

**STATE JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION  
AND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JOINT JUDICIAL APPLICATION**

*Please complete this application by placing your responses in normal type, immediately beneath each request for information. Requested documents should be attached at the end of the application or in separate PDF files, clearly identifying the numbered request to which each document is responsive. Completed applications are public records. If you cannot fully respond to a question without disclosing information that is confidential under state or federal law, please submit that portion of your answer separately, along with your legal basis for considering the information confidential. Do not submit opinions or other writing samples containing confidential information unless you are able to appropriately redact the document to avoid disclosing the identity of the parties or other confidential information.*

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**1. State your full name.**

Romonda Denise Belcher

**2. State your current occupation or title. (Lawyers: identify name of firm, organization, or government agency; judicial officers: identify title and judicial election district.)**

District Associate Judge, Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

**3. State your date of birth (to determine statutory eligibility).**

January 3, 1968

**4. State your current city and county of residence.**

Des Moines, Polk County

**PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

**5. List in reverse chronological order each college and law school you attended including the dates of attendance, the degree awarded, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree from that institution was awarded.**

National Judicial College, June 6-16, 2011  
Special Course Jurisdiction, Certificate of Completion awarded June 16, 2011

Drake University Law School, August 1992 - May 1995, Juris Doctorate

Howard University, August 1986 - May 1990, Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude)

**6. Describe in reverse chronological order all of your work experience since graduating from college, including:**

- a. Your position, dates (beginning and end) of your employment, addresses of law firms or offices, companies, or governmental agencies with which you have been connected, and the name of your supervisor or a knowledgeable colleague if possible.**

**Fifth Judicial District of Iowa**, District Associate Judge, 500 Mulberry, Des Moines, IA (August 2010 – present) – Arthur Gamble, retired Chief Judge

- preside over and enter rulings regarding juvenile dependency and delinquent matters, termination of parental rights, adoptions, committal hearings, criminal misdemeanors and felony cases, and small claim matters (*See 10. a.*)

**Polk County Attorney's Office**, Assistant County Attorney, 206-6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Des Moines, IA, (September 1995 – August 2010) – John Sarcone, supervisor

- prosecuted juvenile delinquency and dependency matters and criminal matters; and worked in the civil division representing county officials and department heads in small claims, wedding licensing, real estate forfeitures and governmental contract matters

**Encore Temporary, Inc.**, Washington, DC, personnel and training assistant assigned to the Area Transit Authority (September 1990 – August 1992)

- provided administrative and clerical support; prepared memoranda and procurement requisitions; and negotiated contracts for vendor selection

**CACI Commercial, Inc.**, Fairfax, VA, legal document coder (August 1990 – September 1990)

- coded legal documents in preparation for trial

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, (W.M.A.T.A.)** Washington, DC, research intern (June 1990 – August 1990)

- implemented basic skills and reading programs; researched and indexed reference materials; procured training course vendors; and provided computer and remedial training

**Around the Corner to the World**, Washington, DC, volunteer program assistant (February 1990 – April 1990)

- supervised 15 - 25 at-risk youth; organized crime prevention workshops; and provided cultural awareness, nutritional, skill development and youth leadership programming

- b. Your periods of military service, if any, including active duty, reserves or other status. Give the date, branch of service, your rank or rating, and present status or discharge status.**

I have not had any military service.

**7. List the dates you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses or terminations of membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse or termination of membership.**

Iowa State Courts and the Supreme Court of Iowa, June 16, 1995, no lapse of membership

- 8. Describe the general character of your legal experience, dividing it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years, including:**
- a. A description of your typical clients and the areas of the law in which you have focused, including the approximate percentage of time spent in each area of practice.**

The general character of my legal experience consists of my appointment as a District Associate Judge for the past nine years and as an Assistant Polk County Attorney for 15 years prior to my judicial appointment.

During the last three years as a prosecutor from 2007 - 2010, I was assigned to the Civil Division. I represented the Department of Human Services in numerous guardianship and conservatorship hearings. I represented the general public in mental health and substance abuse civil commitment hearings. I defended small claims actions and Civil Rights complaints against Polk County. Also, I served as counsel to the Polk County Recorder, Auditor and General Services Departments, writing briefs and presenting arguments on their behalf in areas of marriage licensing, government contracts and real estate forfeitures.

As the Senior Attorney assigned to the Operating While Intoxicated (OWI), felony eluding, and traffic offense docket from 1999 - 2001 and 2004 - 2007, I reviewed approximately 1,500 cases yearly, 546 of which I managed personally. I conducted an average of 15 evidentiary Motion to Suppress hearings monthly; and tried approximately two jury trials and 25 non-jury trials monthly.

From 2001 - 2003, I managed the County Attorney's criminal domestic abuse docket, reviewing over 400 cases yearly; conducting over 20 evidentiary no contact order hearings; and averaging two jury trials monthly.

From 1995 - 1999, I was part of the team handling the Juvenile Court Docket. I personally conducted approximately 100 non-jury cases monthly, including Children in Need of Assistance and delinquency hearings.

In my 15 years as a prosecutor, all of my work assignments included pre-trial and trial preparation, trial litigation, motion practice and student intern supervision, in addition to probation violation and bond review hearings.

- b. The approximate percentage of your practice that has been in areas other than appearance before courts or other tribunals and a description of the nature of that practice.**

As a prosecutor, the nature of my practice was solely before the court on a daily basis, and none of my appearances were before other tribunals. All of my time was spent representing the State of Iowa in juvenile, criminal and civil matters. During 30 percent of that time, I represented the Department of Human Services in juvenile dependency matters. During 10 percent of my time, I represented the general public in civil commitment filings before a magistrate and guardianship and conservatorship matters before probate court.

- c. **The approximate percentage of your practice that involved litigation in court or other tribunals.**

All of my appearances were in state court.

- d. **The approximate percentage of your litigation that was: Administrative, Civil, and Criminal.**

40 percent of my litigation was civil  
60 percent of my litigation was criminal

- e. **The approximate number of cases or contested matters you tried (rather than settled) in the last 10 years, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel, and whether the matter was tried to a jury or directly to the court or other tribunal. If desired, you may also provide separate data for experience beyond the last 10 years.**

Over the course of ten years, as sole counsel, I tried approximately two jury trials per month, for a total of 24 trials per year, 240 trials over the course of ten years. Forty percent of my trials were jury trials and 60 percent were non-jury trials. While initially assigned to the juvenile docket for four years, I tried approximately 100 non-jury trials monthly.

- f. **The approximate number of appeals in which you participated within the last 10 years, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel. If desired, you may also provide separate data for experience beyond the last 10 years.**

As a prosecutor, I did not serve as counsel on appeal. The Attorney General's Office represented the state on appeal.

**9. Describe your pro bono work over at least the past 10 years, including:**

- a. **Approximate number of pro bono cases you've handled.**  
b. **Average number of hours of pro bono service per year.**  
c. **Types of pro bono cases.**

As a prosecutor, I was limited in my ability to perform pro bono work. However, in 2005, I participated in pro bono legal activities through some mediation with the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers' Project. From 2006 - 2009, I coordinated legal education programs, facilitated legal community forums and reviewed legal referrals for a non-profit human service agency.

Similarly, as a judge, I cannot otherwise practice law to perform pro bono services; however, I have volunteered through my involvement in a number of bar associations and legal organizations.

**10. If you have ever held judicial office or served in a quasi-judicial position:**

- a. Describe the details, including the title of the position, the courts or other tribunals involved, the method of selection, the periods of service, and a description of the jurisdiction of each of court or tribunal.**

I have served as a District Associate Judge since August 20, 2010, when I was appointed by 5C District Court Judges after being nominated by the District 5C Judicial Nominating Commission. On November 4, 2012, I was retained by general election for a six-year term. I was retained by general election for another six-year term on November 6, 2018. My jurisdiction entails juvenile court delinquency, dependency, termination of parental rights, civil committal and adoption proceedings; small claims court for damages up to \$10,000; and criminal court for misdemeanors and Class D felonies that carry a maximum term of up to five years of incarceration. My responsibilities include presiding over weekend and holiday jail court initial appearances and after hours emergency on-call duty to approve search warrants and hospital committals.

Currently assigned to the juvenile bench, I preside over a high volume court and manage over 400 cases monthly utilizing the electronic filing system. The nature of my cases entails Children in Need of Assistance cases, which involve abused, abandoned or neglected children and termination of parental rights; delinquency cases, which involve delinquent acts that would be considered criminal acts if committed by an adult; commitment proceedings placing children in hospitals or treatment facilities for mental illness or substance abuse problems; and adoptions. I hear evidence, apply the law, rule on motions and enter decisive written rulings on matters presented to the court.

Due to potential conflicts of interest with the Polk County Attorney's Office, I traveled to rural areas and presided over cases in Clarke, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Union and Warren counties during the first year of my appointment. I also presided over Polk County small claim appeals. I was selected by then Chief Judge Arthur Gamble to preside over Polk County's Family Treatment Court, Recovery Court, a therapeutic, peer-based court designed to assist parents with services toward maintaining sobriety and reunification with their children.

- b. List any cases in which your decision was reversed by a court or other reviewing entity. For each case, include a citation for your reversed opinion and the reviewing entity's or court's opinion and attach a copy of each opinion. (See attachment 10. b.)**

In the Interest of L.L., 922 N.W. 2d 105 (Iowa Ct. App. 2018)  
(Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) adjudication in JVJV243828 filed March 13, 2018)

In the Interest of B.L. and A.L., 888 N.W. 2d 903 (Iowa Ct. App. 2016)  
(CINA permanency in JVJV238921 and JVJV238922 filed May 19, 2016)

In the Interest of M.M., 828 N.W. 2d 327 (Iowa Ct. App. 2013)  
(My first termination of parental rights ruling in JVJV233257 filed October 30, 2012)

- c. **List any case in which you wrote a significant opinion on federal or state constitutional issues. For each case, include a citation for your opinion and any reviewing entity's or court's opinion and attach a copy of each opinion. (See attachment 10. c.)**

State of Iowa v. Daniel Eugene Robbins, AGCR033362, March 15, 2011 (Dallas County)

- not appealed
- defendant pled guilty to an amended charge on March 9, 2012

State of Iowa v. Jonathan David Dolph, FECR033570, March 24, 2011 (Dallas County)

- not appealed
- defendant pled guilty on April 18, 2011

The United States Supreme Court has held that the burden in termination cases falls under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which also entitles the parents, including fathers to children born out of wedlock, to a hearing before a child is removed from their care. Iowa constitution demands that a parent alleged to be abusive or neglectful has the right to appointment of counsel.

I have written approximately 350 termination opinions as a District Associate Judge presiding over juvenile court. In each removal, which precedes a termination, I ensure parents are notified and served of the proceedings, that they are afforded counsel and that they have a right to be heard. I have also ensured fathers are considered for placement when children cannot remain in their mothers' care.

In the Interest of R.H., JVJV239830, filed March 16, 2016

- termination of parental rights case where the mother's rights were terminated and the child was placed in the father's care

(See also termination opinions submitted in questions #10 and #18.)

**11. If you have been subject to the reporting requirements of Court Rule 22.10:**

- a. **State the number of times you have failed to file timely rule 22.10 reports.**

None, which I can recall.

- b. **State the number of matters, along with an explanation of the delay, that you have taken under advisement for longer than:**

- i. 120 days.**  
None
- ii. 180 days.**  
None
- iii. 240 days.**  
None
- iv. One year.**  
None

**12. Describe at least three of the most significant legal matters in which you have participated as an attorney or presided over as a judge or other impartial decision maker. If they were litigated matters, give the citation if available. For each matter please state the following:**

- a. Title of the case and venue,**
- b. A brief summary of the substance of each matter,**
- c. A succinct statement of what you believe to be the significance of it,**
- d. The name of the party you represented, if applicable,**
- e. The nature of your participation in the case,**
- f. Dates of your involvement,**
- g. The outcome of the case,**
- h. Name(s) and address(es) [city, state] of co-counsel (if any),**
- i. Name(s) of counsel for opposing parties in the case, and**
- j. Name of the judge before whom you tried the case, if applicable.**

1) As a District Associate Judge, State v. Ed Fallon, SMAC324729, a simple trespass case, was one of the most significant cases I have personally handled. This case was significant because it presented a constitutional challenge from several defendants involved in Occupy Iowa who were protesting on state property on October 10, 2011. This case also garnered public interest and media attention, which I did not allow to affect my rulings.

The state argued that the proposed jury instructions did not take into account the constitutional challenge and allowing the defendants to make such argument would lead to jury nullification. After careful review of the statute and relevant case law, it was clear that the law imposed an additional element that the state had to establish to meet the beyond a reasonable doubt burden.

There were a total of about 30 defendants, the first involving Ed Fallon, a prominent public official, who was found not guilty by a jury. As the other defendants went to trial, and the state understood the court's ruling as to its burden, several were found guilty and others resolved their cases by plea negotiations. One of the defendants filed an appeal to district court, and Judge Richard Blane upheld the conviction.

2) As a District Associate Judge currently assigned to the juvenile bench, my decisions affect parents' ability to maintain their parental rights and whether they will retain custody of

their children. While the best interest of the child is the overriding principle, parents have an opportunity to demonstrate they can be safe parents.

In the Interest of V.L. and L.L., 837 N.W. 2d 680 (Iowa Ct. App. 2013) was significant because the state wanted to file a petition to terminate the parents' parental rights, but I found that despite a slow start in the parents' compliance with services, they were making an effort and should be given a six-month extension to demonstrate they could comply with the recommended services and safely parent their children.

The Court of Appeals upheld my ruling and found that "despite the mother's delays and inconsistencies in complying with services, she had made recent progress, even if belated and somewhat limited, that supported and warranted a six-month extension pursuant to *Iowa Code Section 232.104(2)(b)*."

This case is significant because as an independent jurist, it confirmed my ability to follow the law without regard to outside influences and the position of the state. In this case, despite the time and services provided, the parents later realized that they could not safely parent their children, and I granted the state's petition and terminated their parental rights.

The children were represented by the Juvenile Public Defender's Office; Jessica Chandler of Des Moines, IA represented the father; and Kate Strickler of Des Moines, IA represented the mother.

3) As a prosecutor, *State v. James Cownie*, OMOW058259, was a significant Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) case because I proceeded to trial despite the public nature of the offense and the defendant accused and because it clarified an Iowa statute and its application.

The defendant was charged with OWI, having a breath alcohol concentration (BAC) of .245, over three times the legal limit, interference with official acts and a number of traffic violations. The defendant was involved in a single car accident after he lost control of his vehicle in a construction zone, hitting the overpass wall. He walked to a nearby gas station with tow service and asked for assistance. While at the gas station, the defendant was observed having a smell of alcohol, watery eyes, and mumbled speech. He admitted to drinking alcohol but denied being intoxicated and indicated that he wanted to avoid any law enforcement involvement.

The defendant was taken to the police station and given field sobriety tests. While waiting in the room where the breath test was conducted, the defendant made several telephone calls. This room was under 24-hour surveillance. The videotape of the defendant was preserved and was to be offered for admission at trial.

The defendant filed a motion to have the videotape and his statements excluded at trial. His attorney, Brad Schroeder of Des Moines, IA, argued that the defendant's statement and the videotape should be excluded because the defendant called his attorney. However, the statute was clear in that "...if a call is made, it shall be made in the presence of the person having custody of the one arrested or restrained." *Iowa Code Section 804.20* (2005). If the attorney had reported to the jail to meet with the client, then he would have been permitted to see and consult confidentially with his client alone.

The court overruled the motion. After plea negotiations failed, this case was tried by jury before the late Judge Don Nickerson. The defendant was found guilty as charged.

**13. Describe how your non-litigation legal experience, if any, would enhance your ability to serve as a judge.**

My non-litigation legal background demonstrates a broad range of life experiences that afford me with other perspectives that are necessary in the collaborative, decision making process. It also provides me with the awareness of and sensitivity to those most affected by our decision making.

- 14. If you have ever held public office or have you ever been a candidate for public office, describe the public office held or sought, the location of the public office, and the dates of service.**

I have not held or been a candidate for public office.

- 15. If you are currently an officer, director, partner, sole proprietor, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise or nonprofit organization other than a law practice, provide the following information about your position(s) and title(s):**

- a. Name of business / organization.**

Elim Christian Fellowship

- c. Your title.**

Kingdom Council Officer, Ethics and Standards

- d. Your duties.**

Oversee the business of the church

- e. Dates of involvement.**

2017 - present

- 16. List all bar associations and legal- or judicial-related committees or groups of which you are or have been a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you held in those groups.**

**Justice Advisory Board, June 2019- June 2023**

**SMART on Juvenile Justice Project, 2017-2019**

**Council of State Governments – Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative, 2016-present**

**Judicial Workload Formula Committee, 2016-2017**

**Juvenile Community and Strategic Planning – Detention Alternatives Committee Chair, 2014-2016**

**Public Safety Advisory Board, 2013-2019**

**Iowa Department of Human Rights Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Commission, 2013 - 2019**

**Community and Strategic Planning Project Advisory Committee, Project to Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contacts in Juvenile Court, 2013 – 2019**

**Iowa Judges Association**

- District 5 Representative, 2012 - 2018
- Semi-Annual General Meeting, Luncheon Coordinator, 2013

**C. Edwin Moore American Inn of Court**

- Emeritus, 2015-present
- Barrister/Master, 2007 – 2015
- Attorney Group Leader, 2013

**Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys**

- The Lawyer's Duty to Improve the Quality of the Justice System Program, panelist, 2013
- Gertrude Rush and Arabella Mansfield Award Nomination Committee, 2009 – 2013

**American Bar Association**

- Public Lawyer Career Program, panelist, 2013
- Oral History of Willie Stevenson Glanton Project, 2012 -2013

**Iowa National Bar Association**

- President, 2008 - 2010
- National Bar Association Founders' Monument, Project Coordinator, 2006 - 2010
- Membership Chair, 2006 - 2007
- Acting Secretary, 1999
- Juvenile Justice Seminar, presenter, 1997

**Iowa State Bar Association**

- African Americans Appointed to the Bench in Iowa Training, presenter, 2010
- Women & Minorities Committee, Co-chair, 2006 -2010
- Civil Commitment Training, presenter, 2009
- Best Practices for Inclusiveness Task Force, co-chair, 2008 - 2009
- Fellow, 2008 – present

**Polk County Bar Association**

- Law Day, Keynote Speaker/Presenter, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech, 2013
- Drake Law School Peer Partner Program, 1997 - present
- Volunteer Lawyers' Project, mediator, 2005
- People's Law School, panelist, 2001

**Polk County Women Attorneys Association, 2005 - present**

**National Black Prosecutor's Association, 2004-2010**

**Drake Law School Board of Counselors, 2006-2010**

**Gertrude E. Rush Legal Education Institute**

- Founder, 2003
- Legal Education Project Coordinator, 2007-2009

17. **List all other professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed above, to which you have participated, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation and indicate any office you held. “Participation” means consistent or repeated involvement in a given organization, membership, or regular attendance at events or meetings.**

**Des Moines Chapter of the Links, Incorporated**, parliamentarian, 2015-2019; Ethics and Standards Chair, 2011 - 2019; mentor, Edmunds Elementary School, 2010-2013; president, 2008-2010; presenter, Honoring African Americans in the Iowa Legislature Program, 2009; Central Area Ethics and Standard Committee, 2008; National Program Review Team, 2008; President-Elect/Membership Chair, 2006–2008; parliamentarian, 2004 - 2006

**Drake University Black Law Students Association**, Professional Mentor Program, panelist, 2013; presenter, Diversity and Minority Treatment in the Courts, 2009; mentor, 1997 - present

**Elim Christian Fellowship**, student teacher, 2009 - present

**Morris Scholarship Fund Board of Directors**, 2008 - 2010

**Des Moines University Glanton Scholarship Board**, 2008

**Iowa Presidential Brown & Black Attorney Panel**, coordinator, 2008

**Joy Club Breakfast Club**, 2007-2009

**Iowa Arts Council**, 2006 - 2009

**Metro Arts Alliance Board of Directors**, 2003 - 2006, Education Chair, 2005

**Des Moines Police Academy**, OWI Trainer, 2002-2003

**Women of Color Task Force – Domestic Violence Seminar**, presenter, 2000

**Mayor’s Local Option Sales Tax and Voter’s Registration Task Force**, Committee Chair, 1999

**Good Samaritan Urban Ministries Board of Directors**, 1998

18. **If you have held judicial office, list at least three opinions that best reflect your approach to writing and deciding cases. For each case, include a brief explanation as to**

**why you selected the opinion and a citation for your opinion and any reviewing entity's or court's opinion. If either opinion is not publicly available (i.e., available on Westlaw or a public website other than the court's electronic filing system), please attach a copy of the opinion.** (*see attachment 18*)

In the Interest of T.A., JVJV244841, Polk County  
In the Interest of T.A., 928 N.W. 2d 164 (Iowa Ct. of App. 2019)

In the Interest of J.M., JVJV243544, Polk County  
In the Interest of J.M., 924 N.W. 2d 878 (Iowa Ct. of App. 2018)

Both are termination of parental rights decisions which were affirmed on appeal. I selected these opinions to demonstrate my decision making ability to understand multiple, complex issues and my decisive writing ability in termination of parental rights matters, which are often appealed.

Jeffrey Gisvold and Joanna Gisvold v. Big O Tires, SCSC501694 (Polk County)  
This is a small claim negligence case to demonstrate my experience and my ability to rule on and determine civil matters presented on appeal. This case is distinguishable only as it relates to the amount of damages.

State v. Steven Wayne Hobbs, OM018782 (Warren County)  
This is an Operating While Intoxicated case where the defendant filed a motion regarding terms of his probation. I selected this opinion to demonstrate my ability to understand, interpret and apply the law in criminal related matters.

Anna Pottebaum v. Todd Shaw, SCSC517394, (Polk County)  
This is a small claims appeal ruling. I selected this opinion to demonstrate my skill set in understanding the standard of review and deciding matters on appeal.

(See also cases cited in 10.a referenced to demonstrate by ability to understand, interpret and apply constitutional law to a set of facts and enter a decisive ruling.)

- 19. If you have not held judicial office or served in a quasi-judicial. position, provide at least three writing samples (brief, article, book, etc.) that reflect your work.**

N/A

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

- 20. If any member of the State Judicial Nominating Commission is your spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, father, mother,**

**stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister, state the Commissioner's name and his or her familial relationship with you.**

N/A

- 21. If any member of the State Judicial Nominating Commission is a current law partner or business partner, state the Commissioner's name and describe his or her professional relationship with you.**

N/A

- 22. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, blog posts, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited.**

*The Importance of Women and the Judiciary*, 17 J. Gender, Race & Just., 421, 421-426 (2014) (A Personal Perspective) was printed in the Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law, Summer 2014, Volume 17 No. 3

*Plymouth Native Makes History in Iowa* Article was published in The Roanoke Beacon in October 2010

- 23. List all speeches, talks, or other public presentations that you have delivered for at least the last ten years, including the title of the presentation or a brief summary of the subject matter of the presentation, the group to whom the presentation was delivered, and the date of the presentation.**

*A Father's Love and God's Promises*, a Father's Day message delivered at Elim Christian Fellowship discussing God's unconditional love and his promises, June 2019

Pre-Law panelist, Iowa State University, presented personal story, challenges of law school and legal employment opportunities to students who had an interest in the law, September 2018

*Honoring Our Mothers*, a Mother's Day message delivered at Elim Christian Fellowship discussing a mother's love and sacrifices, May 2018

*All in Life's Blueprint*, George Washington High School graduation commencement speech, May 2018

*Trauma Informed Judges*, presented to Iowa Association of Administrative Law Judges, April 2018

*Equality, Justice and Unity*, presented during Story County's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, January 2018

*Trauma Informed Courts*, presented for the Iowa Judicial Branch for magistrates and new judges training, November 2017, June 2017

*Juvenile Court Overview*, presented for the Iowa Judicial Branch for judges training, November 2017

*Edna Griffin's Civil Rights Legacy*, presented for the family of Edna Griffin during community celebration, July 2017

*Live Law 7 – Schooled in the Law*, presented for Drake University/Tides Center during community event, April 2017

*Honoring Women's History Month*, presented for Nationwide employees, March 2017

*The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment – Transforming American Democracy*, presented for the Polk County Bar during Annual Law Day Luncheon, May 2017

*The Agape Love of God*, presented for the Central District Women's Auxiliary during annual luncheon, February 2016

*Increasing Diversity on the Bench*, presented for the Iowa Bar Association continuing legal education, February 2016

*Celebrating 50 Years of Higher Quality Through Equality*, presented for the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, May 2015

*Public Service: Why it Matters*, presented during Drake University Law School student forums, November 2014, November 2013, and November 2010

*It's Time for a Showdown*, presented during the National Baptist Regional Workshop Luncheon, October 2014

*Racing to the Top*, presented during the Morris Scholarship Board Annual Award Dinner, July 2014

*Generations of Strength: Supporting Women Leaders of Tomorrow*, presented during the Young Women's Resource Center Luncheon, July 2014

*Thurgood Marshall*, presented as a guest lecturer for the University of South Dakota Law School, April 2014

*I Have a Dream Speech*, presented during Polk County Bar Law Day Luncheon, May 2013

*Remembering Martin*, presented for United Way, Rockwell Collins and Rotary International's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, January 2012

*Time to Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, presented during the University of Iowa Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, January 2012

*Pre-Law Hubbard Program Speaker*, presented to University of Iowa students interested in attending law school, June 2011

*Treasured Memories*, presented during Corinthian Baptist Church Mother's Day Brunch, May 2011

*Having It Defined*, Drake Law School commencement speech, May 2011

*My Journey to the Bench*, presented to the Iowa Association of Court Reporters, May 2011; presented at Wells Fargo Diversity Day, May 2011; and presented to Drake pre-law students enrolled in the Council on Legal Education Opportunities (CLEO) Program, July 2011

As a popular dramatist, I have performed with the Langton Hughes Players, a local acting troupe, reciting Harlem Renaissance and modern literature; and portrayed historical perspectives of African American women.

- 24. List all the social media applications (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, LinkedIn) that you have used in the past five years and your account name or other identifying information (excluding passwords) for each account.**

I do not have any social media accounts.

- 25. List any honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition which you have received (including any indication of academic distinction in college or law school) other than those mentioned in answers to the foregoing questions.**

Maple Grove Wall of Achievement, Maple Grove Middle School, May 2018  
Performance Achievement Award in Drama, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, April 2019  
Words of Wisdom and Dedicated Service Award, Drake Law School, September 2017  
Portrait Unveiling, Drake Law School, January 2015  
Mentoring Recognition Award, Drake Law School, September 2015  
14 People to Watch, Des Moines Register, January 2014  
History Makers Award, Iowa African American Museum, September 2011  
Gubernatorial Proclamation, Governor Terry Branstad, September 2011  
Willie Stevenson Glanton Award, Polk County Women's Attorney, March 2011  
Citizen of the Year, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, November 2010  
Gertrude Rush Award, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, June 2008  
Member of the Creative Class, Meredith Corporation, 2005  
National Links, Incorporated Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute Fellow, 2006 – 2008  
Spotlight of Achievement Award, Morris Scholarship Foundation, 1999  
Women of Achievement, Deborah Marshall Productions Recognition, 1997  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship, Drake Law School, 1994

Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team, Drake Law School, 1994  
Dean's Award, Drake Law School, 1993 – 1995  
Law Opportunity Scholarship, Drake Law School, 1992 – 1995  
Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges, 1990  
All-American Scholar Collegiate Award, 1989  
Golden Key National Honor Society, 1988 – 1990  
National Dean's List, Howard University, 1988 - 1990

**26. Provide the names and telephone numbers of at least five people who would be able to comment on your qualifications to serve in judicial office. Briefly state the nature of your relationship with each person.**

Arthur Gamble, 515-223-0775, former Chief Judge  
Jerry Anderson, 515-271-2658, Dean, Drake University Law School  
Colin Witt, 515-419-1202, judicial colleague  
Henry Hamilton, 414-403-9082, judicial colleague  
David Walker, 515-556-7944, former Dean, Drake University Law School  
Chinyere Ukabiala, 515-314-0380, legal colleague

**27. Explain why you are seeking this judicial position.**

I am seeking this judicial position out of my desire to continue to challenge myself intellectually and to be impactful in ensuring fairness and equity under the law. I am certain that my character, temperament, work ethic, legal education, judicial background and lived experiences qualify me to serve on Iowa's appellate court and would enhance the judiciary.

**28. Explain how your appointment would enhance the court.**

Judges make decisions that affect every sector of society. When a judiciary reflects the community that it serves, the public has greater confidence that all persons are treated fairly and impartially. My appointment would enhance a diverse judiciary both demographically and professionally by providing a collaborative perspective from another viewpoint that is enriched by my extensive litigation experience and personal lived experiences.

**29. Provide any additional information that you believe the Commission or the Governor should know in considering your application.**

As a member of the judiciary, I cannot solicit letters of recommendation from attorneys who practice before me. In a 2018 Iowa State Bar Association Judicial Performance Review, I was rated by 181 attorneys who had appeared before me or who were familiar with my work. I received 'good to excellent' ratings for punctuality, attentiveness, courtroom management, temperament, promptness of rulings, courtesy, patience, deciding cases on the basis of applicable law and not being affected by outside influences. I received an overall approval rating of 91 percent.