

UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name**: State full name (include any former names used).

Melissa Raye DuBose

2. **Position**: State the position for which you have been nominated.

United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island

3. **Address**: List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

Garrahy Judicial Complex  
One Dorrance Plaza  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

4. **Birthplace**: State year and place of birth.

1968; Providence, Rhode Island

5. **Education**: List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

2000 – 2004, Roger Williams School of Law; J.D., 2004

1992 – 1994, Providence College School of Continuing Education; no degree received

1986 – 1990, Providence College; B.A., 1990

1989, Southern University/Louisiana State University -American Political Science Association; no degree received (Summer Fellowship)

6. **Employment Record**: List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2019 – present  
Rhode Island District Court  
One Dorrance Plaza  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
Associate Judge

2008 – 2019  
Schneider Electric  
70 Mechanic Street  
Foxboro, Massachusetts 02035  
Senior Legal Counsel

2005 – 2008  
Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General  
150 South Main Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
Special Assistant Attorney General

1996 – 2005  
Providence Public School Department  
797 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
Secondary History Teacher

1994 – 1996  
School One  
220 University Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906  
Teacher

1992 – 1994  
Rue De L'espoir Restaurant/ Little Connie's Café  
99 Hope Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906  
Barista/Clerk

1991 – 1992  
RPIRG  
555 North Main Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906  
Canvasser

1990 – 1991  
Credit Consultants Inc.  
400 Massasoit Avenue  
East Providence, Rhode Island 02916

Telemarketer

Other Affiliations (uncompensated)

2021 – present  
Rhode Island Foundation  
One Union Station  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
Board Member

2015 – present  
Roger Williams School of Law  
Ten Metacom Avenue  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809  
Board Member

7. **Military Service and Draft Status**: Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I did not serve in the military. I was not required to register for the selective service.

8. **Honors and Awards**: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Providence College Alumni Association, Personal Achievement Honoree (2021)

City Year, Rhode Island; Community Impact Awardee (2017, 2018)

American Political Science Association, Ralph Bunch Fellow (1989)

9. **Bar Associations**: List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

American Bar Association (2023 – present)

National Center for State Courts, Blueprint for Racial Justice Working Group Contributor (2021 – present)

National Consortium for Racial and Ethnic Fairness (2021 – present)

Rhode Island Bar Association (2004 – present)

Rhode Island Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts  
Public Engagement Committee Chair (2020 – present)

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

- a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Rhode Island, 2004

There have been no lapses in membership.

- b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, 2023  
Rhode Island Mental Health - Civil Certification Court, 2019

There have been no lapses in membership.

11. **Memberships:**

- a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

Mount Hope Community Center, Volunteer (2020 – present)

Providence College Alumni Association (1990 – present)

Rhode Island Academic Decathlon, Volunteer (2018 – present)

Rhode Island Foundation, Board Member (2021 – present)

Roger Williams School of Law

Alumni Association (2004 – present)

Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee (2021– present)

Board of Directors/Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair (2015 – present)

Summit Neighborhood Community Garden (2021 – present)

- b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

To the best of my knowledge, none of the organizations listed above currently discriminate or have formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin, either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies.

**12. Published Writings and Public Statements:**

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

None.

- b. Supply four (4) copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

The Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

Rhode Island Chief Judge Paul Suttell created this committee by way of an executive order in October 2020. I was appointed along with 11 other judicial officers representing the various courts in our unified court system. As an appointed member, my role is to engage in public engagement initiatives that endeavor to bolster public confidence in the judicial system and to memorialize these efforts in quarterly reports that are included here. These reports are collaborative in that all members are welcome to provide relevant content.

Third Quarterly Report (September 30, 2023). Copy supplied.

Second Quarterly Report (June 30, 2023). Copy supplied.

First Quarterly Report (March 31, 2023). Copy supplied.

Fourth Quarterly Report (December 31, 2022). Copy supplied.

Third Quarterly Report (September 30, 2022). Copy supplied.

Second Quarterly Report (June 30, 2022). Copy supplied.

First Quarterly Report (March 31, 2022). Copy supplied.

Fourth Quarterly Report (December 31, 2021). Copy supplied.

Third Quarterly Report (September 30, 2021). Copy supplied.

Second Quarterly Report (June 30, 2021). Copy supplied.

First Quarterly Report (March 31, 2021). Copy supplied.

*An Open Letter to the people of Rhode Island* (March 31, 2021). Copy supplied.

Supreme Court Executive Order 2020-15 (October 20, 2020). Copy supplied.

The Rhode Island Foundation

I was appointed as the Rhode Island Supreme Court's designee to serve as a voting member of the Rhode Island Foundation Board. I currently serve on the investment subcommittee. I do not provide any of the content that is memorialized in the Annual Report. The Annual Report is not subject to Board review or approval.

2022 Annual Report. Copy supplied.

2021 Annual Report. Copy supplied.

- c. Supply four (4) copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

January 1, 2019: I appeared before the Rhode Island State Senate Judiciary Committee for a public interview relative to my nomination to a seat on the Rhode Island District Court. Video available at <https://ritv.devosvideo.com/show?video=4c06cf1bc81c&apg=283c5ac2>.

- d. Supply four (4) copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the

date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

I have searched my records, electronic databases, and the internet in an effort to identify all events responsive to this question, but there may be other events I have not been able to identify or recall.

October 21, 2023: Moot Court Judge, Esther Clark Annual Moot Court Competition, Roger Williams School of Law. I sat as a member of a three judge panel for both the on brief and off brief oral arguments. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the law school is Roger Williams School of Law, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809.

September 15, 2023: Panelist, Constitution Day 2023-First Amendment, Rhode Island judiciary and the Rhode Island Bar, Providence, Rhode Island. I presented from a PowerPoint created by the Rhode Island Bar Association, which is supplied.

June 1, 2023: Co-Presenter, "Access Granted: A Discussion on the Access to Justice Gap, Strategies to Eliminate Access to Justice Barriers, and Engaging Meaningfully with Self-Represented Litigants," The Rhode Island Bar Association Annual Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island. The PowerPoint, created by my co-presenter with my sign-off, that we used for the presentation is supplied. The address for Rhode Island Supreme Court is 250 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906. The address for the Rhode Island bar Association is 41 Sharp Drive, Cranston, Rhode Island, 02920.

May 21–24, 2023: Presenter, "Justice: Promises to Keep," National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness 2023 Conference, Seattle, Washington. I delivered the "State of the State" remarks highlighting the Rhode Island judiciary's "Cost & Fines" initiatives. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the National Center for State Courts is 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

May 5, 2023: Presenter, "Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration," Rhode Island Law Day, Roger Williams Middle School, Providence, Rhode Island. As part of the federal Law Day commemoration, I facilitated an interactive discussion between students, members of the law enforcement community, and attorneys on issues of civility and democracy. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Rhode Island Bar Association is 41 Sharp Drive, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920.

May 5, 2023: Panelist, “Allies not Adversaries,” Brown University’s Alpert Medical School, Providence, Rhode Island. I served as participant on the Case Based Interprofessional Discussion Panel. Panelists were provided with a case study regarding individuals with substance use disorders and I discussed potential outcomes when that individual is involved in the Rhode Island criminal justice system. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Warren Alpert Medical School is 222 Richmond Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903.

March 30, 2023: Guest Speaker, “EmPower Meet Up for Educators of Color,” Providence, Rhode Island. I shared reflections from my experiences as a Providence public school teacher and how students inspired my career path. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Providence Public School department is 797 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903.

March 1, 2023: Panelist, “2023 Career Symposium,” Providence, Rhode Island. I served as a participant and panelist at a career day symposium at the Sophia Academy middle school. I discussed pathways to careers in the legal profession and my personal journey. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Sophia Academy is 582 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02907.

January 6, 2023: Panelist, “DEI Work in the Courtroom,” The Association of American Law Schools Symposium, San Diego, California. I was part of a panel and discussed Rhode Island’s Costs and Fines initiative, the importance of public engagement, and forming community partnerships. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Association of American Law Schools is 1614 20th Street, Northwest, Washington, DC 20009.

December 8, 2022, Presenter/ Moderator, “Community Engagement Symposium for Justice,” Fogerty Judicial Complex, Providence, Rhode Island. During this community forum, leaders of local non-profits, prosecutors, public defenders and educators were invited to share information about their respective organizations and the intersection with the courts. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Rhode Island Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness is 250 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903.

August 16, 2022: Participant/Presenter, “Access to Justice and the ADA,” Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island 02908. I participated in a presentation sponsored by the Rhode Island Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and discussed the resources available to members of the deaf and hard of hearing community in the Rhode Island Courts. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Rhode Island Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

April 13, 2022: Presenter, National Center for State Court Webinar: “Cost & fines: How a community conversation changed lives in the Ocean State” (virtual event). Video supplied.



February 9, 2022: Guest Speaker, "Black Woman at Brown," Brown University (virtual event). I was invited to join this organization's monthly meeting to share my personal journey from the classroom to the courthouse. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for Brown University is 69 Brown Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02912.

October 23, 2021: Moot Court Judge, Esther Clark Annual Moot Court Competition. Roger Williams School of Law. I sat as a member of a three judge panel for both the on brief and off brief oral arguments. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address is Roger Williams School of Law, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809.

June 28, 2021: Participant/Facilitator, Costs and Fines Working Session, United Way, Providence, Rhode Island. This working session included stakeholders from various state agencies and I coordinated breakout and brainstorming sessions. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the United Way is 50 Valley Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.

June 9, 2021: Keynote Speaker, Charette Charter School Graduation, Providence, Rhode Island. I offered the keynote address for the first graduating class of the Charette Charter School for Urban Planning and offered my well wishes to the graduating class. I have no notes, transcript, or recording. The address for the Charette Charter School is 335 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903.

June 8, 2020: Panelist, "When 'Stay at home' isn't safe-Domestic Violence During COVID 19," The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University (virtual event). Video available at <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2020-domestic-violence-during-covid-19-virtual>.

March 11, 2019; Swearing in Ceremony, Providence, Rhode Island. Video available at <https://ritv.devosvideo.com/show?video=c631bc5fe0e7&apg=283c5ac2>.

- e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and four (4) copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

I have searched my records, electronic databases, and the internet in an effort to identify all interviews that I have given to the press in response to this question, but there may be other events I have not been able to recall.

Giguere, Jenna & Sylvia, Jennifer, "Rhode Island Women Lawyers Past, Present, and Future," Vol 72, Number 3, Rhode Island Bar Journal (Nov./Dec. 2023). Copy supplied.

Rhode Island State Archives, "Undefeated-South Providence Community-Oral History" (Mar. 21, 2023). Recording supplied.

Liberman, Ellen, "The Cost of Justice in Rhode Island," Rhode Island Monthly (Feb. 16, 2023). Copy supplied.

Hagan, Michael, "Raised off Hope: The Story of Judge Melissa DuBose '90," *Providence College Magazine*, 2022. Copy supplied and recording available at <https://news.providence.edu/her-honor-our-guest-judge-melissa-dubose-90>.

Bowden, Michael, "RWU Law Receives Major Gift and Matching Challenge to Launch Scholarship Supporting Diverse Students, Public Interest Careers" (Feb. 22, 2022). Copy supplied.

Roger Williams University Law School, "Judge DuBose on the crime that rocked her community and drove her to law school" (Sept. 30, 2019). Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pRkdLVhUSQ>.

Miller, Montana, "Where they Are: Working with Marginalized Students, Vol.63, Number 5, Educational Leadership (Feb. 2006). Copy supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

In December 2018, I was nominated by Governor Gina Raimondo to a seat on the Rhode Island District Court. In January 2019, my nomination was confirmed unanimously by the State Senate. While the Rhode Island State District Court handles all criminal arraignments both felonies and misdemeanors, it is a court of limited jurisdiction. The district court has proper jurisdiction over all criminal misdemeanors (cases punishable by no more than one year in prison or fines not exceeding \$1,000.) Criminal defendants have the option to seek a jury trial, but most waive that jury trial and opt for a bench trial in the district court. If convicted in the district court, defendants can seek a de novo trial in the Rhode Island Superior Court. With respect to civil jurisdiction, the district court has exclusive jurisdiction over landlord tenant matters and small claims. Most matters heard in the district court are appealable to the Rhode Island Superior Court.

Judges assigned to the district court are assigned to a yearly rotating calendar which typically begins in September. I am currently assigned to the Providence County Civil Calendar. My calendar includes landlord tenant residential and commercial matters, small claims trials, collections, and civil domestic restraining orders. From September 2022 to September 2023, I presided over the Providence County Arraignment Calendar. This is

the district court's busiest calendar where criminal defendants are formally arraigned, served with bail and/or probation violations and where bail determinations are made. From September 2021 to September 2022, I was assigned as duty judge and was assigned to one of the four counties as needed. Here I covered both civil calendars and criminal calendars including, but not limited to, pre-trials, trials, and bail hearings. From September 2020 to September 2021, I was assigned to Kent County on a hybrid criminal and civil calendar. From March 2019 to September 2020, I was assigned to one of Providence County's Criminal Pretrial and Trial calendars. In addition to my yearly assignment, my duties also include sitting periodically on our state's Mental Health Calendar, which handles civil commitments and certifications as well as Petitions for Instruction relative to medically necessary treatment. I also serve on our Veterans Treatment Court as needed. Additionally, I conduct de novo appellate reviews and render written decisions in administrative appeals from state agencies such as the Department of Labor and Training, the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal, and the Division of Tax. I am also charged with reviewing and where, probable cause exists, signing search and arrest warrants for statewide law enforcement departments.

- a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment?

As a sitting district court judge with a daily calendar, I estimate that between 250 and 300 cases of my cases have proceeded to a criminal or civil bench trial before me resulting in a verdict or civil judgment.

- i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials:	0%
bench trials:	100%

- ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings:	35%
criminal proceedings:	65%

- b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.

As a state trial court judge, none of my opinions are reported or otherwise available in databases such as Westlaw and Lexis.

- c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).

1. *State of Rhode Island v. Gomez*, 62-2023-10275 (6th Division-District Court, Dec. 28, 2023)

The defendant was the target of a lengthy investigation regarding the manufacturing and sale of narcotics throughout Rhode Island. The investigation involved the use of confidential informants, trash pulls, and controlled buys. The defendant was arrested on a 15-count criminal complaint. The state requested that the defendant be held without bail. I presided over the bail hearing where the defense raised several arguments regarding the substance of the affidavits that were the basis of the search warrants. Issues were also raised regarding the trash pull and arguably tenuous nexus to the defendant. In weighing the evidence in the light most favorable to the state, and the significant risk of flight, I found that the state had met its burden and I ordered the defendant held without bail pending formal indictment.

Counsel for the State

Rachel Soltysiak  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
4 Howard Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 274-4400

Counsel for the Defense

Joseph Voccola  
David Morra  
Voccola Law Group  
454 Broadway  
Providence, RI 02909  
(401) 751-3900

2. *Burman v. Herreshoff Marine and Museum*, 6SC-2023-00733 (6th Division-District Court, Oct. 25, 2023)

The pro se plaintiff in this civil action sought to recover the costs of a mooring fee paid to the defendant. After several unsuccessful attempts at mediation, the matter was scheduled before me. The issues presented at the trial involved contract modification, bad faith, and unjust enrichment. At the conclusion of the testimony, I ruled in favor of the plaintiff and found that the defendant breached its contract by renting the subject moor to several vacationing vessels despite express notice that the plaintiff was seeking exclusive use of the same. I denied the plaintiff's request for punitive damages and awarded him actual damages in the amount of \$1,800.

Counsel for the Defendant

Christian Akers  
1543 Fall River Avenue  
Seekonk, MA 02771  
(508) 813-9147

3. *State of Rhode Island v. Almeida*, 21-2023-00187 (2nd Division-District Court, June 23, 2023)

The defendant was charged with driving under the influence with a breathalyzer reading of .10 to .15. The issues presented at trial were whether the arresting officer followed all required protocols and whether the Intoxilyzer equipment was both functioning and properly administered. Based on the evidence presented at trial and a cross-examination of the State's witnesses, I ruled that the state had met its burden. The defendant was sentenced pursuant to the statutory guidelines for a first offense which includes a loss of license, community service, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) School, fines, and assessments.

Counsel for the State

Michael Monti  
130 Bellevue Avenue  
Newport, RI 02840  
(401) 489-3040

Counsel for the Defense

Richard Humphrey  
852 Main Road  
Tiverton, RI 02878  
(401) 624-6152

4. *State of Rhode Island v. Sylvestre*, 31-2019-6943 (3rd Division-District Court, Mar. 6, 2020)

The defendant in this case was charged in a three-count criminal complaint alleging simple assault, resisting arrest, and leaving the scene of an accident. The incident occurred when the defendant's car was struck by another motorist who failed to stop at a stop sign less than 50 yards from the defendant's home. The defendant exited his car, a verbal confrontation ensued, and the police were dispatched. When questioned by law enforcement, the defendant became increasingly agitated and was subsequently subdued by force and charged with simple assault and resisting arrest. Due to his mental state, a competency evaluation was ordered. The defendant was deemed competent to stand trial and, despite being eligible for a public defender, declined the assistance of counsel. After a lengthy bench trial, I found the defendant guilty of simple assault and

resisting arrest, and not guilty of failure to remain on scene. The issues raised at trial included competency, the defendant's right to appear pro se, and the resisting arrest standard. I deferred sentencing and imposed a one-year court filing contingent on the defendant continuing with mental health treatment.

Counsel for the State

Tom O'Brien  
Warwick City Solicitor  
300 Centerville Road, Suite 300  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 397-7262

5. *State of Rhode Island v. Ricci*, 31-2019-09367 (3rd Division-District Court, Jan. 27, 2020)

The defendant in this case was charged with driving under the influence (blood alcohol content unknown). In addition to being an observation case, counsel for the defense raised several challenges to whether reasonable suspicion existed to warrant an investigatory stop. The key witness for the state was a third-party witness who observed the defendant consume several drinks and exhibit belligerent behavior. While she observed him walk towards his car, she did not see him operate the motor vehicle. Upon considering the testimony of the responding officer and her independent observation of the defendant, I ruled that reasonable suspicion existed for the stop which later ripened into probable cause to arrest. Ultimately, I ruled that the state met its burden and issued a guilty verdict. I sentenced the defendant pursuant to the statutory guidelines for a first offense (blood alcohol content unknown) which includes a loss of license, installation of an ignition interlock device, community service, DWI School, fines, and assessments.

Counsel for the State

Amy Goins  
East Greenwich Town Solicitor  
2 Williams Street  
Providence, RI 02906  
(401) 331-2222

Counsel for the Defense

John B. Harwood  
9 Thurber Boulevard, Suite D  
Smithfield, RI 02917  
(401) 723-9655

6. *State of Rhode Island v. Sampson*, 31-2019-00621 (3rd Division-District Court, Jan. 10, 2020)

The defendant, a self-described member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, was charged with criminal trespass after his residence was subject to foreclosure. The subject property did not have a clear title, and material facts regarding the foreclosure and sale were subject to a companion action filed in the Rhode Island Superior Court. At issue in the case before me was whether his hold-over occupancy was willful, as required by the criminal statute, and whether proper notice of the foreclosure had been given. The defendant appeared pro se and, after a lengthy trial, I rendered a not guilty verdict based primarily on the state's failure to prove "willful intent."

Counsel for the State

Tom O'Brien  
Warwick City Solicitor  
300 Centerville Road, Suite 300  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 397-7262

7. *Dizoglio v. Reali*, 3SC-2019-00664 (6th Division-District Court, Dec. 11, 2019)

The pro se plaintiff in this action filed suit against the defendant, a general contractor, for sub-par construction and faulty electrical work including rough wiring, which was not to code. The issues presented at trial were whether the defendant was granted an opportunity to cure pursuant to a written contract and whether the plaintiff had a duty to take steps to mitigate any future potential harm. At the conclusion of the trial, I ruled in favor of the plaintiff on the grounds that the defendant essentially abandoned the project.

Counsel for the Defendant

Jennifer Minuto  
169 Bluff Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02902  
(401) 263-6171

8. *State of Rhode Island v. Stanton*, 61-2019-03322 (6th Division- District Court, Sept. 3, 2019)

The defendant was charged with a first offense domestic simple assault of his girlfriend/co-worker while in their employer's parking garage. The main evidentiary issue at trial was the authentication of security footage. After ruling on the admissibility of the video and hearing the testimony of both the

complaining witness and defendant, I ruled that the state had met its burden and issued a guilty verdict. The defendant was sentenced to a six-month suspended sentence with probation, a no-contact order, domestic violence counseling, and firearm surrender.

Counsel for the State

Mario Martone  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 680-5000

Counsel for the Defense

Angela Marie Lawless  
127 Dorrance Street, 4th Floor  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 595-1822

9. *State of Rhode Island v. Wilson*, 61-2019-00621 (6th Division-District Court, Apr. 30, 2019)

The defendant was charged with both simple assault and disorderly conduct. The conflict began when an authorized guest and a resident engaged in what became a violent brawl within a home. A couple of individuals attempted to deescalate the situation while others willingly joined in the confrontation. The defendant maintained that she was part of the former. This case involved weighing the testimony of several eyewitnesses with conflicting accounts. At the conclusion of this two-day trial, I ruled that the state failed to meet its burden pursuant to Rhode Island General Law. Issues presented at trial included but were not limited to willful conduct, the defense of others, and reasonableness.

Counsel for the State

Diony Garcia  
City Hall - 3rd Floor  
145 Taunton Avenue  
East Providence, RI 02914  
(401) 632-4579

Counsel for the Defense

David Morra  
Voccola Law Group  
454 Broadway  
Providence, RI 02909



(401) 751-3900

10. *State of Rhode Island v. Natale*, 61-2019-00672 (6th Division-District Court Mar. 26, 2019)

The defendant in this case was charged in a two-count criminal complaint alleging domestic simple assault and failure to relinquish a telephone. The defendant and the complaining witness resided together and, according to the criminal complaint, a verbal argument became physical with the defendant striking the complaining witness several times with a closed fist. Unable to retrieve her phone, the complaining witness fled the apartment and went to the local police department to file a complaint. After an investigation, the defendant was charged. While there were no third-party eyewitnesses, both parties testified as did the responding officer. Based on weighing the credibility of the witnesses, and compelling circumstantial evidence including documented bruising consistent with the complaint, I found the defendant guilty of count one. Because there was insufficient evidence to support count two – failure to relinquish – the defendant was found not guilty. I imposed a sentence of one year suspended with probation, a no-contact order, firearm surrender, batterers intervention program, and statutory fees and assessments

Counsel for the State

Mario Martone  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 680-5000

Counsel for the Defense

Christopher Millea  
Millea Law Offices  
37 Sockanosset Crossroads  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 484-1022

- d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.

1. *Camuso v. Department of Labor and Training*, Board of Review, A.A. No. 21-27 (Aug. 16, 2022). Copy supplied.

Appellant/Claimant Counsel

Vicki Bejma  
Robinson & Clapham  
133 Dyer Street, First Floor  
Suite 135  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 331-6565

Appellee Counsel

Department of Labor and Training  
Gina DiCenso  
41 West Road, Howard Building #74  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 462-9404

Sean Fontes  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

Siobhan Stephens-Catala  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

2. *Turcois v. Department of Labor and Training*, Board of Review, A.A. No. 20-00015 (Sept. 21, 2021). Copy supplied.

Appellant/Claimant Counsel

Stephen Fanning  
306 South Main Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 272-8250

Appellee Counsel

Gina DiCenso  
Department of Labor and Training  
41 West Road, Howard Building #74  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 462-9404

Sean Fontes  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

Siobhan Stephens-Catala  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

3. *Houle v. State of Rhode Island*, A.A. No. 19-58 (Jan. 25, 2021). Copy

supplied.

Appellant/Claimant Counsel

Lawrence Almagno  
Almagno Law  
10 Rangely Road  
Cranston, RI 02902  
(401) 946-4529

Appellee Counsel

Meagan Thompson  
Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General  
4 Howard Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 274-4400

4. *Gagnon v. Department of Labor and Training*, Board of Review, A.A. No. 1-178 (May 19, 2020). Copy supplied.

Appellant/Claimant Counsel

Michael Beagan  
Beagan & Beagan, LLP  
260 West Exchange Street  
Suite 101  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 453-0090

Appellant Counsel

Gina DiCenso  
Department of Labor and Training  
41 West Road, Howard Building #74  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 462-9404

Sean Fontes  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

5. *Arrowhead Dental Associates v. Department of Labor and Training*, Board of Review, A.A. No. 18-148 (Apr. 29, 2019). Copy supplied.

Appellant Claimant Counsel

Giovanni La Terra Bellina  
Orson and Brusini, Ltd.  
211 Quaker Lane  
Warwick, RI 02893  
(401) 223-2100

Appellee Counsel

Gina DiCenso  
Department of Labor and Training  
41 West Road, Howard Building #74  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 462-9404

Sean Fontes  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

Kathleen Nee  
1 Turks Head Place  
Suite 1440  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 453-5633

- e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.

Based upon a review of my records and legal databases, certiorari has not been requested or granted in any of my cases.

- f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

None.

- g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.

With the exception of administrative appeals, all of my decision are rendered from the bench. These decisions are stored pursuant to our state's electronic case management system. While the civil calendar is entirely electronic case management, our criminal system uses traditional handwritten notated docket entries. All proceedings are recorded and accessible to the parties and public.

- h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

I have not written any significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues.

- i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

I have not sat by designation on any federal court of appeals.

14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself sua sponte. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:

- a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;
- b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;
- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

The State of Rhode Island does not employ an automatic recusal system. Rather, recusal is determined on a case-by-case consistent with the rules and principles set forth in the Rhode Judicial Canons and Code of Conduct. As described below, there was one occasion when I determined recusal was appropriate. My recusal has not been sought in any other cases.

*State of Rhode Island v. Alege*, 31-2021-03701(2021). This matter appeared on my criminal calendar. In this high-profile case, the defendant was a public school administrator who was charged with the simple assault of a minor at a local gym. While I believed that I could have handled this matter both fairly and justly, a member of my household was the defendant's colleague. In order to avoid a situation where my impartiality might be reasonably questioned, I recused.

15. **Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:**

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

None.

- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

None.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

- a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk.

I never served as a judicial clerk.

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I was never a sole practitioner.

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each;

2005 – 2008

Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General

150 South Main Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Special Assistant Attorney General

2008 – 2019

Schneider Electric

70 Mechanic Street

Foxboro, Massachusetts 02035

Senior Legal Counsel

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have never served as a mediator or arbitrator.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

I began my legal career in 2005 when I was sworn in as Special Assistant Attorney General. I was initially assigned to the Juvenile Prosecution Unit, where I was responsible for the prosecution of juveniles charged with offenses that would be prosecuted as felonies if committed by adults (delinquencies). I also handled probation violation hearings, appeared as the state's representative at forensic interviews of child sex abuse victims and prosecuted adults charged with child abuse. I served in this unit for approximately 18 months before being reassigned to our Superior Court Unit. In that role, I managed the daily calendar which included felony arraignments, violation hearings, and bail hearings. Most of the cases in this high volume courtroom would resolve by way of a negotiated plea after conferencing each case with the presiding judge or magistrate. While on this calendar, I had the occasion to assist senior prosecutors with bench and jury trials.

In 2008, I was recruited to join Schneider Electric's in-house team. As in-house counsel assigned to the Federal team, most of my work involved regulatory interpretation including the Federal Acquisition Regulation, Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation, Buy America Act-Free Trade Agreement Act, and the Fair Trade and Practices Act. While Schneider maintains a dedicated litigation unit, I assisted and provided legal counsel in litigation that involved federal government-related disputes or challenges. Additionally, I managed the relationship with outside counsel who were retained to assist in federal contracting-related disputes.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

As a Special Assistant Attorney General, my client was the state of Rhode Island. As Senior Legal Counsel at Schneider Electric, my internal clients were Schneider's general counsel, corporate leadership, and the heads of various business units.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

As a Special Assistant Attorney General my practice was exclusively litigation and I appeared in court daily. At Schneider Electric, while I did not appear in court, I worked collaboratively with our internal litigation team during monthly strategizing sessions and worked closely with our mergers and acquisition team when federal contracts were part of the due diligence process.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
- |                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 1. federal courts:          | 0%   |
| 2. state courts of record:  | 100% |
| 3. other courts:            | 0%   |
| 4. administrative agencies: | 0%   |
- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:
- |                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. civil proceedings:    | 0%   |
| 2. criminal proceedings: | 100% |

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

The vast majority of the cases I prosecuted would settle by way of a negotiated pleas. I estimate that 75 to 100 of my cases proceeded either to a violation hearing or trial

- i. What percentage of these trials were:
- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. jury:     | 5%  |
| 2. non-jury: | 95% |

- e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply four (4) copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

I did not practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:



- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

1. *United States v. Patel*, No. 5:18-cr-00090, 2020 WL 4429682 (D. Vt.) (Crawford, J.)

This criminal case involved a former Schneider Electric employee who was charged with defrauding the federal government via kickbacks, bribery, and a bid rigging scheme. From 2017 to 2019, as managing in-house counsel for federal contracts, I was primarily responsible for working with outside counsel with pretrial discovery including employee interviews, auditing internal bid processes, and generating responsive documents at the request of the U.S. Attorney's Office. This case was still pending in the United States District Court for the District of Vermont when I left Schneider for the state bench in 2019. Ultimately, it was determined that the former employee was the sole bad actor, and he entered a guilty plea before Chief Judge Geoffrey Crawford.

Outside Counsel

Michael Koenig  
Hinkley Allen & Snyder LLP  
54 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 689-1400

Victoria Lane  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

Prosecution

Assistant U.S. Attorney Owen C.J. Foster  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

2. *State of Rhode Island v. Shroyer*, P1-2007-2988A (RI Superior Court, Aug. 8, 2008)  
(Procaccini, J.)

I was assigned to this matter in 2008. The defendant in this case was charged with first-degree robbery. This case was complicated by the fact that the complaining witness had a severe substance use disorder as did the co-defendant. Further, the co-defendant was known to law enforcement as being the victim of sexual trafficking by the defendant. Despite these challenges, I was able to assist in negotiating a cooperation agreement with the co-defendant who agreed to testify at trial. Having successfully managed the state's

witnesses, this case was ultimately resolved by way of a negotiated plea agreement. The defendant received a 20-year full sentence with 11 years to serve.

Co-Counsel

Stephen Regine  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
4 Howard Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 274-4400

Counsel for Defendant

Richard Ciccone (court-appointed)  
Ciccone Coughlin & Waldman  
433 Broadway  
Providence, RI 02909  
(401) 351-7800

3. *State of Rhode Island v. Gauthier*, P2-2003-0022A (RI Superior Court, Apr. 26, 2007) (Keogh, M.J.)

I was assigned to this matter in 2007. The defendant in this case was charged with third-degree sexual assault while serving a probationary sentence on a felony drug charge. The 14-year-old complaining witness did not want to pursue criminal charges and maintained her position that the relationship was entirely consensual. With the assistance of the complaining witness's family and the victim advocates office, we were able to proceed to a violation hearing, after which the defendant pled to the charge and was sentenced to a five-year full sentence, sex offender program and registration, and no contact with the complaining witness.

Counsel for Defendant

Glenn Sparr  
One Davol Square  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 521-9100

4. *State of Rhode Island v. Smyth*, P2-2007-1269A (RI Superior Court, Apr. 10, 2007) (Keogh, M.J.)

I was assigned to this matter in 2007. The defendant was charged with DUI and duty to stop-resulting in personal injury. The complaining witness in this case was struck by the defendant, who quickly fled the scene. He was apprehended a short time later when he was found traveling north on a southbound lane. A central issue in this case was the admissibility of incriminating statements made by the defendant while he was highly

intoxicated. Those statements were deemed admissible. I prepared the state's case, including witness interviews, subpoenas, and discovery. The defendant waived the hearing, entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to five-year full sentence with 15 months to serve with balance suspended with probation.

Counsel for Defendant

Raymond Haskell Esq.  
Office of the Public Defender

I am unable to locate current contact information.

5. *State of Rhode Island v. Zulueta*, P2-2007-005668A (RI Superior Court, Feb. 12, 2007) (Keogh, M.J.)

I was assigned to this matter in 2007. The defendant was arrested and charged with delivery and possession of a controlled substance after being observed by a police officer making a rapid hand-to-hand transaction from his car. The defendant moved to suppress, arguing the officer had lacked reasonable suspicion to search the buyer. I argued that based on the officer's training and the totality of the circumstances, there was in fact reasonable suspicion for the search. I prepared the state's case, including witness interviews and subpoenas. After the suppression motion was denied, the defendant waived the hearing, and entered a plea. He was sentenced to a 10-year full sentence with three years to serve with balance suspended with probation.

Counsel for Defendant

John J Bevilacqua  
145 Phenix Avenue, 1st Floor  
Cranston, RI 029020  
(401) 737-7444

6. *State of Rhode Island v. Clements*, P2-2003-3711B (RI Superior Court, February 12, 2007) (Keough, M.J.)

I was assigned to this matter in 2007. The defendant was charged with robbery, breaking and entering, and conspiracy. The complaining witness in this case was a local member of law enforcement who was operating as an undercover agent who engaged in a transaction to purchase narcotics from the defendant. That transaction became an assault and robbery when three co-conspirators, along with the defendant, attacked the officer. Because the defendant was on probation, this was charged as a probation violation matter. I handled the violation hearing where the defendant was declared a violator and entered a plea for seven years full sentence, three years to serve with the balance suspended with probation.

Counsel for Defendant

Eamonn Gill (formerly with the Office of Public Defender)  
I am unable to locate current contact information.

7. *State of Rhode Island v. Gomez*, P1 2006-2710A (RI Superior Court, Sept. 6, 2006)  
(Pfeiffer. J.)

I was assigned to this matter in 2006. The 17-year-old defendant in this matter was charged with first-degree murder. This case was one of a number of instances where Guatemalan immigrants were targeted for robbery. In the course of an attempted robbery, the defendant struck and killed the victim. My primary role was assisting in the transfer of this case from Family Court to Superior Court through the waiver process and the prosecution of the minor co-defendants who were not subject to waiver. The waiver process involved handling a probable cause hearing before the chief judge of the family court. Having met that burden, the case was transferred to superior court where the defendant entered a nolo plea to an amended felony murder count. I did not handle the matter in superior court but understand that he was sentenced to a 30-year full sentence with 10 to serve with the balance suspended with probation.

Co-Counsel

Susan Urso  
Assistant Attorney General  
4 Howard Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 274-4400

Michael McCarthy  
Special Assistant Attorney General (Former)  
24 North Hillview Drive  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
I am unable to locate a phone number.

8. *State of Rhode Island v. Peralta*, P1-2006- 2711AG (RI Grand Jury, May 15, 2006)

I was assigned to this matter in 2006. This case involved the illegal sale of firearms by three teenaged co-defendants to the complaining witness. Ultimately, the pretextual sale became an attempted armed robbery where the complaining witness sustained a significant gunshot wound resulting in the loss of an eye. Because the co-defendants fell under the jurisdiction of family court, this defendant's case was severed from the others. I assisted the lead prosecutor in preparing the state's case and interviewing witnesses for the grand jury. The defendant was indicted on five counts including: assault to commit specified felonies, discharge of a firearm while committing specified felonies, carrying a pistol without a license, possession of a stolen firearm and possession of a firearm with altered marks. This case was resolved through a negotiated plea to an amended sentence on the state's Gun Calendar. The defendant was sentenced to a 20-year full sentence with 10 years to serve with balance suspended with probation.

Co-Counsel

Stephen Regine  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
4 Howard Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 274-4400

Counsel for Defendant

John Bevilaqua  
145 Phenix Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02886  
(401) 737-7444

9. *In re John Doe* (Family Court Nov. 2005) (Jeremiah, J.)

I was assigned to this matter in 2006. This case involved a juvenile accused of sexually assaulting a classmate. I was the prosecutor assigned to the case. One of the primary challenges was providing services for the complaining witness who suffered acute PTSD as a result of the violent assault. The other challenge was getting the defendant's parents to cooperate with a court-ordered Differential Ability Scale to assess his cognitive and social emotional health. Working collaboratively with the public defender's office and the Department of Children Youth and Family, I was able to gather critical and extremely sensitive background information that helped inform a just disposition of the case. It was ultimately determined that clinically, the defendant was not criminally culpable due to his diagnosis but was found to be too great a risk to himself and the community that he was ordered into placement at a secured facility.

Counsel for Defendant

Elaine Brunetti  
Office of the Public Defender  
160 Pine Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 222-1530

10. *In re Jack Doe* (Family Court March 2006) (Capinieri, J)

I was assigned to this matter in 2006. The juvenile respondent was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon after he discharged a pellet gun from the rear passenger seat of a moving dirt bike into a crowd gathered at a bus stop, striking a 12-year-old in the face. The complaining witness suffered serious but not fatal injuries. The issues raised at trial included identification of the respondent and criminal intent. At trial, I was able to establish identification through eyewitness testimony and successfully argued that given

the time, location, and proximity of the respondent to the complaining witness, there was sufficient evidence to meet the standard for reckless disregard for the safety of others. The Defendant was sentenced to one year at the Rhode Island Training School (the state's juvenile detention facility) followed by a one-year suspended sentence with probation.

Counsel for the State

Matthew Toro  
Office of the Public Defender  
160 Pine Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 222-1530

18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

As member of Schneider Electric's In-House team and subject matter expert on federal procurement, the most significant legal guidance that I provided was with respect to country of origin markings and compliance with the Buy America Act. With Schneider manufacturing facilities being located all over the world, including in China, India, and the Philippines, I was vigilant in ensuring that our supply chain and federal sales team both understood the federal rules with respect to certifications and markings. In 2010, with the assistance of outside counsel, I was able to secure a favorable ruling from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection regarding one of Schneider's most complex energy management solutions. Based on the ruling, this line of products was trade compliant and eligible for U.S. government procurement.

As a judge, I was appointed as a member of the Rhode Island Supreme Court's Committee for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. In this role, I have led two successful initiatives that seek to instill public faith and confidence in the judicial system. The first initiative was titled "When Justice Works." The goal of this multimedia campaign was to reintroduce the community to judicial officers and spark a public conversation about the justice system and the role that it plays in everyday lives. The second initiative was directed at grappling with the issue of legacy court fees and fines that was tethering many Rhode Islanders to the court system well after they had served their sentences. After convening several listening sessions and working with community partners, the Superior and District Court launched a pilot program where people registered at local community centers and were able to appear virtually before a judge to assess whether they were eligible for a reduction and in some instances an abatement of costs and fines (restitution orders were not eligible). As of June 2023, more than \$2

million in legacy costs were remitted and the Rhode Island model is being replicated in various states and counties throughout the United States.

As a former teacher, I appreciate and support robust civics and legal education. I have participated in Law Day activities throughout my professional career as a teacher, a prosecutor, in-house counsel, and now as a district court judge. In 2023, I was part of the planning team for Rhode Island's first Constitution Day Program that launched in several schools throughout the state. The theme was the First Amendment and Student Voices.

Since 2019, I have served as a judge at RWU School of Law Moot Court Competitions along with serving as a mentor to several law school students. Additionally, I am an active member of the Law School Board of Directors.

I have not performed any lobbying activities, and I am not and have never been registered as a lobbyist.

19. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide four (4) copies to the committee.

None.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

None.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? If so, explain.

None.

22. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

When my nomination is formally submitted to the Senate, I will file my Financial Disclosure Report and will supplement this Questionnaire with a copy of that Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

- a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

A conflict of interest could arise from cases and administrative appeals that I have handled as a district court judge. I will carefully evaluate any real or potential conflict, or relationship that could give rise to the appearance of such a conflict, on a case-by-case basis and determine the appropriate action, including recusal, where necessary.

- b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

If confirmed, I would address any actual or potential conflicts of interest by applying the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, 28 U.S.C. § 455, and any other relevant laws, canons, rules, practices, and guidelines.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

Since being admitted to the bar in 2004 and prior to assuming the bench in 2019, I engaged in countless hours of pro bono work both formally through the Rhode Island Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers program handling nominal divorces and informally for local members of our historically underserved communities with landlord tenant related matters, personal disputes, and child custody related issues.

26. **Selection Process:**

- a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or



communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

On July 21, 2023, upon the announcement that Judge William Smith intended to assume senior status, I submitted my letter of interest to Senator Jack Reed and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse regarding a position on the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island. On September 6, 2023, I met with members of Senator Reed's and Senator Whitehouse's staff. I had a subsequent meeting with Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse on September 22, 2023. On November 1, 2023, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office. Since November 1, 2023, I have been in contact with officials from the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice. On January 10, 2024, the President announced his intent to nominate me.

- b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.