

# APPLICATION FOR THE COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

## PART 1



Jennifer P. Harrison

# Application for Judicial Vacancy Indiana Appellate Courts

## PART ONE

*This document will become a matter of public record and may be published on the courts.in.gov website once your application is complete, so do not include confidential information that must be redacted.*

### 1. Contact/General Information

- A. Full legal name and any former names.

**Jennifer Prinz Harrison**

**Jennifer Lynn Prinz (maiden name)**

- 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.

**H.H., Eight years old, son**

**R.H., Six years old, son**

- C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

**675 Justice Way  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
Jennifer.Harrison@indy.gov  
317-327-3533**

- D. Attorney number.

**28014-49**

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

**Admitted to practice in Indiana in October 2008.**

*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.*

**n/a**

- F. Date and place of birth.

**January 18, 1983 in Louisville, Kentucky.**

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

**Marion County. August 2005.**

## 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. *\*As part of your Supplemental Materials, provide a transcript—including a certified transcript for your original hard copy—for each school listed; redact your Social Security number if it appears on the transcript.*

**Indiana University – Bloomington, IN**

August 2001- May 2005, Bachelor of Arts (concentration English Literature)

Transcript attached.

- B. 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. *\*As part of your Supplemental Materials, provide a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty ("DD 214" paperwork).*

**N/A**

## 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. *\*As part of your Supplemental Materials, provide a transcript—including a certified transcript for your original hard copy—for each school listed; redact your Social Security number if it appears on the transcript.*

**Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indianapolis**

August 2005-May 2008, Juris Doctorate, top 33%

Indiana International & Comparative Law Review, Executive Notes Editor, 2007-08

Phi Alpha Delta, Treasurer, 2006-07

Transcript attached.

4. Employment

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

**Christie Farrell Lee & Bell**

**Legal Clerk**

Indianapolis, IN

May 2007-September 2008

**Marion County Public Defender Agency**

Indianapolis, IN

September 2008-June 2017

**Attorney, September 2008-November 2011**

**Drug Court – Major Felony, Attorney, November 2011-February 2012**

**Major Felony, Attorney, February 2012-October 2014**

**Major Felony, Team Leader for Court 1, October 2014-June 2017**

**Lewis & Wilkins, LLP**

**Associate Attorney**

Indianapolis, IN

July 2017-December 2018

**Marion Superior Court**

**Judge, Court 20**

Indianapolis, IN

January 2019-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.

**While in law school, I clerked at Cline, Farrell, Christie, & Lee (now Christie Farrell Lee & Bell) between May 2007 and July 2008. My primary responsibilities included drafting summary judgment motions, providing legal research and memoranda, and summarizing depositions for personal injury and medical malpractice cases. I worked mainly with Lee Christie, Kevin Farrell, and Lance Cline.**

**From January to July of 2008, I devoted sixteen hours of pro bono service each week to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, most of it served in the post-conviction relief division under Julie Kirchoff's supervision. As I gained more experience, I provided support to attorneys in the D Felony division by meeting with witnesses and victims and preparing them for adversarial hearings. Janna Skelton supervised me. I completed over 100 hours of pro bono work during my tenure at the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.**

**Upon completing the bar exam in July 2008, I worked in the misdemeanor division of the Marion County Public Defender Agency, supervised by Molly Wright and Travis Sandifur. I advanced to the general major felony division with Ray Casanova as my direct supervisor. I served in both Criminal Court 1, where Judge Kurt Eisgruber presided at the time, and Criminal Court 3, where Judge Sheila Carlisle still presides (now known as Court 29). From October 2014 until June 2017, I served as the team leader for Criminal Court 1. As team lead, I managed a team of three attorneys (Amy Blair, Mitchell Swedarsky, and Michelle Keesling) and facilitated a team defense concept through brainstorming strategies for trial and plea negotiations. As a public defender, I strongly believed in protecting the constitutional rights of my clients and ensuring they received the best representation possible, regardless of their economic status. I strived to ensure they understood the criminal justice system and assisted them in determining the best way to resolve their cases. Some clients proceeded to trial and I prepared our defense and ensured their right to a fair trial was preserved and that they felt as comfortable as possible in the process. I worked with my other clients and the assigned deputy prosecutors to craft the best agreed sentences to promote rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.**

**As a public defender, one of the toughest cases I worked on involved a young man charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death. After a night out drinking, he decided to drive himself and his girlfriend home. He wrecked the car and she died on impact. He sustained a traumatic brain injury that caused him to lose all memory of the events that lead to his charges as well as severely impaired his short-term memory and he sustained physical injuries that included double vision and difficulty walking. I began my almost two-year representation of him shortly after he had been released from the Marion County Jail. Immediately I knew he needed to be evaluated for competency to stand trial. He was having a severely hard time dealing with the emotional consequences of his actions and his brain injury inhibited his ability to understand any portion of the legal proceeding. I worked closely with him and his mother/caretaker to understand our first steps were to evaluate him for competency. I explained carefully that a competency evaluation required two doctors appointed by the Court to interview him to ascertain if he could understand the legal proceedings and assist me in his defense. I provided evaluations of my conversations to assist the doctors in their conclusions. I prepared my client and his mother to testify at the competency hearing and utilized the doctors' reports to try and make an argument he was not competent and his likelihood of restoration to competency was unlikely due to the traumatic brain injury. Ultimately, he was found not competent and ordered to competency restoration services. After his commitment with the Department of Mental Health, the doctors found he was competent to stand trial and he was released for us to begin working towards resolution of the case.**

**Throughout the rest of our representation, I worked closely with my client to develop mitigation for sentencing. I attended doctors’ appointments with him to understand the progression of both his mental and physical injuries. I spoke with his rehabilitation practitioners to ascertain how incarceration would affect the little forward progress he was making. I watched as my client did make forward progression in both his memory and physical ailments and got to a point where he could mentally proceed forward to disposition. I got to know him and his family so I could make an argument as to why incarceration in prison was not the right outcome. I also had to work closely with my client so he could understand the legal process in front of him. We met frequently due to his short-term memory problems. While my client had made a horrible choice that ended his loved one’s life, my client was also a person and he was a person who was emotionally and physically suffering from his actions. He suffered from depression and negative thoughts. At that point, my job became more to me than just making sure he understood the legal process. I worked hard for him to see the same thing I worked hard for a judge and prosecutor to see – he is an imperfect human who made a bad choice, but he is not a bad person. This case for me exemplifies the difficult situations lawyers have to face in any field they choose to work. We will come in contact with people on their worst days and who have to relive their worst days in litigation. We have to balance the emotion of a litigant’s real life with the reality of the law and how it applies to the case. It is our calling to give them the tools to get through the legal processes we are trained in with as little trauma as possible.**

**In July 2017, I joined Lewis and Wilkins where I focused on tort defense, insurance defense, and civil litigation. I worked directly with John Lewis, Paul Mullin, Josh Martin, and Evan Norris. While I continued to focus on trial work, I expanded my practice skills as the primary writer of our firm’s summary judgment motions. I had the pleasure of representing various state agencies which provided me the exciting opportunity to practice in many different counties all over the State. I gained invaluable experience travelling across the state, visiting numerous courthouses, and meeting new judges and practitioners. I also advised small businesses in matters such as business incorporation.**

## 5. Trial/Judicial Experience

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

**As a public defender, I tried about thirty jury trials. When I was assigned to lower-level felony courts, I frequently volunteered to work with major felony attorneys on their cases. Within two years of graduating law school, I had the opportunity to do cross-examination of the State’s main witness and closing in a case where my client’s lead charge was rape as an A felony. As a major felony attorney, I served as first chair in approximately twenty jury trials, five of which were murder trials.**

**As a civil litigator, I tried one jury trial in Steuben County. Unlike in Marion County, Steuben County provided us with the voir dire questionnaires a week ahead of time. I loved the ability to take the time with the questionnaires, to do research on potential jurors, and**

**found it helpful in creating a more meaningful voir dire experience. Our jury trial settled after three days of evidence, but it remains one of my fondest memories as a practitioner.**

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

**As a young public defender in then-Criminal Court 7 where Judge William Nelson presided, I tried countless bench trials – the first of which I tried as a certified legal intern under the tutelage of long-time public defender Richard Mantel. As a major felony attorney, I tried between five to ten bench trials and suppressions in front of Judge Eisgruber and Magistrate Steve Rubick. My most memorable bench trial was tried in front of Judge Lisa Borges. My client was charged with murder, and we asserted an insanity defense. (*State v. Lori Barcroft*, 49G04-1205-M4-033537).**

**In the civil arena, I tried one bench trial and several small claims trials.**

- 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.

**I currently serve as a presiding judge in the Marion Superior Court and am assigned to Court 20 in the Criminal Division. When I began, Court 20 was one of two major felony drug courts in Marion County. Most of my caseload consisted of major felony drug dealing or possession of controlled substances charges. My background as a seasoned public defender was tremendous preparation for handling substance abuse and mental health issues; I used those tools to assist me as a judge presiding over these types of cases. I encouraged substance abuse treatment and creative sentencing options for those defendants who could benefit from services to reduce recidivism. In those instances where community-based programming is not an option, I order the defendant to participate in Recovery While Incarcerated while at the Indiana Department of Corrections. This allows me to encourage a defendant to enter treatment sanctioned by the IDOC and potentially provide different sentence options after a period of the sentence has been served.**

**In March 2020, like the rest of the judiciary, I had to pivot management of my caseload without the possibility of a jury trial during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, in April 2020, Court 20 converted from a major felony drug court to a general major felony court. This designation means Court 20 now receives direct filings of all major felony cases. This unique time required me to triage my caseload of incarcerated defendants by encouraging the prosecutors and defense attorneys to identify cases for potential agreement on release conditions or resolution without a jury trial. We worked hard to alleviate the burden on the jail population as well as keep the wheels of justice turning and continued to keep our resolution rate hovering around 85-100%.**

**At the same time, I began to work with the jury services committee to assist in resumption of jury trials for all of Marion County courts and formally joined the committee in January of 2021. I serve as the major felony liaison and represent the concerns and needs of the**

major felony division. As our jury trials require at least twelve jurors plus alternates, I advocated for appropriate space and resources to comply with social distancing. Additionally, we dealt with lower juror turnout during a pandemic and how to prioritize assignment of jurors based on confirmed jury trials. I worked alongside representatives from the other divisions daily to ensure we had a proper jury ranking so our jurors could be appropriately allocated to ensure the right to trial was not violated.

I also served on the probation and pre-trial release committee from January 2019 to December 2020.

In addition to committee membership, I am responsible for the day-to-day administration of my court. I oversee a staff of five and preside over bail reviews, change of plea hearings, sentencings, bench trials, and suppression hearings. It is my job to ensure the cases in Court 20 continue to keep moving so that justice may be administered fairly and efficiently.

As a judge, I have presided over twenty jury trials, three of which were co-defendant jury trials. The charges of these juries have ranged from Dealing in Methamphetamine as a Level 2 felony, Possession of a Firearm as a Serious Violent Felon, a Level 4 felony, Child Molesting, a Level 1 felony, Robbery, a Level 3 felony, and Murder, a Felony.

As both a judge and a practitioner, jury trials are extremely rewarding. In my capacity as a judge, one of my favorite parts of a jury trial is delivering the jury speech to the prospective jurors – especially after the pandemic. The opportunity to educate the public on why their presence that day (and for several days) is so vitally important to our county, our state, our country, and our constitutional rights is a gift. Part of my jury speech I borrow from Judge Kurt Eisgruber. The majority of criminal trials I tried as a public defender were in front of Judge Eisgruber and his jury speech always gave me chills. Judge Eisgruber is a retired service member and as part of his speech he would recognize the names of Hoosiers who had recently died in active military service. I then explain to the jury that military service is one of the most common things we think of when we consider serving our country, but jury service is also a call to service for the juror’s county, state, and country. The juror’s presence there that day allows our constitutional right to a jury of our peers to be upheld. It protects the system our constitution created. The call to jury service may require personal sacrifice of missing work or figuring out who is going to pick up a child from school, but the juror is making a sacrifice and I want to recognize that is a big deal and it means something. I enjoy covering the basic concepts of a jury with them, educating them on what they may see, and trying to get them excited for their service. Lastly, if it is appropriate for the cause they are hearing, I do try to bring some humor into my jury speech. I explain I am originally from southern Indiana and when my accent comes out my pronunciation of voir dire is completely different than my now more northern accent so we will just call it the fancy term of picking a jury. A laughing jury is a good jury! I then explain to them the questions asked are not meant to embarrass them, but they are meant to make sure they are the right juror for this specific case. At the conclusion of any jury, it is important to me to go back and express my gratitude to the

**jury for their service. The jurors who have served often express they are glad they served and they learned something about the legal system.**

## 6. Professional Experience

*\*As part of your Supplemental Materials, include as writing samples four selections (in total) from the written materials listed below in Questions 6A through 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.

***State v. Christian Jamar Triblet, 49G20-1905-F4-019105 (now 49D20-1905-F4-019105), file date July 22, 2020. Order denying Motion to Suppress.***

***State v. Duane Allen Reid Fultz, 49G20-1905-020203 (now 49D20-1905-020203), file date July 17, 2020. Order denying Motion to Suppress.***

***State v. David Brown, 49G20-1807-F2-024899, file date June 6, 2019. Order on Motion to Suppress (granted in part, denied in part).***

***Milan Jurich v. Indiana Department of Transportation, 79D021601-CT-000010, file date October 13, 2017. INDOT's Response to Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Defendant's Designation of Evidence.***

***State v. James Isaac, 49G01-1306-FC-037997, July 17, 2015. Defendant's Response on Inadmissibility of Medical Records.***

- 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.

**n/a**

- 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.

***The Phenomenon of Cybersuicide: An Examination of Australia's Solution, the Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offenses) Bill 2005 and the Difficulty of International Implementation of Similar Legislation, 18 IND. INT'L & COMP. L. REV., 2008***

**Discussed the constitutional difficulties and other legal barriers in criminalizing websites and chatrooms encouraging suicide and provided an overview of legislation passed in Australia criminalizing cybersuicide websites and online counseling of others to commit**

**suicide. Highlighted the roadblocks to passing the legislation and problems that still existed with enforcing the legislation.**

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) Work as a public defender:**

- a. One of the greatest honors of my life was to serve as a public defender. The right to have zealous and effective representation no matter one’s financial status is one of our most important state and federal constitutional rights. I believe in equal access to justice for all and my work as a public defender embodied that. This position also allowed me to deeply involve myself in my community, to see the struggles and challenges confronting our residents daily, and to connect my neighbors with resources to provide them better lives and opportunities.

During my time as a public defender, the opioid epidemic exploded. I went from seeing a majority of drug possession cases being cocaine to heroin. As I would interview these clients at our initial meetings, I frequently would hear similar stories of how the client had never had substance abuse issues until a car accident or some sort of physical injury where the client had been prescribed opiates. The addiction then took hold and destroyed their lives.

One such client was charged with several different causes with the most egregious charge of burglary of his parents’ house. It was painful for everyone in the courtroom to hear his mother during his bail review talk about how he could not come to his parents’ house and the fear his parents had for what his future held. Additionally, during my representation of him, the mother of his child passed away while he was incarcerated. This case really hit home to me the reality of this disease, how it takes hold of people and destroys their lives and the lives of their families, and—the scariest reality of all—this disease can affect and destroy anyone. My representation of him was a long road full of trying out different treatment options and relapses. It was an eye-opening education on compassion, tough love, and how the justice system can support combatting addiction.

**2) *State v. Freddie Bailey*, 49G01-1412-MR-056421**

- a. As a public defender, I represented a man charged with the brutal murder of a three-year-old girl. The State filed the Life Without Parole sentence enhancement against him. I worked very hard investigating Mr. Bailey’s life up to the point he committed the murder. I spent time interviewing his family members, reviewing school records, working with an expert on his cognitive function, and spending a lot of time with Mr. Bailey himself. It was a very difficult and emotional case for all involved. I worked with my co-counsel, Laura Pitts, and our mitigation specialist, Aftan Archer-Cox, in

creating a mitigation packet. I met with the prosecutors to propose a solution short of trial that would take the LWOP enhancement off the table. The State’s recognition of his humanity and its offer to plea to a term of years represents one of my greatest professional accomplishments.

**3) Position as a presiding judge in Marion County**

- a. In 2019, I started my appointment with the Marion County Superior Court as a judge. Public service is something that has always been very important to my family and me as I was taught and I believe it is our job to give back to our communities and make it a better place. It is a great honor to serve my community in this capacity. I strive to be the type of judge who is fair and treats everyone in my courtroom with respect. I want people to walk away from their interactions in the courtroom with respect for the process. It is important to me as a judge to allow all parties to have a fair chance to present their case and argument to me. I believe that if a party feels they have been heard and given a fair shot, then even if the outcome is not what they wished, they can feel they were not silenced by the justice system.

Additionally, my job requires me to uphold our constitutional rights. I am tasked with making sure the cases in front of me continue to move efficiently. I recognize the stress and toll it puts on both victims and defendants for cases to pend entirely too long. While wrenches can get thrown in the process (such as pandemics), it is both constitutionally required and important for the judiciary to provide closure to parties on these significant events in their lives.

**4) Sentencing defendants**

- a. If there is a conviction, it is my job as the judge to sentence a defendant and it is not a task I take lightly. One of the instructions I give to juries is to not concern themselves with the potential penalties the crimes in front of them carry as the judge alone is responsible for sentencing. A juror does not need to consider whether a defendant, if convicted, may be sentenced to a significant time in prison. The juror’s job is to focus on the facts in front of them and to decide if those facts support a finding of guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

A sentencing hearing is an opportunity for the defendant to explain to the court why they committed the offense and what contributed to the delinquent behavior. Many crimes occur because of substance abuse issues, mental health issues, or a combination of both. It also allows me to hear from the defendant and speak directly to the defendant to explain my reasoning for the sentence. When sentences are left open to the court, I try fashion a sentence that is line with our constitutional right that the penal code shall be founded on principles of reformation and not of vindictive justice. This allows me, when appropriate, to connect the defendant with services to reduce recidivism. However, in one such case, *State v. Dewayne H. Mahone*, 49D20-1907-F2-028792, a stricter approach was required. This sentence was appealed and is detailed in an unpublished opinion. *Mahone v. State*, 21A-CR-309, 2021 WL

4270064 (Ind. Ct. App. September 21, 2021).

Mr. Mahone pled guilty to one count of dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death. This was a relatively new law and was the first filed in Marion County. The plea offer dismissed another cause where Mr. Mahone was charged with crimes of dealing controlled substances and dismissed the habitual offender sentence enhancement. His guilty plea capped his executed sentence at twenty years. After listening to evidence and arguments by the parties, I sentenced him to a total sentence of thirty-five years with twenty years executed at the Indiana Department of Corrections, fifteen years suspended with four years on probation.

In coming to a sentencing decision, a trial court judge must balance aggravating and mitigating circumstances. In this case and as cited in the appellate opinion, I found as mitigating (1) the fact Mr. Mahone was dealing drugs to support his own severe addiction; (2) Mr. Mahone had accepted responsibility for his actions; and (3) the hardship his incarceration had on his children. In aggravation I found (1) the harm the crime caused; (2) Mr. Mahone's prior criminal history including his prior dealing conviction; (3) Mr. Mahone's choice to continue to deal drugs; (4) Mr. Mahone had committed prior violations of community-based programming; and (5) Mr. Mahone was released on bond for another cause when he committed the instant offense. Mr. Mahone wanted me to consider as a mitigator the victim's choice to purchase and ingest the drugs dealt to him by Mr. Mahone. However, I felt it important to speak to Mr. Mahone directly and explain that drug dealing is not a victimless crime. It affects those who buy the drugs, the families of those who purchase the drugs, and the communities in which the drugs are dealt. In this specific instance, we concretely saw how this was not a victimless crime and I could not ignore that. I did also sentence Mr. Mahone to recovery while incarcerated so he may receive substance abuse treatment while serving his sentence at the Indiana Department of Corrections. After he serves fifteen years of his sentence, he would be eligible for the Court to review his sentence if he has no violations while incarcerated.

## **5) Jury trials**

- a.** Both as a practitioner and a judge, jury trials have been one of the legal matters most entrusted me. As a practitioner, I was most often the voice for the defendant when they could not speak for themselves. It was my job to make sure my criminal clients' constitutional rights were protected and advocate for their defenses.

As a judge, my jury trials frequently start on Monday mornings and not all jurors are excited to be there. It is my unique responsibility to explain to them why their service needs to be performed with the utmost care and responsibility for both the court and the process. I educate the jury on important legal principles and, in cases that may have emotion-inducing circumstances, explain the importance of focusing on the facts and the legal principles that govern a jury.

During a trial, I work to ensure the record remains clean and that only admissible evidence is used. I need to hold the litigators to collegiality and control the courtroom so that the emotions do not run too highly so as to affect the trial.

Lastly, once a jury trial has concluded, it is my job to thank the jurors for their service and for assisting us in upholding the defendant’s constitutional right to the jury. I enjoy talking with the jurors after to learn their perspective on the trial and to see if there are things my staff and I can do to improve for future juries.

## 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.

**Collegiality and decorum among the bar, in and out of court, has always been a top priority. As part of my service with the Indianapolis Bar Association – Criminal Justice section, I have worked on socials and programming for our members to encourage this spirit in the criminal bar. I spoke to the newly admitted attorneys for Marion County Prosecutor’s Office and Marion County Public Defender Agency for their Applied Professionalism course in 2021 on collegiality and working together. I also presented a CLE for both the Indiana State Bar and Indianapolis Bar Association on professionalism in quarantine and beyond in 2020.**

**I have presented on additional topics at CLEs. At the 2022 Spring Judicial Conference, along with Professor Joel Schumm, I presented on jury trial procedures, jury instructions, merger and lesser-included offenses, and double jeopardy case law. I also spoke to ALJs on bench skills and advised about how to handle self-represented litigants and other difficult issues from the bench. In 2020, I presented to the Marion Superior Court on search and seizure issues. In 2017, I taught at the Indiana Public Defender Counsel Capital Defense seminar and discussed how to present mitigation to the State as well as the court. In 2010, I also presented to the Marion County Public Defender Agency on search and seizure issues.**

**As stated above, for the Marion Superior Court I have served on the probation and pre-trial release services committee and the jury services committee. I serve on the Criminal Benchbook committee for the Indiana Office of Court Services and most recently worked on updating the grand jury portion of the benchbook.**

**Since 2012, I have been a member of the Indianapolis Bar Association’s criminal justice section and was appointed Chairperson for 2018. From 2016-2018, I assisted in creating the section’s budget and ensuring we were good stewards of our funds. I have helped develop and present CLEs that provide members of the criminal bar with education on the new criminal code provisions, information on the various problem-solving courts, and litigation assistance. Our section has championed a spirit of collegiality in the bar and we have introduced scholarships and associated mentoring for younger members of our legal community to encourage them to get involved in the bar.**

- 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.

**From 2018-2021, I served as a board member for Drug Free Marion County. We worked to distribute funds from the State to smaller non-profits who worked to reduce drug abuse and assist with treatment in Marion County. We reviewed applications and worked to identify newer organizations who could utilize our grants to combat addiction.**

**I am a member of the 2015-16 class of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service series. The Lugar Series provided me with leadership training, introduced me to a variety of public leaders, and inspired me to seek judicial office so I could use the tools I have to effect change in my community. This series is hands down one of the most impactful experiences of my life. I grew up in a smaller community in Floyd County which was made even smaller with my education at parochial school. Somewhere along the way though, I forgot the power of community and the women of the Lugar Series reminded me of this important life lesson. One of our first class assignments was to meet with three alumni from the Lugar Series to begin networking. The next class our assignment was to network with three people either in our professional field or community who we saw as leaders. This type of education continued throughout the series and taught me the power of sitting down with people one-on-one, listening to their stories, and figuring out how we can work together to make meaningful change. Additionally, this series taught me the power of women supporting women. Betsy Wiley was president of the Lugar Series in 2015-16 and at our first class she told us it is important for us as women to take our seats at the table and provide our perspectives when we feel called. This sentiment rings loud in my ear as I apply for this vacancy because my perspective as a young woman who has dedicated my legal career to the trial court both in Marion County and the other ninety-one counties of Indiana is important to the work of the Court of Appeals to provide balance across our great state.**

- 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.

**Since 2021, I serve as a co-leader for one of the Cub Scout packs for St. Simon the Apostle. This position allows me to instill in the boys and girls in our pack leadership skills and care for their community. Last year, my co-leader and I took the troop on a hike in our community and taught them how to take care of the environment around them. We also had a series dedicated to reverence to our country. While making a craft, we learned about the American flag and how to properly care for and fold the flag. In my favorite unit, we taught the troop the importance of taking care of their bodies through exercise and the benefits exercise can provide them, both physically and mentally. I look forward to seeing how the young scouts of our troop continue to grow in their skills, give back to each other and our community, and become the future leaders of our community.**

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

**From 2011-2015, I served on the pro bono committee for the Indianapolis Bar Association. I volunteered on coordinating the juvenile court project connecting guardian ad litem to minors charged with juvenile delinquency cases and I have often participated in the Ask-A-Lawyer program. I also helped coordinate an event that sought to link social workers with community groups that provided pro bono work. This program sought to highlight the other pro bono providers, build rapport amongst them, and introduce facilitators to other pro bono providers.**

**While in law school, I completed over 100 hours of pro bono at the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.**

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

**I have participated in teaching law in the CLEs described above. Additionally, I participated as a leader in the intern program at the Marion County Public Defender Agency. This program helped train interns about how to triage and practice law with a large caseload. I supervised young attorneys during their first adversarial hearings. As a public defender, I also spoke with many students who toured the Marion Superior Courts. One of my favorite parts of being a judge is getting to interact with younger trial attorneys and help them hone their trial skills as well as keep them abreast of important case law. Additionally, I love using jury trials as an opportunity to educate the jury on the state and federal constitutional rights to a jury trial and the other rights our constitutions give to all of us. I use the entire process to explain to them the duty of a fact-finder and how their service allows each of us the right to a fair trial.**

## 8. Memberships and Other Activities

- A. List any memberships and offices you have held in professional organizations, including dates and descriptions of both the organization's purpose and your involvement.

**Indianapolis Bar Association, Member (2011-Present). Nature of organization and my involvement described above.**

**Indianapolis Bar Association, Pro Bono Committee, Member (2011-2015) – Nature of committee and my involvement described above.**

**Indianapolis Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section; Member (2012-Present), Chairperson (2018-present) – Nature of Section and my involvement described above.**

**Indianapolis Bar Association Justice Center Task Force, Member (2018) To advocate for practitioners needs for new CJC to the City of Indianapolis.**

**Indianapolis Bar Association 2018 Bench Bar Planning Committee; Member. Assisted in creating the criminal track CLEs for the Bench Bar.**

**Criminal Bench Book Committee, Member (2019-present).**

**Indiana State Bar, Member (2022-present).**

- B. List any memberships and offices you have held in civic, charitable, or service organizations, including dates and descriptions of both the organization's purpose and your involvement.

**I am a graduate of the 2015-16 Lugar Series class. For our class project, we partnered with the Lugar Center to raise awareness and funds to empower women farmers in Liberia. We raised more than \$10,000 to enable the women farmers.**

**Since 2016, I am a member at St. Simon the Apostle Catholic Church. In 2020, I participated in Women's Welcome (CHIRP 2.0) and served as a retreat leader for the Women's Welcome retreat in 2022 where I spoke about Christian awareness. This experience helped me grow in community with my church and has shown me how to use my talents at church. I enjoyed speaking with the women about their relationships with God and with each other.**

**I co-lead a Cub Scout Pack for Pack 488, sponsored by St. Simon. I also volunteered as a dugout mom for OYO Junior Rookie League. As a dugout mom for the 6 year old/7 year old team, it was my job to keep all of the boys' equipment organized. As one can imagine, this is more difficult than it sounds with a team of eleven kids to keep bats, helmets, and mitts in one place. Additionally, it was my job to keep the kids engaged in the game while on the bench waiting to bat and to support their teammates. The best part of this experience was watching my child fall in love with baseball, and in turn, I too fell in love with baseball.**

**After seeing the devastating effects of the opioid crisis first-hand, I joined the board for Drug Free Marion County in 2018 where I was passionate about fighting the opioid epidemic in Marion County.**

**I also was a volunteer on several political campaigns, including Mitch Daniels's re-election campaign, Greg Ballard's re-election campaign, and Eric Holcomb's 2016 gubernatorial election campaign.**

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

**St. Simon Women's Club, Member.**

- D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

**As a single mom with two young children, my leisure time is very spare. However, I have always been an athletic person. I enjoy hiking and fell in love with the Indiana State Parks while working at Lewis And Wilkins as they were one of our clients. One of my favorite things to do after a long week is to take a hike at Fort Harrison while listening to a true crime podcast and walking my dog. I also love running as it gives me time to free my mind and just be in the moment. I am an avid Orangetheory member and can frequently be found squeezing in a class early morning before my workday begins.**

**I have loved to travel since I studied abroad for a summer semester in law school. I also love to go to concerts. Both of these hobbies took a bit of a back seat when my children were babies, but since they have grown a little, I have started combining my love of music and travel by going to concerts in different cities. In the last year, I have travelled to Louisville, Kentucky to see Old Crowe Medicine Show, Denver, Colorado and Nashville, Tennessee to see Brandi Carlile, and St. Louis, Missouri to see Alanis Morrissette.**

**The travel bug is also starting to bite my kids. We have enjoyed vacations to Ann Arbor, Michigan where we explored the University of Michigan's campus and, much to my father's chagrin, my children became Wolverine fans. This summer we camped at Chain O' Lakes State Park where we played on the beach, hiked, kayaked, and devoured s'mores.**

**We also traveled to Chicago where we visited the Chicago Sports Museum and all three of us caught our first Chicago White Sox game (also to my father's chagrin).**

**I am an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction. I typically have both a fiction and a non-fiction book going at one time. Additionally, I love puzzles of all type. The first thing I do almost every day is the Wordle or a crossword puzzle and I typically have a jigsaw puzzle I am working on out on my dining room table.**

## 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. an adoption], use initials only.)

**In re: the Marriage of Jennifer Harrison and Logan Harrison, 29C01-2002-DC-001144.**  
Decided October 5, 2020.

- 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.

N/A

- 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.

N/A

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

N/A

## 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 an Indiana Appellate Court (*contact information to be included in Part Two of this application*).

**Peter Blackett**

**Nicholas Cayetano**

**Jeffrey Baldwin**

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

**Paul Mullin**

**Judge Charnette Garner**

**Judge Sheila Carlisle**

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

**Betsy Wiley**

**Shaunette Terrel**

**Beth Popich**