



INDIANA SUPREME COURT

200 W Washington St | Rm 321
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
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CHAMBERS OF Justice Steven David

May 23, 2022

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor of Indiana
c/o Ms. Sharon Jackson, Deputy General Counsel
200 W. Washington Street
Room 206, State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204

VIA Email and Hand-Delivery

Dear Governor Holcomb:

The Marion County Judicial Selection Committee convened on Monday, May 9, and Tuesday, May 10, 2022, to interview candidates for the upcoming vacancy in Marion Superior Court 31, created by the retirement of the Honorable Grant W. Hawkins, effective September 30, 2022. On behalf of the Committee, and pursuant to Indiana Code section 33-33-49-13.4, I am pleased to provide the names of the three candidates the members of the Committee nominated and found to be the most qualified for the judicial position in Court 31.

Mark Edward Kamish
Linda Aiken Major
Magistrate Jeffrey Lynn Marchal

In nominating these candidates, the Committee evaluated and weighed the nonexclusive list of statutory factors, including each applicant's legal education, writings, public-service activities, diversity, legal experience and reputation as a lawyer or judicial officer, probable judicial temperament, and other pertinent information. The Committee also took under consideration the extensive major felony criminal docket and the challenges the appointed judicial officer must manage in Court 31. On behalf of the Committee, I offer the following summaries of each candidate's qualifications:

Mark Edward Kamish

Throughout his 22-year legal career, Mark E. Kamish has defended the rights of the accused within the criminal justice system. In 1983, Mr. Kamish graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. Upon graduation, Mr. Kamish served in the United States Army until 1990 as a Captain in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and later in Germany. During his years of military service, Mr. Kamish earned a number of certifications, awards, and at one time, commanded a 85-soldier nuclear

warhead detachment in what was then West Germany, during the Cold War. From 1987 to 1988, Mr. Kamish also attended the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center for German, graduating in the top 10% of his class.

After his military service and before enrolling in law school, Mr. Kamish worked as a production supervisor and engineer at Newell, Amerock Corporation in Rockford, Illinois, and later as an operations manager and engineer at Harman-Motive, Inc. in Martinsville, Indiana. Mr. Kamish graduated from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2000. During law school, he was a member of the Order of Barristers, receiving the section's top grade in Criminal Procedure and Administrative Law, and awarded the Effie Elizabeth Jordan Fellowship for the best dissertation on a constitutional subject.

After law school, Mr. Kamish became a public defender at the Marion County Public Defender Agency. In 2004, Mr. Kamish was hired as an associate at Kiefer & McGoff until 2005, when he opened the Kamish Law Office, as a solo practitioner, in Greenwood, Indiana. Two years later, Mr. Kamish became the founding partner to his present law firm, Baldwin Perry Kamish, P.C., a 9-attorney office located in Indianapolis.

Mr. Kamish has defended people accused of crimes ranging from capital murder to misdemeanor drunk driving, including some on a *pro bono* basis. He has tried 66 jury trials to verdict, including 52 felony cases, and over 100 bench trials. He has been successful in oral argument before the Indiana Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals of Indiana. Mr. Kamish has also served as a *Judge Pro Tempore* for criminal dockets in Johnson and Marion counties.

Mr. Kamish is an active member of several bar associations, and other organizations, including the Indiana Public Defender Council, National College for DUI Defense, and the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Mr. Kamish is one of only six Indiana lawyers certified in Criminal Trial Law by the NBTA, among its 16,000 resident active attorneys. Mr. Kamish has also narrated 14 published audiobooks, including two in the legal field.

Linda Aiken Major

Linda A. Major has represented the people of the State of Indiana in the Marion County Prosecutor's Office for the entirety of her 25 years in the legal profession. In 1993, Mrs. Major graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Upon graduation, she enrolled at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit and earned her law degree in 1996.

After law school, Mrs. Major moved to Indianapolis and became a deputy prosecuting attorney in the Domestic Violence Unit of the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. In 1999, she transitioned into prosecuting stalking cases, and later in 2000, she was appointed as the special deputy prosecuting attorney for the Indianapolis Police Department Domestic Violence Branch, a role she held until 2003.

In 2003, Mrs. Major became Supervisor of the Domestic Violence Unit of the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, where she managed a 15-person staff until 2006. From 2006 until 2016, she was the Marion County Prosecutor's Office Executive Director of Domestic Violence

Affairs, where she supervised a staff of three individuals and was the on-site liaison at the Family Justice Center, a collaboration between the Marion County Prosecutor's Office and the Indianapolis Police Department. Since 2016, Mrs. Major has served as the major felony deputy prosecuting attorney for the Special Victims Unit at the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. During her time at the Prosecutor's Office, she has gained extensive experience in trying cases, having tried no fewer than 50 jury trials and no fewer than 100 bench trials ranging from criminal mischief to murder.

Mrs. Major has continued to play an active role in educating local and national law enforcement agencies, bar associations, legal professionals, and anti-violence agencies on topics including rules of evidence, criminal orders of protection, liability, assault cases, case investigation, evidence collection, and effects of violence on children. In 2009, the City County Council appointed Mrs. Major to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, to serve with community leaders charged with evaluating and recommending action to curb domestic-related homicides, a role she held until 2014. Mrs. Major also assisted in the development of Baker One, a multi-agency effort to reduce domestic violence and domestic-related homicide.

In the classroom, Mrs. Major has served as an adjunct professor at Indiana University McKinney School of Law, where she has taught Criminal Procedure - Adjudication. She has also previously taught Criminal Law and Victimology at the Indiana Institute of Technology.

Dedicated to her local community, Mrs. Major is active in her church's ministries, including serving as a Sunday School teacher, choir director, and missionary member, and has been involved in many types of fundraising drives.

Magistrate Jeffrey Lynn Marchal

Magistrate Jeffrey L. Marchal has been a judicial officer of the Marion Superior Court for the last 18 years of his 24 years in the legal profession. Magistrate Marchal graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Illinois in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts, and earned his law degree from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 1994.

After law school, Magistrate Marchal worked briefly at the Marion County Public Defender Agency, and later, he was in private practice for nearly ten years as a trial attorney at several law firms covering a wide range of areas including criminal defense, juvenile law, medical malpractice, and general tort litigation. As a practicing attorney, Magistrate Marchal tried over 50 jury trials and 75 bench trials.

In 2004, the Honorable Jane Magnus-Stinson named Magistrate Marchal as her Master Commissioner in the Criminal Division of Court 32 (formerly Criminal Court Six), one of the eight major felony courts in Marion County, where he has remained for the entirety of his judicial career. Since May 2015, he has served as Magistrate to the Honorable Mark D. Stoner with shared responsibility over the entire criminal docket. Magistrate Marchal has presided over 110 major felony jury trials and over 175 bench trials involving felonies, misdemeanors, or various civil actions.

Additionally, since January 2005, Magistrate Marchal has been assigned to several courts of the Civil Division. Currently, he is the Magistrate to the Honorable Heather A. Welch in Court 1, which also serves as one of the State's Commercial Courts. Magistrate Marchal shares responsibility over the general civil docket, and before the Family Division was established in 2021, he exercised primary responsibility for all family cases filed in Court 1, including presiding over more than 250 final divorce hearings.

Magistrate Marchal has served on many committees and boards. Since 2014, he has been a member of the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board, and he previously served on several committees for the judiciary, including the Criminal Benchbook Committee and the Jury Committee. In 2019, Magistrate Marchal was appointed to the Probation Committee by Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush.

Magistrate Marchal is an active member of several bar associations. Since 2019, he has served as a mentor with the Starfish Initiative, a college access and career readiness program serving at-risk and economically disadvantaged high school students in Marion County.

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I would be pleased to discuss any of these nominees with you in greater detail. All three nominees report themselves to be in good health. Based upon their interviews and the Committee's assessment, each has a personality well-suited for the bench, along with the legal ability and professional experience to serve with distinction. Our Committee is confident that all the nominees are of a high caliber and would be a lasting credit to the Marion Superior Court bench. We previously provided the applicants' applications and letters of recommendation.

It was an honor to serve as Chair of the Committee and a true privilege to serve with my fellow Committee members: Vice Chair and Judge Robert R. Altice, Susan Cline, Lee Christie, Samantha DeWester, Carlette Duffy, K. Michael Gaerte, Rick Hurst, Katherine Jackson-Lindsay, Lacy Johnson, Andrew Mallon, Christopher Mitchem, J. Sebastian Smelko, and Joseph Smith, Jr.

Sincerely,



Justice Steven H. David
Chair, Marion County Judicial Selection Committee

cc: Judge Robert R. Altice