

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION
APPLICATION
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
DEPARTMENT 11

By

Chris William Davis
(Insert applicant name)



**SECTION I: PUBLIC INFORMATION
(QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 47)**

Personal Information

- 1. **Full Name:** Chris William Davis
- 2. **Have you ever used or been known by any other legal name? No. If so, state name and reason for the name change:** Not Applicable.
- 3. **Work Address:**

Chris Davis
 Deputy Attorney General
 Office of the Attorney General
 Grant Sawyer Building
 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
 Las Vegas, NV 89101

- 4. **How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?**

I have been a continuous resident of Nevada for twenty-two (22) years.

- 5. **Age:** sixty-one (61) years old.
 (NRS 3.060 states that a district judge must be at least 25 years old.)

Employment History

- 6. **Using the format provided in Attachment "A" please start with your current employment or most recent employment, self-employment, and periods of unemployment for the 20 years immediately preceding the filing of this Application.**

See Attachment "A."

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.**

Western High School; 4601 W. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89107; September 1975 - June 1977; High School Diploma; Early Graduation.

Brigham Young University; Provo, Utah 84602; August 1977 - April 1979, October 1981 - April 1984; January 1985 - August 1985; B. A. in Political Science. I initially left in 1979 to serve a two (2) year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I left in 1984 for

a brief academic suspension which was the result of a broken marriage engagement which interfered with my ability to concentrate on school work. I then left in 1985 to start my own computer consulting business. I ultimately graduated from Brigham Young University in August 1992.

University of Utah; 201 South 1460 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112; September 1989 - May 1992; I left to attend Law School.

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

During High School, I was an active participant in Debate and the Varsity Quiz television program. While in Debate, I took Second (2nd) place in the Clark County Debate Championship.

At Brigham Young University, I was one of the founding student organizers of a statewide exit poll for the 1982 election. To conduct the poll, we recruited eleven (11) other colleges and universities from around the state of Utah. I participated in the creation of a training video which was used to provide instruction to the other colleges and universities on proper polling techniques and led training at Utah State University. I also assisted in the creation of proper exit poll questions which were designed to more fully understand the reasons for the election results. I was given the opportunity to interview Senator Orrin Hatch, which interview was broadcast on election day. On election day, I was charged with supervising pollsters to insure that proper polling techniques were used. After the election, I helped analyze the election data obtained so that the results could be published. The poll was the most accurate predictor of election results in the state of Utah that year, and even accurately predicted the election results of a race that was determined by less than 1% of the vote. The poll still continues to provide Utah's most accurate polling data for local, state, and national elections. See <http://exitpoll.byu.edu/>.

At the University of Utah, I was selected to intern for Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, Robert Bishop. While working for Speaker Bishop, I was tasked with reviewing legislation to provide input as to the legislation's suitability. I also attended committee meetings on behalf of Speaker Bishop to report on the results of those meetings. I also had the opportunity to draft legislation, which was introduced into the House of Representatives.

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.

Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; 2121 Euclid Avenue, LB 138, Cleveland, Ohio 44115; August 1992 - May 1993. I left Cleveland-Marshall because I was ranked second (2nd) in my class, which allowed me to transfer to the University of Utah College of Law and take advantage of in-state tuition.

University of Utah; 332 South 1400 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112; August 1993 - May 1995; J.D., May 1995; I graduated in the top 25% of my class.

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.

I was employed part-time during law school at the firm of McMurray, McMurray, Dale and Parkinson, in Salt Lake City, Utah, as a law clerk, from December 1992 to May 1995. After graduation, I was employed by the firm as an attorney.

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

While at the University of Utah College of Law, I externed for a clinic at the Utah Legal Aid Society and helped litigate family law matters. I was also twice named as a William H. Leary Scholar, an award given to students in the top 10% of their class for a semester.

Law Practice

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

I was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada in October 1998.

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

I was admitted to the Utah State Bar in October 1995.

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, I have never been suspended, disbarred, or voluntarily resigned from the practice of law in Nevada or any other state.

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.

Over the past five years approximately 65% of my time has been involved in litigation matters. Of that time, approximately 75% is before trial courts and 25% is before appellate courts.

16. Estimate percentage of time spent on (1) domestic/family and juvenile law matters, (2) civil litigation, (3) criminal matters, and (4) administrative litigation.

My percentage of time spent on domestic/family and juvenile law matters is approximately 1%. Approximately 80% of my time is spent on civil litigation, 4% on criminal matters, and 15% on litigating administrative matters.

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

Approximately 30% of my litigation matters involved cases set for jury trials, while 70% of my litigation matters involved cases set for 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 tried any jury cases to a conclusion during the past five years. I have only tried one case to a conclusion in a court of record: *Rojas-Lopez v. Thomason*, Case No. A-09-589685-C, before the Nevada District Court for the Eighth Judicial District. I was sole counsel for the City of North Las Vegas at the bench trial.

In my career, I have been very fortunate to secure judgment on behalf of my clients through motions to dismiss or motions for summary judgment in many of the cases I have litigated. While I have prepared for trial on numerous occasions, the remainder of the court cases were resolved either through mandatory mediation required by Eighth Judicial District Court Rules for cases under \$50,000.00, or through settlement on terms favorable to my client.

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

Nevada Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Nevada Second Judicial District Court, Washoe County, Nevada

Nevada Supreme Court, Clark County, Nevada.

United States District Court for the District of Nevada, Clark County, Nevada.

United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada, Clark County, Nevada.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, San Francisco, 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), and list or describe:

- a. case name and date,**
- b. court and presiding judge and all counsel**
- c. the importance of each case to you and the impact of each case on you,**
- d. your role in the case.**

1. I successfully defended the Sahara Las Vegas (“Sahara”) against a class action asserting claims for refund of taxes allegedly paid in violation of the Internet Tax Freedom Act, filed as *Cabral v. Caesars Entertainment Corporation*, Case No. A-18-780380-C, file filed in 2018. The case was filed in Nevada Eighth Judicial District Court, before Honorable Mark R. Denton, with Don Springmeyer and Bradley Schrage representing Plaintiffs. I served as sole counsel for the Sahara before the district court and the bench

before the Nevada Supreme Court in *Cabral v. Caesars Entertainment Corporation*, Case No. 78580. When the Meruelo Group purchased the Sahara, they offered me the position to serve as the only attorney at the property based on my successful representation of their other hotel the Grand Sierra Resort. While my title was Associate General Counsel, I functionally served as general counsel for the Sahara. Rather than send the matter to outside counsel, I volunteered to take on the case in order to reduce expenditures for the new enterprise. Even though the Sahara had no other legal staff, I drafted a successful motion to dismiss which analyzed complex issues involving the Internet Tax Freedom Act, including: statutory interpretation, private rights of action, preemption, deceptive trade practices, and Nevada tax law. I would be able to use these skills to analyze the complex and novel issues faced by the Nevada District Court, while conserving the resources of both the Court and the parties.

2. I successfully defended Grand Sierra Resorts (“GSR”) against a class action asserting statutory wage and discrimination claims in *Sargent v. Hg Staffing, LLC*, Case No. 3:13-CV-00453-LRH-WGC, filed in 2013. The case was filed in United States District Court for the District of Nevada, before the Honorable Larry R. Hicks, with H. Stan Johnson, Esq. also representing GSR. Plaintiffs were represented by Mark R. Thierman, Joshua D Buck, and Leah Jones. When I was first assigned as counsel, the case had already been provisionally approved as a collective action. I drafted a motion for summary judgment which successfully argued, among other issues, that NRS Chapter 608 did not provide for a private right of action for wages, other than claims for minimum wages. I also successfully argued that the collective action, under the Fair Labor Standards Act, should be decertified, and that state law claims should not be certified as a class action. As the Nevada Supreme Court has not yet decided whether NRS Chapter 608 provides for a private right of action, I had the opportunity to provide the same analysis required of a District Court Judge when facing an issue of first impression.
3. I successfully defended the City of North Las Vegas (the “City”) against claims of disability discrimination in *Curley v. City of North Las Vegas*, Case No. 2:09-cv-01071-KJD-VCF, filed in 2009. The case was filed in United States District Court for the District of Nevada, before the Honorable Kent J. Dawson, with Jeffrey F. Barr, Esq. also representing the City and Michael P. Balaban, Esq., representing Michael P. Curley. The case is notable because it is one of the first cases to address the expanded definition of disability under the 2008 amendment to the ADA (“ADAAA”). I served as lead counsel for the City and drafted the motion for summary judgment which successfully argued, among other issues, that Plaintiff was not disabled even under the expanded definition of a disability. Due to the novelty of the issue, I had the opportunity to hone my skills in statutory construction which will serve me well as a District Court Judge.
4. I successfully defended the City against tort claims in *Rojas-Lopez v. City of North Las Vegas*, Case No. A-09-589685-C, filed in 2009. The case was filed in Nevada Eighth Judicial District Court, before Honorable Mark R. Denton and then transferred to the Honorable Nancy L. Allf, with Jeffrey F. Barr, Esq. also representing the City, and Michael H. Hamilton, Esq. representing Plaintiffs. I served as sole counsel at the bench trial of this case and drafted the appellate brief before the Nevada Supreme Court in *City of North Las Vegas v. Rojas-Lopez*, Case No. 5993. This case was important because it

is one of the few cases I could not resolve by either motion or settlement. It is also notable because the appellate brief was the first time I argued before the Nevada Supreme Court that the Notice of Claim Statute found in NRS 268.020 did not violate the equal protection clause as held in *Turner v Staggs*, 89 Nev. 230, 235-36, 510 P.2d 879,882-83 (1973). My argument was based on *Agost v. Idaho*, 423 U.S. 993 (1975), which dismissed an appeal of an Idaho Supreme Court decision upholding an almost identical notice of claim statute against an equal protection challenge. I argued that the dismissal in *Agost* was binding precedent under *Hicks v. Miranda*, 422 U.S. 332, 343-44 (1975). In formulating this strategy, I had to rely on my ability to find creative solutions which should serve me well as a District Court Judge.

5. I successfully defended the City against claims of civil rights violations in *Rice v. City of North Las Vegas*, 2:07-cv-01192-RCJ-GWF, filed in 2007. The case was filed in United States District Court for the District of Nevada, before the Honorable Robert C. Jones, with Carrie Torrence, Esq. also representing the City, and Peter Goldstein, Esq. representing Plaintiffs. The case is notable because it involved complex Fourth Amendment issues. The case involved allegations that police officers lacked probable cause and used unreasonable force to detain Plaintiffs. While these issues were raised in a civil case, the same issues are present in criminal cases. Such civil cases are almost never decided on summary judgment due to factual disputes inherent in such cases. Drafting the successful motion for summary judgment required making fine distinctions as to what constitutes probable cause and unreasonable force. I served as lead counsel for the City and drafted the motion for summary judgment.

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.

I have served as an arbitrator and a short trial judge in Nevada for cases that have a probable jury award value not in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per plaintiff. These cases are litigated on a fast track in order to reduce the expense to taxpayers and the parties. As an arbitrator, I have entertained discovery disputes, presided over arbitrations, and rendered judgments. As a short trial judge, I have prepared for trial on two (2) occasions. As far as I am aware, none of the cases that I handled were subject to review.

I also have had significant experience as a quasi-judicial officer. I served as an attorney law clerk on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States District Court. I had the pleasure of working with two invaluable mentors, the Honorable Lloyd D. George and the Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson. While with Judge George, one of my primary responsibilities was to review all of the bankruptcy appeals. I reviewed the entire record before the bankruptcy court and the parties' appellate briefs. Under Judge George's experienced direction, I then drafted proposed opinions deciding the bankruptcy appeals. I also had the opportunity to review numerous motions to dismiss and for summary judgment on a broad range of issues which included contracts, employment discrimination, civil rights, takings, intellectual property, personal injury, governmental immunities, and unfair trade practices. After my review, I would draft proposed orders deciding those motions. I also drafted numerous proposed orders resolving evidentiary issues in both criminal and civil cases. Under Judge George's direction, I also reviewed and finalized proposed jury instructions in both civil and criminal cases. Additionally,

I reviewed sentencing reports from pretrial services and opined on whether the proposed sentences complied with federal sentencing guidelines.

Upon completion of my clerkship with Judge George, Judge Rawlinson, offered me a two-year clerkship. She was seeking an experienced law clerk, as she was a newly appointed judge. I therefore became intimately acquainted with the challenges faced by a newly appointed judge. Under Judge Rawlinson's direction, I continued my duties that I performed under Judge George. Judge Rawlinson, however, tasked me with reviewing her most difficult cases.

When Judge Rawlinson was appointed to the Ninth Circuit, she asked that I continue as her law clerk for the next two years. During my clerkship on the Ninth Circuit, I was assigned the most difficult cases by Judge Rawlinson. For example, I was responsible for reviewing all death penalty cases and all cases heard en banc. As Judge Rawlinson's confidence in my abilities grew, I was permitted to have greater input into the ultimate opinion drafted and which opinions would be published. I was one of the few Ninth Circuit law clerks permitted to attend panel deliberations after the appeal was heard. I also had the opportunity to serve as a mentor to Judge Rawlinson's other law clerks. I was charged with assigning the upcoming cases to the other law clerks. In many instances, Judge Rawlinson requested that I review proposed opinions drafted by other law clerks before she would provide the final review. While I have not actually performed the duties of a District Court Judge, Judge George and Judge Rawlinson, under their kind tutelage, have provided me with first hand experience as to what is required of a judge. Accordingly, my many years of experience with the federal courts have provided me with broad insights to most, if not all, of the civil and criminal issues that will face a Nevada District Court Judge.

I also have quasi-judicial experience as a member of the Nevada State Bar, Functional Equivalency Committee for the past thirteen years. The Functional Equivalency Committee holds hearings to determine whether applicants for the Nevada State Bar, who have not graduated from an ABA accredited law school, have the functional equivalent education provided by an ABA accredited law school through their education as subsequently augmented by their experience. As a committee member, I am responsible for reviewing petitions, attending hearings, and drafting reports and recommendations to the Nevada Supreme Court.

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

I assisted a family from Alabama, pro bono, to obtain guardianship of their adult son who had been admitted to University Medical Center and was unable to respond.

My service on the Functional Equivalency Committee, referenced in question 21, is also part of my pro bono or public interest service.

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.

I have been a member of the Functional Equivalency Committee for the past thirteen years. The Functional Equivalency Committee holds hearings to determine whether applicants for the

Nevada State Bar, who have not graduated from an ABA accredited law school, have the functional equivalent education provided by an ABA accredited law school through their education as subsequently augmented by their experience. As a committee member, I am responsible for reviewing petitions, attending hearings, and drafting reports and recommendations to the Nevada Supreme Court.

In the past, I have been a member of the American Bar Association and the Clark County Bar Association. I also have been a member of the Public Lawyers Section of the Nevada State Bar.

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 my continuing legal education requirement. *See Attachment "C."*

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

I currently work for the Office of the Nevada Attorney General.

Business and 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, I owned and operated my own computer consulting business from 1985 to 1989.

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.**

From July 2013 to February 2015, I was engaged in the practice of law as a solo practitioner, for which I was 100 percent responsible. A large percentage of my practice involved contract work for other firms.

From 1985 to 1989, I owned and operated my own computer consulting business. My duties primarily involved maintaining DOS based computers for small businesses. The business was a sole proprietorship, where I was the sole owner.

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 have no experience as an executor or trustee. My practice as an attorney is my only experience in a fiduciary capacity which is fully set forth in my work history.

Civic, Professional and Community Involvement

29. Have you ever held an elective or appointive public office in this or any other state? Have you been a candidate for such an office? If so, give details, including the offices involved, whether initially appointed or elected, and the length of service. Exclude political affiliation.

I have not had the honor of holding elective or appointive public office in the State of Nevada or any other state. I have, however, been a candidate for judge in two (2) elections.

In 2008, I ran for Nevada District Court Judge for Department 14 against Judge Donald Mosley. Despite the uphill battle of running against an entrenched incumbent, I ran against Judge Mosley in an effort to restore integrity to the Nevada District Court. Judge Mosley had been sanctioned for seven (7) separate ethical violations by the Nevada Supreme Court. I survived the primary election, but narrowly lost to Judge Mosley in the general election.

In 2011, I ran for Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge against Judge George Assad. Judge Assad had also been sanctioned by the Nevada Supreme Court. He ordered a woman to be put in jail without cause until her boyfriend appeared in court on an outstanding warrant. In addition to the uphill battle of again facing an incumbent, I was not able to expend any funds on my campaign because I had depleted my savings in my previous campaign. Despite the lack of funding, I came in third of six candidates in the primary. After the primary, I vigorously supported Judge Assad's remaining challenger. The challenger credited my efforts in eventually unseating Judge Assad in the general election.

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

My significant activities are fully stated in answer to question 32.

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

I have not taught any law schools or continuing education programs.

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

I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Between September 1979 and October 1981, I served a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Chile - Viña del Mar Mission. Serving the people of Chile began my lifelong

commitment to public service. From July 2015 to the February 2018, I served as second counselor in the Durango Ward Bishopric. The Bishopric in the LDS church is responsible for managing a specific congregation. From January 2012 to July 2015, I served as a Gospel Doctrine Instructor. Between 2006 and 2011, I served as an Elders Quorum Instructor. Between 2008 and 2010, I served as Executive Secretary to the Durango Ward Bishop. Between 2004 and 2006, I served as First Counselor in the Durango Ward Elders Quorum Presidency. Between 2002 and 2004, I served as a Durango Ward Missionary.

I am also a member of the Boy Scouts of America and have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. From July 2015 to the August 2018, I served as the Charter Organizational Representative. From 2012 to the July 2015, I have served on the Boy Scout Committee for Troop 462 of the Las Vegas Area Council, which committee I chaired. Between 2010 and 2011, I served as a leader of Cub Scout Pack 462 of the Las Vegas Area Council. Between 2001 and 2002, I served as an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 462. During the times when I have not served in a specific position, I continue to be actively involved in scouting by serving as a merit badge counselor and generally assisting Boy Scouts to achieve the rank of Eagle.

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

In law school, I was twice named as a William H. Leary Scholar, which is given to students who are in the top 10% of their class for a semester.

While only 14 years of age, I earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and throughout my life I have been actively involved in scouting.

34. Have you at anytime 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.

Between August 1997 and September 2002, I assisted Judge Lloyd D. George and Judge Johnnie B. Rawlinson with the preparation of numerous judicial opinions. Between September 2020 and October 2021, I reprised my role with Judge Johnnie B. Rawlinson because she need someone she could trust to work from home during Covid. I am not permitted to divulge the contents of any opinion I drafted for Judge Rawlinson or Judge George..

36. During the past ten years, have you been registered to vote? Have you voted in the general elections held in those years?

I have been registered to vote in the last ten years and I have voted in the general elections in those years.

37. List avocational interests and hobbies.

My main interest is my family. My wife, son and I enjoy spending time together exploring the diverse beauties of the desert southwest and the State of Nevada. My wife and I (and sometimes our 20 year old son) enjoy the theatre, whether at the Smith Center, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Las Vegas Academy for the Arts, or at the Utah Shakespearean Festival. I also enjoy playing basketball with my son.

I am currently in the process of renovating a cabin in Old Town at Mount Charleston, Nevada, which we bought as a family getaway. Renovating the cabin allows me to use the skills I developed as a boy when our family built our own home. I completely gutted the kitchen and bathroom back to the bare studs and even removed the floor joists. I replaced all of the plumbing and most of the electrical. I replaced sheet rock with wood siding. I built new kitchen cabinets and installed granite counter tops. I also installed new tile and wood floors. The cabin remains a work in progress and provides an opportunity for our family to both work and play together.

Conduct

38. 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.

Other than the occasional traffic ticket, I have not been found in violation of any law, ordinance or regulation. The only traffic ticket currently on record with the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles is a citation for speeding on October 29, 2012, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to which I pled guilty and paid a fine.

39. Have you ever been sanctioned, disciplined, reprimanded, found to have breached an ethics rule or to have acted unprofessionally by any court, 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 question 71.

No.

40. 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.

In 1984, while attending Brigham Young University, I was placed on academic suspension which was the result of a broken marriage engagement that interfered with my ability to concentrate on school work. I was ultimately readmitted and graduated from Brigham Young University in August 1992.

41. 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.

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

No.

43. 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.

Other

44. 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.

On May 1, 2012, I submitted an application for a position as a United States Magistrate Judge with the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Another applicant was chosen for the position.

On November 12, 2014, I submitted an application for a position as a Nevada Appellate Court Judge for the State of Nevada. Another applicant was chosen for the position.

On December 15, 2014, I submitted an application for the position of Justice of the Peace for the Las Vegas Justice Court. Another applicant was chosen for the position.

On January 28, 2015, I submitted an application for two (2) positions as a Nevada District Court Judge. Other applicants were chosen for the positions.

In 2016, I submitted an application for a position as a Nevada District Court Judge. Another applicant was chosen for the position.

45. 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 particular education, experience, personality or character traits you possess or have acquired that you feel qualify you as a good district court judge. In so doing, address both the civil (including family law matters) and criminal processes (including criminal sentencing.)

See Attachment "D."

46. 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.

I would like to thank the members of the Commission on Judicial Selection for volunteering their time to review my application for Nevada District Court Judge. It would be a great honor to

be deemed worthy to be a Judge for the great State of Nevada. As a sixth generation Nevadan, I deeply care about this State. My hope is that as a Judge, I will improve the quality and timeliness of judicial decisions, which will insure access to justice for all Nevadans. If selected as a District Court Judge, I pledge to maintain the highest ethical standards, to be courteous to all that appear before me, and to expend the time necessary to be fully prepared to address the issues faced by the court. I commit to use my unique experience, talents, and abilities to accomplish these goals while I serve the citizens of Nevada.

47. 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 Attachment "E."

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Attachment A
Employment History

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: Nevada Attorney General

Phone Number: (702) 486-3420.

Address: Grant Sawyer Bldg., 555 E. Washington Ave Suite 3900, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101.

From: September 2021, **To:** Present

Supervisor's Name: Aaron Ford

Supervisor's Job Title: Attorney General

Your Title: Deputy Attorney General

Specific Duties: Responsible for representing the State of Nevada in post-conviction proceedings in state and federal court, including state and federal habeas cases. Primary duties include analyzing pleadings, preparing legal strategy, drafting legal briefs, legal research, and presenting oral argument in state and federal trial and appellate courts.

Reason for Leaving: Not applicable, current employment.

Previous Employer: United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Phone Number: (702) 464-5670

Address: 333 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89101

From: September 2020, **To:** September 2021

Supervisor's Name: Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson

Supervisor's Job Title: United States Circuit Court Judge

Your Title: Attorney Law Clerk

Specific Duties: Assisted Judge Rawlinson with all phases of civil and criminal appellate litigation by evaluating case files, researching applicable law, writing memoranda, making recommendations, and preparing court orders and opinions. Duties also included reviewing and making recommendations on cases heard en banc and on death penalty cases.

Reason for Leaving: Clerkship ended.

Attachment A Employment History Continued
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Previous Employer: Las Vegas Resort Holdings, LLC dba Sahara Las Vegas

Phone Number: (702) 761-7502.

Address: 2535 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109.

From: April 2018, **To:** September 2020

Supervisor's Name: Mario Tapanes

Supervisor's Job Title: General Counsel, Meruelo Group LLC

Your Title: Associate General Counsel

Specific Duties: As only attorney on property, functionally served as general counsel by providing strategic and proactive legal advice on every issue faced by the Sahara Las Vegas. Served as primary litigator and personally litigated cases involving Internet Tax Freedom Act, Las Vegas Monorail covenants, employment discrimination, intellectual property infringement, along with various personal injury and contract disputes. Advised management on gaming compliance, human resource operations, proper security procedures, construction issues, and contract negotiations. Supervised outside counsel.

Reason for Leaving: To return to public service.

Previous Employer: Cohen|Johnson\Parker\Edwards.

Phone Number: (702) 823-3500

Address: 3933 Lost Miner Court, Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

From: March 2015, **To:** April 2018

Supervisor's Name: H. Stan Johnson

Supervisor's Job Title: Partner

Your Title: Attorney

Specific Duties: Civil Litigation and Appellate practice before Nevada and United States Courts. My principal duty is to analyze cases to determine issues which would resolve the case in motion practice. My duties also include trial preparation, preparing legal strategy, legal research, drafting briefs, supervising others in drafting briefs, analyzing opposing briefs, and appearing at oral arguments.

Reason for Leaving: To take position with Sahara Las Vegas.

Attachment A Employment History Continued
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Previous Employer:: Solo practitioner as Chris Davis, Esq.

Phone Number: (702) 860-7521

Address: 3933 Lost Miner Court, Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

From: July 2012, **To:** March 2015

Supervisor's Name: None, self-employed

Supervisor's Job Title: None, self-employed

Your Title: Attorney

Specific Duties: Civil Litigation and Appellate practice before Nevada and United States Courts. Duties include client counseling, analyzing trial pleadings, preparing legal strategy, legal research, drafting briefs, supervising others in drafting briefs, analyzing opposing briefs, and appearing at oral arguments.

Reason for Leaving: To take position with Cohen|Johnson.

Previous Employer: City of North Las Vegas

Phone Number: (702) 633-1050

Address: 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

From: March 2006, **To:** July 2012

Supervisor's Name: Steve Demaree (702) 431-1941

Supervisor's Job Title: Assistant City Attorney

Your Title: Deputy City Attorney

Specific Duties: Senior litigator in the civil division for the North Las Vegas City Attorney, focusing on Civil Rights, Employment, and Personal Injury actions. Served as a mentor for other attorneys in the civil division. Routinely practiced before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Nevada Supreme Court, United States District Court, Nevada District Court and the Local Government Employee-Management Relations Board.

Reason for Leaving: I resigned over disputes with the newly appointed City Attorney.

Attachment A Employment History Continued
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Previous Employer: Morris Pickering

Phone Number: (702) 474-9400

Address: 801 S Rancho Dr., Suite B4, Las Vegas, NV 89106

From: September 2002, **To:** March 2006

Supervisor's Name: Steve Morris

Supervisor's Job Title: Managing Partner

Your Title: Attorney

Specific Duties: Appellate and civil litigation practice focusing on complex commercial litigation involving Contracts, Corporations, Administrative, Real Property, Tort, and Employment Law.

Reason for Leaving: I left to return to public service at the City of North Las Vegas.

Attachment C
Continuing Legal Education

Attachment C
Continuing Legal Education

CHRIS W. DAVID, NEVADA BAR NUMBER 6616

TRANSCRIPT OF COURSES BETWEEN 5-5-2017 THROUGH 12-27-2019

DATE	TITLE	CREDITS
12/27/2019	THE ETHICS OF ADVOCACY	1.0 ETHICS
12/27/2019	STRESS & SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION	1.0 SUBSTANCE ABUSE
12/27/2019	FIDUCIARY DUTIES & THE MODERN LAWYER	1.0 ETHICS
12/27/2019	ETHICS & SOCIAL MEDIA IN COURT	1.0 ETHICS
12/27/2019	TRUST ME, I'M A LAWYER: HANDLING TRUST ACCOUNTS & LAW FIRM FINANCES	1.0 ETHICS
12/27/2019	ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DRAFTING CONTRACTS	1.0 ETHICS
12/26/2019	EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS: RESONATING WITH DIFFERENT GENERATIONS	0.50 ETHICS 0.50 GENERAL
12/26/2019	CREATING STRONG & EFFECTIVE CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS: THE ART OF COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION	0.50 ETHICS 0.50 GENERAL
12/26/2019	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: YOU CAN'T BE EVERYONES' BEST FRIEND OR THEIR LAWYER	1.0 ETHICS
12/26/2019	BIASED? ME? HOW LAWYERS CAN RECOGNIZE & IMPROVE INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	1.0 ETHICS
12/26/2019	STRATEGIES FOR WITNESS EXAMINATIONS (YOURS & THEIRS)	0.50 ETHICS 0.50 GENERAL
12/26/2019	CYBERSECURITY IN A LEGAL PRACTICE	0.50 ETHICS 0.50 GENERAL

TRANSCRIPT CONTINUED/...
CHRIS W. DAVIS, NEVADA BAR NUMBER 6616
PAGE TWO OF THREE

12/17/2019	WHAT I WISH I'D LEARNED IN LAW SCHOOL: RUNNING THE ETHICAL OFFICE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	0.50 ETHICS 0.50 GENERAL
12/28/2018	SUPREME COURT – OCTOBER TERM 2017: MAJOR CASES FOR A COURT AT FULL STRENGTH	1.0 GENERAL
12/276/2018	“BECAUSE OF SEX”: FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR LGBT PEOPLE	3.0 GENERAL
11/16/2018	IS YOUR CASE A BANK OR CASINO? (GAMING LAW 2018)	1.0 GENERAL
11/16/2018	SPORTS BETTING (GAMING LAW 2018)	1.0 GENERAL
11/16/2018	PLAYING AGAINST THE ODDS: PROBLEM GAMBLING IN LAW PRACTICE (GAMING LAW 2018)	1.0 SUBSTANCE ABUSE
11/16/2018	CURRENT TRENDS IN GAMING CRIMES (GAMING LAW 2018)	1.0 GENERAL
11/16/2018	REGULATORS ROUNDTABLE (GAMING LAW 2018)	1.0 GENERAL
11/16/2018	THE CYBORGS ARE COMING! THE CYBORGS ARE COMING! THE ETHICAL CONCERNS WITH THE LATEST TECH – PART ONE	1.0 ETHICS
11/16/2018	THE CYBORGS ARE COMING! THE CYBORGS ARE COMING! THE ETHICAL CONCERNS WITH THE LATEST TECH – PART TWO	1.0 ETHICS
12/27/2017	FTCA & OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS CLAIMS – IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT & DAMAGES ACTIONS	2.50 GENERAL
12/27/2017	TRIAL BY JURY 2017	2.50 GENERAL
12/22/2017	REPRESENTING THE PRO BONO CLIENT: EFFECTIVE WRITTEN ADVOCACY 2016	3.0 GENERAL

TRANSCRIPT CONTINUED/...
CHRIS W. DAVIS, NEVADA BAR NUMBER 6616
PAGE THREE OF THREE

6/7/2017	ANSWERING THE CALL: OVERCOMING SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION	1.0 SUBSTANCE ABUSE
5/5/2017	DIRECT & CROSS-EXAMINATION SKILLS WORKSHOP PART ONE	3.0 GENERAL

Attachment D Statement

Attachment D Statement

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

I would again like to thank the members of the Committee on Judicial Selection for volunteering their time to review my application to be a Nevada District Court Judge. I am seeking to be appointed to the Nevada District Court because the majority of my career as an attorney has been devoted to public service, which has also been the happiest part of my practice.

Currently, I am a Deputy Attorney General for Nevada. While most of my career has involved complex civil litigation, my years of criminal experience in the federal courts has prepared me to ably represent the State of Nevada in criminal post-conviction proceedings in state and federal court, including state and federal habeas cases, many of which involve criminal sentencing matters. Previously, I served the Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson as an attorney law clerk on the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. When I advised Judge Rawlinson that I was seeking to return to public service, she requested that I reprise my role as her first law clerk because she needed an attorney she could trust to work from home during the pandemic. I gladly accepted the position because Judge Rawlinson has been a mentor to me throughout my career and working on the challenging issues faced by the Ninth Circuit has given me a renewed sense of purpose.

Prior to working for Judge Rawlinson, I served as Associate General Counsel for the Sahara Las Vegas. When the Meruelo Group purchased the Sahara, they offered me the position to serve as the only attorney at the property. I functionally served as general counsel for the property by providing strategic and proactive legal advice on every issue faced by management of the new enterprise. I advised the Sahara on gaming compliance, human resource operations, proper security procedures, construction issues, and contract negotiations, just to name a few. I also served as the primary litigator for the Sahara, along with supervising outside counsel. I personally litigated cases involving the Internet Tax Freedom Act, Las Vegas Monorail covenants, employment discrimination, intellectual property infringement, along with various personal injury and contract disputes. My writing sample I drafted while at the Sahara provides an accurate insight into my legal abilities.

I was offered the position at the Sahara because the Meruelo Group was my client when working at the firm Cohen|Johnson|Parker|Edwards. The Group was intimately familiar with my abilities as I had just prevented class certification of a multi-million dollar wage complaint against the Grand Sierra Resort, one of the premier hotels in Reno owned by the Meruelo Group. While at Cohen Johnson, I litigated complex civil and appellate matters before Nevada and federal courts, including employment and civil rights matters.

Serving as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of North Las Vegas, however, was six of the most gratifying years of my career. I served as the City's primary litigator and appellate counsel and litigated many of the issues faced by Nevada District Courts. I also advised the City Council on important legal and policy issues, including advising the City during many important contract negotiations such as energy matters and matters with other government entities. One of my proudest accomplishments was developing a strategy for successfully arguing that the Nevada's Notice of Claim Statute was still in force despite Nevada Supreme Court precedent finding the statute to be unconstitutional. This strategy allowed the City of North Las Vegas to avoid meritless claims with minimal expense. Throughout my career, I have been repeatedly praised for my writing ability and my ability to correctly analyze complex issues.

My commitment to public service has continued even while pursuing private practice. I have served as a member of the Functional Equivalency Committee for the Nevada State Bar, as an arbitrator, and as a short trial judge. I have been involved in the Boy Scouts of America since becoming an Eagle Scout, at the age of 14. Scouting is one of the reasons I became an attorney, as Devoe Heaton, former United States Attorney, and George Holt, former Clark County District Attorney, were mentors in my troop. My goal was to provide the boys the same opportunity to learn the importance of public service that was instilled in me when I was a Boy Scout.

During my career, I have had the opportunity to associate and learn from the best. In addition to Judge Rawlinson, I have worked with the Honorable Lloyd D. George, and with the Honorable Kris Pickering, prior to her becoming a justice with the Nevada Supreme Court. When working with these mentors, they have

consistently tasked me with the most difficult cases involving almost every civil and criminal issue faced by the Nevada District Court. I urge you to contact any of my previous employers, who will provide you an accurate assessment of my legal abilities.

Throughout my life and career, I have endeavored to uphold the highest principals of ethics and integrity. My experience and commitment to public service has provided me with the right qualifications to be a successful District Court Judge. While it is difficult to sum up a career in the short pages allotted, my principal legal skill has been understanding the contours of the legal issues with which I am faced. Not only am I able to analyze issues with which I am directly faced, I have the ability to discern the underlying legal issues which must be considered when deciding a case such as jurisdictional issues, due process concerns, and procedural matters which are not readily apparent from the face of the pleadings. I have built my career on not only recognizing these issues, but in expending significant time and energy in familiarizing myself with the different approaches taken by courts across the country when addressing these issues. The aspect of the law I enjoy the most is puzzling through these different approaches to reach the best result. I am seeking an appointment to the Nevada District Court because I genuinely believe that good law requires considered decisions based on precedent, which may not necessarily be found in the parties' briefs. Those who know my work best, are familiar with my ability to work tirelessly on a problem until I am fully acquainted with the rational alternatives and draft my findings in a persuasive fashion. This is the talent, I hope to bring to the Nevada District Court. If permitted, I will use all of my talents and preparation on behalf of the Nevada District Court and the people of the great State of Nevada.