

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT Y

By

PAUL MICHEL GAUDET



Personal Information

1	Full Name	Paul Michel Gaudet
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.	No
3	How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?	32 years
4	City and county of residence	Las Vegas, Clark County
5	Age	59

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	Eighth Judicial District Court
Phone	(702) 455-1330
Physical Address & Website	Family Courthouse 601 N. Pecos Road Las Vegas, Nevada
Date(s) of Employment	March, 2022 - Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Judge David Gibson, Presiding Judge of Family Court
Your Title	District Court Judge, Department N

Describe Your Key Duties	District Court Judge responsible for a domestic docket. Duties include administrative responsibilities, supervision of staff, management of docket, motion hearings, trials, and drafting of decisions.
Reason for Leaving	Unsuccessful in bid to retain position during 2024 election.
Previous Employer	Paul M. Gaudet, Attorney at Law
Phone	(702) 385-7475
Address & Website	3440 E. Russell Road, Las Vegas, NV 89120
Date(s) of Employment	October, 1992 - March, 2022
Supervisor's Name and Title	
Your Title	Sole Practitioner Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	General trial practice focusing on Family/Domestic, Personal Injury, Juvenile, Criminal, and other civil issues. Responsible for all operations of practice, including research, drafting of pleadings, court appearances, client retention, and general administrative duties.
Reason for Leaving	Accepted Judicial Appointment to Department N of Family Court
Previous Employer	
Phone	
Address & Website	
Date(s) of Employment	
Supervisor's Name and Title	
Your Title	

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.

Lutcher High School, 1910 W. Main Street, Lutcher, LA 70071, 1979-1983, High School Diploma; Southeastern Louisiana University, 500 W. University Avenue, Hammond, LA 70402, 1983-1987, Bachelor of Science Accounting.

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

Boy Scouts; Two (2) year Varsity letterman in Baseball; All-District Baseball; Debate Team, Science Fair placings; Industrial Arts Student of the Year; Award from Beta Alpha Psi for Academic Performance in Accounting; Official for University Intramural Department.

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.

Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center, 202 Law Center 1 East Campus, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, Juris Doctorate awarded May 29, 1992.

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

Maintained part-time employment as a law clerk during law school at the firm of Cave, McKay and Watson in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Employed with that firm from May, 1990 to April, 1992.

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

Participated in various law related activities and programs while in law school, including Mock Trial, Moot Court, Trial Practice Boot Camps and general practical workshops pertaining to responsibilities of an attorney from the operational perspective of a law office.

Law Practice

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

1992.

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

Not Applicable.

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 1620 for the five years directly preceding your appointment or election to the bench.

During last two years as a District Court Judge, all work has involved litigation in the Family Court. The prior three years in private practice, 100% of work involved litigation, with almost all of that work before trial courts. Do not recall having handled an appeal during the last 5 years

Legal Discipline	Percentage of Practice
Domestic/family	70
Juvenile matters	5
Trial court civil	20
Appellate civil	
Trial court criminal	5
Appellate criminal	
Administrative litigation	
Other: Please describe	

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

During last two years, have presided over all non-jury trials. The prior three years, 20% jury trials

versus 80% non-jury trials.

17. 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.

In the 3 years preceding my appointment to the bench, three (3) jury cases, and twenty (20) non-jury cases.

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

Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada

19. 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: Bush v. State, 1996
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: 8 th Judicial District Court, Honorable Gerald Hardcastle presiding, matter appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court, Paul M. Gaudet for Bush, Frankie Sue Del Papa Attorney General, Linda Anderson Deputy Attorney General for the State
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: Represented Rosemary and Alan Bush, mentally handicapped parents, in termination of parental rights action. The case impacted me by creating an appreciation for the parents and children who become products of the juvenile system, as well as the role of the State in advocating for the protection of children. This case lead to my taking on, as appointed counsel at discounted rate, what I would approximate to be well over 100 cases pending in the juvenile system over the many years of my practice advocating for the rights of parents facing termination of their parental rights.
Your role in the case: Lead counsel
Case 2
Case name and date: Cannon v. Zakouto, 2000
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: 8 th Judicial District Court, Honorable Arthur Ritchie presiding, Paul M. Gaudet for Marina Cannon, Don Prokopius for Vitaly Zakouto

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

I represented Marina Cannon in issues pertaining to protective orders, domestic violence, and contempt for violation of protective orders. Following full and fair evidentiary hearing, Vitaly Zakouto was found to be in contempt of court for violating

the TPO, and sanctioned with jail time for his contemptuous actions. Mr. Zakouto was released early from his jail sentence, and proceeded to brutally murder my client, Ms. Cannon, just around Christmas, 2000. Mr. Zakouto received two life sentences in the Nevada Department of Prisons following trial. This case, along with the Hernandez referred to in Case 3 below, impacted me both personally and professionally. Personally, these cases caused me to take notice that life is fleeting, and an individual can be gone at any moment. It lead to focus on enjoyment of the day and what life provides. Professionally, these cases caused me to take careful notice of signs of domestic violence, from both victim and perpetrator perspectives, and certainly modified the way I have consoled clients on domestic violence issues.

Your role in the case: Lead Counsel

Case 3

Case name and date: Hernandez v. Hernandez, 1998

Court and presiding judge and all counsel:

8th Judicial District Court, Honorable Diane Cynthia Steel presiding, Paul Gaudet for Fernando Hernandez, Edward Kainen for Donna Hernandez

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

I was contacted by an employee of the 8th Judicial District Court to provide service to a relative in a pending TPO case, where contact with a minor child had been suspended. I was able to gain the client, Fernando Hernandez, relief from the Order and contact with the parties' child. Some time after my representation of Mr. Fernandez, the specific time I do not recall, Mr. Fernandez brutally murdered Donna Fernandez in the presence of their young daughter. If I recall correctly, he then attempted to abscond with the child to Mexico, and was detained by authorities in either Arizona or New Mexico. Mr. Fernandez stood trial for capital murder. The criminal trial judge presiding was Honorable Sally Loehner. I was called to testify during that trial, and recall quite vividly how Mr. Fernandez was whimpering and crying in Court during testimony. Mr. Hernandez was sentenced to death to the best of my recollection. I do not know his current status through the Nevada Department of Prisons. The domestic abuse shelter in Clark County, Donna's House, was named in memory of Ms. Fernandez. The impact of this case upon me is discussed in Case 2 above.

Your role in the case: Lead Counsel

Case 4

Case name and date: State v. Whitaker 1994

Court and presiding judge and all counsel:

8th Judicial District Court, I seem to recall the Honorable Jerry Bongiovoni presiding, Frank J. Cremen and Paul M. Gaudet for Larry Whitaker, District Attorney for the State

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

An approximate 20 year old father, Larry Whitaker, was accused of brutally murdering his approximate 1 month old child. Long time Las Vegas criminal attorney, Frank Cremen, requested that I serve as co-counsel for trial of the case. If I recall correctly, the State sought the death penalty against Mr. Whitaker. Case was eventually resolved by plea, with Mr. Whitaker receiving a life sentence. This case impacted me in a variety of ways. The representation occurred before I became a father. So in my personal life I gained an appreciation for my children, and every second of every day we get to spend together. From a professional perspective, I truly love working domestic cases, and this case resulted in my always being concerned for children in any family or juvenile case in which I became involved.

Your role in the case: Co-Counsel

Case 5
Case name and date: Carly v. Carly 1993
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: 8 th Judicial District Court, Honorable Gloria Sanchez presiding, Paul M. Gaudet for Lydia Carly, Lynn Schoen for Douglas Carly
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: If I recall correctly, this was the first case I tried following being sworn in to practice law during October, 1992. Ms. Carly sought my services by referral to substitute in the place of another attorney with whom she was unhappy shortly before trial was set. I took on the case for a small fee, spent a considerable amount of time over the next two weeks going through the file and preparing, put on the trial, which I seem to recall taking portions of three days, and getting a judgment for primary physical custody of the parties' three (3) children for Ms. Carly, as well as support and property division. While I had always been interested in Family issues since my days in law school, putting on this case solidified in my mind that I wanted to spend my career involved with Family law issues.
Your role in the case: Lead Counsel

20. 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 am currently a District Court Judge. I provide one afternoon per month where I serve as a settlement judge for another department of the Family Court.

Prior to taking the bench, I served several times as a private mediator of Family Law cases, involving custody, support and property/debt distribution issues. I am proud to say that all of those cases, with the exception of one, resolved on the day of the mediation. I was informed by counsel that the case which did not settle on the day of the mediation actually settled a couple days following the mediation. I have enjoyed assisting parties in resolving their disputes.

I also previously served as a Small Claims Referee in Las Vegas Justice Court, a Truancy Judge in Clark County Juvenile Court, and a Juvenile Hearing Master in Clark County Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Hearing Master position was sort of "cookie cutter", where a script was basically followed. The Small Claims and Truancy work were far different. I really enjoyed hearing the factual assertions behind the Small Claims actions, and rendering judgment with explanation on why I was ruling the way I did. On the Truancy work, while there is practically speaking very little which can

be done in those cases, I really enjoyed listening to the allegations presented by authorities, the children, and their parents, and attempting to help the individual child with and beyond the truancy issues.

Finally, I served on the Fee Dispute Committee of the Nevada State Bar for many years. That was gratifying work. However, it always amazed me how certain attorneys would get themselves involved in financial disputes with clients over often small sums of money.

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

I could not begin to guess how many hours of pro bono work I have done over 30 years of practicing law.

Initially, I would consider the juvenile and termination of parental rights appointments as pro bono work, as those cases were limited to billings of \$75 per hour, and limited to \$1,500 in compensation without approval of excess fees. I literally tried 100 of those termination cases for a fee of \$1,500 or less. I do not recall a single time that I applied for excess fees. But I got personal and professional satisfaction out of representing the parents and children, and I know that the judges who appointed me appreciated the vigorous representation which I provided for those parents who could not afford counsel.

Prior to taking the bench, I donated my time to the "Ask a Lawyer" program offered through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. I enjoy participating in the program and answering questions presented by those who are in need; however, I saw numerous instances of folks who could afford legal representation taking advantage of the attorney time provided through the program. I feel like I helped many people through this program.

Over the years, I also accepted appointments for representation of individuals through Legal Aid. Those cases were always Family Court cases.

Finally, there was often the friend or former client who had a friend who could not afford legal representation. I have been there for those friends of friends throughout my career.

22. 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.

Nevada Bar Association, member; American Bar Association, member;
Association of Trial Lawyer's of America/American Association for Justice, member;
Nevada Justice Association, member;
The Gentleman's League, member/Secretary/Treasurer, 2016-Present.

23. 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 CLE requirements of the State of Nevada.

Since becoming a Judge during 2022, I have attended and completed all mandatory courses, including Judicial College in Reno, Judicial Ethics, and Juvenile Justice. Additionally, I presented at the Nevada Family Law Conference, and the Advanced Family Law Seminar.

I could not begin to set forth all courses, seminars or institutes I attended over the last three years of private practice. That information was provided to the State Bar of Nevada, and should be available through said entity if required. I try to focus on seminar topics that fall within the purview of my practice, such as seminars pertaining to trial practice and family issues. The annual Nevada Family Law Conference has served that purpose in the past. Further, with technology becoming such a large part of practicing law, I have focused on issues related to technological advances affecting the practice. I do not believe there has been a judicial conference I have attended which did not provide some focus upon artificial intelligence, which has become an issue with the practice of law from a variety of perspectives.

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

I am a Judge, working for a governmental agency.

Business & Occupational

25. 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.

Before law school, I worked as an auditor and accountant for Hertz Penske Trucking out of Brea, California. I maintained that employment position from the time of my college graduation in 1987 through my commencement of law school in 1989.

26. 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

a. The Gentleman's League is a non-profit organization which raises money for primarily veteran's and children's groups in Clark County, Nevada.

b. I serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the organization, with my duties including

coordination of meetings, coordination of fund raising events, and other administrative functions.

c. I serve as the Secretary/Treasurer, which covers the extent of my involvement in the administration and management of the non-profit organization.

d. I have no contract pertaining to the terms of my service, although I have served as secretary/treasurer for approximately eight (8) years, and have no intent of ceasing that service at this point.

e. I have no ownership interest, as it is a non-profit corporation.

27. 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.

Not applicable. Have never served as an executor, trustee or in any other fiduciary capacity.

Civic Profession & Community

28. Have you ever held an elective or appointive public office in this or any other state?

Yes. I am the District Court Judge in Department N of the 8th Judicial District Court, having been appointed by Governor Lombardo during March, 2022.

29. Have you been a candidate for such an office?

Yes.

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

I ran to retain my appointed position during November, 2024, and was unsuccessful.

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

I am very proud of my involvement in The Gentleman's League, detailed above. I assisted in the startup of that philanthropic organization, and feel that it has done good things for our community, particularly regarding children and veterans causes. Through this organization, we feed Veterans on a monthly basis, and have finally been allowed to resume that activity following COVID.

I enjoy working with children, and have served as a little league coach, softball coach, soccer coach, and karate instructor for several years, 2001-2019. I started a travel softball team during approximately 2010, and enjoyed that endeavor for years until my daughter aged out.

I volunteered through the State Bar for the “Trial of the Century” program, putting on the trial of Goldilocks at a variety of elementary schools, 2015-2020. It was always interesting to see the faces of the children during the program, and more interesting to hear their questions during and following the presentation.

My youngest child needed community service hours to graduate from High School. He and I went to Mexico through a program offered by the Crossroads Church to spend a weekend building homes in Tijuana. We went there to accumulate his community service hours. Little did I realize beforehand the satisfaction he and I would get from that activity which provided homes to the poor.

Since taking the bench, I have become a supporter of the CASA program, and tried to attend as many events as I can to thank and encourage the volunteers. It is a great service they provide to our community.

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

I have presented at two seminars since taking the bench. I lectured on Rule 4 service of process alternatives at one conference, and I lectured on Tax Returns in Family Law matters at another.

When I practiced, I believed that part of being an attorney was “teaching” my clients on the various issues that pertain to their cases. I pride myself in my ability to speak to an everyday person, without legalizing, and have the person that I am speaking with or advising understand. I often tell folks I had happy clients, not because every issue was won, but because the clients knew what to expect when we left the courthouse. That is a result of teaching. I have attempted to bring that same philosophy to the bench.

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

I have no military service.

My work with The Gentleman’s League has been set forth above.

I am a patriotic, tax paying, law-abiding US citizen, which I feel constitutes my service to my Country.

I am a member of the St. Viator Church community.

I make yearly charitable contributions and provide a variety of charitable services to a number of churches above and beyond St. Viator, as well as Goodwill, Donna’s House, The Gentleman’s League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and many other charitable organizations.

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

My children gave me a little statue a couple years ago for Father's Day. It is in the form of an Oscar, and reads "Best Dad". That is the honor/award that I am most proud of.

Additionally, I was the member of a business networking group many years ago when I was a young attorney. I received an award for being one of the best members of the group pertaining to referrals that I made. Members of our local group told me I was nominated because when I made a referral, it was a real referral and not junk. I was proud of that award.

Besides those, having a jury return a verdict in favor of my client has been the greatest form of recognition I have experienced in my career.

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.

I write decisions/orders, including findings of fact, conclusions of law and judgments in about 75% of the cases I hear. At times, I direct attorneys to prepare the orders, but with the number of self-represented cases we hear in the Family Court, I believe it is far more efficient for the Court to prepare orders in those self-represented cases, and I have formulated an effective process in my department to accomplish that task. A list of the decisions I have prepared and rendered would be overly exhaustive. I will attach a decision I rendered in accordance with question #47 of this application.

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.

My children are my primary interest. And while they are now adults, they continue to be the primary focus of my life. I am looking forward to grandchildren, and know those little bundles of joy will become my passion.

My mother is 85 years of age, and while she is slowing down, I try to see her as often as possible.

During those visits, I also get to visit with my sister, two brothers, aunts, uncles and many nieces/nephews. Again, family is very important to me, and my primary interest.

I love fishing, and try to get out to enjoy that along with the great outdoors as often as possible. Fishing is great relaxation for me. A bad day on the water is just about as good as a good day at anything else.

I also enjoy horses, and have owned several thoroughbreds that race across the country. I have developed a wonderful group of friends through the racing industry, and we travel to attend a variety of racing events, including sales, auctions, and race days.

I enjoy most sports, baseball, football, and golf just to name a few. I am passionate about the LSU Tiger athletic programs, and have been a New Orleans Saints fan since I was a small lad. I try to attend a game for each football program yearly.

I read a lot. Obviously reading is a huge part of my profession as an attorney/judge. However, I also read for enjoyment.

I travel as often as possible, domestically and internationally.

Philanthropy is a passion, with The Gentleman's League helping to fulfill that passion.

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.

Yes. Convicted of reckless driving in Henderson Municipal Court related to offense of December 10, 2010. Case closed. Details of circumstances: My wife passed away during 2010. I went through a tough period following her passing where I made an idiotic decision to get behind the wheel of a vehicle after consuming alcohol. Charged with DUI, reduced to reckless driving, sentence complied with, and case closed. I made a mistake, took responsibility for my mistake, and moved on from that mistake.

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.

P. Gaudet

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?

Never been a debtor in Bankruptcy Court.

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.

I submitted an application during late 2022 for appointment to Department N of the Family Court. I was appointed by Governor Lombardo during March, 2023.

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 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.

I am a thirty (32) year licensed attorney who tried several hundred cases to conclusion. I have an in depth understanding of our Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules of Evidence and Local Court Rules.

I am organized, efficient, and punctual; all traits that I believe a good jurist must possess. I listen and communicate effectively. I am ready and willing to make decisions and render judgment, as I believe that is the primary obligation of judge, particularly a judge hearing Family issues. It is a travesty to have a family linger in this system for months, sometimes years, awaiting the decision of the Court. There is no excuse for that occurring. It is detrimental to the best interest of all involved: Mother, Father, and children.

I have been on the Family Court bench for 20 months now, and can proudly state that from April, 2023 through October, 2024 (19 months) I have assisted 2,339 families in getting through this complicated system. That is an average of 123 cases per month which my department has finalized. Those are the actual numbers taken directly from statistics provided on a monthly basis. Many people do not know that the Family Court receives statistics on a monthly basis, which can be viewed, demonstrating the efficiency of the individual departments. I am not afraid of hard work, and put my time into preparation, listening, and rendering decision.

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 Decision from a case which was tried before me during my time on the bench.

Statement of Paul Michel Gaudet

I am Paul Michel Gaudet. I moved to the State of Nevada immediately upon completion of law school in April, 1992. I concluded my final exams quite early, and chose not to wait weeks to participate in my law school's commencement exercises during May, 1992. I was ready to relocate, get situated in Nevada, begin preparation for the bar exam, and embark on my legal career. I am not one to sit around; I have been referred to as a "go-bot". I get things done.

Nevada is the State where I started my law practice, opened my business, and raised my family. Nevada is HOME. While it may sound a bit altruistic, I feel that my near two years of serving as a Judge, and now applying for the vacancy in Department Y, is my way of giving something back to the community which has provided so much to my family over the past 32 years.

One of the things sets me apart from other applicants is my two years of being a judge. I have handled a daunting docket of the Family Court, and have assisted families in getting through the system in an efficient manner. I am applying for this judicial position for what I believe are the right reasons. Residents of Clark County and litigants in Family Court deserve a jurist who is competent, experienced, hard-working, efficient, thoughtful, considerate, polite, open-minded, and analytical. Someone who is willing and capable to make tough decisions to move them on at very difficult points in their lives. I view tenure on the Family Court bench as a privilege, and form of service to my community.

I have met wonderful people during my 32 year residence in Clark County and career as an attorney and Judge: friends, fellow parents, a variety of clients, attorneys, judges, court staff, employees, etc. I apply for this position to serve the members of our great community.

Another thing which sets me apart from my peers is my 30 years of experience as a trial attorney, with the majority of that experience being derived before our Family Court. I would estimate that I tried far in excess of 400 cases before the Family Court. I started my law practice during 1992, just prior to the commencement of our Family Court. I actually practiced for a brief time before the Family Court Hearing Masters at the start of my career. Our initial Family Court consisted of 6 Departments during early 1993. My legal practice has been focused on the Family Court ever since, with the Court growing considerably, now consisting of 26 Departments.

I would put my grasp of our procedural, evidentiary, and local rules up against anyone. Same with regard to applicable statutory and case authorities pertaining to divorce, annulment, custody, child support, alimony, property division, and juvenile issues that go before the Family Court. That may sound arrogant, but I have that sort of confidence in my legal abilities. My confidence was derived from my parents, my family, the academic institutions I attended, the academic instructors who I was fortunate to study under, my 2 year career as an accountant before attending law school, and my legal mentors, including judges that I appeared before. I honestly believe that sort of confidence is required to be an effective trial attorney and judge.

As an attorney, I put on many, many bench and jury trials/evidentiary hearings. I drafted complaints, answers, discovery, motions, pretrial memos, jury instructions, orders and judgments. I conducted depositions. I conducted direct and cross-examinations. I prepared exhibits. I prepared witnesses, including experts, to testify. I picked juries. I made objections, articulating the basis for those objections. I gave opening statements, and made closing arguments. I pursued execution on judgments. I saw how what I believe to be “good” judges conduct themselves in courtrooms, and I saw how what I believe to be “bad” judges conduct themselves in courtrooms.

As a judge, I cannot begin to estimate the number of hearings and trials over which I have

presided. Same goes for the number of decisions I have rendered. My typical Law/Motion calendar consists of 14-19 cases per day, and I do not think a week has gone by during the past 20 months when I have not conducted a trial or evidentiary hearing. I heard testimony, I ruled on objections, I rendered judgment and wrote decisions. I have laid in bed at night wondering whether my decision was right.

I cannot say that every minute of my legal practice and time on the bench was a joy. However, I can say that every minute of my practice and time on the bench has given me a greater appreciation for the law. I love the practice of law.

Finally, I think many of my life experiences set me apart from my peers seeking appointment. I went through an amicable divorce, and would never want my children to have involvement with Family Court. My ex-wife and I did a very good job co-parenting our children. That feat I am proudest of. I was remarried, provided for a blended family, and dealt with the inherent issues of blended families. I am a widower, having lost my second wife during 2010. I was at the Route 91 massacre, with my buddy shot next to me as we attempted to avoid the volleys of gunfire. I have experienced murders in cases in which I have been involved, including the death of a client and very young child. I have basked in the glory of winning trials. And yes, I have tasted defeat in losing trials. I often tell clients that bad things happen to good people. The real question is whether we repeat the actions that lead to bad things happening. One thing I am not is a victim.

If given the opportunity to serve as Judge in Department Y of the Family Court, I promise that my experience as a trial attorney and judge will be utilized to administer justice for the residents of Clark County in a competent, efficient, and courteous manner. I take the bench timely (I do not understand why that concept is so difficult), and I am prepared for the issues that come before me. I am a firm believer that preparation should not be a difficult process. I render timely, thoughtful, and concise decisions. I think the longest I have taken to render a decision over the last 20 months was 5 days. And finally, I will make every attempt to be a District Court Judge that the people of Clark County can be proud of.

Thanks for considering my application.

P. Gaudet

**DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

* * *

In the Matter of the Petition by:

Case No: D-24-691941-P

Makala Wickline, Petitioner.

Department N

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND DECREE OF CUSTODY
FOR OCTOBER 30, 2024 EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

This matter having come before the Court on the 30th day of October, 2024, for Evidentiary Hearing with Plaintiff/Mother, Makala Wickline, appearing in person in proper person, and Defendant/Father, Steven Scales, also appearing in person in proper person, and the Court having considered the papers and pleadings on file herein, the testimony of the parties, and the Court being fully advised as to the law and the facts of this case, the Court hereby finds, orders, and decrees as follows:

I. NOTED PROCEDURAL HISTORY

THE COURT NOTES that the parties share one (1) minor child in common: Ava Rose Scales, born August 2, 2021, currently three (3) years of age.

THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that on July 9, 2024, Mother filed her Complaint for Custody, in which Mother sought sole legal custody, sole physical custody, child support, reimbursement for childcare expenses, and supervised visitation for Father. Also on July 9, 2024, Mother filed her Motion for Temporary Custody, Visitation, and/or Child Support, in which Mother requested supervised visitation for Father, as well as orders for Father to complete anger management classes.

THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that on August 1, 2024, Father filed his Answer and Counterclaim, in which Father sought sole legal custody, sole physical custody, and no visitation for Mother. Father did not request child support or childcare costs. Also on August 1, 2024, Father filed his Opposition to Mother's Motion.

THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that on August 1, 2024, the Court issued its Order for FMC Mediation. The parties participated in telephonic mediation on or about August 23, 2024, from which a Partial Parenting Agreement was provided to the Court containing the following

1 agreements: The parties agree to share joint legal custody; to a holiday custodial schedule; that
2 vacation time shall be determined upon mutual agreement; and that transportation shall be
3 assumed by the receiving parent.

4 THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that on August 12, 2024, Mother filed her Ex Parte
5 Motion for Order Shortening Time. Mother's request was GRANTED by this Court, and the
6 Order Shortening Time was entered on August 13, 2024.

7 THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that on August 12, 2024, Mother also filed her
8 Exhibit Appendix in Support of Motion. Mother's exhibits included videos of Father interacting
9 with the Minor Child during his custodial time, and photos of injuries the child allegedly
10 sustained while in Father's care.

11 THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that during the Motion hearing held on Order
12 Shortening Time on August 29, 2024, the Court set this matter for Evidentiary Hearing on
13 October 30, 2024, and the Court issued the following temporary orders:

- 14 a) The parties shall share temporary joint legal custody;
- 15 b) Temporary primary physical custody awarded to Mother;
- 16 c) Temporary supervised visitation award to Father on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.
17 through 7:00 p.m. under the supervision of Father's father;
- 18 d) The parent receiving the Minor Child shall be responsible for the child's
19 transportation for child exchanges, and Father does not need a supervisor while
20 transporting the child;
- 21 e) Father shall temporarily pay child support to Mother in the amount of \$560 per
22 month, effective September of 2024;
- 23 f) Father shall enroll in a parenting course focused on toddlers within three (3) days of
24 the Motion hearing date, and Father shall file his certificate of completion into this
25 case for the Court's review; and,
- 26 g) Mother shall continue to provide the Minor Child's medical insurance.

27 During the Motion hearing on August 29, 2024, the parties also agreed to adopt the
28 Partial Parenting Agreement as an Order of the Court. The Partial Parenting Agreement was
filed into this case on August 29, 2024 in open court.

1 THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that on October 16, 2024, Mother filed her Pre-Trial
2 Memorandum and her Financial Disclosure Form. On October 23, 2024, Mother filed her Trial
3 Exhibits.

4 THE COURT FURTHER NOTES that on October 21, 2024, Father filed his Pre-Trial
5 Memorandum and Financial Disclosure Form.

6 **II. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

7 **THE COURT FINDS** the Minor Child resided in Nevada six (6) months prior to the
8 filing of Mother's Complaint on July 9, 2024, thereby conferring jurisdiction in this Court over
9 the Minor Child, allowing this Court to issue orders pertaining to child custody.

10 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that pursuant to NRS 125C.002, Nevada courts must
11 presume that it is in a minor child's best interest for parents to share joint legal custody of their
12 child. The Court acknowledges that the parties previously agreed to share joint legal custody
13 within the Partial Parenting Plan adopted during the hearing held on August 29, 2024.

14 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that under NRS 125C.0025, there is a preference
15 that it is in a minor child's best interest for parents to share joint physical custody of their child.

16 **THE COURT FURTHER CONCLUDES** that NRS 125C.0035(1) mandates that the
17 Court's sole consideration when issuing orders pertaining to child custody is the best interest of
18 the child. The Court must consider the factors set forth in NRS 125C.0035(4) when determining
19 the best interest of the child. The Court analyzes each factor as follows:

20 ***(a) The wishes of the child if the child is of sufficient age and capacity to form an
21 intelligent preference as to his or her physical custody;***

22 Minor Child Ava is three (3) years old and is therefore not old enough to form an
23 intelligent preference pertaining to her own custody. *This factor is not applicable.*

24 ***(b) Any nomination of a guardian for the child by a parent;***

25 Not applicable.

26 ***(c) Which parent is more likely to allow the child to have frequent associations and a
27 continuing relationship with the noncustodial parent;***

28 The Court does not find this factor to be applicable in this case, as the Court
believes that both parents will continue to follow the Court's orders. Therefore, *this factor
does not favor either parent.*

1 ***(d) The level of conflict between the parents;***

2 The level of conflict between these parties is very low, which the Court appreciates.
3 The Court believes that the low level of conflict will only serve to benefit the Minor Child.
4 *This factors does not favor either parent.*

5 ***(e) The ability of the parents to cooperate to meet the needs of the child;***

6 Despite the circumstances presented to the Court, the Court finds that the parties
7 have historically been able to work together to meet the Minor Child's needs. The Court
8 commends the parties for their willingness to work together for the benefit of the Minor
9 Child. *This factors does not favor either parent.*

10 ***(f) The mental and physical health of the parents;***

11 Both parents appear to be mentally and physically healthy. *This factor does not*
12 *favor either parent.*

13 ***(g) The physical, developmental and emotional needs of the child;***

14 No evidence was presented to the Court that would indicate the Minor Child bears
15 extraordinary physical, developmental, or emotional needs. The Minor Child's physical and
16 emotional needs seem to be met, and the child appears to be progressing at a normal rate.
17 Therefore, *this factor does not favor either parent.*

18 ***(h) The nature of the relationship of the child with each parent;***

19 The Court believes that both parents truly love the Minor Child. However, the behavior
20 exhibited by Father within the videos and photos presented to the Court indicate the child
21 does not have the same secure, comfortable relationship with Father that she has with
22 Mother. The testimony and evidence presented to the Court indicate that Mother's
23 relationship with the child is more nurturing, supportive, and comfortable than the child's
24 relationship with Father. The Court believes this is largely because Father does not know
25 how to properly interact, guide, and discipline the young child as Mother currently does. *The*
26 *Court finds that this factor favors Mother.*

27 ***(i) The ability of the child to maintain a relationship with any sibling;***

28 The Court finds that Mother does not have any other children. Father has submitted
to the Court that he now has two (2) stepchildren through his current wife who he recently

1 married. Father's new stepchildren are three (3) and seven (7) years of age. Pursuant to
2 Father's testimony, the Minor Child has met these stepsiblings on one prior occasion.
3 Because the Minor Child does not have a relationship with these children at this time, the
4 Court does not believe that Father's stepchildren carry weight in the Court's assessment of
5 this factor. Therefore, *this factor does not favor either parent.*

6 ***(j) Any history of parental abuse or neglect of the child or a sibling of the child;***

7 This is the most relevant factor in the Court's assessment of the Minor Child's best
8 interest. Mother produced multiple videos of Father's interactions with the child during
9 Father's custodial time for this Court's review. The Court finds that one video shows Father
10 shaking the child in an inappropriate fashion, another video depicts Father hitting the child in
11 an inappropriate fashion, and another video shows Father threatening the child in an
12 inappropriate fashion. The videos produced by Mother clearly show that Father is unable to
13 control himself when attempting to discipline the child or when attempting to control the
14 child's behavior. While the Court recognizes that corporal punishment is not illegal in the
15 State of Nevada, the Court finds that Father's corrective and discipline techniques go beyond
16 what the Court would consider reasonable.

17 A photo was also presented by Mother depicting serious bruising/injury to an area of
18 the child's back just above her buttocks. Father admitted that he went too far in hitting the
19 child, thereby causing the child to sustain injury.

20 The Court also recognizes that Father produced multiple videos evidencing his
21 interactions with the Minor Child in an attempt to show this Court the positive relationship
22 he has fostered with the child. The Court notes that one of Father's videos shows Father
23 using the word "f*ck" when directing the child. The Court finds Father's language utilized
24 towards the three (3) year old child is entirely inappropriate.

25 Overall, the Court finds that Father's behavior is too extreme, thereby causing great
26 concern for the child's safety while the child is in Father's care. The Court finds that Father
27 is consistently far too rough with the child, and this Court must issue custodial orders that
28 protect the child from Father's inability and/or unwillingness to control himself. *This factor
unquestionably favors Mother.*

1 ***(k) Whether either parent or any other person seeking physical custody has engaged in an***
2 ***act of domestic violence against the child, a parent of the child or any other person***
3 ***residing with the child.***

4 Pursuant to NRS 125C.0035(5), if the court determines by clear and convincing
5 evidence after an evidentiary hearing that either parent or any other person seeking physical
6 custody has engaged in one or more acts of domestic violence against the child, or a parent of
7 the child, a rebuttable presumption is created that sole or joint physical custody of the child
8 by the perpetrator of the domestic violence is not in the best interest of the child.

9 Based upon the evidence and testimony provided, the Court does not specifically
10 find that Father committed domestic violence upon his previous girlfriend who testified, or
11 upon Mother. The Court also does not find that Mother has committed domestic violence
12 against Father.

13 However, the Court finds that domestic violence directly ties into the Court's
14 findings pertaining to factor (j). Based upon the three (3) videos submitted by Mother, as
15 well as the photos submitted by Mother, the Court finds by clear and convincing evidence
16 that Father committed domestic violence upon the Minor Child. *This factor unquestionably*
17 *favors Mother.*

18 ***(l) Whether either parent or any other person seeking physical custody has committed any***
19 ***act of abduction against the child or any other child.***

20 Abduction was not proven by either party during the Evidentiary Hearing. *This factor*
21 *favors neither parent.*

22 **THE COURT FURTHER CONCLUDES** that based upon the Court's finding that
23 Father committed domestic violence against the Minor Child, and based upon the presumption
24 created by NRS 125C.0035(5), this Court cannot award Father primary physical custody or joint
25 physical custody under Nevada law. Mother therefore must be awarded primary physical
26 custody.

27 **THE COURT FURTHER CONCLUDES** that based upon the Court's analysis of the
28 factors set forth by NRS 125C.0035(4), it is in the Minor Child's best interest for this Court to
award Mother Primary Physical Custody, subject to Father's visitation.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that although Father testified that he completed a
parenting course as ordered by this Court during the previous hearing on August 29, 2024, the

1 Court believes that Father's process of modifying and developing his behavior around the child
2 will be a long-term process. The Court believes that awarding Father unsupervised visitation is
3 not appropriate at this time because the child is only three (3) years of age and will not have any
4 means of protecting herself if Father's behavior reverts. The Court concludes that Father's
5 visitation must remain supervised indefinitely in order to ensure the Minor Child's safety. The
6 Court encourages Father to complete additional parenting courses and counseling, as he
7 indicated he intended, so that his visitation time may be unsupervised in the future.

8 **THE COURT FURTHER CONCLUDES** that it is in the Minor Child's best interest
9 for Father to continue to exercise visitation under the supervision of his father (paternal
10 Grandfather) on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. as previously ordered by this Court.

11 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that Father testified that he plans to start a new job
12 in the near future, but Father was unable to provide any information to the Court regarding his
13 anticipated work schedule. The Court concludes that if Father is unable to exercise his
14 supervised visitation time on Tuesdays due to his work schedule, then it is in the child's best
15 interest for Mother and Father to work together to coordinate Father's supervised visitation to
16 occur on a different day.

17 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that the parties previously agreed to an alternating
18 holiday custodial schedule within their Partial Parenting Agreement. This Partial Parenting
19 Agreement was adopted by the Court during the hearing on August 29, 2024, and this agreement
20 essentially allows the parties to alternate custody of the child during the following holidays:
21 Child's Birthday; Mother's Day; Father's Day; Parents' Birthdays; Easter; Fourth of July;
22 Halloween; Thanksgiving; and Christmas. The Partial Parenting Agreement allows each parent
23 to keep the child for their assigned holidays starting at 9:00 a.m. on the day of each holiday until
24 the following morning at 9:00 a.m.

25 **THE COURT FURTHER CONCLUDES** that based upon this Court's safety concerns
26 related to Father's visitation time, the Court concludes that it is appropriate to modify the Partial
27 Parenting Agreement to limit Father's holiday visitation time to SUPERVISED VISITATION
28 from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. during each of Father's assigned holidays. If Father is unable to
care for the child for any of his assigned holidays under the supervision of his father (or any
other supervisor agreed upon by the parties), then Mother shall maintain custody of the child
during Father's assigned holidays. The Court believes it is in the child's best interest for the

1 child to spend time with both parents during holidays, and the Court strongly encourages the
2 parties to work together to coordinate Father's supervised holiday visitation.

3 **THE COURT FURTHER CONCLUDES** that pursuant to NAC 425.115(2), a parent
4 awarded primary physical custody of a child is deemed to be the obligee and the other party is
5 deemed to be the obligor. Pursuant to NAC 425.125, the Court is authorized to impute income
6 to an obligor who is underemployed or unemployed without good cause.

7 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that Father's work history is disturbing. Father
8 testified that he was an unlicensed barber, who cut client's hair from his residence. He indicated
9 he was the barber for many famous people. Although Father testified that he is no longer
10 working as a barber, the Court does not find Father's testimony credible, and the Court strongly
11 suspects that Father is continuing to earn a living as a barber. Father indicated his goal is to
12 become a professional golfer. While a great goal, accomplishing that goal will be difficult. The
13 Court finds that Father is unreasonably unemployed, thereby warranting application of NAC
14 425.125 in this case for the calculation of Father's child support obligation.

15 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that pursuant to NAC 425,125, and based upon
16 Father's physical condition and ability to work, the Court finds that Father shall be imputed a
17 gross monthly income of \$4,000 per month for the purpose of calculating Father's child support
18 obligation. Pursuant to NAC 425.140(1), Father's child support obligation amounts to \$640 per
19 month, effective November of 2024, due by the fifteenth (15th) day of each month. The Court
20 cautions Father that failure to pay child support as ordered may result in contempt, including
21 monetary sanctions and/or jail time.

22 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that Mother currently provides the Minor Child's
23 medical insurance through her employer, and the premiums for this insurance plan are deducted
24 from Mother's paychecks on a weekly basis. Mother shall obtain documentation from her
25 employer evidencing the total premiums deducted from Mother's paycheck(s) each month for
26 the Minor Child's insurance, and Mother shall provide this documentation to Father. Based
27 upon this documentation, Father shall reimburse Mother for 50% of the Minor Child's medical
28 insurance premiums each month. All unreimbursed medical expenses shall be evenly divided
between the parties pursuant to the 30/30 Rule.

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III. ORDERS OF THE COURT

Based upon the foregoing findings, and other good cause appearing,

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS that pursuant to the Parenting Agreement previously adopted by both parties and the Court, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, the parties shall share JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY of the Minor Child, Ava Rose Scales. The Court’s requirements for joint legal custody are detailed on pages fourteen (14) through fifteen (15) of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Mother is awarded PRIMARY PHYSICAL CUSTODY of the Minor Child, subject to Father’s SUPERVISED VISITATION.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Father shall exercise SUPERVISED VISITATION on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. subject to the following requirements:

- a) Father’s visitation sessions shall be supervised by Father’s father (paternal Grandfather), and Father may not be left alone with the child. If Father’s father is ever not available to supervise Father’s visitation, the parties shall work together to reschedule Father’s supervised visitation session, or the parties may mutually agree to an alternative supervisor.
- b) Father is permitted to transport the Minor Child for his visitation time without a supervisor in the vehicle.
- c) If Father is unable to continue to exercise his supervised visitation time on Tuesdays due to his work schedule at his new job, then the parties shall work together to coordinate Father’s visitation on a different day of the week.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall alternate custodial time during the holidays as set forth in the Partial Parenting Agreement attached as **Exhibit A** subject to the following requirements:

- a) Father’s SUPERVISED holiday visitation time shall be from 9:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on the day of each holiday according to the schedule set forth in the Partial Parenting Agreement.
- b) Father’s visitation sessions shall be supervised by Father’s father (paternal Grandfather), and Father may not be left alone with the child. If Father’s father is ever not available to supervise Father’s visitation, the parties shall work together to

1 reschedule Father’s supervised visitation session, or the parties may mutually agree
2 to an alternative supervisor.

3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to the Parenting Agreement attached as
4 **Exhibit A**, the parent receiving the child shall provide the child’s transportation for child
5 exchanges. Father may pick up and transport the child to his home without a supervisor. Both
6 parties are entitled to utilize third parties to effectuate child exchanges, and both parties (and
7 their representatives) shall conduct themselves in a civil, polite fashion during child exchanges.

8 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to the Parenting Agreement attached as
9 **Exhibit A**, the parties shall coordinate vacation time based upon mutual agreement.

10 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that based upon Mother’s award of PRIMARY
11 PHYSICAL CUSTODY and Father’s imputed gross monthly income of \$4,000, Father shall pay
12 child support to Mother in the amount of \$640 per month, effective November 2024. Father’s
13 payments are due to Mother by the fifteenth (15th) day of each month.

14 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Mother shall continue to provide the Minor Child’s
15 medical insurance through her employer, and Father shall reimburse Mother for 50% of the
16 premium(s) paid for the child’s insurance each month, effective November 2024. Mother shall
17 provide documentation to Father evidencing the amount she pays each month for the child’s
18 premium(s). Father’s 50% reimbursements are due to Mother by the final day of each month.

19 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all unreimbursed medical expenses shall be evenly
20 divided between the parties pursuant to the 30/30 Rule.

21 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Mother, as the primary physical custodian of the
22 Minor Child, shall claim the Minor Child as a dependent for Federal Income Tax purposes every
23 year as of the 2024 tax year.

24 **IT IS FINALLY ORDERED** that the Court shall prepare the final Findings of Fact,
25 Conclusions of Law, and Decree of Custody in this case, and this case shall be statistically
26 CLOSED upon entry of this Decree of Custody.

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28
HONORABLE PAUL M. GAUDET
