilty at the conclusion of the trial. The case was significant because the defendant failed to comply with the terms of probation by continuing to contact the victim. At disposition, I replayed the sentencing record to remind the defendant what I said would happen if he failed to comply with probation. He was then sentenced to the remainder of his jail sentence. While he was serving his sentence, he moved the court to leave jail to attend an out of state funeral. I denied the motion due to victim safety concerns. The defendant's father later came into my courtroom to thank me for how I had treated his son with respect and to inform the court that his son had since passed away.

In October 2024, I entered a judgment of guilt on a young 20-year-old man who had pleaded guilty to assault and criminal damage, both domestic violence offenses. I remember that his father and grandfather were both in the courtroom to support him. When I asked questions to learn more about his circumstances, he told me that he had one more month and a few more classes to complete to get his high school diploma. He was also trying to find employment. I closely monitored the case and required the defendant to attend court every 8 weeks to demonstrate compliance with probation. He would bring in class transcripts, and we would discuss his plans for his future, which included the plumbing trade and possibly the Navy. At one sentence review hearing, he even invited me to his high school graduation. The case was significant because the defendant attended court as scheduled with an eagerness to tell me how he was doing, the classes he had completed, and to share what seemed to be excitement about his future and the court's interest in his future. Sadly, upon failing to appear for a regularly scheduled review hearing, the court later learned that the defendant was killed as a victim of a hit and run incident.

11) Please describe your experience in the following areas:

A. Managerial Skills

From 2014-2018, I worked as an Assistant Trial Bureau Chief in the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office. I managed the daily functions of the Trial Bureau by supervising 22 trial attorneys and 11 legal clerks. I was responsible for scheduling, approving leave time, assigning jury trials, staffing cases, coordinating attendance at training seminars, managing personnel issues, performance reviews, and participating in the hiring process. I participated in committees and implemented improved procedures for the Trial Bureau and regularly met with other bureaus to discuss procedures and problem solve. I encouraged, developed, and lead a culture of independent thinking and team building. I assisted the court in implementing the Driving on Suspended License Court where I developed procedures and worked to ensure its success. I graduated from the City of Phoenix Management Academy in October 2014. I have also attended other seminars in furtherance of my leadership goals, including Introduction to Lean Management and Franklin Covey leadership courses.

B. Supervisory Skills

From 2007-2014, I worked in a supervisory role in the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office. I first worked in the Domestic Violence Unit as a Team Captain and then later as a Team Captain in the Trial Bureau. In both positions, I supervised attorneys and continued to maintain a caseload as well as handled special assignments. I was responsible for scheduling attorneys, observing attorneys in the courtroom, assisting with attorney performance reviews, training new attorneys, and answering legal questions.

C. Budget

While in the Phoenix Prosecutor's Office, I participated in leadership discussions and meetings regarding operational reductions and streamlined procedures to meet budgetary requirements and fiscal goals. I also provided insight into proposed budget cuts, evaluated their impact on operations and helped to determine the necessary resources to continue holding individuals accountable and protecting the public.

D. Personnel

As an Assistant Trial Bureau Chief for 4 years, I was responsible for managing personnel issues with the trial attorneys and the legal clerks. I worked closely with Human Resources in handling employee issues and resolving conflicts. I also conducted performance reviews and participated in the hiring and removal process of both attorneys and support staff.

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.

Yes, I was responsible for paying for my college and legal education. To do so, I worked many summer and temporary jobs before practicing law, which included:

Sales Clerk, Linens N Things, Scottsdale, Arizona. Spring/Summer 1997

Christmas Casual Clerk, United States Post Office, Phoenix, Arizona. December 1996

Front Office Agent, Arizona Biltmore Resort Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona. Fall 1991 – Summer 1993

Production Staff, Chappell Studio, Inc., Fairfield, Iowa. Summers 1988-1991

I also worked jobs during my high school years both after school and during summer breaks. 1987 and prior

13) Are you now, or have you ever been an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? No 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? Yes If yes, give details, including dates.

Defendant, Richard Poage, was charged with driving on a suspended license, A.R.S. 28-3473A, in the City of Phoenix Municipal Court. In June 2012, Mr. Poage filed a Complaint for Damages Civil Rights Violations in Maricopa County Superior Court, CV2012-009137. In his complaint, he named numerous individuals including City of Phoenix Municipal Court Judges, City of Phoenix Police Officers, and City of Phoenix Assistant Prosecutors. I was one of the named parties in my role as an Assistant City Prosecutor. The case was dismissed with prejudice in August 2012.

16) Have you published any legal or other books or articles? No If yes, please list them, giving the citations and dates.

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, I am in compliance because I have attended the Arizona Judicial Conference each year. Below are the courses attended for the last two years:

2025 Judicial Conference (June 25, 2025 – June 27, 2025):

Synthetic Media Capabilities Plenary; Evidence for Limited Jurisdiction Judges; Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking; Updates in Forensic Science; Judicial Security Plenary; U.S. Supreme Court Updates; Hot Topics in Judicial Ethics; Courts Under Attack Network Security Plenary; Hot Topics in LJ Courts; How to Spot BS in Statistics Plenary

2024 Judicial Conference (June 18, 2024 – June 20, 2024)

Leadership Plenary; Obstructionist Courtroom Tactics: Evidence Law for LJ Courts; Approving DV Treatment Programs; Network Security Plenary; Hot topics on Judicial Ethics; LJ Caselaw Updates; Effect of Blind Justice on Procedural Fairness; Rewiring the Judicial Mind; Passing of the Gavel Plenary

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

Assisted with training at GOHS (Governor's Office of Highway Safety) Conference: Evidentiary Hearings. December 2019

Phoenix Police Department Post Academy / Probationary Officer Training: DV Training
January 2007 – May 2009

Probation Officers: DV Laws. May 2008

Phoenix Police Department Police Transit Bureau: DV Training. 2007 – 2008

Maryvale Partnerships in Action: DV 101. April 2007, October 2007

APAAC Critiquer: Basic Advocacy / Introduction to Prosecution Course. October 2001, January 2008

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

City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Officer Barrister Awards: February 2001, June 2002, February 2005

City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office Employee of the Month: September 2003

City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office Victim Services Certificate of Appreciation: April 2005, 2007

City of Phoenix Employee Excellence Award: DV Fatality Review Team: 2007

APAAC Prosecutor's Spotlight: November/December 2013

20) List any public offices held and dates.

N/A

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

Arizona Supreme Court Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts (CIDVC):

I was appointed to serve a three-year term from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027. I currently participate in the Firearms workgroup and the workgroup on Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure.

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

Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education: Next Generation Fellow

The Foundation allows attorneys and non-attorneys to join together to support the ongoing mission of promoting access to justice for Arizonans most in need and greater opportunities for those individuals to obtain legal resources and information they need.

22) List vocational interests and hobbies.

Outside of work, I spend time with my family. We like to volunteer with organizations such as St. Mary's Food Bank and Feed My Starving Children.

23) Has any complaint of professional misconduct ever been filed, in any jurisdiction, where any form of disciplinary action has been taken against you? No If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?

N/A

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? No If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?

N/A

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.

My personal background is ethnically, socioeconomically, and experientially diverse, much like the diversity of the City's population. My ethnic diversity comes from my family's roots in both European and Native American heritage. My socioeconomic diversity, which stems from a childhood of being raised in a family with little financial means, has made me very aware of the financial struggles many people experience. My experiential diversity has been shaped by growing up in a family with strong female role models.

While I believe the diversity of my background is important, it is the way that background has taught me to see, treat, and relate to others that matters most to me. During the last 8 years as a judicial officer, I've had the privilege to handle an in-custody courtroom where I work with residents of the City from varying diverse backgrounds, including those who are unemployed, who are homeless, who have significant financial barriers, who speak diverse languages, and who come from diverse ethnic backgrounds. I've also volunteered with local non-profit organizations such as St. Mary's Food Bank, Feed My Starving Children and Kitchen on the Street. Through those opportunities, I have been able to share with my daughter not only my own diversity, but also the City's diversity so that she also understands the importance of how we see, treat, and relate to others. Understanding the value of a diverse judicial bench, I believe the compassionate, fair, and respectful manner in which I work with the residents of the City of Phoenix (professionally and personally) demonstrates not only a reflection of my own diverse background but also my commitment to diversity and qualification for appointment to judicial office.

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 long had the goal of being a trial judge. My legal career began as a bailiff where I personally witnessed how a judge can positively impact the lives of those who appear in court. Later when I became a prosecutor, I knew that behind each case file are victims who seek help and defendants who deserve fair and just treatment in the courts. As a municipal court judge, I have worked hard to make a positive impact on each case that I handle. I am committed to procedural justice in the courts, and I understand that people's perception of fairness is strongly connected to their experiences in the courtroom. I strive to ensure that justice is the outcome while treating everyone with dignity and respect and I believe this increases integrity and confidence in our judiciary.

My desire to become Chief Presiding Judge stems from my 26 years in this courthouse where I have continually worked to improve not only the court but the community. Most recently, because of my knowledge, experience and perspective, I have been an integral member of the team working on the Court's new computer management system. This is a multi-year project aimed at increasing efficiency and accessibility. Over the years, I've been involved in other projects to improve operations, but it should go without saying that I was only able to make improvements because of the incredible group of people that I work with. This court would not function without the hardworking people who come to work every day, and I hope to lead the team to keep the court moving forward. I once received a comment from one of the jurors in her survey of the juror experience. She said, "she was professional and personable, and we were made to feel important." Unbeknownst to her, that comment meant a lot to me because I strive to help people in my courtroom feel that way every day. People should feel they matter, and I am dedicated to moving the Phoenix Municipal Court in a positive direction for the benefit of its employees and the community as a whole.