

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

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

1. State your full name:

Michael Edwin Motto

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

Judicial Magistrate, State of Iowa, 7<sup>th</sup> District (82 Scott County)  
Attorney, Bush, Motto, Creen, Koury, & Halligan, PLC

3. State your date of birth:

March 27, 1980

4. State your current city and county of residence:

Davenport, Scott County, Iowa

**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:

- University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 2016-2017; Candidate, Bachelor of Arts in Russian (Date undetermined)(paused degree after appointment to Judicial Magistrate position).
- Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Moscow, Russia; Russian language immersion and study, Summer 2016 (Summer immersion toward B.A. in Russian)
- Chicago-Kent School of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL 2004-2006; Juris Doctor (May 2006).
- Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, KS; 1st Year of Law School 2003-2004 (transferred to Chicago-Kent)
- University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 1998-2002; Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (December 2002), Bachelor of Arts in French (December 2002).
- Paul Valery University, Montpellier, France; French language immersion and study, Spring 2001 (Summer immersion toward B.A. in French)

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

- Judicial Magistrate for Scott County, State of Iowa (August 2017 – Present) - Judge in Scott County with jurisdiction over simple misdemeanors, including scheduled violations, county and municipal infractions, and civil actions not exceeding \$6,500. Also have authority to issue

search warrants, preside over marriages, and hear certain involuntary hospitalization matters.

- Attorney / Partner at Bush, Motto, Creen, Koury & Halligan, PLC, Davenport, IA (August 2006 – Present); Partner at private 7-member law firm personally specializing in criminal defense work and civil (tort) defense, but also practicing in the areas of contract law, personal injury, real estate, probate, and family law. Job duties include extensive trial work, legal research, writing, and document drafting

7. List the dates you were admitted to the bar of any state.

- The Supreme Court of Iowa (September 21, 2006)
- State of Illinois Supreme Court (May 10, 2007)
- The United States of America, Southern District of Iowa (November 17, 2008)

8. Describe the general character of your legal experience, dividing it in to periods with dates if its character has changed over the years, including:

- a. A description of your typical clients and the areas of law in which you have focused, including the approximate percentage of time spent in each area of practice.
- b. The approximate percentage of your practice that has been in areas other than appearances before courts or other tribunals and a description of the nature of that practice.
- c. The approximate percentage of your practice that involved litigation in court or other tribunals.
- d. The approximate percentage of your litigation that was: Administrative, Civil, and 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.
- 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.

- August 2006 – Present: Bush, Motto, Creen, Koury, & Halligan, PLC; Davenport, Iowa; I am a partner in a 7-attorney firm, personally specializing in criminal defense work with a fair amount of family law and civil defense work. I also practice in the areas of contract law, personal injury, and real estate.

- a. With respect to my criminal defense clients, my “typical” client is usually in the lower socio-economic demographic, has faced serious disadvantages in life, and is generally facing a significant loss of their personal liberty, as well as the potential lifelong consequences following a conviction. I would estimate this is 65-70% of my practice. With respect to my family law clients, the “typical” client may or may not be in a financially-precarious position, but is facing

the breakup of their family and the economic and emotional fallout that accompanies the dissolution of the family. I would estimate this is 15-20% of my practice. Many other clients have been involved in motor vehicle accidents or other serious life-changing personal events, and they make up the bulk of the remainder of my practice. I do represent a number of businesses regularly and these clients are generally wealthier and financially-sophisticated individuals with contractual or property disputes, or other business-related questions.

b. A very small percentage of my practice has been in areas other than appearances before courts. At this point in my career, probate, real estate, and general contract work constitutes less than 5% of my practice.

c. The vast majority of my practice involves litigation in court. While many cases settle out of court, I would consider my practice to be approximately 95% litigation.

d. I would say that 65-70% of my practice is criminal and the remaining 30-35% is civil. I do a small amount of administrative work, but this would be less than 5% of my practice.

e. In the past ten years, I would estimate trying approximately 30 cases to a jury, with 28 as sole counsel, but all 30 as chief counsel. I would guess I have tried 45-50 cases to a jury in my career. I would estimate trying roughly 15 cases directly to a judge in the past ten years, all as sole and chief counsel. I have presided over 3 jury trials as a Magistrate Judge, as well.

f. In the past ten years, I have also handled 3 appeals before the Court of Appeals. I was sole counsel on all 3.

- August 2017 – Present: Judicial Magistrate, State of Iowa; Scott County, Iowa; Jurisdiction over simple misdemeanors, including scheduled violations, county and municipal infractions, and civil actions not exceeding \$6,500. I also have authority to issue search warrants, preside over marriages, and hear certain involuntary hospitalization matters.

9. Describe your **pro bono** work during the past **10 years**:

a. Approximate number of pro bono cases you've handled:	50
b. Average number of hours of pro bono service per year:	25 hours
c. Types of pro bono cases:	Family law cases for individuals without any resources.

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

- 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 court or tribunal.
- 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.
- 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 the reviewing entity's or court's opinion and attach a copy of each opinion.

a. August 1, 2017 – Present. I am a Judicial Magistrate, Scott County, Iowa. The Court has jurisdiction over simple misdemeanors, including scheduled violations, county and municipal infractions, and civil actions not exceeding \$6,500. Magistrates also have authority to issue search warrants, preside over marriages, and hear certain involuntary hospitalization matters. Selection is by a judicial selection committee made up of attorneys and lay persons. Magistrates serve 4-year terms.

b. I have never been reversed that I am aware of.

c. I can only recall one case on a Constitutional issue (they are infrequent in Magistrate Court). State of Iowa v. Demika Rush, STA0305157 (the Constitutional issue concerned the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 8 of of the Iowa Constitution). The Ruling is attached. There was no appellate review of the decision as neither party appealed the Ruling.

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.
- b. State the number of matters, along with an explanation of the delay, that you have taken under advisement for long than (i) 120 days, (ii) 180 days, (iii) 240 days, (iv) one year.

As a Judicial Officer, I have never failed to file a timely monthly Rule 22.10 report, and I have never taken a case under advisement for more than 120 days

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.

**Significant legal matter #1 (“the McDonald’s cases”):**

- a. McDonald’s Hepatitis A Outbreak; Rock Island County, Illinois Case numbers

include: *Patterson v. JKLM, Inc. d/b/a McDonalds*, CIVIL ACTION No. 09L89; *Mrasak, etc. v. McDonald's Corporation*, CASE NO: 09L94.

- b. Summary: During the summer of 2009, between June and August, there was a large outbreak of Hepatitis A at the McDonald's in Milan, Illinois. There was a large class-action lawsuit filed against McDonald's, approximately 19 single lawsuits filed against McDonald's, and hundreds of other claims made against the local franchise. I was contacted by Nationwide Insurance and hired as local counsel. However, lead counsel (out of Pennsylvania) only came to the Quad Cities for the settlement conference on the class action lawsuit. The insurance company felt I could handle the rest of the mediations alone and I took over as "de facto" lead counsel. Over the course of the next two years (the final case being resolved in the Fall of 2011), we had over 20 separate mediations that I handled on behalf of McDonald's with the insurance adjuster simply available by phone.
- c. I feel this matter is particularly significant because I gained a great deal of valuable experience in how to mediate large, complicated cases, something that will be an asset as a District Court Judge.
- d. I represented JKLM, Inc. d/b/a McDonald's
- e. I was originally local counsel, but ultimately was the only attorney present for the dozens of mediations.
- f. I was involved between the dates of August 2009 – November 2011.
- g. All cases were successfully mediated to an agreed settlement.
- h. Co-counsel/Lead counsel: Christopher Lee of Dickie, McCamey, and Chilcote, PC, 2 PPG Place, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15232
- i. Opposing counsel were numerous: (1) William D. Marler, Esquire of Marler Clark LLP PS, 4301 Bank of America Tower, 701 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104; (2) Craig Mielke, Esq., Foote, Meyers, Mielke & Flowers, LLC, 28 North First Street, Suite 2 Geneva, Illinois 60134, (3) Dennis VanDerGinst, VanDerGinst Law, PC, 1705 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rock Island, IL 61201.
- j. All cases were mediated by retired Judge John Nahra.

**Significant legal matter #2 ("the Patriot Trailer Park cases"):**

- a. State of Iowa v. Melvin Lucier; Class A Sexual Abuse cases Case numbers include: *State v. Lucier, FEER360882; State v. Lucier, FEER360552; State v.*

*Lucier, FECR366369.*

- b. Summary: Described by the Scott County Sheriff's Department as "the largest and most unique sex abuse case" ever in Scott County, and described by Mike Walton as "the most horrendous [case] that I've been involved in as far as the number of victims, damage done," Melvin Lucier was charged with sexually abusing multiple young children over the course of several years at a Davenport trailer park. I spent over 285 hours working on the multiple cases and ended up with 1 Class A jury trial, 2 Class A bench trials, and 1 Class C jury trial, representing Mr. Lucier on all of his cases, all as sole counsel.
- c. I feel this matter is particularly significant because of the amount of time I spent on the case, the large amount of trial and pre-trial experience I gained from the case, the seriousness of the allegations, and the notoriety the case received in the local media.
- d. I represented the Defendant, Melvin Lucier.
- e. I was sole counsel for the Defendant.
- f. I was involved between the dates of December 2014 – April 2016.
- g. All cases resulted in guilty convictions. Mr. Lucier is serving multiple life sentences.
- h. I was sole counsel.
- i. Opposing counsel: Michael Walton, Scott County Attorney, and Kim Shepherd, Assistant Scott County Attorney (now a District Associate Judge in Clinton County, Iowa).
- j. All cases were tried before Judge Joel Barrows, District Court Judge of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Iowa.

**Significant legal matter #3 ("the Parricide case"):**

- a. State of Iowa v. Sean Freese; Class A Murder 1<sup>st</sup> Degree case. Case number: *State v. Freese, FECR380610*
- b. Summary: Sean Freese was charged and convicted by a jury of murdering his parents with a rifle.
- c. I feel this matter is particularly significant because of the amount of time I spent on the case, the seriousness of the allegations, and because of all the pre-trial and

post-trial publicity.

- d. I represented the Defendant, Sean Freese.
- e. I was lead counsel.
- f. I was involved between the dates of April 2017 – November 15, 2017.
- g. Mr. Freese was convicted and is serving two consecutive life sentences.
- h. Co-counsel was Attorney Joel Walker, 701 E. Kimberly Rd., #5 Davenport, Iowa.
- i. Opposing counsel: Michael Walton, Scott County Attorney, and Andrea Glasgow, Assistant Scott County Attorney (now Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Davenport, Iowa).
- j. The case was tried to a jury before Judge John Telleen, District Court Judge of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Iowa.

**Significant legal matter #4 (Magistrate presiding over “the Officer Assault case”):**

- a. State of Iowa v. “Officer Doe”; (the case has since been expunged from the record, so I have eliminated all identifying information).
- b. Summary: A local police officer was the victim of a property crime. This officer arrived on scene and used their relationship with the investigating officers to get access to the alleged perpetrator of the crime, a minor. The officer then assaulted the minor. The officer was charged with assault.
- c. I feel this matter is particularly significant because it was one of my first jury trials as a judge, and because of the seriousness of the allegations, and because of all the pre-trial publicity.
- d. N/A.
- e. I was the presiding Judge
- f. I was involved between the dates of May 21-22, 2018.
- g. The officer was convicted of the offense.
- h. N/A.
- i. N/A.
- j. The case was tried to a jury and I was the presiding Judge.

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

District Court Judges do more than just preside over trials, and even when they do preside over trials, there is often a fair amount of discretion and judgment they must employ, even when they are not the ultimate finder of fact. District Court Judges are tasked with mediating cases, analyzing fact patterns, applying legal codes, and making sound discretionary decisions all across the judicial spectrum. My non-litigation legal experience, including as a Magistrate signing and reviewing search warrants, handling mental health hearings, and writing Rulings, and including my private practice reviewing and writing contracts, negotiating deals, reviewing policies, and mediating business disputes, provides me with knowledge, experience, and additional perspective that directly relates to the job a District Court Judge does when they are "outside" the courtroom.

14. If you have you 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.

Dates (From -- To)	Public office(s): Indicate "Held" or "Sought" and Location
NONE	

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):

Name of business / organization	Your title	Your duties	Dates (From -- To)
German-American Heritage Center	Board Member and Vice President	General running of the Board	2019 (Board) 2021 (VP) - Present
Motto Holdings, LLC	Owner with wife	Managing real property	2014 - Present
Dam View Inn	10% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2014 - Present
The Mound	5% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2015 - Present
The Diner	10% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2018 - Present
Eleven17	5% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2018 - Present



Oscar's Pub	5% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2019 - Present
Van's Express	5% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2019 - Present
The Quarry	5% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2020 - Present
Slept Fightwear	24% owner	My duties include doing the miscellaneous legal work for the company	2014 - 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.

Professional associations to which you have belonged	Committees / Offices	Dates (From -- To)
Scott County (Iowa) Bar Association	Member	2006 - Present
	President	2013 – 2014
	Vice President	2012 – 2013
	Executive Counsel Member	2011 – 2012
Iowa State Bar Association	Member	2006 – Present
	International Law Section Counsel	2015 – Present
	Criminal Law Legislative Committee	2015 – Present
	Criminal Law Legislative Committee Chair	2020 – Present
	eCommerce Section	2019 – Present
	Jury Instructions Committee	2019 – Present
American Branch of the International Law Association	Member	2020 – Present
	International Criminal Court Committee	2020 – Present
	International Human Rights Committee	2020 – Present
	United Nations Law Committee	2020 – Present
Illinois State Bar Association	Member	2007 – Present
Dillon Inn of Court	Member	2019 – Present

Landon Inn Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity	Member	2003 – 2004
Iowa Young Lawyers Association	Member	2006 - 2016

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.

Dates (From -- To)	Organization Name	Nature of your involvement
2019 – Present	Davenport Assumption High School Century Club	Board Member for school's largest fundraiser
2017 – Present	Future Lady Knights Basketball	Basketball coach for grade school girls' basketball
2014 – Present	Junior High Mock Trial	Mock Trial Coach for Junior High kids

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 public website other than the court's electronic filing system), please attach a copy of the opinion.

Opinion #1. *The Green Thumbers v. Timothy Bowers and Peggy Bowers, SCSC219339* (see attached) – I chose this opinion because it shows my ability to write clearly and concisely, in a not-so-typical civil matter (not personal injury-related). When it comes to writing a full opinion, I believe in writing a detailed but succinct opinion in each and every case, recognizing that the opinion also needs to be timely. It is important for both parties, and particularly the non-prevailing party or parties, to see the entire thought process of the judge hearing their case. A detailed recitation of the law at the outset helps both parties see what the law requires of the fact-finder, and establishes the fact that the judge is bound to make his decision within the confines of the law. Secondly, both parties, but especially the non-prevailing party or parties, need to understand that someone was listening and they were heard. Thus, I always provide a detailed recitation of the facts. I make sure they can see that I took in to consideration all of their evidence. Finally, clearly and transparently applying the facts to the law helps the parties see that the ruling or determination was not arbitrary or unfair, but was required by the law of the State of Iowa

Opinion #2. *Osler Houston v. Iowa-Illinois Termite & Pest Control, Inc. and Devin Sodeman, SCSC212282* (see attached) – I chose this opinion because it shows my ability to write clearly and concisely, and for the reasons set forth above, in a "typical" civil action likely to be before a District Court Judge.

Opinion #3. *State of Iowa v. Daniel Appenzeller, SMCR402747* – I chose this opinion because it shows my ability to write clearly and concisely in a criminal action of the sort likely to be before a District Court Judge. In addition to the reasons related above, in my experience, the prevailing party is not terribly concerned about the opinion. They are happy they won. However, it is very important that the non-prevailing party (notably in criminal

cases) does not lose faith or trust in the judicial system, walking away thinking things are unfair or biased, or that they were never heard. In short, I write opinions for the non-prevailing party (one reason why the opinion is heavily annotated with exhibits and evidence). It is important to me that the litigant (not just the lawyer) understands the ruling. You should not need a law degree to understand the ruling. I believe that by practicing this philosophy, I can do my part to help provide litigants with access to justice.

19. N/A

**OTHER INFORMATION**

20. N/A

21. If any member of the District 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.

- a. William Bush is my law partner at Bush, Motto, Creen, Koury, & Halligan. We have worked together since 2006 and have worked multiple files and multiple cases together over the years.

22. N/A

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.

Title of Presentation	City, State	Event Sponsor	Month & Year
“Criminal Sentencing Enhancements”	Davenport, IA	Lunch & Learn CLE	06/2017
Criminal Law Discussion Group Presenter	Des Moines, IA	2019 Judicial Magistrate Conference	06/2019
“Opening Statements”	Davenport, IA	Lunch & Learn CLE	01/2020
“Forcible Entry and Detainers”	Des Moines, IA (Held virtually)	Judicial Officers Academy	11/2020
“Small Claims Court Issues and Update”	Davenport, IA (Held virtually)	Last Chance CLE	12/2020

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. (Use “Tab” in last row to add more rows.)

Social media application name	Account name or other identifying information
Instagram	Mmotto11
LinkedIn	Michael Motto
Facebook	Mike.motto.112

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.

Name/Title of Honor, Prizes, Awards	Awarded by:	Month/Yr Received
Certificate in International and Comparative Law	Chicago-Kent	12/2002
NAOPIA 2016 Nationally Ranked Top 10 Under 40 (for excellence in the field of Personal Injury)	NAOPIA	2016
Earned a certificate from the French Chamber of Commerce stating my ability to work in France in any business capacity	University of Iowa	12/2002

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.

Name	Address	Telephone number
Judge Joel Barrows	Scott County Courthouse	563-326-8783
Judge Patrick McElyea	Scott County Courthouse	563-326-8783
Amy DeVine	Scott County Courthouse	563-326-8600
Judge Kim Shepherd	Clinton County Courthouse	563-243-6210
Nathan Legue	710 E. Kimberly Rd., Davenport, IA	563445-2332

- a. Judge Barrows has presided over many jury trials where I was defense counsel, including Class A Felonies.
- b. Judge McElyea has presided over many court hearings where I was defense counsel, and we also had many trials as opposing counsel when he was at the Scott County Attorney's Office.
- c. Amy DeVine has been in the Scott County Attorney's Office for as many years as I have been practicing criminal defense law. She is currently the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, second only to the County Attorney. We have had many very serious and very memorable jury trials together as opposing counsel.
- d. Judge Shepherd was in the Scott County Attorney's Office for many years, and we also had many very serious and memorable trials together, including multiple sex abuse cases.
- e. Mr. Legue is a family law attorney who has had several family law cases with me over the years. We have had trials and we have settled cases. We also hang out socially on occasion.

27. Explain why you are seeking this judicial position:

I have always enjoyed being involved in the community and giving back, whether through school, youth sports, local organizations, or otherwise. I am a firm believer in the value of my

community, and my responsibility to give back to my community. As a young attorney, I realized that a District Court Judge has a tremendous ability to give back and provide a public service to the community. A District Court Judge who is willing to follow the law, find the truth, and do justice in each case, has a profound effect on individuals, families, and society, all for the better. When I became a part-time Judicial Magistrate, I found it to be the most rewarding and fulfilling aspect of my work. The days I am on the bench are ultimately the most gratifying—even when the day culminates in a long trial and written ruling. The feeling of performing a public service, and being a part of finding the truth and doing justice, provides a rewarding sense of accomplishment.

Further, I truly believe in, and am very passionate about, the ability of the court system to be the bedrock of a free and just society. The starting point is the trial court, which hears cases and settles disputes at the grassroots level. It is the part of the judicial system accessible to everyone, regardless of demographics. I am passionate about being involved and giving back to my community in this way – as a part of my career.

Finally, for our system to truly work, we need qualified judges who have a judicial philosophy that recognizes the court's proper role in society. Our system works well if, and only if, the branches of government perform their intended functions without usurping the roles of the other branches. This means a judge should strictly follow the law enacted by the democratically-elected legislature and approved by the executive - first and foremost - and not rule based on what a judge may think ought to happen in a case. It is important to instill this philosophy of restraint at the District Court level.

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

I have been a Magistrate for four years and have presided over dozens and dozens of bench trials and even three criminal jury trials, so I already understand the perspective from the bench. I am very passionate about my role as a Magistrate, and have volunteered for, and currently have scheduled, 7 more jury trials between now and March 2022.

I also have a very extensive trial practice as a lawyer. I have tried over 45 criminal cases to a jury, including murder, robbery, and sex abuse. I have tried dozens of bench trials. I have appeared before judges on other hearings and motions hundreds and hundreds of times. I am very comfortable in court and I am very familiar with the rules and procedures controlling the court proceedings.

I have also spent a lot of time visiting, living, working, and studying abroad, focusing the majority of my time on language learning and developing communication skills. I have lived in France, Sweden, England, and Russia. I worked in England and Sweden, and studied in France and Russia. These experiences speaking and interacting with people (in their home environments) who have lived very different lives, have very different perspectives, and speak, think, and act very differently from me, have expanded my communication skillset, broadened

my perspectives, and helped me better understand other cultures and peoples. Many, if not most, of the people who come before the Court are people who have been through some type of serious issue or traumatic experience, or have experienced things very differently than many other Americans (due to poverty, violence, etc.). My legal experience representing many people under these circumstances, combined with my real-world experience, gives me a unique perspective that would be an asset on the bench.

These experiences, and the contrasts they present, have also further reinforced my belief in the correctness and propriety of our system of government, as long as we maintain the political philosophies that keep each branch of government independently strong.

Finally, I have a broad range of community involvement outside legal- and judicial-related areas, from a decade of coaching youth sports and Junior High Mock Trial, to sitting on local Boards, being active in charities, volunteering, and investing in local businesses. I have a stake in my community. I believe a District Court Judge should be public-service oriented and committed to their community.

29. N/A