

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT 2

By

Amber J. Handy



Personal Information

1.	Full Name	Amber Jewell Handy
2.	Have you ever used or been known by any other legal name (including a maiden name)? If so, state name and reason for the name change and years used.	Amber Jewell Duvall, maiden name from 1988-2017
3.	How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?	1989 – Present
4.	City and county of residence	Carson City
5.	Age	35

Employment History

6. Please start with your current employment or most recent employment, self-employment, and periods of unemployment for the last 20 years preceding the filing of this Application.

Current or Last Employer	Self Employed – Handy Legal Services PC
Phone	775-297-4559
Physical Address & Website	1453 US Highway 395, Suite 4, Gardnerville, NV 89410 www.handy.law
Date(s) of Employment	4/27/2021 – Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Self
Your Title	Owner/President
Describe Your Key Duties	Managing attorney of a law practice that focuses in family law, guardianships, probate and trust administration, real estate transactions and disputes, business transactions and disputes, and civil litigation. Oversee Las Vegas office whose attorney practices in immigration law. Appointed to numerous guardian ad litem cases for child custody and welfare cases. Contract Attorney for Douglas County Public Guardian.
Reason for Leaving	N/A.

Previous Employer	Handelin Law, Ltd.
Phone	775-882-8032
Address & Website	1000 N. Division Street, Suite 201, Carson City, NV 89701 www.handelinlaw.com
Date(s) of Employment	2/2017 – 4/2021
Supervisor's Name and Title	Steven Handelin, Esq., Owner/President

Your Title	Senior Associate Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	<p>Represent clients in all stages of general civil litigation matters, including attending motion and evidentiary hearings.</p> <p>Represent individuals and business entities in real estate, landlord/tenant, collections, business transactions, contract negotiations and family law matters.</p> <p>Assist with licensing of newly formed business including for operation of legalized marijuana.</p> <p>Assist with land acquisition for 3,500 acre geothermal industrial project.</p> <p>Manage all aspects of the “business” of law including accounts payable and receivables, human resource issues, management of personnel and resources.</p> <p>Follow legislative changes and advise clients on effects of recently enacted bills.</p>
Reason for Leaving	Opened private practice.

Previous Employer	State of Nevada, Division of Industrial Relations
Phone	775-684-7270
Address & Website	400 West King Street, Suite 400, Carson City, NV 89703 www.dir.nv.gov
Date(s) of Employment	3/2016 - 2/2017
Supervisor’s Name and Title	Donald Smith, Esq., Senior Division Counsel
Your Title	Division Counsel
Describe Your Key Duties	<p>Represented the Nevada Division of Industrial Relations, Worker’s Compensation Section, in hearings before the Department of Administration, Appeals Office.</p> <p>Provided legal advice and recommendations on various issues both in making determinations pre and post enforcement.</p>
Reason for Leaving	Accepted Senior Associate Position

Previous Employer	Handelin Law, Ltd.
Phone	775-882-8032
Address & Website	1000 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701 www.handelinlaw.com
Date(s) of Employment	9/2013 – 3/2016
Supervisor’s Name and Title	Steven Handelin, Owner/President
Your Title	Associate Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	<p>Represented clients in all stages of general civil litigation matters, including attending motion and evidentiary hearings.</p> <p>Represented individuals and business entities in the areas of workers’ compensation, real estate, landlord/tenant matters,</p>

	collections, business transactions, contract negotiations, and family law. Followed legislative changes and advised clients on effects of recently enacted bills.
Reason for Leaving	Accepted position with the State of Nevada

Previous Employer	Jolly Urga Woodbury & Little (fka Jolley Urga Wirth Woodbury & Standish)
Phone	702-699-7500
Address & Website	Current: 1120 N. Town Center Drive, Suite 200, Las Vegas, NV 89144 www.juwlaw.com
Date(s) of Employment	Summer 2011 and Summer 2012
Supervisor's Name and Title	Thomas J. Standish, Esq., Partner
Your Title	Law Clerk
Describe Your Key Duties	Conducted legal research regarding real estate, civil procedure, and family law. Drafted legal memoranda, Pre-Evidentiary Hearing Briefs, motions and oppositions, affidavits and Supplement to Appellee's Briefs. Conducted meetings with clients and supporting affiants to procure information necessary to draft legal documents. Maintained client contact regarding the status of their case. Presented summaries of recently decided Nevada Supreme Court decisions to Partners, Associates and Staff.
Reason for Leaving	Graduated law school and found full time employment.

Previous Employer	Jolly Urga Woodbury & Little (fka Jolley Urga Wirth Woodbury & Standish)
Phone	702-699-7500
Address & Website	Current: 1120 N. Town Center Drive, Suite 200, Las Vegas, NV 89144 www.juwlaw.com
Date(s) of Employment	8/2006 to 8/2010
Supervisor's Name and Title	Thomas J. Standish, Esq. Partner
Your Title	Assistant/File Clerk
Describe Your Key Duties	Worked with Senior Partner and Associate Attorneys within the domestic law practice group. Prepared files for trial, motion hearings and settlement conferences. Maintained client contact regarding the status of their case.
Reason for Leaving	Graduated UNLV and relocated for law school.

Previous Employer	Eight Judicial District Court-Family Division
Phone	775-882-8032
Address & Website	601 North Pecos Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89155 www.clarkcountycourts.us
Date(s) of Employment	9/2005 – 8/2006
Supervisor's Name and Title	Sue Curran, Court Administrative Assistant
Your Title	Office Assistant
Describe Your Key Duties	Worked directly with proper person litigants to provide appropriate agency contacts. Filled in for Judicial Executive Assistant to the Juvenile Delinquency Hearing Masters. Prepared calendars. Prepared Adjudication Orders for signature and filing. Prepared files for future hearings. Miscellaneous tasks to assist Judicial Chambers.
Reason for Leaving	Hired by Jolly Urga Wirth Woodbury & Standish

Educational Background

7. List names and addresses of high schools, colleges and graduate schools (other than law school) attended; dates of attendance; certificates or degrees awarded; reason for leaving.

Advanced Technologies Academy High School, 1411 Robin Street, Las Vegas, NV 89106

- Attended 2002 - 2006
- Advanced High School Diploma
- Legal Studies Program Certificate

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 4505 S Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154

- Attended 2006 - 2010
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Minor in Business Law

8. Describe significant high school and college activities including extracurricular activities, positions of leadership, special projects that contributed to the learning experience.

Advanced Technologies Academy High School

- National Honor Society
- Forensic Team – Lincoln Debate Team
- Key Club – various service projects
- Internship with Eighth Judicial District Court – Family Division

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- National Honor Society – Delegate to Presidential Inauguration
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

9. List names and addresses of law schools attended; degree and date awarded; your rank in your graduating class; if more than one law school attended, explain reason for change.

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, 3200 Fifth Ave., Sacramento, CA 95817

- Juris Doctorate – 2013
- Rank - 52/250

10. Indicate whether you were employed during law school, whether the employment was full-time or part-time, the nature of your employment, the name(s) of your employer(s), and dates of employment.

Employed full time during summers as a law clerk with Jolly Urga Wirth Woodbury & Standish. Summer of 2011 and 2012. See above for additional details of employment.

11. Describe significant law school activities including offices held, other leadership positions, clinics participated in, and extracurricular activities.

- Graduate, with Distinction
- Traynor Honor Society Member
- Dean's Honors List – 2011, 2012, 2013
- Witkin Award Recipient – Civil Procedure and Global Lawyer Skills II (Second Year Legal Writing)
- Chief Managing Editor, McGeorge Law Review, Volume 44
- Comment Staff Writer, McGeorge Law Review, Volume 43

Law Practice

12. State the year you were admitted to the Nevada Bar.

2013

13. Name states (other than Nevada) where you are or were admitted to practice law and your year of admission.

California - 2014

14. Have you ever been suspended, disbarred, or voluntarily resigned from the practice of law in Nevada or any other state? If so, describe the circumstance, dates, and locations.

No.

15. Estimate what percentage of your work over the last five years has involved litigation matters, distinguishing between trial and appellate courts. For judges, answer questions 16-20 for the five years directly preceding your appointment or election to the bench.

Litigation Matters – 80%

- Trial – 99%
- Appellate – 1%

16. Estimate percentage of time spent on:

Legal Discipline	Percentage of Practice
Domestic/family	65%
Juvenile matters	
Trial court civil	13%
Appellate civil	
Trial court criminal	
Appellate criminal	
Administrative litigation	2%
Other: Please describe	Estate Planning and Administration – 20%

17. In the past five years, what percentage of your litigation matters involved cases set for jury trials vs. non-jury trials?

Litigations matters involving trials – 75%. All trials have been non-jury trials.

18. Give the approximate number of jury cases tried to a conclusion during the past five years with you as lead counsel. Give the approximate number of non-jury cases tried to a decision in the same period.

I have not had any jury trials, as most of my practice is family/domestic matters that are never tried before a jury. I estimate that I have had approximately 45 non-jury trials in the last five years.

19. List courts and counties in any state where you have practiced in the past five years.

First Judicial District Court, Carson City, Nevada
 Second Judicial District Court, Washoe County, Nevada
 Third Judicial District Court, Lyon County, Nevada
 Seventh Judicial District Court, White Pine, Eureka and Lincoln Counties, Nevada
 Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada
 Ninth Judicial District Court, Douglas County, Nevada
 Tenth Judicial District Court, Churchill County, Nevada

Superior Court of Alameda County, California
 Superior Court of El Dorado County, California
 Superior Court of Los Angeles, California
 Superior Court of San Francisco, California
 Superior Court of Yolo County, California

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
 Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (Appellate Court for Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California)

20. List by case name and date the five cases of most significance to you (not including cases pending in which you have been involved), complete the following tables:

Case 1
Case name and date: Sloan v. Sloan, 2019
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Second Judicial District Court, The Honorable Sandra Unsworth Defendant's Counsel: Mikayla J. Miller, Esq., Joel B. Barber, Esq., and Jessica L. Barry, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case was a high conflict case which involved significant drug and alcohol use by an opposing party and significant asset waste. Navigating the Client through the complexities of a normal high conflict case, while dealing with the ever-changing counsel, sobriety, and financial status of the parties was extremely difficult, but ultimately very rewarding. Given the connection and commitment I made to the Client, I ultimately continued on in this case in a Pro Bono manner. This case went to trial during the COVID-19 Pandemic, being my first trial conducted via Zoom.
Your role in the case: Lead Counsel for Plaintiff.

Case 2
Case name and date: Peterson v. Saldana, 2021
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Second Judicial District Court, The Honorable Cynthia Lu Petitioner's Counsel: Sara Glover, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case involved a jurisdictional dispute between the State of Nevada and the Yerington Paiute Tribe. There were significant legal and factual disputes related to the minor child's "Home State", considering the overlap of territorial boundaries. As with many Nevada Tribes, many of their offices, services, and resources are outside of the territorial boundaries of the Tribe, while the physical home is located within the territorial boundary. Navigating that, along with the UCCJEA and Tribal Law implications, as well as the different procedures and evidentiary standards, was intellectually challenging and extremely interesting.
Your role in the case: Lead Counsel for Respondent.

Case 3
Case name and date: Chowanski v. Noftsker, 2018
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: First Judicial District Court, The Honorable James Wilson Plaintiff's Counsel: Charles Zumpft, Esq. and Neal Faulk, Esq. Defendant's Counsel: Allison Joffe, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This was the first case in which I was appointed as a neutral Guardian ad Litem. The case initially involved allegations of neglect which prompted a request to relocate the minor child out of state. I spent significant time interviewing the minor child, the parties, family members, and teachers to complete a report with recommendations related to the best interests of the minor child. The case ended up going trial with both parties represented. Several years later, the parties came back before the Court, both in proper person. During this round, I was able to interview the minor child and the parties, which ultimately revealed that they were very close to an agreement. With the Court's permission, I assisted the parties in mediating and ultimately resolving the issues pending before the Court. This case was significant because I found it very rewarding to be a true neutral instead of an advocate for a particular side and to be able to develop a relationship with the minor child and the parties, such that I could mediate to resolve their issues.
Your role in the case: Court Appointed Guardian ad Litem.

Case 4
Case name and date: Clontz, et al. v. Elliott, et al., 2017
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: First Judicial District Court, The Honorable James Wilson Plaintiffs' Counsel: Frank Flaherty, Esq. and Kirk Brennan, Esq. Defendant's Counsel: Thomas McGrath, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case involved interesting legal and factual issues surrounding the sale of real property in Carson City. I represented the sellers of the real property, who struggled with understanding the process of litigation. Guiding and advising the individuals through significant pre-trial discovery, motion practice, depositions, and ultimately preparing for trial, was challenging. There was little guidance on the legal issues, a language barrier for one of my clients, and one of my first cases involving the use of experts. This case helped me shape how I interact with clients and ensure that they understand the process of litigation,

the legal and factual issues that the Court considers, and feel as though their voices are heard throughout the process.

Your role in the case: Lead Counsel for Co-Defendants.

Case 5

Case name and date: *In re Guardianship of Estate of Radabaugh*, 2018.

Court and presiding judge and all counsel: First Judicial District Court, The Honorable James Wilson,

Counsel for Protected Person: Jennifer Anderson, Esq., Jennifer Richards, Esq., and David Spitzer, Esq.

Counsel for Interested Parties: Patricia Halstead, Esq.

Counsel for Jennifer Anderson, Esq. on Writ Petition: Elizabeth M. Bittner, Esq.

Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:

This case was important because it answered the simple question of what happens when a spouse serving as guardian wants to divorce the protected person; the answer was much more complex. This case involved not just a guardianship of the estate, but a divorce, Rule 11 Sanctions, a Writ Petition to the Supreme Court of Nevada, an investigation of a former fiduciary, all while navigating the overhaul of the guardianship statutes. In 2018, the overhauled guardianship statutes and the Protected Person's Bill of Rights came into effect. This case was initiated prior to 2016, so there was a significant transition of administration of the Protected Person's guardianship.

During the divorce, it became clear that a fiduciary had been allowing waste of the estate and likely mismanaging the Protected Person's trust for years. I sought and obtained the appointment of the Guardianship Compliance Office to assist with the investigation. Ultimately, the Protected Person's trust became subject to the jurisdiction of the Court in the guardianship to ease with administration and ensure that there was fluid administration of the Protected Person's entire estate.

This case also involved questions of first impression regarding the difference between the guardianship of a person versus the guardianship of the estate. Questions that required extensive research included whether a guardian of the estate can restrict expenses for lawful activity, such as gambling, legal prostitution, and cohabitating with individuals who have previously exploited the individual. Ultimately, I was able to assist the Guardian with negotiations with the Protected Person's counsel to resolve the issues without litigation. This allowed the Guardian to gain credibility with the Protected Person while ensuring the Protected Person was safe and could not be financially exploited.

This case was impactful because it demonstrated that even the most seemingly simple question can lead to a complex web of legal issues. It also was insightful to see how the Court, counsel, and litigants adapted to a substantial change in the law that required

immediate attention and action to ensure that our most vulnerable population were protected, while respecting the legislator's intent to put as least restrictions on individuals as possible.
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Your role in the case: Lead Counsel for Private Guardians

21. Do you now serve, or have you previously served as a mediator, an arbitrator, a part-time or full-time judicial officer, or a quasi-judicial officer? To the extent possible, explain each experience.

Yes. I have served as a mediator in some of the cases in which I have acted as a neutral, guardian ad litem, with the Court's prior permission. These cases involve issues related to child custody and support.

22. Describe any pro bono or public interest work as an attorney.

- Volunteer with the Ask-A-Lawyer Programs in Carson City and Douglas County through Nevada Legal Services.
- Pro Bono Representation of Clients through Nevada Legal Services.
- Serving Seniors Events through Nevada Legal Services.
- Volunteer with the Lawyer in the Lobby Program through the Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada.
- Appointed as neutral guardian ad litem through the First Judicial District Court.
- Appointed as counsel for civil termination of parental right actions through the First Judicial District Court and the Ninth Judicial District Court.

23. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are or have been a member. Give titles and dates of offices held. List chairs or committees in such groups you believe to be of significance. Exclude information regarding your political affiliation.

First Judicial District Bar Association – 2017 to 2020.

American Bar Association – 2013 to Present.

State Bar of California – 2014 to Present.

State Bar of Nevada – 2013 to Present.

- Young Lawyers Section, Executive Committee Member – 2014 to Present.
- Young Lawyers Section, Newsletter Co-Chair – 2014- 2016

Nevada Justice Association – 2014 to Present.

- Co-Chair of the Club X Committee 2020-2021

24. List all courses, seminars, or institutes you have attended relating to continuing legal education during the past five years. Are you in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to you as a lawyer or judge?

Yes, I am in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements. The following is a list of the courses, seminars, or institutes in the past five years:

- Uses and Abuses of Generative AI and the Ethics of Its Use by Attorneys and Judges
- Chat GPT & Large Language Models: Your Questions Answered
- Ethical Considerations in Public Sector Law
- Biased? Me? The Biology Psychology Decision-making
- Ethical Issues Concerning Metadata and Client Communications
- Holistic Mental Health for Lawyers
- DIDS Second Annual Conference, Day 2: Investigators
- 40 Hour Basic Mediation Training
- Smart Starter Law Practice Series: Ethically Manage Firm Finances
- Family Law; Child Support
- Preventing Business Burnout: A Panel Discussion
- Updates to the First Judicial District Court Rules
- Using Life Impact Stories in Your Case
- Are You In The Way of Winning at Trial?
- Bankruptcy CLE
- Catapulting Your Practice & Avoiding Stress, Depression & Addiction
- Defusing Bullies
- Best Practices – Diversity Considerations in Your Law Practice
- Western States Regional Summit
- Addiction 101: A Primer for Substance Use Disorders
- An Evening with the Nevada Supreme Court
- As Judges See It: Top Mistakes Attorneys Make in Civil Litigation
- Compulsive Behavior & Mental Well-Being

25. Do you have Professional Liability Insurance or do you work for a governmental agency?

Professional Liability Insurance.

Business & Occupational Experience

26. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than a judicial officer or the practice of law? If yes, please list, including the dates of your involvement with the occupation, business, or profession.

Yes. During high school, I worked at the MGM Grand Las Vegas in the arcade, Levi's Outlet Retail Store, and Memphis Championship Barbeque as a hostess. All other work has been in the legal field and is outlined above.

27. Do you currently serve or have you in the past served as a manager, officer, or director of any business enterprise, including a law practice? If so, please provide details as to:

- a. the nature of the business
- b. the nature of your duties
- c. the extent of your involvement in the administration or management of the business
- d. the terms of your service

e. the percentage of your ownership

N/A.

28. List experience as an executor, trustee, or in any other fiduciary capacity. Give name, address, position title, nature of your duties, terms of service and, if any, the percentage of your ownership.

I currently serve as a guardian for a minor child.

Civic Professional & Community Involvement
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29. Have you ever held an elective or appointive public office in this or any other state?

No.

Have you been a candidate for such an office?

No.

If so, give details, including the offices involved, whether initially appointed or elected, and the length of service. Exclude political affiliation.

30. State significant activities in which you have taken part, giving dates and offices or leadership positions.

In addition to being on the Executive Committee for the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Nevada, I was also the sole Serving Seniors committee member, coordinating the Serving Seniors event with Nevada Legal Services for several years. The Serving Seniors event is a yearly, nationwide event, where attorneys work with seniors to typically provide free, thirty (30) minute consultations to assist senior citizens across the State of Nevada with their legal questions. Seniors would often ask about landlord/tenant issues, estate planning, or creditor rights; having a breadth of knowledge about different areas of law and also the various resources available to seniors was always a benefit.

**Public Comment before the Legislature on proposed changes to guardianship law on effects in the rural counties.

31. Describe any courses taught at law schools or continuing education programs. Describe any lectures delivered at bar association conferences.

Trusts-Made Simple: Ethical Considerations for Trust Preparation, 2017. This presentation was during an all-day conference wherein the attendees were provided with the basics of trusts as part of overall estate planning. I presented on the many different ethical considerations that go into trust preparations, going through many hypotheticals that effect everyday practice.

32. List educational, military service, service to your country, charitable, fraternal and church activities you deem significant. Indicate leadership positions.

Throughout my education and career, I have always felt that educating the public helps close the gap between “the law” and everyday life. During law school I was involved in a Street Law program, where a handful of law students would go into the local high school, every week, to teach Street Law. I worked in the local underprivileged high school, where many of the students were already exposed to the law. Destigmatizing law enforcement, while also educating students on their basic rights and laws, helped the students be more confident and less afraid while walking too and from school. As part of their final examination, the students put on a mock trial, each playing the role of an attorney and a witness, that was put on at the Federal courthouse in Sacramento, California. As many of these students were unable to afford to purchase a suit or court-appropriate attire, my teammates and myself were able to work with local charitable organizations to get donations. The students performed their mock trial in front of a federal district court judge, local attorneys, and court staff, all of whom were extremely impressed with the students’ performance. This was truly a highlight of my law school experience.

33. List honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition.

- Young Lawyer of the Year, State Bar of Nevada, 2019
- Champions of Justice – Small Firm Award, Nevada Legal Services, 2015
- Traynor Honor Society, McGeorge School of Law, 2013

34. Have you at any time in the last 12 months belonged to, or do you currently belong to, any club or organization that in practice or policy restricts (or restricted during the time of your membership) its membership on the basis of race, religion, creed, national origin or sex? If so, detail the name and nature of the club(s) or organization(s), relevant policies and practices, and whether you intend to continue as a member if you are selected for this vacancy.

No.

35. List books, articles, speeches and public statements published, or examples of opinions rendered, with citations and dates.

Fresh Perspectives: A Call for Expediency, Young Lawyers Section Newsletter, State Bar of Nevada, 2014.

36. During the past ten years, have you been registered to vote?

Yes.

Have you voted in the general elections held in those years?

Yes.

37. List avocational interests and hobbies.

Hiking and camping.

Conduct

38. Have you read the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct and are you able to comply if appointed?

Yes.

39. Have you ever been convicted of or formally found to be in violation of federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation? Provide details of circumstances, charges, and dispositions.

No.

40. Have you ever been sanctioned, disciplined, reprimanded, found to have breached an ethics rule or to have acted unprofessionally by any judicial or bar association discipline commission, other professional organization or administrative body or military tribunal? If yes, explain. If the disciplinary action is confidential, please respond to the corresponding question in the confidential section.

No.

41. Have you ever been dropped, suspended, disqualified, expelled, dismissed from, or placed on probation at any college, university, professional school or law school for any reason including scholastic, criminal, or moral? If yes, explain.

No.

42. Have you ever been refused admission to or been released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable discharge? If yes, explain.

No.

43. Has a lien ever been asserted against you or any property of yours that was not discharged within 30 days? If yes, explain.

No.

44. Has any Bankruptcy Court in a case where you are or were the debtor, entered an order providing a creditor automatic relief from the bankruptcy stay (providing in rem relief) in any present or future bankruptcy case, related to property in which you have an interest?

No.

45. Are you aware of anything that may require you to recuse or disqualify yourself from hearing a case if you are appointed to serve as a member of the judiciary? If so, please describe the circumstances where you may be required to recuse or disqualify yourself.

No.

Other

46. If you have previously submitted a questionnaire or Application to this or any other judicial nominating commission, please provide the name of the commission, the approximate date(s) of submission, and the result.

N/A.

47. In no more than three pages (double spaced) attached to this Application, provide a statement describing what you believe sets you apart from your peers, and explains what education, experience, personality or character traits you possess, or have acquired, that you feel qualify you as a supreme court justice. In so doing, address appellate, civil (including family law matters), and criminal processes (including criminal sentencing).

See attached Personal Statement.

48. Detail any further information relative to your judicial candidacy that you desire to call to the attention of the members of the Commission on Judicial Selection.

My overall purpose in applying for appointment is to serve the community. I have a breadth of knowledge and experience that is specially suited to a District Court Judge. I find being able to be a neutral party who is able to analyze the facts and apply the law has been the most rewarding experiences throughout my career. I am a true student of the law and enjoy the opportunity to face new challenges, be it legal or factual in nature. The citizens of Carson City deserve a knowledgeable and fair judge who presides in cases involving the most important decisions in their lives. I know that I will be just that judge.

49. Attach a sample of no more than ten pages of your original writing in the form of a decision, "points and authorities," or appellate brief generated within the past five years, which demonstrates your ability to write in a logical, cohesive, concise, organized, and persuasive fashion.

See attached Writing Sample.

When my fifth-grade teacher commented to my parents after a classroom debate that I should consider being a lawyer, I had no idea what that all would entail. But that idea in fifth grade sparked an interest and my life's trajectory was set. My mother, a career civil servant with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), supported the idea of my pursuing a career in justice and exposed me to different opportunities in the justice system. From having the unique opportunity to attend Take Your Daughter to Work Day events through LVMPD, to locating and encouraging me to apply to the Law Related Education program at Advanced Technologies Academy (A-Tech), my mother has, and continues to be, my biggest fan. My mother also taught me that having a supportive family is a privilege that not all enjoy. Volunteering at Olive Crest and SafeNest to help foster children and domestic violence victims was an important part of my upbringing to ensure that I was helping my community where the need was the greatest.

This dedication to community service led me to an internship with then Hearing Master Frank P. Sullivan, who was presiding over matters in child abuse and neglect cases. This internship led to a part-time job at the Family Courthouse of the Eighth Judicial District Court. I worked primarily as an Office Assistant in the Court Administrator's Office, but with the collaborative nature of the courthouse, I was often tasked with projects in specific chambers, and I eventually filled in for the Judicial Executive Assistant to the Hearing Masters over the Juvenile Delinquency matters. But what I found most rewarding while working at the Family Courthouse was the interface with the public. I was communicating with individuals who were seeking assistance from the court, whose lives were directly impacted by the court's decisions. I was able to witness firsthand that a judge's demeanor and attention from the bench was often a crucial part of how the public perceived and understood, or misunderstood, their rulings. Frequently, I observed that even

if a judge did not decide in a person's favor, when the judge was compassionate, educational, and impartial, the parties perceived that at least their case was fairly heard and decided.

I have remembered and implemented that experience throughout my legal career, approaching each client with compassion, to ensure that they are educated about their cases, and giving my impartial opinion, even if that is not the ultimate position taken in court. I have found that when a client is aware of the facts, the legal issues, and potential outcomes, regardless of the court's decision, they have an exponentially better view of the justice system because there are no surprises. I have also experienced instances when a client is successful on the merits, but felt that the judge came into the hearing cold, demeaning, or with the perception that they have already decided the matter before being heard. They were much more likely to feel as though there was no justice in their case. These feelings are not limited to family court; they extend to every person who enters the courthouse.

Throughout my practice, I have had the privilege to represent individuals and businesses in many areas of the law. I have worked primarily in Northern Nevada, and more specifically, in the First Judicial District Court. My clients have needed representation in divorce matters, child custody and support issues, temporary restraining orders, juvenile delinquency, guardianships for both adults and minors, probate and trust litigation, real estate disputes, large commercial landlord/tenant matters, business litigation, personal injury, and general civil litigation. Additionally, early on in my career, I handled administrative cases and filed several Petitions for Judicial Review in worker's compensation matters. I have thoroughly enjoyed the breadth of my practice, which is why I have maintained a general practice.

While advocating for clients is a highlight of my day-to-day practice, being able to stay abreast of the various areas of law that clients bring to me is perhaps one of the most enjoyable

parts of my career. I enjoy researching the law, reveling in the fact that Nevada is so unique to have many areas of law that force practitioners to look outside of the boundaries of our state. I have also had the unique privilege of being licensed and practicing in one of the local tribal courts, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe). The Washoe Tribe has a territory that overlaps part of Carson City, where its members regularly work, attend school, and receive services. It is not enough for local practitioners to just be aware of the geographical and legal overlap, but it is imperative to be knowledgeable of the various implications that will necessarily affect people who come before the court. Too often, there have been times where an action has been filed in the wrong jurisdiction, resulting in the delay of the matter being heard.

I know that my commitment to community, ability to be compassionate, to educate, and to be impartial, as well as the extensive breadth of practice throughout my career, have readied me to not only be qualified for, but to excel as a district court judge. While my peers may possess these qualities, most do not have the breadth and depth of experience as I do. I have had the great opportunity and pleasure to work in most aspects of the legal/judicial system, from file-clerk in a law firm, to court administration, to a seasoned attorney. My desire to serve as a district court judge comes down to something quite simple: I want to be the positive impact on the community that a compassionate, impartial judge can provide – to ensure that justice is done to provide the stability, safety, and fairness that the people served by the First Judicial District Court are entitled to and deserve.

THIS WRITING SAMPLE HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO ELIMINATE SPECIFIC DATES AND NAMES TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE MINOR CHILD

ORDER AFTER ** HEARING

This matter came before the Court on ** after due notice was provided to all interested parties. The Court previously issued a Hearing Order, which indicated that the purpose of the evidentiary hearing was on [FATHER]'s Petition to Terminate Guardianship filed ** and Motion to See Child filed **.

Petitioner, [FATHER], was present in proper person. Co-Guardians, [GUARDIAN 1] and [GUARDIAN 2] (collectively referred to herein as "Guardians"), were present in proper person. The Court-Appointed Guardian Ad Litem, AMBER J. HANDY ("Ms. Handy"), was also present in person.

After a review of the pleadings and papers on file, the arguments and statements presented at trial, this Court finds as follows:

1. That the Court has jurisdiction over the Parties and over the protected minor child, to wit: [MINOR CHILD].

2. The Court finds that [MINOR CHILD] has continued under the care of the Court appointed Guardians. [MOTHER], [MINOR CHILD]'s biological mother, and [FATHER], [MINOR CHILD]'s biological father, both initially consented to the guardianship.

3. [FATHER] filed his Petition to Terminate Guardianship on **. [FATHER] caused a Citation to Appear and Show Cause regarding the termination, which was set for hearing on **. At the time of the hearing, the Guardians objected to the termination of the Guardianship. The Court set the matter for a contested evidentiary hearing which was scheduled for **.

4. The Court previously appointed a Guardian ad Litem for the best interests of [MINOR CHILD]. The Guardian ad Litem reported that she interviewed [FATHER], the Guardians, and [MOTHER].

5. [FATHER] reported a very strong bond with [MINOR CHILD] and a desire to be an active role and parent in [MINOR CHILD]'s life. [FATHER] reported that he is more than thirty (30) days sober, that he has a stable job, and has a safe vehicle with a car seat for [MINOR

CHILD]. When asked if the guardianship were terminated, where would [MINOR CHILD] stay with [FATHER], [FATHER] was unable to provide the Guardian ad Litem an answer; however, at the Court [FATHER] indicated he has money set aside and has secured a new living situation. This was unable to be verified by any other party. Subsequent to the hearing, [FATHER] submitted to a urine drug test which was presumptively negative, except for marijuana.

6. The Guardians reported that they have [MINOR CHILD]'s best interests at heart and have stepped in to care for [MINOR CHILD] due to [FATHER]'s prior incarceration and [MOTHER]'s drug use. The Guardians indicated both to the Guardian ad Litem and the Court that they do not desire the guardianship to be long term but wanted to provide [MINOR CHILD] with stability. The Guardians reported that they are concerned about [FATHER]'s drug use. [FATHER] had previously been testing voluntarily at the home of the Guardians and so long as he was clean, that the Guardians wanted [FATHER] to visit with [MINOR CHILD]. The Guardians only stopped allowing [FATHER] from seeing [MINOR CHILD] when [FATHER] began refusing to submit to testing. The Guardians are concerned with [FATHER]'s current living situation and adamantly believe that it is not safe for [MINOR CHILD].

7. [MOTHER] reported that she also objected to the termination of the guardianship, believing that [MINOR CHILD] is safe and stable and neither herself nor [FATHER] are in a stable enough condition to provide appropriate care for [MINOR CHILD].

8. The Court finds that the "parental preference" presumption applies, given [FATHER]'s prior consent to the guardianship. *Litz v. Bennum*, 111 Nev. 35, 38, 888 P.2d 438, 440 (1995). However, the Court must also consider whether [FATHER] is a fit parent under NRS 159A.061(3). The Court finds that given [FATHER]'s inability to provide shelter for [MINOR CHILD], along with his not-so-distant drug use and interactions with the law, he is not fit pursuant to NRS 159A.061(4)(a). Therefore, the parental preference presumption is rebutted by the finding of his unfitness. As a result, [FATHER] must show by clear and convincing evidence that:

- (a) There has been a material change of circumstances since the time the guardianship was created. The parent must show that, as part of the change of circumstances, the parent has been restored to suitability as described in NRS

159A.061;

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the welfare of the protected minor would be substantially enhanced by the termination of the guardianship and the placement of the protected minor with the parent.

NRS 159A.1915

9. The Court finds that there has not been a material change of circumstances since the time of the guardianship was created. While [FATHER] is no longer incarcerated and is not on probation or any oversight for criminal charges, [FATHER] has admitted to continued drug use of methamphetamine after his release from incarceration.

10. The Court finds that [FATHER] has failed to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the welfare of [MINOR CHILD] would be substantially enhanced by the termination of the guardianship and the placement of [MINOR CHILD] with [FATHER]. While [FATHER] is currently sober, has stable employment, and a safe vehicle, [FATHER] has not demonstrated stable housing. [FATHER] acknowledged that he does not have a dedicated room at his mother's residence. With the Guardians, [MINOR CHILD] has safe, clean, and stable housing. Furthermore, the Court agrees with the concerns of the Guardians regarding [FATHER]'s addiction. [FATHER] has not demonstrated a substantial length of sobriety without significant relapse.

11. The Court has considered the best interest factors pursuant to NRS 125C.0035(4) and makes the following findings:

a. [MINOR CHILD] is a nineteen (19) month old and is not able to express a desire regarding her custodial preference. Therefore, this factor does not apply.

b. [MOTHER] has nominated the Guardians as the preferred custodial placement. [FATHER] initially consented to the guardianship as well.

c. [FATHER] believes that the Guardians have not permitted frequent associations between himself and [MINOR CHILD]. However, the Guardians have demonstrated that, at least when [FATHER] was willing to submit to tests, [GUARDIAN 2] was willing to work with [FATHER] to permit visitation. The Court believes that the Guardians would follow any court ordered visitation, so this factor is neutral.

d. The conflict between the parties is moderate. [FATHER] and [GUARDIAN 2] both report that they have generally been able to communicate well and keep focused on [MINOR CHILD]. However, [FATHER] and [GUARDIAN 1] are not able to communicate well with one another.

e. The parties have not been able to cooperate to meet the needs of [MINOR CHILD]; each side's perspective is blaming the other's lack of action and communication. Regardless, [MINOR CHILD] is well taken care of by the Guardians.

f. [FATHER] reports a strong bond with [MINOR CHILD]. The Guardians also report a strong bond and desire to protect [MINOR CHILD]. Neither parties' relationship is better or worse and neither is inappropriate.

g. The Guardians have reported concerns regarding [FATHER]'s drug use and mental health that have a direct impact on his ability to care for [MINOR CHILD].

h. [MINOR CHILD] appears to be well adjusted and for all intents and purposes is a healthy and happy nineteen (19) month old.

i. [MINOR CHILD] has a biological sister on her mother's side, [SISTER], whom the Guardians also have guardianship over. [MINOR CHILD] is able to continue to have a meaningful relationship with [SISTER]. [MINOR CHILD] has a biological sister on her father's side, whom neither the Guardians nor [FATHER] have custody over. However, [MOTHER] has reported that she has some contact with that child's mother.

j. No party to this action has been charged with abuse or neglect of a child or a sibling of [MINOR CHILD]. However, both [MOTHER] and [FATHER] indicated that prior to the guardianship, they were both on and off users of methamphetamine, while they had custody. [MOTHER] reported to the Guardian ad Litem that she handed over custody of her two children to the Guardians to specifically avoid any issues and to ensure that they were safe.

k. There was no evidence presented regarding domestic violence. However, the Court notes that [MOTHER] had previously filed for a temporary protection order against [FATHER], which contained significant allegations of domestic violence. The Court did not

extend that protection order because neither of the parties had custody of [MINOR CHILD]. No party has been convicted of domestic violence.

1. There is no evidence that any party has committed an act of abduction.

12. Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that it is clear that [FATHER] has actually demonstrated a desire to support [MINOR CHILD]. However, it is also clear that [FATHER] is not currently able to provide appropriate care for [MINOR CHILD]. While [FATHER] is currently demonstrating good progress in his sobriety, his employment stability, and vehicle, there is much room for growth that has a direct impact on his ability to care for [MINOR CHILD]. Therefore, the Court finds that it is not in the best interests of [MINOR CHILD] to terminate the Guardianship.

13. However, the Court finds that so long as [FATHER] remains clean and sober and continues to make progress in his own life, he should have visitation with [MINOR CHILD], as it is in her best interest to have safe and sober parents. The Court is concerned that leaving the status quo in place without a specific visitation schedule or specific requirement for drug testing, that the parties will continue to have a contentious relationship, which will require significant, ongoing litigation and the need to file even more motions.

14. The Court finds that [MINOR CHILD]'s best interests are served, as follows:

a. The Guardians shall continue to have legal and physical custody of [MINOR CHILD].

b. [FATHER] should be awarded visitation with [MINOR CHILD]. Based on his reported work schedule, the Court finds that [FATHER] should have visitation with [MINOR CHILD] on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning **. The Guardians reported a prior vacation planned for the weekend of **, therefore, [FATHER] should have some visitation on Wednesday, **, and after the parties return home on **, as mutually agreed upon between the parties.

c. [FATHER] is specifically prohibited from ingesting or otherwise using any illegal controlled substance at any time. Furthermore, during the times that he has visitation with

[MINOR CHILD], he shall not use marijuana.

d. [FATHER] shall be subject to and be required to submit to a drug test as may be requested by the Guardian ad Litem. The requesting party shall text the other that they are demanding the party to submit to the test. The requesting party will preserve the text message as evidence. When demanded, the testing party will have one business day (business days do not include holidays or weekends) to complete the test at the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS). The DAS office is on the second floor of the courthouse, 885 East Musser Street, in Carson City. DAS is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Sundays and some holidays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

e. Until the next Court hearing, [FATHER] shall be responsible for all testing fees.

f. There is no excuse for failing to take a required test within one business day. So, if a party's cell phone battery dies, loses their phone, or any other event occurs which interferes with them receiving the requesting party's demand that they test, they need to immediately remedy the situation. In the event that a party believes that they may be in an area with little or no service, it shall be that party's responsibility to inform the other to ensure that test requests are not missed. Failure to take a test within one business day is the same as a failed test. If [FATHER] tests positive for any illegal substance, the test is diluted, or they fail to take the test, their right to visitation of the minor child is automatically suspended until the Court holds a further hearing.

g. Any findings of fact which is more appropriately designated as a conclusion of law, shall be deemed as such. Any conclusion of law which is more appropriately designated as a finding of fact, shall be deemed as such.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that [FATHER]'s Petition to Terminate Guardianship is DENIED without prejudice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing visitation schedule and testing requirements are an order of this Court and incorporated herein as though fully restated herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this matter is set for a hearing on **, at 2:00 p.m. for 1 hour and 15 minutes. The purpose of this hearing is to check on the status of the Guardianship and visitation and to hear any motions that are pending at that time. Additionally, so long as [GUARDIAN 2] has not been subpoenaed to appear as a witness, or unless he would like to be present, [GUARDIAN 2]'s presence at the status hearing is excused.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE