

Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission  
30 South Meridian Street  
Suite 500  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 232-4706

**APPLICATION**  
**FOR THE**  
**INDIANA SUPREME COURT**

The application for the Spring 2017 vacancy on the Indiana Supreme Court includes two parts. Both Part One and Part Two must be completed. Part Two *must* be provided separately as directed in the instructions. Answers in Part One and Part Two are a matter of public record and will be supplied to the media and public upon request. However, only answers in Part One may be posted online by the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission.

**PART ONE, Sections 1-11**

1. Contact/General Information

A. Full legal name and any former names.

Christopher Michael Goff

B. State the full name (use initials for minor children), age and relationship of each person residing in your household. For each adult living in the household (other than yourself), also state the person's occupation and employer.

1. Raquel Goff, 45, spouse, Office Manager, Upward Bound Program, Indiana Wesleyan University.

2. E.G., 16, daughter.

3. I.F.G., 9, daughter.

C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

Wabash Superior Court  
59 W. Hill St.  
Wabash, IN 46992  
[superiorcourtjudge@wabashcounty.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourtjudge@wabashcounty.in.gov)  
(260) 563-0661 (ext. 1254 and 1256)

D. Attorney number.

19799-53

E. Month and year you were admitted to the Indiana Bar.

June, 1997.

a. Indicate current law license status, i.e. active/inactive/retired.

Active

b. If you are or have been a member of the Bar of any other state, identify the jurisdiction and provide date(s) of admission and current license status.

Not applicable.

F. Date and place of birth.

April 25, 1972; Wabash, Indiana.

G. County of current residence and date you first became a resident.

Wabash; April 25, 1972.

2. Secondary Education/Military Experience

A. List all undergraduate colleges and universities you attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when.

Ball State University; August, 1990-May, 1994.

Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*

Academic Honors: Mortar Board, Spring, 1994; Phi Society, spring, 1993; Outstanding Junior, History Department, Spring, 1993; Carter G. Woodson Award (Outstanding African-American History Student), Spring, 1993; President, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honorary), spring, 1993.

B. Include with your original application a certified transcript from each school named in Subsection 2A and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy. (If your social security number is on your transcript, redact it **before** copying.)

Please see attached Exhibit "A."

C. If applicable, list any military service. Include the name of the military branch; dates of service; last rank achieved; and any honors, awards, or commendations received and when. Attach a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty (“DD214” paperwork).

Not applicable.

### 3. Post-Secondary Education

A. List all law schools, graduate schools, and post-J.D. programs attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; class rank; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when.

Indiana University Maurer School of Law; August, 1994-December, 1996

Doctor of Jurisprudence; Class Rank, unknown.

Academic Honors: Managing Editor, *Federal Communications Law Journal*, Fall, 1996.

Indiana Judicial College Graduate, 2015. The Indiana Judicial College is a program offered by the Indiana Office of Court Services for all Indiana judicial officers. Graduation requires completion of 120 hours of designated Judicial College credit hours.

Appellate Judges Education Institute Annual Summit, November, 2015. In 2015, I was fortunate enough to be nominated by the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission for appointment to the Court of Appeals of Indiana, Second District. Although I did not receive the appointment, I was encouraged by Judge Margaret Robb to apply for a scholarship to attend the annual summit. While there, I had the opportunity to meet appellate judges from across the United States. Faculty members included United States Supreme Court Justices. The experience was unforgettable and allowed me to glimpse big picture issues that I previously simply did not fully appreciate. It gave me new passion for what I do and a resolve to continue to try to serve on the appellate bench.

Indiana Graduate Program for Judges, Class of 2016. The Indiana Graduate Program for Judges is open to all Indiana judicial officers, but participants must apply to participate and classes are limited to 30 participants. The program is for judges who desire a more in-depth and intensive learning experience. Graduates must complete one week of course work over two consecutive summers as well as additional assignments.

B. Include with your original application a certified transcript from each school named in Subsection 3A and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy. (If your social security number is on your transcripts, redact it **before** copying.)

Please see attached Exhibit “B.”

#### 4. Employment

A. Provide your employment history since graduation from college. Include name of employer, titles or positions, locations, and dates of employment.

1. Wabash Magnetics, general laborer, Huntington, Indiana, Summer, 1994.
2. Indiana University Maurer School of Law, law library desk attendant, Bloomington, Indiana, 1995.
3. James R. Cotner, Esq., chauffeur, Bloomington, Indiana, 1995-96.
4. Kelly, Belcher & Brown, law clerk, Bloomington, Indiana, 1995-96.
5. Professor Sarah Hughes, university scholar and fellow in commercial law, Research Assistant, Bloomington, Indiana, summer 1996.
6. Mills & Northrop, Associate, Huntington, Indiana, 1997-99.
7. Mills Northrop & Goff, LLP, Partner, Huntington, Indiana, 1999-2005.
8. The Honorable Daniel J. Vanderpool and The Honorable Robert R. McCallen, III, Wabash Circuit Court, Title IV-D Commissioner, Wabash, Indiana, 2000-05.
9. The Honorable Mark A. McIntosh and The Honorable Jeffrey R. Heffelfinger, Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts, Huntington County Public Defender, Huntington Indiana, 2003-05.
10. State of Indiana, Wabash Superior Court Judge, Wabash, Indiana, July 25, 2005-present.

B. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your practice of law (present and former) and provide the names of your partners, associates, office mates and employers.

I was engaged in the general practice of law from 1997 until I became a judge in 2005. My practice was typical of a county seat practitioner. Most of my clients were ordinary Hoosiers seeking assistance with ordinary legal problems. The majority of my practice involved domestic relations and criminal cases. However, I also practiced in the areas of collections, wills and estates, personal injury, and I represented a number of small businesses. Practicing in a smaller county allowed me to have a diversified practice which has proved invaluable to me while serving as a superior court judge.

On most days, I enjoyed my practice and I enjoyed the relationships I made with my clients and colleagues. Small town practice in Indiana can be very rewarding. You get to be “Atticus Finch” and there is nothing like it. My clients were “people” not “problems.” It is gratifying and humbling to know that your efforts and abilities are all that stand

between your client and injustice. On the other hand, the Oath of Attorneys can weigh heavily. I found this especially true when, as a public defender, I would advocate for those who had been accused of heinous crimes. I believe I was a good practitioner. I became a partner in my firm in just 18 months, and, throughout the course of my practice, received a number of awards and offers to work at other firms.

I practiced law with two other Attorneys, William N. "Bill" Mills and Joseph S. "Joe" Northrop. They taught me the importance of treating clients with dignity; adversaries with civility; and Courts with respect. I am grateful to have had them both as mentors and friends. Bill passed away a few years ago. Joe still practices law in Huntington.

## 5. Trial/Judicial Experience

A. Describe the extent of your jury trial experience, if any.

As a practitioner, I served two years as Huntington County Public Defender. In that role, I defended one-third of the County's indigent criminal and juvenile delinquency cases. I gained significant jury trial experience. I tried approximately ten jury trials, all criminal cases, ranging in severity from misdemeanors to Class A Felonies with Habitual Offender Enhancements.

B. Describe the extent of your bench trial experience, if any.

As a practitioner, I tried hundreds of cases to the bench involving a wide range of legal issues.

C. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your judicial experience (including as a judge pro tempore). Include a description of your experience presiding over jury trials, if any.

For the past 12 years, I have served as Judge of the Wabash Superior Court. Prior to serving as Judge, I also served five years as a part-time judicial officer under Wabash Circuit Court Judges Daniel J. Vanderpool and Robert R. McCallen, III. Specifically, I served as Title IV-D Commissioner. As Commissioner, I heard most of the County's child support disputes. I also served many days as judge pro tempore, in the Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts.

Wabash County's courts are among the busiest in Indiana. According to the Indiana Office of Court Services' 2015 Weighted Caseload Measures "Severity of Need," Wabash County's courts are busier, judge for judge, than are the Courts in Marion, Lake, and Allen Counties. It is also significant that this work is accomplished with only two support staff per court and no dedicated telephone receptionist.

The Wabash Superior Court is a general jurisdiction court and is one of only two courts of record in Wabash County. Since becoming Judge, I have disposed of tens of thousands of cases involving a wide range of legal issues. All totaled, I have presided

over approximately 25 jury trials involving traffic infractions, misdemeanors, felonies, personal injuries, construction disputes, a medical malpractice claim involving death, and a case involving the death of a newspaper carrier who was struck by a fast-traveling police car. I have presided over hundreds of bench trials involving an equally wide range of legal issues. I have also served as hearing officer for the Indiana Supreme Court in two attorney discipline case. I was recently reversed on appeal for the first time in my judicial career. The case involved a partial reversal which directed me to change the wording of my order, but did not change the outcome of my decision. Given the large number of cases that I have disposed of, I believe that this record demonstrates my commitment to the rule of law.

I have also implemented several new programs, including two certified problem-solving courts. I also oversee a third certified problem-solving court, which was established through the efforts of our Chief Probation Officer, Sarah Lochner. I am especially proud of these programs. Wabash County's Drug Court and Reentry Court are operated through our Probation Department. Wabash County's Family Drug Treatment Court is operated through our Local DCS Office. All of these programs were implemented, with very minimal cost, by utilizing existing staff and through efficient organization of the docket. In Wabash County, our partners in justice work collaboratively to keep the lid on recidivism. These programs are a prime example of that collaboration. They are producing positive outcomes for many participants and demonstrate that more can be accomplished with less. Most importantly, they are producing life-saving changes for real Hoosiers.

I first became Judge through appointment by Governor Mitch Daniels. I had never met Governor Daniels until the day he selected me to serve (at the time, I believe, the youngest in Indiana). On that day, he told me that he hoped I would not be a Judge who wanted less to do, but more. I have always tried my best to honor his advice. Unless ethically prohibited, I do not decline requests to serve as special judge. I have also taken significant steps to increase the caseload of the Wabash Superior Court. These have included absorbing the North Manchester Town Court when it was abolished, and implementing local rules which require that half of the County's dissolution of marriage cases (and virtually all of its protection order cases) be filed in the Superior Court. Since my initial appointment, I have been elected and reelected by the citizens of Wabash County.

I was humbled by the confidence placed in me by Governor Daniels. He did not have to take a chance on me, but the fact that he did made me resolve to prove him right. It also gave me the courage to look for the untapped potential in those struggling people who come before me on a daily basis. They all have within them the spark of the divine and that fact must be remembered when their fate is in your hands.

I believe it is an honor to work as a public servant. I always try to conduct myself in a manner that will reflect positively on the judiciary as a whole.

## 6. Professional Experience

***Include as writing samples, four selections (in total) from the written materials listed below in Subsections 6A-6C.***

A. If applicable, list up to five trial or appellate briefs and/or judicial opinions you have written. Refer to them by caption, case number, and filing date.

1. *Jiosa v. State*, Indiana Supreme Court Cause No. 35S00-9910-CR-00619, Amended Brief of Appellant-Defendant, filed January 27, 2000.
2. *In Re: The Marriage of Peggysue Wells and Keith A. Wells*, Huntington Circuit Court Cause No. 35C01-0212-DR-668, Amended Order Resolving Issues Addressed at Hearing Held on April 23, 2014 and Order Resolving Additional Issues Addressed at Hearing Held on September 23, 2014, entered on October 8, 2014.
3. *In Re: The Paternity of T.B.*, Wabash Circuit Court Cause No. 85C01-1005-JP-46, Order Resolving Pending Issues, entered on January 6, 2015.
4. *In Re: The Adoption of S.F.*, Wabash Circuit Court Cause No. 85C01-1110-AD-27, Order Determining Consent Not Required, Pursuant to I.C. § 31-19-9-8, entered on June 7, 2012.
5. *Jerry Soultz and Peggy Soultz v. Staggs Floor Covering, Inc.*, Grant Superior Court 2 Cause No. 27D02-1407-PL-38. Judgment Order, entered August, 2016.

B. If applicable, list up to five legislative drafts or court rules you have written or to which you contributed significantly. Refer to them by official citation, date, and subject matter.

1. District Governance Plan for Administrative District 9 of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, adopted December 13, 2012. In accordance with Rule 3 of the Indiana Administrative Rules and rules established by the Board of Directors of the Indiana Judicial Center, the Plan establishes a structure for the governance, management and administration of Indiana Judicial Administrative District 9 (Wabash, Huntington, Wells and Adams Counties).
2. Wabash County Caseload Allocation Plan, LR85-AR1E-7, reapproved effective date of January 1, 2015. In accordance with Rule 1(E) of the Indiana Administrative Rules, the Rule was implemented to ensure an even distribution of judicial workload among the courts of record in Wabash County.
3. Selection of a Special Judge Pursuant to Trial Rule 79(H), LR 85-TR79-10, Amended effective January 1, 2013. In accordance with Rule 79 of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure, the Rule was implemented to govern the process by which special judges are selected in Wabash County in certain situations.

4. Allocation of Dissolution Proceedings between Circuit and Superior Courts, LR85-FL1, adopted 2006. This rule, requiring all original dissolution proceedings be filed on an alternating basis between the courts, was adopted to ensure the efficient resolution of domestic relations cases in the County and to promote an even distribution of judicial workload among the courts of record in Wabash County.

5. Allocation of Criminal Proceedings between Circuit and Superior Courts, LR85-CR2.2-1, Amended effective July 1, 2014. In accordance with Rule 2.2 of the Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Rule was implemented to establish non-discretionary assignment of felony and misdemeanor cases between the courts of Wabash County.

C. If applicable, list up to five of your contributions to legal journals or other legal publications. Provide titles, official citations, and a brief description of the subject matter.

1. *Protection Order Deskbook*, Chapter 6, No Contact Orders. The Protection Order Deskbook is published by the Indiana Judicial Center and is furnished to all Indiana Trial Court Judges. Together with Referee Matthew Gruett, Lake Superior Court, I substantially rewrote Chapter 6 of the Deskbook which deals with No Contact Orders. The Deskbook may be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/forms/po.html>.

D. Identify the five most significant legal matters entrusted to you, whether as a judge or lawyer, and describe why you believe them to be so.

1. *Jiosa v. State*, 755 N.E. 2d 605, Indiana Supreme Court Case No. 35S00-9910-CR-00619, Lower Court Case No. 35C01-9808-CF-42. When I was a very new attorney, I was appointed to defend a man against charges that he had molested his five-year-old daughter and that he was a Habitual Offender. I can still see Judge Mark McIntosh looking out the window of the law library of the Huntington County Courthouse contemplating whether or not to appoint me to the case, which was so difficult in every sense of the word. He had just granted a much more seasoned attorney's motion to withdraw. After doing so, he walked off the bench to briefly ponder who he should appoint as successor counsel. I knew he was reluctant to appoint me and, truth be told, I hoped that he would not. He did.

Over the next several months, I thoroughly prepared for trial but hoped that a resolution could be reached without one. No agreed resolution was reached and so, in the late summer of 1999, my client went on trial. The trial lasted four days and resulted in my client being found guilty on all counts. He was sentenced to serve 80 years in prison. I believed the trial court erroneously excluded evidence which might have altered the outcome of the case. For that reason, I requested to be appointed as appellate counsel. My client's appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court was successful and his conviction was overturned. The case was tried a second time and I was again appointed to serve as trial counsel. After the jury had deliberated for several hours, the State offered to allow my client to plead guilty to a greatly reduced charge. He accepted.

This case was of significant legal importance because it helped to define Rule 615 of the Indiana Rules of Evidence. It was significant to all of those personally involved because of the obvious human tragedies of the case. The case was also significant to me because it helped me to more fully appreciate the obligations of my oath as an attorney. It also helped me to understand the importance of the plea bargaining process and the risks that all parties take when they exercise their right to a trial.

2. *State v. Wall*, 573 N.E. 2d 890, 35C01-8912-CR-935. When I was sixteen years old, one of my high school classmates killed a man. The circumstances of the case were tragic on many levels. The Defendant had been the President of his class, a star athlete, and an honor student. He had also long been abused by an older acquaintance; a fact which he was unable to share with anyone in a position to help him. He eventually acted out by killing someone whom he did not know, but whom he believed to be an abuser.

The Defendant pleaded guilty to felony murder and was sentenced to serve 60 years in prison. The year was 1989 and both he and I were seniors in high school. I had a difficult time wrapping my head around his fate. He had been a better kid than me. In my teenage mind, the situation was unjust. I could not accept that someone with so much promise should be effectively thrown away. His crime and his punishment were my motivation for becoming a lawyer. The situation concerned my parents enough that they moved from Huntington County to Wabash County.

Seven years later, I was hired by the law firm that had defended my classmate. I was engaged to pursue a sentence modification. The modification hearing took place in 2001 and lasted an entire day. We presented a compelling case for modification. Our evidence included: psychological opinions regarding the circumstances which led to the offense, and how unlikely it was that he would ever reoffend; evidence relating to his good conduct while incarcerated; and evidence that he had graduated from college with high honors, while incarcerated. At the conclusion of the hearing, there were strong indications that his request for a sentence modification would be granted. However, the statute governing sentence modification required that both the sentencing court and the prosecutor agree to the modification. In this case, the victim's family was adamantly opposed to modification and their wishes were respected.

This case gained a high level of notoriety and was the subject of a true crime novel. The case was significant to me because it changed the course of my life. My classmate's experiences and my familiarity with them made me view litigants differently. If I never knew him, I would not have established problem-solving courts in Wabash County and many lives would be worse as a result. All people are endowed with inherent dignity and worth. If our legal system is to be respected, then we must treat all people accordingly. This is not to suggest that people should not be held responsible for their actions. It simply means that those who are empowered to administer justice must be deliberate, thoughtful, and sometimes creative in doing so. My classmate taught me that good people can do evil things. My work with problem solving courts has largely been an effort to help people never get to such a desperate point in life.

3. *Rolla J. Trent, individually and as Administrator of the Estate of Shirley Trent, deceased v. Rodney Richard and the City of Peru*, 52C01-0503-CT-145. During the early morning hours of December 21, 2004, Shirley Trent was delivering newspapers just outside the City Limits of Peru. She was driving on the wrong side of the road in order to more easily place the newspapers in their delivery boxes. At the same time, Officer Rodney Richard of the Peru City Police Department was driving on the same road in the opposite direction. He was travelling at a very high rate of speed, responding to an emergency call involving a member of his family. As the two drivers approached each other, a hill impeded their views. Officer Richard crested the hill and crashed violently into Mrs. Trent's car, killing her. Mrs. Trent's husband and her estate brought suit against both Officer Richard and the City of Peru. I was appointed as special judge.

The case was very procedurally complex. It was delayed for a period of time when it was removed to federal court in order to dispose of potential civil rights claims. When the case was remanded back to state court, I granted summary judgment in favor of Officer Richard because at the time he collided with Mrs. Trent, he was acting in the course of his duties. This decision had significant implications as to the value of the case and the availability of certain defenses. Realizing this, I granted Plaintiffs' request to take an interlocutory appeal of my decision which was affirmed by the Court of Appeals of Indiana. The case was ultimately resolved after a week-long jury trial which resulted in a verdict in favor of Plaintiffs. However, a judgment was never entered on the verdict because the Defendant paid the statutory cap on damages and the Plaintiffs then filed a motion to dismiss.

I was honored to have had the opportunity to preside over a case that was so important to so many people. I also learned how important our constitutional right to trial by jury can be in certain factual situations: the legal rules governing these facts would have suggested that another outcome was more likely. This case demonstrated that some cases are simply unresolvable short of a jury trial.

4. *William and Donna Medley v. Leamon D. Williams*, 85D01-0703-CT-79. This case involved the death of an outwardly healthy teenage girl who had just undergone arthroscopic surgery. During the weekend following her surgery, she developed a deep vein thrombosis which traveled through her circulatory system and eventually caused her death. She was a very promising young lady and was deeply loved by her family. Her parents sued her surgeon for malpractice. The case was resolved after a week-long jury trial which resulted in a verdict in favor of the Defendant. Due to the subject matter, this was a very difficult case. It was simply heartbreaking to realize the loss suffered by the Plaintiffs. However, the evidence presented was fascinating and included testimony of the person who developed the surgical procedure at issue. This case assisted me in further understanding the importance of expert and skilled witnesses as well as the essential gatekeeping role that trial courts play in relation to the admissibility of expert opinions. I was honored to have a case of such importance entrusted to me as judge.

5. *Cody Rutledge v. State of Indiana*, Court of Appeals Case No. 85A04-1407-CR-330, Lower Court Case No. 85D01-1307-FD-501. Mr. Rutledge was charged with Operating

a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class D Felony; Driving While Suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, and was alleged to be a Habitual Substance Offender. He pleaded not guilty and a two day jury trial was conducted in June, 2014. The trial was bifurcated due to the enhanced charges, and resulted in his conviction on all counts. Mr. Rutledge appealed his convictions. He argued that certain evidence was erroneously admitted over his objection that it was obtained in violation of his rights against unreasonable searches and seizures. My ruling was affirmed by the Court of Appeals of Indiana, on March 19, 2015, in a 20 page published opinion.

I thought it important to include Mr. Rutledge's case in this section of my application because the work of the trial courts is made up of an endless stream of such cases. I believe that each of them should be given the time and attention that I would want my own case to receive. That is what the litigants deserve. Moreover, you never know when a case might help define statewide limits as to the scope of permissible police action.

7. Efforts to Improve the Legal System, Administration of Justice or Society

A. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) toward the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook to achieve these goals, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts helped achieve these goals.

1. Chair, Protection Order Committee, Indiana Judicial Conference. Since 2011, I have served as Chair of the Protection Order Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. The Protection Order Committee led the development and enactment of a complete overhaul of Indiana's Protection Order statutes. The committee prepares updates for Indiana's Protection Order Deskbook, advises the Division of State Court Administration in the development of forms and procedures for this law, and cooperated with the former JTAC on the development of the Indiana Protection Order Registry. The Committee provides regular assistance and advice to the Office of Court Services on legal issues related to the Protection Order Registry. As Chair, I am regularly tasked with providing statewide instruction to judges and trial court employees as to best practices and recent developments. I believe that I will also, later today, be tasked with consulting the legislature as to proposed legislation.

The Indiana Protection Order Registry, and its successful deployment in all 92 Indiana Counties, represents a significant part of Indiana's response to domestic violence. I believe that my leadership of the committee, and my familiarity with a statewide program such as the Registry, have helped to prepare me to serve effectively on the Indiana Supreme Court. Specifically, I have had the opportunity to become familiar with the challenges associated with implementation of a statewide program. I have also had the opportunity to work collaboratively with others, from large and small communities, to effectively meet those challenges.

2. Indiana Domestic Violence Prevention Partnership. I recently worked extensively with Ruth Reichard, Family Violence Resource Attorney at the Indiana Office of Court Services and others to develop the Indiana Domestic Violence Prevention Partnership. The idea arose after I attended one of Ruth's programs at the Indiana Judicial Center. I learned about a program started in Minnesota which greatly reduced domestic violence deaths in one of the state's major population centers. The critical components of the Minnesota program included: victim access to legal aid; high level supervision of the offender; high quality treatment services; and coordination of all the moving parts.

After hearing about the program, I decided that a similar program could be created in Indiana. I felt that the implementation of such a program was critically important due to the fact that most domestic batterers, even felons, are no longer eligible to be placed in the Indiana Department of Corrections. For that reason, the question of how to safely supervise such offenders is a local issue. I wanted to make sure that my community was well protected and recognized that doing so would require a high level of collaboration from other stakeholders.

Ruth and I developed a plan whereby a multi-county problem solving court, comprised of Wabash, Huntington, Wells, and Adams Counties (Indiana's 9<sup>th</sup> Administrative Judicial District), would share one specialized docket of the region's higher risk domestic violence cases. The Counties would share a single court coordinator, compliance officer, and support staff. The Indiana Supreme Court approved of our plan and authorized Ruth to apply for a large federal grant which would have been used to create the pilot program in the 9<sup>th</sup> District. For my part, I was able to secure commitment from all eight of the District's judges, as well as prosecutors. I also developed a plan whereby Bowen Center, our primary regional community health provider, would obtain specialized training and prepare to serve in "train the trainer" capacity for other providers throughout the State.

I am sorry to say that our grant request was not approved. However, I believe that this collaborative approach to solving our State's toughest problems is the way forward. I am confident that this program will work and am committed to seeing it implemented. A copy of the grant application further explaining this program is attached.

3. Problem Solving Courts. Through my judicial service, I have come to appreciate the value of problem solving courts. When I first became judge, Wabash County was suffering from a serious drug problem. Specifically, a lot of people were struggling with opioid dependence. The problem was serious enough that it was taxing our public safety resources; we even received some disturbing regional press coverage over the issue. At about the same time the great recession hit, and one of the County's largest employers closed its doors putting hundreds of people out of work. This was a challenging time for Wabash County and it was difficult to have a frank and honest discussion about the drug problem. After all, small conservative communities are not supposed to have drug problems and if we admitted that we had a drug problem, how would we ever attract potential employers to our community? Wabash County decided to face its challenges head on.

(a) Wabash County Drug Court. For my part, I believed that we should preserve our scarce public safety resources for those offenders who presented the greatest threat to public safety. This usually meant violent offenders and drug dealers. However, we still had plenty of other people who were involved in less serious offenses, including a lot of drug users. I felt that it was time to approach their cases a little differently. That is how the Wabash County Drug Court began. In our Drug Court, participants spend at least a year in an intensive drug treatment program. They attend regular support groups, regular court hearings, and they hold down employment. Through this process, they either come to terms with the problems which led to their addictions or they do not. If they succeed, then they have truly earned a warm welcome back into the community. If they fail, then they do so under strict supervision by our Probation Department and their violations are dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

This program has been a resounding success. It has changed the lives of many participants and their families. I also believe that it has impacted the way our community views the drug problem. It has helped make it safe for us to be open and honest about the problems facing our community and to work cooperatively to solve them. I am also proud of the fact that our Drug Court is somewhat unique in that it was implemented, and has been run for almost a decade, on a shoestring budget. We have utilized existing probation staff and worked cooperatively with our community mental health provider to supervise and treat participants at a cost which is affordable for the participant and nearly non-existent for the taxpayer.

(b) Wabash County Family Drug Treatment Court. The problems associated with drugs also included an explosion of CHINS (Child in Need of Services) cases for our local DCS office. As parents struggle with addiction, they are oftentimes unable to meet their parental responsibilities. If the problem is bad enough, then children must be removed from the home until it is safe to return them. In such cases, the goal as required by statute is to reunify the family. This process can take a long time, and while the case is pending the children involved are left in a state of limbo. First, it must be determined whether the children are in fact CHINS. This process is rightly adversarial in nature. Parents have the right to a contested hearing to determine whether their children are CHINS. If and when the CHINS determination is made, a case plan is implemented which sets out specific goals to be met before the children may be returned home. It also typically includes regularly scheduled (but infrequent) hearings and meetings to determine whether those goals are being met or whether they are in need of adjustment.

Because we had so many CHINS cases involving drugs, and because of our positive experience with Drug Court, we (DCS Family Case Manager Sara Cole and I) decided to establish Wabash County Family Drug Treatment Court. The purpose of this program is to assist families torn apart by addiction to become whole again. We do this by getting parents into treatment quickly. Appropriate cases are identified by DCS at the earliest stages. Parents are informed of their eligibility and, before entering the program, admit to the CHINS allegations. Their case is then the subject of frequent staffing by representatives of all agencies involved in the case. Every Friday morning, I meet with these folks in my jury room. They quickly apprise me as to the status of each case. This

allows me to be aware of everything that is going right and everything that is going wrong. With this information, we constantly reevaluate what the family needs before reunification can safely occur. This process allows us to cut through what is not necessary and focus our resources on what is fraying the fabric of a particular family.

I am proud of this program because it is the product of cooperation among every important stakeholder in Wabash County's child welfare system. It is innovative; only a small handful of counties (6 out of 92) are utilizing problem solving courts with their CHINS dockets. Most importantly, however, the program is already bringing safety and stability to the lives of our most at risk children.

(d) Community Support Consortium Alternative to State Operated Facilities Placement. The Consortium was created by the Bowen Center to foster cooperation among the counties in which it serves as community mental health provider. More specifically, Bowen has received a large grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction. The grant was intended to develop effective local treatment options for patients who, in years past, would have been placed in state mental health hospitals. Bowen serves approximately ten (largely rural) Indiana Counties. The people living in these counties have access to a very limited number of mental health providers; in many communities, Bowen is the only option. Through my work with the Consortium, I have come to understand what a challenge this can present for the service provider. Specifically, how do you provide effective treatment, with limited resources, over a wide geographic area?

I believe that a regional mental health court would help. One significant benefit of such a court would be an ability to coordinate and deliver necessary supervision and mental health services to those patients who do not belong in jail, but frequently find themselves there anyway, due to mental illness. Anyone who has spent significant time working in the courts has run across such a person. While no single county, served by Bowen, has enough cases to justify developing such a court; a multi-county court would make sense, especially given the fact that so many counties in this region rely on the same provider and its resources. Establishing such a court would improve access to services for the mentally ill in a large part of Indiana. I believe that effective treatment for the mentally ill should not be impeded by county lines. One court (or a limited number of courts) with a more specialized docket could effectively connect high need patients with appropriate services. Last year we came close to establishing the Northeast Indiana Regional Mental Health Court, but the idea had not yet ripened. I expect that such a program is going to be implemented soon.

4. Alternative Batterer's Program. In cooperation with Bowen Center, I have established an Alternative Batterer's Program in Wabash County. This program is designed to help batterers better understand themselves, why they become violent, and how to deal with strong feelings constructively. The program operates in much the same way that our Drug Court operates. It also involves frequent court appearances, intense treatment, and close supervision for participants. I am proud of this program because it is proving to be a very cost-effective and successful way to address many domestic violence cases.

5. Wabash County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Wabash County has had a community corrections program for over ten years. The program provides many non-violent offenders the opportunity to serve criminal sentences through electronic home detention or work release. It also serves as a “step-down” program for many people as they re-enter the community from the Indiana Department of Corrections. The program obviously benefits the offender because he or she is able to maintain a degree of stability: a person can pay their debt to society while maintaining obligations to their family and their employer. Our community also benefits as this is a much less expensive alternative to jail or prison. Such programs allow the community to preserve scarce criminal justice resources for those offenders posing the greatest risk to public safety.

6. Huntington County Police Merit Board President. Prior to serving as judge, I served for approximately five years on the Huntington County Police Merit Board (serving as President for approximately two years). The Board, as defined by I.C. §36-8-10-3, has significant responsibility including matters of officer discipline and helping to oversee the officers’ retirement fund.

7. CASA. In 1999, I was awarded the Huntington County Leadership Academy’s Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition for establishing the Huntington County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program.

B. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) concerning civic, political, or social issues. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook in this area, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts in this area led to a successful result.

1. Family Engagement/Wabash Friends Church Leadership Development Program. My wife (Raquel) and I are very active members of the Wabash Friends Church, which is the largest church in our denomination (Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends). I serve on the Ministry and Oversight Committee (Board of Elders). Over the past three years, we have both completed an intensive leadership development and character building program. The program was started by our lead minister, Alex Falder and the former Director of the Wabash Friends Church Counseling Center, Scott Makin. These gentlemen developed their curriculum in conjunction with Dr. John Townsend. Dr. Townsend is a prolific author and researcher.

The basic idea of this program is that we all have experienced traumas in our past which lead us to live our lives differently than we would otherwise. It is intended to help you recognize your own shortcomings, to realize that you are worthwhile despite them, and to figure out ways to overcome them. The program takes a year to complete and involves getting to know a group of people on a very deep level, and letting them know you just as deeply. We meet as a group, on a monthly basis. During our meetings we have a time of instruction and we participate in a process group. During the time in between, we have an assigned homework partner with whom we check in at least once a week and we have

assigned readings. Our original groups still meet and Raquel and I have now both taught our own groups for some time.

This process has helped us to grow closer as a couple and to grow deeper in our friendships with others. I have especially enjoyed going through this process myself because it has helped me to better understand the process that leads so many people to have legal problems. More importantly, I believe that it has provided me with insight as to how to more effectively serve those who I see in Court. The work that Raquel and I have done by participating in and leading such groups, is helping to build strong marriages, strong friendships, and a strong community.

2. Impaired Driving/Presentation of the Regret Public Service Announcement. In 2005, Chris Mason had just completed his freshman year of college. Some of his college friends came to visit him in his hometown of Huntington. Sean Jamian was one of those friends. The group attended a number of parties and consumed too much alcohol. Late in the evening, Sean was driving the group in his new Pontiac GTO. He was driving on a winding country road and he was going much too fast. Chris was asleep in the passenger seat. As the car came to an unexpected turn in the road, it wrapped around a tree, causing Chris to suffer fatal injuries. Sean was convicted of felony OVWI and served a lengthy jail sentence. Prior to going to jail, he created the Regret Public Service Announcement which is designed as a cautionary tale for young people. Together with Sean, Steve Mason (Chris's Dad), and local law enforcement, I presented the Regret Public Service Announcement to all of Wabash County's High School prom attendees prior to the 2007, 2009 and 2011 proms.

3. Helping Hoosiers Without Health Insurance/85 Hope. 85 Hope is Wabash County's Free Medical Clinic. I have served on the Clinic's Board of Directors and assisted in efforts to raise awareness of and support for its work.

C. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) to improve your local, state, or national community through charitable work or public service. Include a description of any management or leadership roles you undertook in this area, and describe any specific instances in which your collaborative efforts in this area led to a successful result.

1. Wabash Friends Church Marriage Retreat. Our Church hosts an annual marriage retreat over Valentine's Day weekend. There are usually over 100 couples in attendance. For many years, my wife and I have volunteered our time by serving on the retreat planning committee. I usually serve as emcee. This is a fun and meaningful way for Raquel and I to reconnect. I am blessed that Raquel is not only my wife, she is my partner in life and my friend.

2. Wabash Friends Church Youth Group. I regularly serve as a volunteer with our Church Youth Group. It is important to me to stay connected to the younger generation and I hope that by being involved and staying connected I can not only be a positive role

model for them but I can also keep the perspective that is so critical to be an effective judge.

3. ACCESS Youth Center. The Access Youth Center is located in downtown Wabash. It is a street level ministry dedicated to mentoring youth and their families in a safe environment. Mentoring, tutoring, and a snack program are offered to youth on a daily basis with extended service hours on Friday and Saturday evenings. I have served as a tutor at the ACCESS Youth Center.

4. Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement is dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. Throughout my career, I have frequently served as a classroom instructor for Junior Achievement.

5. Angel Food Ministries. Angel Food Ministries was a nationwide food distribution program providing monthly food service to over 500,000 families over 43 states and the District of Columbia. Our Church served as a monthly distribution site for several churches in our region. My wife was a local co-director. Unfortunately, the program eventually shut down due to problems at the national level. While the ministry was functioning, we spent one Saturday each month distributing food to hundreds of families from across northeast Indiana.

6. Science in Motion. For over twenty years, local students in grades 6-9 had the opportunity to go on a two-week summer camping trip over four consecutive summers. During the first year, they traveled northwest to Yellowstone National Park. During the second year, they traveled southwest to the Grand Canyon. During the third year, they traveled southeast to Florida. Finally, during the fourth year, they traveled northeast to Maine. They also visited countless other places of interest on the way to their destinations. Approximately seventy-five students would make these trips. They traveled on school buses and they tent camped the entire time. They kept journals throughout their trip. They learned about our nation, how to be a little more independent and how to persevere through adversity (like bus breakdowns in Salt Lake City, tarantulas, and dust storms in Carlsbad, New Mexico).

For four consecutive years, I had the opportunity to serve as an adult chaperone on these trips. Through this experience, I got to know many fine teachers, other parents who became lifelong friends, as well as many of the young people in my community. Unfortunately, the program ceased to exist due to a lack of funding.

7. I regularly speak at local schools, service clubs and churches on any number of issues relating to the law and local courts.

D. Describe the nature and extent of any *pro bono* legal services you have contributed.

As a practitioner, I regularly provided pro bono legal service to those in need. I was recognized for such work as follows:

1. Volunteer Lawyer's Program, Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, Huntington County, 2001.

2. Volunteer Lawyer's Program, Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, Huntington County, 2002.

E. Indicate your experience teaching law. Provide the dates, names of institutions or programs, and a description of the subject matter taught.

I regularly serve as faculty for the Indiana Judicial Center and provide statewide training for judges and court employees.

1. July, 2017, Indiana Judicial Center Trial Court Employee Conference. Scheduled to present trial court employees from across Indiana with instruction as to the concepts of procedural and substantive due process.

2. April, 2017, Spring Judicial College, Indiana Judicial Conference. Scheduled to present trial court judges from across Indiana with instruction as to best practices regarding protection orders and no contact orders as well as recent developments in Indiana law.

3. September, 2016, Annual Meeting of the Indiana Judicial Conference. Together with Ruth Reichard and LaJuan Epperson of the Indiana Office of Court Services, I presented judicial officers from across Indiana with instruction as to best practices regarding civil protection orders, no contact orders, and the Indiana Protection Order Registry.

4. April, 2016, Spring Judicial College, Indiana Judicial Conference, Plenary Session. Together with Judge Mark Smith, Hendricks Superior Court 4 and Judge Marianne Voorhees, Delaware Circuit Court 1, I presented the recent legislation update to the Indiana Judicial Conference. My responsibilities included the update as to the recent major overhaul of Title 9 of the Indiana Code and Domestic Relations.

5. October and November, 2014, and November, 2015, Indiana Judicial Center Trial Court Employee Conference. Together with Judge Elizabeth Tavitas, Lake Superior Court, I presented trial court employees from across Indiana with instruction as to best practices for court reporters, from a judge's perspective.

6. October, 2013 and October, 2015, Indiana Judicial Center Senior Judge Workshop. Presented senior judges from across Indiana with instruction as to Indiana's Civil Protection Order Statute and best practices regarding civil protection orders and no contact orders.

7. January, 2013, Indiana Judicial Center General Jurisdiction Orientation Program. Together with LaJuan Epperson, State Court Administration, I presented newly elected or appointed judicial officers from across Indiana with instruction as to Indiana's Civil

Protection Order Statute, best practices regarding civil protection orders and no contact orders, and the Indiana Protection Order Registry.

8. July 17, 2012, Indiana Judicial Center Trial Court Employee Conference. Together with Jeff Bercovitz, Indiana Judicial Center and LaJuan Epperson, State Court Administration, I Presented trial court employees from across Indiana with instruction as to Indiana's Civil Protection Order Statute, best practices regarding civil protection orders and no contact orders, and the Indiana Protection Order Registry.

9. April 29, 2011, "Appeals on Wheels," oral argument held in Jerry French, et al v. State Farm Casualty Company, et al 18A021005PL489. Presented audience (composed primarily of high school and college students from Wabash, Huntington, and Miami Counties) with an introduction as to the history of and procedures followed by the Court of Appeals of Indiana.

10. November 6, 2010, Day of Healing: A Personal Growth Conference, presented by Wabash Friends Church Counseling Center and Mental Health America. Presented program entitled, *Problem Solving Courts-How They Affect You!* Intended to inform those in attendance as to the nature of problem solving courts in Indiana and as to their potential for improving outcomes for the mentally ill in Indiana's Courts.

## 8. Memberships and Other Activities

A. List any memberships and offices you have held in professional organizations, including dates and description of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

1. Board of Directors, Judicial Conference of Indiana, 2010-present. The Judicial Conference of Indiana was created by statute. The legislature has charged the Judicial Conference with promoting an exchange of experience and suggestions regarding the operation of Indiana's judicial system. I have been elected four times by the Judges of Wabash, Huntington, Wells, and Adams Counties to represent them on the Board. Service on the Board has provided a wonderful opportunity to stay well-informed as to issues of importance to all of Indiana's Judiciary. Coming from a small county, I have really appreciated this opportunity.

2. Vice President, Huntington County Bar Association, 2003-2005.

B. List any memberships and offices you have held in civic or charitable organizations, including dates and descriptions of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

1. Board of Directors, White's Residential and Family Services, 2007-present (former Vice President). White's Residential and Family Services is a nonprofit social service organization that works to redirect, rebuild and restore children, teens and families through emotional healing, personal development and spiritual growth. White's is one

Indiana's largest residential placement, foster care, and home-based service providers. They are innovators in their field and have been for over 150 years. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve on White's Board.

2. Board of Directors, Wabash County YMCA, 2011-present (immediate past Chief Volunteer Officer). The work of the YMCA is well known. I am especially proud of the work that has been and is still being done at the Wabash County YMCA. Our local YMCA has received national recognition for its innovative approach to promoting educational savings through a program called the Wabash County Promise. A link which concisely summarizes that recognition can be found here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkhGyZhUNmk&t=390s>. It has also received national recognition for its innovative programming designed to stop summer learning loss. I am also hopeful that the Science in Motion Program will be resurrected, at some point, as part of the Y's summer programming.

I am also very excited about the work being done by our Chief Probation Officer, Sarah Lochner, also our newest Y Board member. A partnership is forming between the Wabash County Probation Department and the Wabash County Promise to explore opportunities to establish 529 accounts for kids involved in juvenile probation. Both groups will be working to develop a plan to help youth take positive steps toward their future, earn deposit incentives and pay for education beyond high school.

3. Board of Directors, Wabash County Chamber of Commerce, 2007-2010.

C. List any memberships you hold in social clubs or organizations. If any restrict its membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin, please describe your efforts within the organization to eliminate restrictions.

Not applicable.

D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

I enjoy spending time with my wife, our children, and our grandchild. Raquel and I have been married our entire adult lives. We started our lives together with very little. We were married at the Wabash County Courthouse in 1993 and went to work second shift at a factory that night. We are very thankful for all that we have been blessed with since that day. We have four children. Our oldest daughter, Ana-Alicia, is an I.U graduate. She and our son-in-law, Rob, a Purdue graduate, both work with troubled youth at White's Residential and Family Services. In November, Ana gave birth to our first grandchild. Our son, Daniel, is a sophomore at Indiana Wesleyan, majoring in Christian Ministries. He is the student body vice president and earned All-State football honors, as a wide receiver, during his junior and senior years of high school. He hopes to soon be resuming his football career at IWU. Our middle daughter was a member of a National Champion competitive dance team. However, during her freshman year of high school she decided to stop dancing in order to run track. In her first season running, she became

a conference and sectional champion. Our youngest daughter is very artistic and makes us laugh. We really enjoy watching her be a kid.

We also have a huge multi-cultural extended family (my wife is the eleventh of twelve children). Her Father is a naturalized citizen who came to the United States from Durango, Mexico. He retired from General Motors (Fisher Body, Marion, Indiana) in 2005 and now works as a missionary in Mexico. Much of my family came to Wabash County, a generation earlier, from Kentucky. My Father still works as a maintenance man at a local factory (Living Essentials, manufacturer of 5-Hour Energy). He made most of their assembly lines. My Mother recently retired from her work as a teacher's aide in our local school system. We typically host holiday parties in our home for as many as 100 family members. This is impressive when you consider that we live in a 2000 square foot ranch home. I am proud of my family and its unique heritage.

I enjoy staying physically fit. I exercise regularly, running on average 30 miles a week. I have completed the Huntington Ultra-Frigid 50K Trail Run (H.U.F.F.) five times, most recently last December in an ice storm (my time was terrible). The race is a 50K trail run, held in late December. It is one of North America's oldest ultra-marathons and is held right here in the Hoosier State. I have also run in mini-marathons and marathons throughout the state.

## 9. Legal Proceedings

A. List any lawsuits or legal proceedings in any jurisdiction, including but not limited to bankruptcies, dissolutions, and criminal matters to which you have been a party. Provide dates, case numbers, courts, names of other parties, and, if needed, a brief explanation. (If minor children are involved [i.e. and adoption], use initials only.)

1. *In Re the Adoption of A.C.*, 85C01-9402-AD-3. I adopted one of my children.

2. *In the Matter or Marriage of Jacobs*, 85D01-0302-DR-40. I was sued by a sovereign citizen enthusiast in his dissolution of marriage action. His claim was dismissed.

3. *Christopher M. Goff v. Brenda J. Roberson and John J. Roberson*, 35D01-9905-SC-479 and *Christopher M. Goff v. Michelle C. Hale*, 35C01-0002-CP-93. Early in my practice of law, I filed some lawsuits to recover my attorney's fees. The cases were either adjudicated in my favor or amicably resolved short of judgment.

B. If you ever have been arrested or cited for any violation of the law other than for routine traffic violations, provide dates, jurisdictions, and an explanation of the event and its resolution.

Not applicable.

C. If you have been disciplined or cautioned, formally or informally, by the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, by the Indiana Commission on Judicial

Qualifications, by the Indiana Supreme Court, or by similar entities in any other jurisdiction, identify each instance by date, case number (if applicable), and describe the circumstances and the nature of the outcome or resolution.

Not applicable.

D. If you have any outstanding federal, state, or local tax obligations, please itemize and explain.

Not applicable.

10. References

A. Provide the names of three attorneys who have been your professional adversaries in your practice or who have litigated substantial cases in your court and who would be in positions to comment on your qualifications for appointment to the Court of Appeals of Indiana (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).

1. Emily C. Guenin-Hodson
2. Bryan J. Michaud
3. The Honorable Daniel J. Vanderpool, Senior Judge

B. Provide the names of three professional references other than those listed in Subsection 10A (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).

1. The Honorable Jennifer Newton, Judge of the Huntington Superior Court
2. The Honorable Thomas M. Hakes, Judge of the Huntington Circuit Court
3. Sarah Lochner

C. Provide the names of three personal references other than those listed in Subsection 10A or 10B (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).

1. Alex Falder
2. Clint Kugler
3. Jesse Brown

11. State Police Release Form and Photograph

A. Complete a State Police release form printed on green paper (you may obtain the release form by contacting the Nominating Commission Office at 317-232-4706). Include the release form with the original application only and not with the copies.

B. Attach a recent photograph of you to the front of the original application and to each copy of your application. (This allows the Commission members to put a face with a name if you are interviewed in person.)

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DATE

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APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

Christopher M. Goff

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PRINTED NAME

