

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT C

Replace the highlighted spaces on this page with the vacancy you seek to fill
VII, XXIX, C or N
Candidates may only choose one department.

By

Audrey J. Beeson



Personal Information

1.	Full Name	Audrey J. Beeson
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.	Yes. Audrey Featsent was my married name from 1997 until 2001. After my divorce I returned back to my maiden name.
3.	How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?	26 years
4.	City and county of residence	Las Vegas, Clark County
5.	Age	46

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	Law Offices of Frank J. Toti Esquire/Audrey Beeson, Esq. PLLC
Phone	702-364-1604
Physical Address & Website	6900 Westcliff Drive, Ste 500, Las Vegas, Nevada 89145 www.fjtesq.com
Date(s) of Employment	March 2012-Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Frank J. Toti – Owner
Your Title	Of Counsel
Describe Your Key Duties	Handling all aspects of client cases from consultation through completion of the case; legal research and analysis; drafting complaints, briefs, motions, decrees, etc.; attendance at motion hearings, case management conferences and trials; all aspects of trial preparation; mediator and parenting coordinator.
Reason for Leaving	Still employed

Current Employer	State of Nevada
Phone	619-251-6700
Address & Website	jdmpnevada@gmail.com
Date(s) of Employment	May 2018 – Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Jae Barrick, Program Administrator
Your Title	Mediator

Describe Your Key Duties	I provide mediation serves for the Juvenile Mediation Program and serve as an ambassador for the program.
Reason for Leaving	Still employed

Current Employer	Clark County, State of Nevada Office of Appointed Counsel
Phone	702-455-3530
Address & Website	500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6 th Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
Date(s) of Employment	March 12, 2019 – Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Drew Christensen, Director of Office of Appointed Counsel
Your Title	Track Attorney – Parent Counsel
Describe Your Key Duties	I represent parents from the plea hearing through case closure or through termination of parental rights trials. I counsel clients, draft motions, oppositions, and all aspects of trial preparation.
Reason for Leaving	Still Employed

Current Employer	State of Nevada Department of Education
Phone	775-687-9200
Address & Website	700 E. Fifth Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701 www.doe.nv.gov
Date(s) of Employment	July 6, 2021 – Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Gail ImObersteg
Your Title	Special Education Hearing Officer
Describe Your Key Duties	I am responsible to fairly and impartially conduct a due process hearing and decide an issue(s) of disagreement between a local educational agency and the parent of a child with disabilities. The mandatory requirements for the conduct of special education administrative hearings, including the qualifications of a Hearing Officer, and the standards of law are contained in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. §1400 et. seq. and 34 C.F.R. Part 300, 34 C.F.R. §§300.511(c) and 300.507 – 300.518 and 300.530 – 300.536) and Nevada law and regulations (NRS, Title 34, Chapter 388, §388.509; NAC, Chapter 388, §388.310) These are time sensitive proceedings with mandatory timelines.
Reason for Leaving	Still Employed

Previous Employer	Rainey Devine – Partnership Dissolved; Law Firm no longer exists
Phone	N/A
Address & Website	N/A
Date(s) of Employment	August 2011 – February 2012
Supervisor's Name and Title	N/A
Your Title	Senior Associate Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	Handling all aspects of client cases from consultation through completion of the case; legal research and analysis; drafting complaints, briefs, motions, decrees, etc.; attendance at motion hearings, case management conferences and trials; all aspects of trial preparation.
Reason for Leaving	I was the only family law attorney at the firm, and I wanted to work with a more experienced family law attorney that would be similar to a partnership that would still allow me anonymity to handle my own caseload.

Previous Employer	Webster & Associates
Phone	702-562-2300
Address & Website	6882 Edna Ave, Las Vegas, Nevada 89146 Anitawebster.com
Date(s) of Employment	May 2006 – July 2011
Supervisor's Name and Title	Anita Webster, Owner
Your Title	Associate Attorney/Law Clerk
Describe Your Key Duties	Handling all aspects of client cases from consultation through completion of the case; legal research and analysis; drafting complaints, briefs, motions, decrees, etc.; attendance at motion hearings, case management conferences; all aspects of trial preparation.
Reason for Leaving	I wanted to own my own business and have more control over my caseload.

Previous Employer	Walgreens
Phone	1-800-925-4733
Address & Website	200 Wilmot Rd, MS#2002, Deerfield, IL 60015
Date(s) of Employment	1999 - 2010
Supervisor's Name and Title	Rob Hasty – Market VP; District Manager
Your Title	Assistant Manager/Executive Assistant Manager
Describe Your Key Duties	Responsible for the day-to-day operations of a successful retail store; trained employees; customer service; handling customer

	complaints; sales and operations; loss prevention; ordered inventory for the store; pharmacy technician duties; scheduling; organizing the store; merchandising and cash handling.
Reason for Leaving	To focus solely on practicing law.

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.

Chaney High School

731 S. Hazelwood, Youngstown, OH 44509

1990 – 1994

High School Diploma

Kent State University

800 E. Summit Street, Kent, OH 44242

1994 – 1996

Relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada

Community College of Southern Nevada aka College of Southern Nevada

3200 East Cheyenne Ave., North Las Vegas, NV 89030

2001 – 2002

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89154

2002 – 2004

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine School of Law

24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90263

2016 - 2018

LL.M. in ADR (with a focus in mediation), May 2018

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

High School:

- Ranked in the Top Ten of my graduating class
- National Honor Society
- Secretary for the High School Choir and Choral Company
- I was promoted at age 17 to Swing Shift Manager at McDonald's while I completed my senior year of high school.

College:

- Golden Key International Honor Society Member
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars Member
- I was promoted to Assistant Manager at McDonald's while attending Kent State University.
- I worked full time as an Executive Assistant Manager while I attended CSN and finished obtaining my Bachelor's Degree from UNLV.

Graduate School

- CALI Award

Spring 2017

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.

William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

4505 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89154

2004-2007

Juris Doctor, May 2007

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. During all three years of law school I worked as an Assistant Manager at Walgreens. The second and third year of law school I also worked as a law clerk for Webster & Associates.

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

- Gaming Law Society Member
- Organization for Women Law Students Member
- Sports and Entertainment Law Association Member
- Community Service, Bankruptcy Law

Law Practice

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

2007

2015 – Present; Nevada Board Certified Family Law Specialist

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

None.

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

No

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

Approximately 80% has involved litigation. I have not made any court appearances at the appellate court level, although I have filed and/or responded to appeals.

16. Estimate percentage of time spent on:

Legal Discipline	Percentage of Practice
Domestic/family	35%
Juvenile matters (dependency)	55%
Trial court civil	
Appellate civil	1%
Trial court criminal	
Appellate criminal	
Administrative litigation	4%
Other: Mediation & Estate Planning	5%

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

100% of my litigation matters were 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.

No jury trials.

Approximately 17 non-jury trials.

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

Clark County, Eighth Judicial District Court Clark County, Family Division

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

Case 1	
Case name and date: Heather Ellerbe vs. Leonard Ellerbe, Jr. – 2014-2015	
Court and presiding judge and all counsel:	
<i>Presiding Judge</i>	Judge T. Arthur Ritchie
<i>Counsel for Plaintiff</i>	Audrey J. Beeson, Esq. Frank J. Toti, Esq.
<i>Counsel for Defendant</i>	Edward Kainen, Esq. Andrew L. Kynaston, Esq.,
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:	
<p>This case involved two forensic accountants and a unique area of employment which made it very difficult to determine true income versus the amount of money the employed spouse had access to. The spouses kept their assets separate, so it was also difficult to discern what assets were in the community. I learned the importance of a competent forensic accountant and the way in which a judge relies, or does not rely, on a forensic report as well as expert testimony.</p>	
Your role in the case: I was the lead attorney on the case from beginning through the completion of trial.	

Case 2	
Case name and date: Crystal Thurman vs. Scott Thurman – 2013-2014	
Court and presiding judge and all counsel:	
<i>Presiding Judge</i>	Judge Vincent Ochoa
<i>Counsel for Plaintiff</i>	Howard Ecker, Esq. Natalie El-Kouz, Esq. Robert P. Dickerson, Esq. Josef M. Karasconyi, Esq.
<i>Counsel for Defendant</i>	Audrey J. Beeson, Esq. Frank J. Toti, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:	
<p>This was the first case I had the opportunity to deal with a vocational expert and how the report impacts the ability to settle a case. This case was unique because the income-earning spouse was paid by commission and the spouse's income greatly fluctuated on a month-to-month basis, thereby requiring creative negotiations and outside of the box thinking to settle all financial issues in this case.</p>	
Your role in the case: I was lead attorney on the case.	

Case 3	
Case name and date: Jessica Lovelady v. Michael Lovelady 2019-2022	
Court and presiding judge and all counsel:	
<i>Presiding Judge</i>	Judge Bryce Duckworth
<i>Counsel for Plaintiff</i>	Meredith Weiner, Esq.

<i>Counsel for Defendant</i>	Audrey J. Beeson, Esq. Ashlee Vazquez, Esq. Louis Schneider, Esq.
<i>Guardian Ad Litem</i>	Michelle Hauser, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:	
<p>This case involved extreme pathogenic parenting and basically a complete dissolution of the parent-child relationship. The father spoke to the teenage child as if she were an adult, confiding in her, and refusing to take any responsibility for her refusal to visit her mother or to provide any consequences when the child ran away from the mother. A reunification therapist was involved in the case and as soon as the therapist suggested that the child transition back to the agreed-upon custodial schedule, the father and child refused to return to the reunification therapist. A Guardian Ad Litem was appointed to the child, and unfortunately the father and child believed that the GAL's role was to advocate for what the child wanted as opposed to advocating for the child's best interest. A family therapist was involved in the case and unfortunately did more damage than good, basically aligning with the child without fact checking or speaking with the mother. The result was that the teenage child was in complete control. The court attempted to help restore the mother-child bond, but without the father's support (his words and actions demonstrated that he was not actually supportive of the relationship), the child aligned with her father, and continued to reject her mother. This case had a huge impact on me because my client was doing everything she could to rebuild the relationship with her daughter, only to be rejected over and over again, while seemingly the father's behavior and actions had no real consequences.</p>	
Your role in the case: I was lead attorney on the case after the Complaint was filed and I substituted in as counsel.	

Case 4	
Case name and date: Tina Rohmiller v. Gregory Rohmiller 2020-2021	
Court and presiding judge and all counsel:	
<i>Presiding Judge</i>	Bill Henderson
<i>Counsel for Plaintiff</i>	Louis Schneider, Esq. Pro Se Evan Schwab, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:	
<p>This case was an extremely difficult case, as it involved two young children very bonded to their mother. The mother had an incident which led to a Legal 2000 hold. The mother's behavior was so bizarre that the father was worried about the children's safety and filed for a change in custody. The mother's description of the events that led up to the Legal 2000 did not make sense and were later refuted by the bodycam footage obtained from the Reno Police Department. The mother's untreated mental health and/or her denial about the same was on full display during the majority of the case as she was sending hundreds of text messages and emails to the father, myself and others. Mother misused calling 911 and was advised that she could be prosecuted should she continue to misuse 911. Clark County School District obtained a protective order against mother which precluded her from</p>	

entering any CCSD premises, which she violated several months later by substitute teaching at a CCSD school. Mother used expired spouse identification to attempt to gain entrance to two different Air Force bases. Mother made threats and harassed numerous people and agencies throughout the litigation. I had to apply for and obtain a restraining order so that she could no longer contact me or my office. Mother represented herself through the majority of the nine-day trial, and the court took every precaution to ensure that mother was able to present her case. This case took a mental toll on my client, on myself, on mother and the court.
Your role in the case: I was lead counsel in the case from the filing of the motion through trial.

Case 5
Case name and date: In the Matter of A.Z. A Minor 2021-2022
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: <i>Presiding Judge</i> Stephanie Charter <i>Counsel for DFS</i> Stephanie Richter, Esq. <i>Counsel for Father</i> Audrey J. Beeson, Esq. <i>Counsel for Mother</i> James Davis, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This was Petition 3 for this father. This case was important to me because the case worker did not give up on father to demonstrate the behavioral changes necessary to reunify with his child. Father had relinquished with an open adoption agreement on the previous two petitions. Father made progress in both of his prior cases but just was not able to reunify within the timeline and continued to believe that mother would also demonstrate the behavior change needed, which unfortunately she did not. It would have been very easy for the department to file a motion to waive reasonable efforts in Petition 3 based on the prior two cases, and there would have been grounds for the court to grant it. The support of the department was instrumental in this father reunifying with his child, and having been his counsel in both of the prior cases, I was very happy for the father that he had a successful outcome in this case despite the history of substance use and domestic violence.
Your role in the case: I represented the father from the plea hearing through case closure.

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

Yes

I serve as a private mediator for domestic cases.

I serve as a mediator for the Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program.

I serve as an administrative Special Education Hearing Officer.

I served as a mediator for the Nevada Eviction Mediation Program.

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

William S. Boyd School of Law

Mediation Essentials Coaching

2018-2022

Legal Aid of Southern Nevada

Children's Attorney Project "CAP" Attorney

2018 - 2021

I served as a pro bono CAP Attorney representing very young and/or special needs children. This work was extremely important to me because I learned the value of children in the system having a voice, especially those children too young to have a voice of their own. Representing a non-verbal child's desires is completely different than serving as a Guardian Ad Litem which requires my focus to be the best interest of the child. While working with these children, their parents and foster placements, I have seen firsthand when a parent's efforts are genuine and when the child loses their familial connection. This role has taught me to recognize when a parent is sincerely trying to work his/her case plan to reunify with the child(ren) in comparison with those parents that may be simply biding their time without doing what is best for their child(ren). Once I became a Special Education Hearing Officer, I was asked to stop taking Pro Bono CAP cases to reduce the potential number of conflicts.

Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. P

Guardian Ad Litem "GAL"

2017

I served as a pro-bono GAL for a minor child in a relocation case. This work was especially rewarding to me because it allowed me to look at the best interest of this child, while still allowing his voice to be heard through my interviews with him. It was also very important for me to see how, if at all, my report to the court was a consideration for the moving parent at the time of trial.

Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. S

Reassigned to Department G

Guardian Ad Litem "GAL"

2017 - 2018

I served as a GAL for a minor child involved in a custody/visitation dispute between the mother of the child and the maternal grandparents. This work was an amazing learning experience as the child was extremely intelligent but had difficulty with his attention span on his ability to stay focused. I had to adapt my interview technique and time with him in order to accommodate his specific needs.

Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. S

Reassigned to Department G

Guardian Ad Litem "GAL"

2016 - 2017

I served as a pro-bono GAL for two minor children involved in a high-conflict custody case. This work was very rewarding because these children had been involved in high conflict for several years and I could see the long-term effects that it had on the older child, while still seeing the resilience and intact innocence of the younger child. It was difficult for these children to open up to me, and I appreciated the amount patience that I needed to have in order to allow the children to grow comfortable with me

Legal Aid of Southern Nevada

2015 - 2016

Children's Attorney Project "CAP" Attorney

This was my first experience as a pro-bono CAP attorney and it really opened my eyes to the children that are caught in the system, the difficulty and struggles that they face and the importance that there is a voice that speaks about the child's wishes and desires for the court's consideration in addition to what is believed to be in that child's best interest.

Eighth Judicial District Court, Family Division*Truancy Diversion Program Judge*

C.P. Squires Elementary School

2011 - 2015

Johnston Middle School

Spring 2011

During the five years I served as a Truancy Diversion Judge I focused on reaching the most vulnerable members of our community – children in elementary school and junior high school and I was fortunate enough to have so many children touch my life in ways I never imagined. So many of our youth just needed additional one-on-one attention. They needed to know that someone was paying attention and that someone cared enough to show up every week to make sure that they were coming to school, that they were receiving the resources they so desperately needed, and sometimes they just needed a reassuring smile from an adult figure in their lives. I also had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of the pilot program that integrated elementary school children into the Truancy Diversion Program. The teamwork and relationships necessary for a successful program did not come easily, and the advocate assigned to me did an amazing job of helping me break down the walls and uncertainties that the school staff initially had about integrating the program.

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.

State Bar of Nevada	2007 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family Law Section ▪ LGBT Section ▪ Transitioning into Practice (TIP) Mentor ▪ Family Law Executive Council ▪ ADR Section Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair ○ Secretary ▪ CIP – Locked Facility Subcommittee ▪ Uniform Rules for Family Cases Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual Advocacy ▪ Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics 	<p>2015 – Present</p> <p>2019 – Present</p> <p>2019 – Present</p> <p>2021 - Present</p> <p>2019 – 2021</p> <p>2022</p> <p>Present</p> <p>2019 – 2022</p>
Eighth Judicial District Court, Family Division	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outsource Mediation Committee ▪ Bench Bar Committee Member 	<p>2016 – 2018</p> <p>2013 – Present</p>
American Bar Association	2011 – Present

- Family Law Section
 - Dispute Resolution Section
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts 2017 - 2019
The National Advocates Top 100 Lawyers 2014
The National Academy of Family Law Attorneys
 - Nationally Ranked Top 10 Under 40 2015

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?

I am in compliance with all CLE and Certified Family Law Specialist requirements.

12/01/2022	Advanced Family Law 2022	State Bar of Nevada
11/28/2022	How to Handle All 23 Types of Retirement Division Orders	CLE-4460-2236
10/27/2022	The Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute and Post Traumatic Stress in Addition to Professional Burnout	Supreme Court of Nevada
09/29/2022	2022 TIP Mentoring Program Spring	State Bar of Nevada
09/20/2022	Dependency Bench Bar Meeting	Eighth Judicial District Court
09/19/2022	JDMP: Child Protection Mediation and Domestic Violence	Mediator Training Center
08/18/2022	Bench Bar Meeting	Eighth Judicial District Court
08/11/2022	Presenting and Objecting to Evidence at Trial	State Bar of Nevada
06/23/2022	Bench Bar Meeting	Eighth Judicial District Court
06/13/2022	JDMP Advanced Mediator Training	Mediator Training Center
04/25/2022	2022 Memorial Beecroft Lecture: Civil Public Disclosure: Some Lessons from Psychology	UNLV – William S. Boyd School of Law
04/07/2022	Bench Bar Meeting	Eighth Judicial District Court
12/02/2021	Advanced Family Law 2021	State Bar of Nevada
10/21/2021	CCPD Lunch Series: Alternate Sentencing Options; Specialty Courts	Clark County Public Defender
03/16/2021	CIP Attorney Training 2021	Supreme Court of Nevada
03/03/2021	Spring 2021 TIP Mentor	State Bar of Nevada
02/04/2021	Mediation Ethics in a Virtual World: The Good The Bad & The Ugly	UNLV – William S. Boyd School of Law
01/01/2021	Fall 2020 TIP Mentor Part 2	State Bar of Nevada
12/30/2020	2020 Pro Bono Credits	Legal Aid of Southern NV
12/28/2020	Family Law: Trusts, Appeals & Retirement Assets	American Bar Association
12/17/2020	Family Court 2020: The New Child Support Regulations	State Bar of Nevada
12/17/2020	The Six Steps to Creating an Ethical & Efficient Family Law Firm	State Bar of Nevada

12/17/2020	Nevada Family Law Case Update	State Bar of Nevada
11/09/2020	Eviction Mediation Training	State Bar of Nevada
10/14/2020	Eviction Mediation Training Part 3	State Bar of Nevada
10/08/2020	Eviction Mediation Training Part 2	State Bar of Nevada
10/06/2020	Eviction Mediation Training Part 1	State Bar of Nevada
09/30/2020	Fall 2020 TIP Mentor	State Bar of Nevada
07/22/2020	International Discovery & The Shuffle of Marital Assets	American Bar Association
06/23/2020	Guardianship CLE	Nevada Legal Services
05/28/2020	Assisted Reproductive Technologies	American Bar Association
05/08/2020	Remote Mediation	Supreme Court of Nevada
04/21/2020	Tips & Techniques to Succeed with Virtual Mediation	State Bar of Nevada
03/27/2020	Ethical Considerations for Use of Online Tools for Dispute Neutrals	American Bar Association
03/12/2020	31 st Annual Family Law Conference	State Bar of Nevada
01/28/2020	ART History 101	American Bar Association
01/01/2020	Fall 2019 TIP Mentor - Part 2	State Bar of Nevada
12/11/2019	48 Hours: Primer to Posthumous Sperm Retrieval & Reproduction	American Bar Association
12/10/2019	Ethical Considerations & Guidelines for Advising Clients on Using Multiple Surrogates Simultaneously	American Bar Association
10/03/2019	Dependency Bench Bar	Eighth Judicial District Court
09/03/2019	Spring 2019 TIP Mentor	State Bar of Nevada
09/03/2019	Fall 2019 TIP Mentor – Part 1	State Bar of Nevada
08/15/2019	Bench Bar Meeting	Eighth Judicial District Court
06/20/2019	Family Law Mediation	Pepperdine University
05/17/2019	Military Divorce 102 – Advanced Issues	Law Practice CLE
02/14/2019	Bench Bar Meeting	Eighth Judicial District Court
01/01/2019	Fall 2018 TIP Mentor Part 2	State Bar of Nevada
11/29/2018	Addiction in the Legal Field	Eighth Judicial District Court
11/14/2018	Difficult People: Dealing with Difficult Counsel & Clients	American Bar Association
09/28/2018	Anatomy of a High Conflict Divorce or Custody Case	Family Mediation & Assessment Center
09/13/2018	Divorce Attorney’s Guide to Taxes	NBI
09/01/2018	Fall 2018 TIP Mentor Part 1	State Bar of Nevada
09/01/2018	2018 Spring TIP Mentor	State Bar of Nevada
08/23/2018	Substance Use & Mental Health Signs & Symptoms	University of Nevada
05/31/2018	Domestic Violence in Dependency Mediation	Supreme Court of Nevada
04/05/2018	Bench Bar Meeting	Eighth Judicial District Court
03/19/2018	Dependency Mediation Certification Training	Supreme Court of Nevada
03/02/2018	Efficient Evidence	State Bar of Nevada
03/02/2018	Tax Changes & Bitcoin	State Bar of Nevada

03/01/2018	Caselaw & Legislative Update	State Bar of Nevada
03/01/2018	Litigation Essentials	State Bar of Nevada
03/01/2018	Understanding Human Trafficking Legal Requirements & Lessons Learned	State Bar of Nevada
03/01/2018	District Court Judges' Panel	State Bar of Nevada
03/01/2018	Appellate Court Judges' Panel	State Bar of Nevada

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

I have professional liability insurance.

Business & Occupational Experience

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

Management: retail management from 2001 through 2010; fast food restaurant management from 1993 through 2001.

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

Yes – Audrey Beeson, Esq, PLLC.

- a. Law practice;
- b. Manage all aspects of my business in coordination with my role as Of Counsel with the Law Offices of Frank J. Toti; as mediator for the JDMP and as a Special Education Hearing Officer with the Nevada Department of Education.
- c. I handle all administrative aspects for my business;
- d. N/A;
- e. 100%.

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.

N/A

Civic Professional & Community Involvement

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

No

Have you been a candidate for such an office?

No

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

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

ADR Section of the State Bar of Nevada – Chair 2021- Present

My numerous years in management required not only leadership, but the ability to work in a team-setting, to train those below me, and to set them up for future success.

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

Dependency Mediation – *A View from the Parent's Chair* June 2022

Mediation Ethics in a Virtual World: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly; presented by UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law & The ADR section of the State Bar of Nevada February 2021

I have served as a TIP Mentor since 2015.

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

- Truancy Diversion Judge
- Client Counseling Competition Judge (William S. Boyd School of Law)
- Moot Court Competition (High School Students held at the law school)
- Mediation Coach for mediation training taught at William S. Boyd School of Law

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

- CALI SI in DR: Decision-Making Under Conflict Spring 2017
- The National Advocates Top 100 Lawyers 2014
- The National Academy of Family Law Attorneys
Nationally Ranked Top 10 Under 40 2015

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.

Arbitration. A Promising Avenue for Resolving Family Law Cases? Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Journal

Volume 18 2018

Understanding the Benefits of Arbitration in the Family Law Arena, NFLR

Winter 2017

Determining a Child's Best Interest Without the Child?
NFLR

Summer 2017

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.

I enjoy reading, traveling, learning new things, walking my dogs, spending time outdoors and spending time with my friends. I enjoy eating at good restaurants and experiencing new foods.

Conduct

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

39. Have you ever been convicted of or formally found to be in violation of federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation? Provide details of circumstances, charges, and dispositions.
No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No.

Other

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

Commission on Judicial Selection, Eighth Judicial District Court, Department G
2019; I was not recommended to the Governor as one of the three finalists.

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 (that I feel qualify me as a district court judge, not a supreme court justice).

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 believe in consistency and hope to achieve the same if appointed to the bench. I am aware of the difficulty that attorneys face when trying to counsel and prepare their clients before they walk into any one particular judge's courtroom. I want to be able to provide the litigants and attorneys that come before me with clear and unambiguous orders, and to allow them the opportunity to ensure all issues before the court have been addressed. I know how time consuming and how much work goes into trial preparation and I want attorneys that come before me to know that I appreciate their preparation and that I also understand the limitations when there are limited funds to litigate a case. Family law is a unique and difficult area of law to practice and it takes a lot of compassion to help families during the most difficult times of their lives.

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.

Personal Statement

With over fifteen years in family law practice, almost four years of experience as a juvenile dependency track attorney, an LL.M. in ADR, and a year of experience as a Special Education Hearing Officer, I believe I have a unique combination of experience and education that I can bring to the bench and the family law community. I am one of forty-seven Nevada Board Certified Family Law Specialists and have maintained that specialization since 2015. I handle custody, paternity, divorce, guardianships of minors and adults, name changes, termination of parental rights, adoption, and child support cases. I also prepare and review pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements. I am very involved in the family law community, serving on the family law bench bar committee and the Family Law Executive Council.

My education and training in alternate dispute resolution has changed the way that I handle cases for the better. I consistently look for ways to de-escalate a case, work with opposing counsel and acknowledge the trauma and difficulties that clients experience or have experienced in the past. I believe that my education and training has made me more compassionate, patient, and thoughtful especially when dealing with parents in dependency cases.

I am currently serving my second year as ADR Section Chair. Through this position, I maintain a close relationship with the law school and faculty members. During my first term as Chair, we revised our section bylaws to allow law students to become members of the ADR section. Following our lead, as the first section to allow law students to become members, the Nevada Board of Governors reached out to all section leaders to request that other sections consider amending their bylaws as we did. I recently completed the Private Sector Mediator Guidelines for the Eighth Judicial District Court – Family Division to offer the opportunity for private sector mediation services to expand access to and the quality of justice, reduce delays in the disposition of cases, saving time and money for all involved. The ADR Section agreed to

oversee the list of mediators that qualify and provide updated lists to the family court judges on a regular basis. I am hopeful that the additional resource will help reduce the caseloads of the family court bench, and help more families move on with their lives with less turmoil and conflict.

As a Special Education Hearing Officer I also understand the need to manage a case from start to finish in a timely manner, while also granting continuances in cases where I find good cause to do so. This new role has given me a different perspective, and I have even more respect and appreciation for the responsibilities and duties that judicial officers have as well as their need to maintain a judicial temperament and how to handle cases wherein parties represent themselves and do not have the benefit of counsel.

I also have the desire to continue learning. I believe I learn something new from every case, from every attorney and from every trial. I try to incorporate what I learn in my own practice. I will certainly have a lot to learn as a new judicial officer, and I look forward to furthering my education in that regard if I am appointed.

JOIN

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**DISTRICT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION
CLARK COUNTY NEVADA**

In the Matter of:

L.T,

G.G,

Minors under the age of 18.

} Case J-20-345103-P2

} Dept Y

} Courtroom: 21

**NATURAL FATHER’S PARTIAL JOINDER TO NATURAL MOTHER’S
RENEWED MOTION FOR A LACK OF REASONABLE EFFORTS AND
FOR PLACEMENT CHANGE**

COMES NOW, Natural Father, by and through his attorney of record,
AUDREY J. BEESON, ESQ., and hereby files this Partial Joinder to Natural
Mother’s Renewed Motion for a Lack of Reasonable Efforts and for Placement
Change.

This Joinder incorporates by reference the statement of facts set forth in the
underlying Motion and is made and based upon the pleadings and papers on file
herein, the attached points and authorities, and any oral argument which may be
entertained at the time of hearing on this matter.

1 DATED this 9 day of June 2022

2
3 /s/ Audrey J. Beeson

4 AUDREY J. BEESON, ESQ.
5 Nevada Bar No. 10511
6 6900 Westcliff Drive #500
7 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
8 Attorney for Natural Father

9 **I.**

10 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

11 The Respondent is the Natural Father of L.T. born February 22, 2013. Natural
12 Father hereby incorporates by reference, in part, the statement of facts set forth in
13 Natural Mother's Motion for a Lack of Reasonable Efforts and for Placement
14 Change on pages 3 through page 7, line 20 and page 10 line 11 through page 12, line
15 2. Additionally, since the filing of Natural Mother's motion new events have
16 occurred that the court should be aware of. On Wednesday, June 8, 2022 after the
17 children's reunification session with Mr. Ponzo, the case worker, Ms. Ruiz reached
18 out to DA Richter with the following information:
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20
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22 L.T. and G.G had a session with Mr. Ponzo today. There were no
23 issues with transportation but I did want to address what took place
24 during the session. Initially, L.T. did not want to go without me in the
25 session. I let him know that I had a lot of work to do and asked him to
26 please go in without me which he agreed. Mr. Ponzo brought L.T in
27 first today. L.T. was in the session for approx. 30-40mins with Mr.
28 Ponzo. After Mr. Ponzo brought L.T. out he asked me if he could speak
to me for a moment privately. I went inside with Mr. Ponzo and he
stated to me that L.T. was on his computer the entire time during the

1 session. Mr. Ponzo stated that he got up to see what L.T. was doing and
2 that L.T. had his camera on looking at himself. Mr. Ponzo asked him
3 why he had the camera on and L.T.'s reply to him was "every computer
4 has a camera so does yours." Mr. Ponzo stated he did not know what
5 L.T. was doing or if he was recording the session. I let Mr. Ponzo know
6 I would talk to L.T. about that. Mr. Ponzo took G.G. in next. While we
7 were waiting outside I asked L.T. why he had his camera on during the
8 session with Mr. Ponzo in which he replied "I don't know." I told him
9 that he needed to be honest with me and I asked him if he was recording.
10 L.T. stated he did record the session. I asked him why he would record
11 the session and asked him if someone told him to record. L.T. stated
12 "Ms. Esse told me to record the session so she could see it later." I
13 immediately called Sha'londa to staff this with her in which she stated
14 we needed to call licensing to report it. I let her know Ms. Esse is
15 currently going through the licensing process and is not fully licensed
16 yet, Sha'londa stated we needed to address this with her once I drop the
17 children back off. During our car ride back home I talked to L.T. about
18 privacy and it not being okay to record those sessions as they are
19 private. I told him to delete the video immediately and watched him
20 delete it. I checked to make sure it was deleted and not just in the trash
21 bin. I let him know that he would not be taking any device in any of his
22 sessions any more in which he agreed. I also asked L.T. if Ms. Esse
23 speaks bad about his mom in which he stated she does not. I also asked
24 him if she has asked him to say certain things to me or anyone else and
25 he said she has not.

19 When we dropped the children off at home I asked Ms. Esse if I
20 could speak with her privately. She put on a show for the children to
21 watch while we talked in another room. I let her know what took place
22 and she looked shocked. She immediately called L.T. over and stated
23 "L.T. what happened today?" L.T. did not answer. Then she asked him
24 "L.T. you have to tell the truth, did I ask you to record the session with
25 Mr. Ponzo?" L.T. again did not answer. I told L.T. "Hey buddie no one
26 is going to be mad at you I just need to be honest and tell Ms. Esse what
27 you told me." L.T. then stated "I wanted to record the session since Ms.
28 Esse couldn't be there so she could see it later." Ms. Esse asked him
"but did I tell you to record that?" in which L.T. stated "no." Ms. Esse
began to tell me she would never tell L.T. that and does not know why
he would say that. I asked L.T. to go watch the show again and asked
Ms. Esse to step outside so we could call Sha'londa. We called

1 Sha'londa and Sha'londa let Ms. Esse know that we had concerns
2 regarding what occurred and that we would have to take correction
3 actions regarding this. Ms. Esse told Sha'londa she would never tell
4 L.T. to do that. Sha'londa let her know we would be staffing this with
our manager Thandiwe and yourself.

5 DA Richter forwarded the information to all counsel involved in the case with
6 the following statement:

7
8 Please see below from Ms. Ruiz regarding L.T.'s therapy session with
9 Mr. Ponzio today. This will continue to be staffed further but Ms. Ruiz
10 and DFS wanted to insure all parties were aware of the below
11 information as soon as possible. At this time, based on the limited
12 information below, the Department has indicated there will not be a
13 placement change prior to the children being able to testify on June
20th.

14 In response, Ms. Rosenblum stated her concerns as follows:

15
16 I really have no words at this point, because this is endemic of the
17 concerns we have been raising, and I think it defies logic to believe for
18 one second that L.T. of his own volition decided to record this session
19 to show placement later without it being suggested to him on some level
20 if not outright given to him as an instruction. I'm also troubled that
21 when confronted, placement called L.T. over in the presence of Ms.
22 Ruiz to put on a display that she hadn't asked him to record, because
that places this child in a loyalty bind by having to answer in front of
her, and it was done purely as a defense for placement's own sake
without regard for L.T.

23
24 Once again, I implore the department to remove these children
immediately from this placement.

25 On June 9, 2022, Ms. Beeson responded to the email thread stating:

26
27 I too share Ms. Rosenblum's concerns that placement pulled L.T. into
28 that conversation when Ms. Ruiz made it a point for the conversation

1 to be private and NOT in front of the children. At the very least,
2 placement should have told Ms. Ruiz that she wanted to call L.T. over
3 so that Ms. Ruiz could have instructed her not to. It appears not only
4 based on her testimony in court, but also due to her behaviors since then
5 that she does not think things through before she acts or speaks in front
6 of the children. And I believe that it is harming the children because
7 they have come to rely on her and see her as their caregiver. I think this
8 should be addressed in the children's individual therapy, in future
9 sessions with Mr. Ponzo and with placement. Any training that she has
10 received thus far has not made any impact based on her behavior. We
11 have no way of knowing the truth based on placement's behavior. There
12 were multiple other ways to handle that situation. I'm concerned that
13 placement does not seem to understand boundaries and the difference
14 between what is or is not appropriate to share with or discuss with the
15 children. Perhaps the department would be willing to shed some light
16 as to what training placement has received up to this point.

17 Mr. Ketter likewise responded on June 9, 2022 with the following:

18 This is what extremely concerning. It is clear that this placement has
19 her own agenda and no matter what boundaries are put in place by the
20 court and the department, she endeavors to push her agenda regardless.
21 And to then throw the child under the bus by saying that she didn't
22 instruct him to do it, demonstrates that she does not have these
23 children's best interests in mind. I can only imagine what sort of
24 consequences L.T. faced being left in the placement by the Department
25 after the confrontation.

26 Ms. Johnson's actions demonstrate that she does not know appropriate
27 boundaries, does not understand what should and should not be discussed in front of
28 the children and that she inappropriately placed L.T. in an impossible situation by
questioning him in front of Ms. Ruiz. This is no longer about one incident wherein
Ms. Johnson's actions were unacceptable and contrary to the children's best
interests, but have now become a pattern of behavior.

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II.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

Natural Father hereby incorporates by reference, in part, the legal arguments set forth in Natural Mother's Opposition to Objection to Hearing Master's Findings and Recommendations Regarding Natural Mother's Motion for Summary Judgment set forth on page 12, lines 5-15 and page 13, lines 4-20.

Additionally, while Natural Father acknowledges that reunification therapy is not typically used in dependency cases, the situation that has resulted in this case from the actions of both Ms. Summers and Ms. Johnson are also not typical. Parental alienation usually occurs between two parents in custody or divorce actions wherein one parent engages in alienating the child from the other parent. Research has developed over the years and there is an additional assertion that alienation is a relationship dynamic that exists between individuals. Alienation from a parent can limit a child's ability to process information and lead to a pattern of simplistic and rigid thinking. Losing a caregiver in and of itself can be traumatic, but also living in a loyalty bind and managing the stress associated with prolonged conflict, serial therapies, interviews, and assessments can have a cumulative negative effect on a child. Alienation of these children began more than a year ago, first with Ms. Summers and now with Ms. Johnson. Allowing this to continue is not acceptable and the department's refusal to remove the children from Ms. Johnson's care

1 demonstrates a lack of reasonable efforts. Again, these children have been alienated
2 from their own mother for a period of approximately 15 months while under the
3 legal custody of the department of family services.
4

5 Mr. Ponzo's testimony was clear – reunification therapy is a process and each
6 case is different. Perhaps reunification therapy for L.T. and his mother will not be
7 successful, but L.T. deserves to have the opportunity to explore the possibility, work
8 through his feelings and potentially even have the cathartic experience of addressing
9 his anger, fear and hurt directly with his mother. That opportunity belongs to L.T.
10 and L.T. alone. L.T.'s need for affiliation may be driving his resistance to engage in
11 reunification therapy with his mother. A child feels the need to win acceptance,
12 affection and attention from their caretaker. Once the child feels that he or she has
13 the same, they will do whatever they can to protect that, even rejecting a parent.
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18 Ms. Johnson testified that she did not have a relationship with the children's
19 parents prior to taking placement. Most, if not all, of the information that Ms.
20 Johnson has received in this case has been hearsay from third parties including very
21 disparaging information about Natural Mother from Ms. Summers. When asked if
22 Ms. Johnson was disturbed by the negative opinions Ms. Summers shared with her
23 about their mother in front of the children, Ms. Johnson testified that she was **not** –
24 however she was disturbed by Ms. Summers speaking about the children and their
25 health in front of them. When asked whether she believed the children should have
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1 contact with their mother even if not reunified, Ms. Johnson testified that she would
2 like to see that for the children and does not want to stand in the way – however, Ms.
3 Johnson has done just that based on her behavior at Mr. Ponzio’s office at the
4 reunification session on May 17, 2022 wherein she actively interfered with
5 reunification therapy.
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7
8 Ms. Johnson’s agenda appears to prioritize her own interests over the best
9 interest of the children. It is highly unlikely that a nine-year old child would decide
10 to record a reunification therapy session to show his placement without any type of
11 prompting, whether direct or indirect. L.T. witnessed all of the comments and actions
12 of Ms. Johnson at the appointment on May 17, 2022. There can be no doubt that Ms.
13 Johnson’s words and actions that day in front of the children had an effect. It is clear
14 that Ms. Johnson does not want the reunification therapy to occur at all, and L.T. is
15 seeking to please Ms. Johnson, as any child would seek to please their caretaker. At
16 this point it would be in the children’s best interest to be removed from Ms.
17 Johnson’s care and placed with Ms. Tarin. The children will continue to engage in
18 therapy services both with their individual therapists as well as the reunification
19 sessions with Mr. Ponzio. Keeping the children with Ms. Johnson while trying to
20 move forward with reunification therapy would only serve to create additional
21 confusion and tension for the children, as they are now aligned with Ms. Johnson,
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1 and would likely feel guilty if they agreed to speak to their mother in reunification
2 therapy knowing that Ms. Johnson does not support the same.

3
4 Ms. Tarin came forward to take placement of both children in February of this
5 year and testified that she will not only be protective of the children but that she
6 would also accommodate all of the children's appointments and listen to the
7 children's therapist(s). Ms. Tarin has engaged in visits with the children since the
8 court ordered the same and the children have enjoyed the visits. Ms. Tarin has been
9 consistent in her desire to take placement of the children over the last four
10 consecutive months, and based upon information and belief has been at all of the
11 court hearings since February 2022.
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III.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, as set forth in this Joinder, Natural Father respectfully requests the following:

- a. That the Court make a finding of a lack of reasonable efforts;
- b. That the Court change the children’s placement from Ms. Johnson to Ms. Tarin; and
- c. For such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Dated this 9th day of June 2022

/s/ Audrey J. Beeson
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