

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DEPARTMENT Y

**By**

**Adriana White**



Personal Information
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1.	Full Name	
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.	Gonzalez, birth – 1993 Rincon, 1993 – 2011: changed to mother’s maiden name White, 2011 – present: assumed husband’s surname at time of marriage
3.	How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?	21 years
4.	City and county of residence	Las Vegas, Clark
5.	Age	49

Employment History
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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)455-5200
Physical Address & Website	601 N Pecos Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89101 www.clarkcountycourts.us
Date(s) of Employment	1/14/2019 - present
Supervisor’s Name and Title	David Gibson, Jr Presiding Judge, Family Court
Your Title	Hearing Master
Describe Your Key Duties	<p><b>1/2023 - present:</b>  <u>Domestic Violence Protection Order Hearing Master:</u>  Review applications for protection orders against domestic violence; conduct initial hearings; hear testimony &amp; review evidence; decide whether to issue temporary protection order pursuant to NRS 33. (average of 80 applications per week)  Preside over extension hearings; motion hearings regarding modifications of orders; motion hearings regarding dissolution of orders; and motions for order to show cause. Also, preside over Evidentiary Hearings when issues of facts exist.  Draft Findings of Facts &amp; Recommendations.</p> <p><b>1/2021 – 12/2022:</b>  <u>Juvenile Delinquency Hearing Master:</u>  Presided over hearings to determine whether there was probable cause to detain a youth after arrest but prior to the filing of a juvenile delinquency petition.</p>

	<p>Heard argument from the State, the Defense, and received information from Probation and other community partners to make this determination.</p> <p>Presided over Plea Hearings; Status Checks; Motion Hearings; and Disposition Hearings. Upon adjudication of a youth, issued recommendations for terms of probation or alternative placement outside of the community.</p> <p>Presided over Contested Hearings and weighed evidence/witness testimony to determine whether the State proved charges. Prepared and issued written findings and recommendations. Managed heavy court docket and supervised secretarial staff of the department.</p> <p>In addition to general delinquency matters, I also presided over the following Specialty Courts: Juvenile Sex Offender; Juvenile Drug Treatment Court; EMPOWER Court (intrafamilial violence); and Juvenile Temporary Protection Order (TPO) Court</p> <p><b>1/2019 – 12/2020:</b>  <u>Dependency (Child Abuse Neglect) Hearing Master:</u>          Presided over matters involving the allegation of abuse and/or neglect of children by their parent/caregiver. Presided over Probable Cause hearings to determine whether probable cause existed for the Department of Family Services to remove child(ren) from their parent/caregiver. Presided over Permanency Review Hearings; Evidentiary Hearings; Termination of Parental Rights Trials and Adoption Hearings. Prepared and issued written findings and recommendations.</p>
Reason for Leaving	Current Employment

Previous Employer	Eric Palacios & Associates
Phone	(702)444-7777
Address & Website	2050 S. Eastern Ave, Las Vegas NV 89104 www.ericpalacioslaw.com
Date(s) of Employment	2008 – 2014 and 2017-2019
Supervisor's Name and Title	Eric Palacios, Owner
Your Title	Associate Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	Represented clients in Family Law matters exclusively. Divorce; prenuptial agreements; custody; child support; adoptions (adult & minor); guardianship of minor children; name changes. Conducted initial client interviews; drafted & argued motions; represented clients at settlement conferences

	and trials. Supervised paralegal and secretarial staff.
Reason for Leaving	2014: left to operate my own firm (See below) 2019: left after I accepted Hearing Master Appointment (Current position)

Previous Employer	Law Office of Adriana Rincon White
Phone	N/A
Address & Website	N/A
Date(s) of Employment	2014-2017
Supervisor's Name and Title	Self
Your Title	Attorney Owner
Describe Your Key Duties	Owned and operated a small law office as a sole practitioner. Represented clients in Family Law, Personal Injury, and traffic ticket matters. Responsible for the daily operation of the firm; representation of clients; and management/supervision of staff which consisted of 2-3 employees at various times.
Reason for Leaving	Returned to former employer

Previous Employer	Century 21 MoneyWorld School of Real Estate
Phone	Out of business
Address & Website	Out of business
Date(s) of Employment	2003-2008
Supervisor's Name and Title	Michael Beckner, Director
Your Title	Assistant Director
Describe Your Key Duties	Taught the State mandated 90 hour curriculum of Real Estate Law to prospective real estate agents. Developed lesson plans and curriculum. Assisted in managing the operation of the school and supervising school employees (2).
Reason for Leaving	Passed Nevada Bar Exam & accepted job at law firm

Educational Background
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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.

High School:

Imperial High School  
517 W. Barioni Blvd, Imperial, CA 92251  
Attended 1989-1993  
High school diploma  
Graduated

College:

San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182  
Attended 1993-1999  
BS Criminal Justice Administration  
Graduated

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

High School:

**Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club:** Member, 1989-93. Officer (Sentinel) 1992-93. Having been raised in an agricultural area, my membership in the FFA taught me a lot about farming practices, farm animals, plants, horticulture, and agriculture in general. Every year that I was a member I purchased, raised, and showed sheep at the annual county fair. This project taught me at a very young age about being responsible for something/someone other than myself; how to care for an animal and all of its needs; how to market and present an animal for show and eventually a sale auction. Showing an animal at the fair in front of a panel of judges taught me patience; preparation; and presentation. Also, purchasing, feeding, housing, and eventually selling the animal taught me basic money management and basic business skills. All of the skills I learned while a member of the FFA are skills that I have applied throughout my life and still use to this day in my legal profession.

**Mock Trial Team:** Being part of my High School's Mock Trial Team was my first exposure to the law and my first visit to a courthouse. It also was the first time I ever interacted with Attorneys and other members of the legal community who volunteered their time with our team. One year I played the role of bailiff (understudy), another year I played the role of a witness, and during my final year on the team I played the role of a prosecutor.

College:

**PreLaw Society:** This was a club for college students interested in attending law school after

college. My senior year in college I was the President and during that year I was able to create a partnership with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office who agreed to partner with college students as mentors. This partnership was developed with the guidance and cooperation of the Hon. Blaine Bowman who at the time was a Deputy DA and my Criminal Justice Professor.

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.

California Western School of Law  
225 Cedar St, San Diego, CA 92101  
Juris Doctor 2002  
Class rank unknown  
Graduated

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.

California Attorney General's Office, Writs & Appeals Division: I worked as Law Clerk, part-time. My job duties included drafting legal memoranda filed with the California Court of Appeals and/or Supreme Court. During my last semester with this office, I received special permission from the State Bar of California to argue a case before the California Supreme Court. [Summer 2001 – Spring 2002]

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

California Western School of Law: I was as research assistant for my Criminal Law Professor who at the time was working on a Bail Review Project. I had this position for one semester during my second year of law school.

San Diego County Public Defender's Office: I was a law clerk, part-time for one semester during my second year of law school. My job was to interview defendants prior to their initial appearance in court.

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

2008.

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 15-19 for the five years directly preceding your appointment or election to the bench.

Legal Discipline	Percentage of Practice
Domestic/family	100%
Juvenile matters	
Trial court civil	
Appellate civil	
Trial court criminal	
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?

Approximately, 15- 20% of my cases were set for non-jury trial.

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.

None.

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

Eighth Judicial District Court – Dependency, Juvenile, and Family Division, Clark County

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: Taylor v Taylor (2013)

<p>Court and presiding judge and all counsel:  Eighth Judicial District Court – Family Division  Hon. William B. Gonzalez  James Kent &amp; Thomas Stafford  Adriana Rincon White</p>
<p>Importance of the case to you and the case’s impact on you:</p> <p>This case involved a couple who divorced by Joint Petition. The Parties had stipulated to joint legal and joint physical custody of their two children. Shortly after the divorce was finalized, Wife abruptly relocated to Texas with the children without either knowledge or consent from Husband. During my representation of Husband I filed motions for contempt, pick up orders for the children and a motion for change of custody. Wife disobeyed multiple court orders and refused to return the children to Nevada or disclose their location for some time.</p> <p>This matter required the intervention of the Missing &amp; Exploited Children's Division of the Nevada Attorney General’s Office and cooperation by the State of Texas. After a couple of years of litigation, my client was eventually awarded primary physical custody of the children. The impact this case had on me was learning about parental abduction in divorce/custody cases and how different government agencies work in these cases. It was challenging to coach and comfort my client during this desperate time for him, especially knowing that while wrongdoing may be blatant legal relief takes time, patience, and perseverance.</p>
<p>Your role in the case:  Defendant’s (Husband) Attorney</p>
<p>Case 2</p>
<p>Case name and date: Gutierrez v. Pineda-Gutierrez (2016)</p>
<p>Court and presiding judge and all counsel:  Eighth Judicial District Court – Family Division  Hon. Bryce Duckworth  Attorney Stephen Compan  Attorney Adriana Rincon White for Defendant (Wife)</p>
<p>Importance of the case to you and the case’s impact on you:</p> <p>This case involved an elderly couple who had been together for 25+ years but had only been legally married for 3 years prior to their divorce. They had a severely handicapped adult child in common who required full-time care around the clock. Wife had historically been this child’s care taker. Early on in the relationship they couple purchased a home in Husband's name only. The Parties held out themselves in public as a married couple. In fact, Husband was able to get Wife medical insurance</p>



through his employer for many years prior to their marriage because he listed her as his spouse and no one ever questioned it. At the time of divorce, Husband refused to give Wife any interest in the home which had a significant amount of equity.

Without any financial relief, Wife would be homeless and destitute post-divorce.

Wife was in her 70s at this point and not employable. At the conclusion of the case, Wife received a share of the equity in the home. I was able to convince the Judge that despite the putative spouse doctrine not being recognized in Nevada, Wife was entitled to some equity in the property because of her contributions to the home.

This case had a tremendous impact on me because although the law was really stacked against my client, I understood her need and knew how important it was to get her a just and fair result as her life literally depended on it. I received a great lesson in perseverance and zealous advocacy.

Your role in the case:

Defendant's attorney (Wife)

### Case 3

Case name and date:

In the Matter of the Parental Rights of A.P., P.P., L.P., D.P. (2019)

Court and presiding judge and all counsel:

Hearing Master Adriana Rincon White

Deputy District Attorneys Payal Patel & Candice Saip

Attorney Beth Rosenblum, for Mother

Attorney Courtney Ketter, for Father

Attorney Dewey Fowler, for the minor children

CASA Tami Laco

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

This case involved 4 young brothers who were removed from their parents after being significantly abused and neglected. The boys ages 11, 6, 5, and 3 were basically left to fend for themselves while their parents engaged in significant drug use in the vehicle in which the family lived in. After being in foster care for some time, an adoptive resource was identified in the State of Pennsylvania. I was the judicial officer who permitted the children to relocate to with the prospective adoptive family.

After some months of the children being there, we learned that this family was physically abusing at least one of the children. Emergency Hearings were conducted and ultimately I ordered that the children return to Nevada. The children were placed in foster care again until another adoptive source was identified. The boys remained in foster care for several months again until finally a new adoptive resource was identified.

In all, the children were in foster care for 3 years.

The boys had a CASA Volunteer who was their advocate for the entire time and who visited them regularly, even when they were in Pennsylvania. She is who reported the abuse after becoming suspicious when the prospective adoptive family abruptly cut her off from having contact with the children.

This case had a great impact on me. It was heart wrenching to hear the conditions in which these children lived with their parents who could not overcome their addiction for the sake of their children. It was also emotionally devastating to have to remove the children from a second abusive environment.

As a mother of young children myself, I had to continually remind myself that my role was not that of a mother but that of a judicial officer. I had to maintain my composure at all times even when I saw tears flowing from everyone's eyes including the children.

The greatest moment, however, came when I presided over their adoption hearing.

My courtroom was standing room only that day and it was great to witness an outpouring of love and support for these children who deserved it.

Your role in the case:  
Judicial Officer

#### Case 4

Case name and date:  
In the Matter of A.C. (2022)

Court and presiding judge and all counsel:  
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court  
Hearing Master Adriana Rincon White  
Chief Deputy District Attorney Ravi Bawa  
Chief Deputy Public Defender Jennifer Fraser

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

A.C. was arrested on some rather serious charges one of them being Attempted Murder. Eventually A.C. accepted a plea deal and was adjudicated on one charge of Battery resulting in Substantial Bodily Harm.

A.C. spent some time in juvenile state prison and once released he was ordered to Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, which is where I met him. During his time in treatment court he demonstrated tremendous growth. He never missed a hearing, did not test positive, actively participated in counseling program, and even got a full-time job. A.C. always had a positive attitude, was respectful, and even served as a mentor to his peers.

At graduation from Treatment Court, A.C. delivered an eloquent speech motivating all the youth present to take full advantage of the second chance Drug Treatment Court offers youth. Also, expressed great remorse.

<p>The impact this case had on me was seeing a young man rehabilitated and ready to become a positive member of our community. It also helped me realize the positive impact Specialty Courts have on some members of our community who otherwise would get lost in the system and likely recidivate.</p>
<p>Your role in the case: Judicial Officer</p>
<p>Case 5</p>
<p>Case name and date: In the Matter of the Petition of Adoption of Ronald &amp; Masue Cyrankowski (2014)</p>
<p>Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Eighth Judicial District Court – Family Division Hon. Sandra Pomrenze Attorney Adriana Rincon White</p>
<p>Importance of the case to you and the case’s impact on you:</p> <p>This case involved the Petition of Adoption by close family friends. This case has no legal significance but it has great personal significance to me because I personally witnessed close friends navigate through the Adoption Process. From making the decision to adopt, to working with an adoption agency, to meeting their son for the first time, and culminating with their Adoption Hearing.</p> <p>This was the first Adoption Case I ever handled and it was significant to me because I was able to learn all about the adoption process from my friends.</p>
<p>Your role in the case: Attorney for Petitions</p>

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.

Yes

From 2010 to 2013, I served as a volunteer judge with the Truancy Diversion Program of the Clark County Family Court. I was assigned to schools within the Clark County School District to do on site visits and meet with students in order to address and resolve their specific truancy issues. I identified barriers to students attending school and worked with community partners to resolve and remove these barriers. I motivated students to attend school by either sharing personal stories, teaching moments, or incentives. During my three years as a volunteer I was assigned to Cram Middle School, Fremont Middle School, and Cheyenne High School.

From 2014 to 2018, I served as a Pro Tem Hearing Master in Child Support Court filling in for Hearing Masters Beller and/or Teuton as needed.

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

Consistently throughout my time as an attorney in private practice I accepted cases pro bono through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. I was a member of their "50 Hour Club." I also volunteered at their "Ask-A-Lawyer" open clinics from time to time.

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.

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges – Judicial Resource Center on Firearms, Planning Committee (2024)

Clark County Bar Association

Clark County Bar Association, Diversion & Inclusion Committee for Equity, Member (2021-22)

State Bar of Nevada

Latino Bar Association

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 CLEs.

Courses and/or Seminars attended January 1, 2019 to Present:

2019:

Institute for New Juvenile & Family Court Judges

Taking the Bench: An Interactive Online Course for New Judges

Big Picture Approach to Family Law Appeals

Trial Publicity: What Can You Say

2020:

Nevada Family Jurisdiction Judges Annual Conference

Annual Family Law Conference

Nevada Family Law Case Law Update

Domestic Violence for Nevada Judges

2021:

Drug & Alcohol Abuse: The 800 Pound Gorilla in the Room

The Six Steps to Creating an Ethical & Efficient Family Law Firm

Family Court 2020: The New Child Support Regulations  
Bankruptcy Nuts & Bolts  
Ethical Landmines in Today's World & How to Avoid Them  
Unconscious Bias in the Legal Profession

2022:

Compassion Fatigue  
Five Procedures to Keep You Bar Compliant and Your Client Happy  
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training Series, Cultural Humility 1  
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training Series, Cultural Humility 2  
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training Series, Cultural Brokering  
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training Series, Using Data to Advance  
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training Series, Making Juvenile Drug  
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training Series, Team Strategies For  
Nevada Specialty Court Conference

2023:

NCJIS Custody Warrants  
Vicarious Trauma & Compassion Fatigue  
Family Law Legislative Updates

2024:

Family Law Bench Bar Meeting – The adoption of ADKT 0619 & Informal Family Law Trials  
Working Towards a More Diverse Legal Profession

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

I work for a governmental agency.

### Business & Occupational Experience

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.

2005 – 2008 Licensed Real Estate Agent & Assistant Director of a Real Estate School

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: Law Office
- b. the nature of your duties: Owner/Manager
- c. the extent of your involvement in the administration or management of the business:
  2. managed the day to day operation of this small firm which had 2-3 employees at any given time
- a. the terms of your service: 2014-2017
- b. the percentage of your ownership: 100%

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.

Parent Leadership Team of Nevada  
 4780 W Ann Road, North Las Vegas NV 89031  
 Board of Directors/Treasurer  
 Supervised the managing of funds received by this non-profit organization; reviewed spending reports on quarterly basis  
 2022 – Feb 2023  
 0% ownership

### Civic Professional & Community Involvement

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

No

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.

In 2020 I was a candidate for Eighth Judicial District Court -Family Division Department W, but was not elected. I received 329,962 votes which equaled 45.85% of the total votes in my race.

In 2023, I applied for appointment to Department C, Eighth Judicial District Court, Family Division, although I was one of three candidates nominated, I was not appointed.

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

None

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

None

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

May Elementary School Organizational Team, Parent Member

May Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Communication Officer

CC Ronnow Elementary School, Career Day Presenter

Clark High School, Career Day Presenter

Huellas Mentor Program, Latino Bar Association

Preschool volunteer, Canyon Ridge Christian Church

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

None

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.

None

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 book club with my daughter, cooking, exercising; volunteering at my children's school; and watching my children participate in various extracurricular activities. My favorite hobby is travelling with my family.

Conduct
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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.

Nevada Judicial Selection Commission; Eight Judicial District, Department C; March 2023; nominated by Commission, but not appointed.

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.

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 have been a Hearing Master for nearly six (6) years (1/14/2019) and know very well the demands and intricacies of effectively running a courtroom. My entire career has been dedicated to Family Law – 10 years as a family law practitioner; 4 years as pro-tem Hearing Master in Child Support Court; and for 6 years as Hearing Master presiding over Dependency; Juvenile Delinquency and now Domestic Violence Protection Orders. In addition to knowledge of the law, I have practical experience in every area of the law that comes through family court. I am ready to serve on day one with little or no learning curve.

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.

# ITEM 47

Personal Statement of Adriana Rincon White

I was raised in the very small town of Imperial, California. I graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration. I am a first - generation college graduate. I am also a first-generation high school, middle school, and elementary school graduate, as my parents only attended school through the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Both my parents were born and raised in Mexico and as was customary then, they had to leave school at a young age to help support their families.

My senior year in college I was the President of the Pre-Law Society. After college, I attended California Western School of Law located in San Diego. I graduated law school in 2002, completing the program in just two years versus the traditional three.

I moved to Las Vegas in 2003. My first job in Las Vegas was at a real estate school teaching the 90-hour real estate course required of all prospective real estate agents. Around 2008, the real estate market took a hard economic hit, and I found that time to be the right time to go back to the initial plan of becoming an attorney. Sitting for the Nevada Bar Exam in 2008 was a daunting task because by then I had been out of law school six years and my study habits were rusty. As with everything I do, I committed to the exam and quit my full-time job to study. My hard work paid off and I passed the bar exam on the first attempt.

My first job as an attorney was at the Law Office of Eric Palacios. When I was hired, the firm had a very small family law department with approximately 35 clients. Over the years, the practice grew and I found myself in family court nearly every day. Being in court every day helped me learn family law well and hone my courtroom skills. Another benefit of being in court so often is that I was able to get to know judges over the years, many of whom serve as my mentors today and who inspired me to take my career to the next level.

Most of the clients I represented were working class such as casino workers, construction workers, and other similar trades. Many of my clients did not speak English fluently and I took pride in being able to communicate with them in their native language and mine, Spanish. Over the years, my reputation as a hardworking and honest attorney spread in the community and our practice grew tremendously from the initial 35 to over 100s of clients over the span of 10 years that I was at the firm. I represented clients in complex cases and simple ones too, but all with the same level of care and compassion.

In 2015, I opened my own practice. That was an important time in my life as I had two young children and I wanted to be a hands on parent during their tender years. After about three years of a successful solo practice, I merged my office with that of my former boss. While he took over the business and management duties, I was able to get back to what I really love - being in a courtroom.

In 2014, I was hired as a Pro-Tem Hearing Master in Child Support Court and I served in that capacity for 4 years. Since being appointed Hearing Master in 2019, I have been assigned to different areas within Family Court. I have presided over cases in Dependency Court, Juvenile Delinquency Court, and currently Domestic Violence Court.

I have a strong work ethic and fully commit to everything I do. I currently carry a heavy case load and I prepare for every case without the help of a law clerk. I believe it makes me a better judge and helps me understand a case better when I am intimately familiar with the facts of every case. I understand that my case load will be much higher as a District Court Judge and I will need the help of a law clerk and staff to be efficient but I still plan on being that hands on judge that is prepared and familiar with every case. I also take punctuality seriously and strive to start court on time because I value and respect everyone's time.

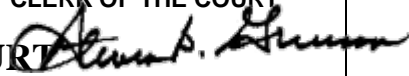
Not every decision a judge makes is a popular one even when it is the right one. There are times when emotions run high during hearings. Despite that, I maintain control of the courtroom and remain fair and impartial. I do not allow emotion to dictate the outcome of a case. I have the courage to do what the law requires of me and deliver my decisions with compassion and grace. I have made that tough call to terminate parental rights; or of deciding whether to release a youth from custody despite the crying plea of a parent; or of whether to issue an order to protect someone's life. My six years on the bench as a Hearing Master speak to my ability to do the job.

I am committed to my community and to the Court as demonstrated by my trajectory in the legal community. I have been practicing law for sixteen years. Ten of those years have been on the bench – four years as a Pro-Tem Hearing Master and six years in my current position. I stand out from other potential candidates because I am the only one with a decade of actual judicial experience. I am ready to take the bench on day one. I know how to run a courtroom; manage a heavy docket; conduct efficient hearings; and most importantly, I am decisive.

The people of Clark County deserve someone like me on the bench. Someone who understands people from all walks of life. I am fair, hardworking, decisive, articulate, and a good listener. I am qualified to serve as Judge in Department Y because I have the practical experience, temperament, character and drive to serve our community.

# ITEM 49

**EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
**FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE**  
**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**



In the Matter of:

[REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 2018

[REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 2019

Minor(s) Under 18 Years of Age.

CASE NO.: J-[REDACTED]-P1  
DEPT. NO.: **DEPENDENCY**  
**3**  
Courtroom: **20**

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

This matter came on before this Court for a Placement Hearing on October 7, October 12, and October 21, 2020. Present at the hearing were the State of Nevada being represented by Deputy District Attorney Payal Patel; Melissa Blodgett and Lane Wymer on behalf of the Department of Family Services; Trevor Creel, Esq., on behalf of [REDACTED], and Dana Walsh, Esq., on behalf of [REDACTED].

The subject minors in this case are biological siblings [REDACTED] born [REDACTED] 2018, currently 33 months old, and [REDACTED] born [REDACTED], 2019, currently 18 months old.

The issue before the Court is placement of [REDACTED]

**FACTS**

The children came into protective custody on April 13, 2019, after [REDACTED] was born substance exposed. Other allegations against the parents included lack of resources and abandonment. Parental rights were terminated on June 12, 2020.



1 At the time of [REDACTED] birth, [REDACTED] had been in the care of maternal  
2 relative [REDACTED] since early infancy. After the children were brought into  
3 protective custody and before [REDACTED] was released from the hospital, the  
4 Department contacted [REDACTED] about placement of [REDACTED]. However, she  
5 declined placement citing her age and not being able to care for a newborn at that  
6 time. At that point, [REDACTED] was 14 months old, doing well in the only home he had  
7 ever known, and there was no reason to formally remove him from [REDACTED] care.  
8 After release from the hospital, [REDACTED] was placed in the foster home of the  
9 [REDACTED] family as there were no other relatives identified for placement.

10 From the onset of the case the Court recommended that the Department  
11 continue searching for relatives as is required by NRS 432B.550. As a result of the  
12 Department's continued efforts, [REDACTED] brother [REDACTED] who lives in New  
13 York was eventually identified as a relative placement for [REDACTED]. In October  
14 2019, [REDACTED] was removed from the [REDACTED] family where she had been since  
15 birth and placed with [REDACTED] in New York. [REDACTED] remained in Las Vegas with  
16 [REDACTED].

17 Unfortunately, [REDACTED] was removed from [REDACTED] care in March 2020 due to  
18 safety concerns and he was placed with the [REDACTED] family, [REDACTED] former  
19 placement. The Department reached out to [REDACTED] and he agreed to take placement  
20 of [REDACTED]. In May, [REDACTED] was placed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] where he remained  
21 until August 24, when [REDACTED] requested [REDACTED] be removed due to behavior.

22 In August 2020, [REDACTED] returned to Nevada and was again placed with the  
23 [REDACTED] family where he remains today. [REDACTED] is with [REDACTED] in New York.  
24 The Department is requesting that [REDACTED] be removed from [REDACTED] care and  
25 placed with the [REDACTED] family who is an adoptive resource for both children.

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1 **FINDINGS**

2 The Court heard testimony from 6 witnesses. Dr. Stephanie Holland;  
3 Marianne Conheady, Senior Case Worker in Monroe County, New York; [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED] Melissa Blodgett, DFS Supervisor; [REDACTED], and [REDACTED],  
5 [REDACTED] friend.

6 The Court considered Exhibit EFJ-Q which is an opinion letter authored by  
7 Dr. Holland. In her letter as well as in her testimony, Dr. Holland discussed the  
8 trauma that may occur on children who are separated from their placement but also  
9 about the importance of a sibling relationship. Specifically, that a sibling  
10 relationship provides for a long lasting relationship and that siblings raised apart or  
11 who lack contact with each other may be deprived of family support in adult life.  
12 Further, that there is significant practical difficulty to make a sibling connection  
13 once siblings are placed in separate homes. Dr. Holland also testified that the most  
14 critical time in an infant/toddler’s development regarding attachment is between  
15 the ages of 9 months and 2 years and that trauma may result on children in this age  
16 range that are separated from their primary caretakers. However, she also testified  
17 that a sibling relationship may serve as a buffer to trauma when a child is removed  
18 from their caretaker.

19 The best interest of children is the main consideration in a placement  
20 decision. *Clark County District Attorney v. Eighth Judicial District Court*, 123  
21 Nev. 337, 167 P.3d 922 (2007). NRS 128.110(2) governs the placement decision  
22 in this case because it comes after the Termination of Parental Rights.  
23 The Court must consider the Department’s discretion to give preference to  
24 placement of the child with a relative and whether it is practicable to place a child  
25 with a sibling pursuant to NRS 128.110(2). *Phillip R. v. Eighth Judicial District*  
26 *Court*, 416 P.3d 242. Specifically, NRS 128.110(2)(b) states the Department  
27 may give preference to the placement of the child with any person related within  
28 the fifth degree of consanguinity to the child whom the person or agency finds

1 suitable and able to provide proper care and guidance for the child, regardless of  
2 whether the relative resides within this State. However, the Department shall, if  
3 practicable, give preference to the placement of the child together with his or her  
4 sibling(s). [emphasis added]

5 In this case, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are 14 months apart in age and while they  
6 have only lived together approximately 3 months of their life, they have known  
7 each other their entire life. They do not have any other siblings. When the  
8 children were first brought into protective custody the Department of Family  
9 Services made efforts to keep the children together by placing them with their  
10 relative [REDACTED]. After [REDACTED] declined, the Department placed [REDACTED] in a  
11 foster home upon her release from the hospital because there were no relative  
12 placement options. Later, it was [REDACTED] who identified [REDACTED] as a relative  
13 placement for [REDACTED] and at that time the Department transitioned [REDACTED] to  
14 his care which is consistent with what they are required to do pursuant to NRS  
15 432B.550. At that point, everyone was hopeful that the children would be raised  
16 by relatives who would presumably help the children maintain the sibling bond.  
17 Unfortunately, [REDACTED] had to be removed from [REDACTED] care and he was placed in  
18 the foster home where [REDACTED] had been placed prior to her placement with  
19 [REDACTED]. Eventually, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were placed together with [REDACTED] who  
20 was believed to be an adoptive resource for both children. After only three months,  
21 [REDACTED] requested [REDACTED] be removed from his home and so [REDACTED] returned to Nevada  
22 and was placed again in the same foster home that had previously cared for him  
23 and [REDACTED].

24 Nearly two weeks after [REDACTED] placement with [REDACTED] in May, [REDACTED]  
25 travelled to New York for an extended stay with [REDACTED]. While [REDACTED] testified that  
26 [REDACTED] visit was for the purpose of helping with their ailing father, nevertheless  
27 [REDACTED] was in the same home as [REDACTED] for an extended period of time. In all,  
28 [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] sole care only a few weeks before [REDACTED] arrived in May and

1 a few weeks after [REDACTED] departed in August and before he requested [REDACTED]  
2 removal.

3 [REDACTED], the foster parent, testified that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had  
4 regular visits while both were in separate placements in Nevada. She testified that  
5 [REDACTED] was nonverbal and enjoyed playing alone, but did not display any  
6 concerning behaviors especially when interacting with [REDACTED] or the ten month  
7 old child in her home. [REDACTED] was observed to throw toys from time to time but  
8 nothing she would describe as inappropriate given his age.

9 The Court also heard testimony from Marianne Conheady who is the Senior  
10 Caseworker assigned to monitor this case in New York. Marianne testified that on  
11 her first visit to [REDACTED] home on or about August 7, he told her he wanted [REDACTED]  
12 removed immediately and that he was under a lot of stress. Marianne testified that  
13 during this visit [REDACTED] was inside the home in a bedroom with [REDACTED] while [REDACTED]  
14 and [REDACTED] were outside. Marianne noted a vast contrast in [REDACTED] tone when  
15 speaking about [REDACTED] as compared to a positive tone when he spoke about  
16 [REDACTED]. During an unannounced visit on August 11, [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED]  
17 had left his home on August 8 and already he noticed improvement in [REDACTED]  
18 behavior. Over the course of Marianne's visits to the home, albeit brief, she did not  
19 observe the poor behavior that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] described in their  
20 testimony. However, in an effort to preserve the placement and support [REDACTED],  
21 Marianne suggested enrolling in parenting classes. Due to COVID-19 restrictions,  
22 [REDACTED] was not able to access an in person course so instead he purchased parenting  
23 books but only after Marianne's suggestion months after [REDACTED] had been placed in  
24 his home.

25 It is evident from [REDACTED] testimony that he was never interested in bonding  
26 with [REDACTED] or in even fostering a relationship between the children as he treated  
27 each differently, always preferring [REDACTED] over [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] testified that the  
28 only reason he accepted placement of [REDACTED] is because [REDACTED] begged him after

1 the child was removed from her care. It appears as though [REDACTED] put minimal  
2 effort into helping [REDACTED] transition into his home; into bonding with [REDACTED], into  
3 parenting him before giving up; or into fostering a relationship between the  
4 siblings.

5 [REDACTED] testified that [REDACTED] expressed concerns over the difficulty in  
6 parenting two children and complained that [REDACTED] whined a lot and sometimes  
7 played rough with [REDACTED] and one of his dogs. While [REDACTED] reported behavior  
8 was surprising to her she did not find it concerning given his young age.

9 [REDACTED] testified that despite having numerous relatives within close proximity  
10 from his home, none were willing to take placement of [REDACTED] in order to keep the  
11 children geographically close together.

12 After [REDACTED] return to Nevada, the children only visit one time every week  
13 or two and [REDACTED] did not seem concerned about such minimal contact.

14 Both children have at one point resided with the [REDACTED] family who are an  
15 adoptive resource to both and willing to foster the relationship between the  
16 children and [REDACTED].

17 The children being 33 months and 18 months of age currently, and the only  
18 siblings born of the same parents, would benefit from a sibling relationship. The  
19 potential trauma on [REDACTED] from being removed from [REDACTED] care with whom  
20 she has lived for one year can be buffered by the relationship she has with the  
21 [REDACTED] family and [REDACTED]. Both children will greatly benefit from growing up  
22 together but would suffer greatly and miss out on an important relationship that  
23 cannot be recreated in adulthood if raised in separate homes with minimal contact  
24 as is the case now.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THEREFORE**, the Court HEREBY RECOMMENDS that it is in the best interests of the children that they be placed together with the [REDACTED] family.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUVENILE HEARING MASTER

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FILE AN OBJECTION TO HEARING  
MASTER’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Objections to Hearing Master’s Recommendations are governed by EDCR 1.46. No Recommendations by the Hearing Master will become effective until expressly approved by the Presiding Juvenile District Court Judge. At any time prior to the expiration of (5) days after the service of written copy of the findings and recommendations of a hearing master, a party, a minor’s attorney, or guardian or person responsible for the child’s custodial placement may file and objection motion to the supervising District Court Judge for the division represented by the Hearing Master for a hearing. Said motion must state the grounds on which the objection is based and shall be accompanied by a memorandum of points and authorities.**


**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the above file stamped date, I e-served a copy of the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION to the following Attorney(s):

Payal Patel, DDA

Trevor Creel, Esq.

Dana Walsh, Esq.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Assistant to Juvenile Hearing  
Masters