

CANDIDATE COVER SHEET FOR KCBA JUDICIAL SCREENING
Information Taken from Washington State Governor's Office
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

NAME: Suzanne Parisien

Business Address: Office of the Attorney General

Business Email: _____

Position Sought:

- King County Superior Court
 Washington State Court of Appeals, Div.I
 Washington State Supreme Court

KCBA considers the responses to the following questions on the Washington State Governor's Office's Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire to be public information, which may be disclosed to persons other than the Judicial Screening Committee and, in the case of judicial elections, will be publicly available:

Position Sought, Name, Business Address, Business email

Professional History: #8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,

Educational Background: #16, 17

Professional Experience: #18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32

Community and Civic Activities: #33

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Professional History

8. Year admitted to practice law in Washington: 1995

9. Employment History (in reverse chronological order):

a. Start Date: August 2005 End Date: Present

Organization: Office of the Attorney General of Washington

Address: 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, Washington 98104-3188

Phone No.: (206) 464-7352

Position/Title: Assistant Attorney General, Torts Division

Supervisor: Howard Fischer

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

Defend the State of Washington in lawsuits and claims involving employment discrimination, personal injury, wrongful death, breach of contract, and negligence in State, Federal and Appellate Courts throughout Washington. Try jury and non-jury cases in both Federal and State Court and defend numerous other matters through mediation and arbitration. Provide regular counseling and advice to State agencies on employment and other issues. Primary agencies represented are Washington Universities and Community Colleges, Department of Transportation, Department of Corrections, Washington State Patrol and Department of Social and Health Services.

Reason for leaving: N/A

b. Start Date: August 2003 End Date: June 2005

Organization: Washington State Democrats/Gregoire for Governor

Address: 3417 Fremont Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

Phone No.: (206) 328-2969

Position/Title: Director of Research/Attorney

Supervisor: Tim Zenk

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

Responsible for coordinating opposition and self (candidate) research for all facets of Governor's race. Coordinated all policy and prepared responses and policy papers for candidate questionnaires. Responsible for providing state-wide media outlets with candidate information questionnaires and policy information. Prepared press releases, op-eds and press briefings. Managed all facets of debate preparation and provided research for the message development for televised debates and forums. From March 2005 through June 2005, responsible for providing legal assistance to the Washington State Democratic Party in the election contest to the 2004 gubernatorial election.

Reason for leaving: Return to The Office of the Attorney General of Washington/end of litigation

c. Start Date: August 2003 End Date: December 31, 2003

Organization: Office of the Attorney General of Washington

Address: 900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, Washington 98164

Phone No.: (206) 464-7352

Position/Title: Assistant Attorney General

Supervisor: Linda Dunn

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

See 9(a) above for a full description of job duties.

Reason for leaving: To volunteer full-time on political campaign

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d. Start Date: August 2002 End Date: June 2003

Organization: Nordstrom Inc.

Address: 1700 – 7th Avenue, Seattle, Washington

Phone No.: (206) 303-2680

Position/Title: Director of General Liability and Employment Litigation

Supervisor: Janine Kral

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

Supervised and managed a nationwide team of employment lawyers defending employment litigation and agency complaints against Nordstrom, Nordstrom Rack, and Nordstrom Distribution Centers throughout the United States. Duties also included direct claim handling responsibility for all employment matters involving Nordstrom Inc. stores and distribution centers in the Central States and East Coast regions as well as company-wide support and training to Human Resources on disability and accommodation issues, FMLA and ADA compliance, and effective investigations into allegations of discrimination and harassment.

Supervised claims of unlawful detention, false arrest and other criminal matters resulting from Loss Prevention practices at Nordstrom. Served on the Violence in the Workplace Team at Nordstrom to assess potential threat of violent situations and to determine appropriate response for protection of employees and customers.

Reason for leaving: Restructuring of position/Return to Office of the Attorney General of Washington

e. Start Date: July 1998 End Date: August 2002

Organization: Office of the Attorney General of Washington

Address: 900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, Washington 98164

Phone No.: (206) 464-7352

Position/Title: Assistant Attorney General, Torts Division

Supervisor: Linda Dunn

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

See 9(a) above for a full description of job duties.

Reason for leaving: To accept a position at Nordstrom Inc.

f. Start Date: December 1997 End Date: July 1998

Organization: Keller Rohrback, L.L.P.

Address: 1201 3rd Avenue, Seattle, Washington

Phone No.: (206) 623-1900

Position/Title: Associate Attorney

Supervisor: Will Smart

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I had a litigation practice of plaintiff and defense personal injury, insurance coverage/bad faith and employment matters. I frequently argued discovery motions and also argued before the Court of Appeals, Division I on two occasions on a jurisdictional matter.

Reason for leaving: To work at Office of the Attorney General of Washington

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Please continue, if necessary, on a separate piece of paper in the above format as needed.

See Attachment 1.

10. Please list all other courts and jurisdictions in which you have been admitted to practice law and the dates of admission. Please provide the same information for administrative bodies having special admission requirements.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey, 1990.

11. Please list all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups.

- Member of KCBA Domestic Violence Protection Order and Revision Squad, January 2007-present;
- AWARE (Association Women Attorneys with Real Experience) 2006- present;
- Member of KCBA Judiciary & Courts Committee, KCBA 2005-2006;
- Member of Pattern Interrogatory Committee and one of 4 Defense Attorneys who researched and drafted Pattern Interrogatories on behalf of the defense bar to be used in auto cases in King County Superior Court. These interrogatories were approved for use by The Board of Trustees of KCBA in September 2006;
- King County Bar Association, 1997-present;
- Member of Professionalism Committee, WSBA 2002-2003;
- National Retail Federation, 2002-2003;
- Defense Research Institute, 1992-1997; 2007 until present;
- Philadelphia Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division (1992-1997).

12. Are you in good standing in every bar association of which you are a member? **Yes.** If you answered "no", please explain.

13. If you have ever been a judge, please identify any court committees on which you have served or administrative positions you have held. Please state the dates of service for each.

N/A

14. Please list up to five of your most significant professional accomplishments. (If applicable, please provide the case and court name and the citation if a case was reported (and copy of the opinion).

Being recognized by the Philadelphia Bar Association for my community service was a significant professional accomplishment and the one for which I am most proud. From 1992 until 1996, I averaged 15 hours a week of community service ranging from providing legal services to the indigent through VIP and volunteering as a court appointed Child Advocate and guardian *ad litem* to several children to providing home cooked meals for up to 25 families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. I did this while balancing a demanding litigation practice at Aetna/Travelers Insurance Company.

In 1998 when I began with the Attorney General's Office, I had only been practicing in Washington for 6 months. I had little experience with Washington litigation practice and minimal motion practice. My practice in Philadelphia was primarily fast paced personal injury with little motion practice aside from routine discovery matters. I decided that preparing dispositive motions on as many cases as I could would be the best way to quickly get up to speed on my cases and familiarize myself with Washington motion practice.

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Working in the order of approaching trial dates, I prepared, argued and was successful in getting 10 cases dismissed in a 14 month period. At the time, it was a record in the office for which I received a commendation from Attorney General Gregoire. Many of the dismissals were in difficult, factually-laden employment cases including two disability discrimination, two age and sex discrimination, and one sexual harassment case.

In 2002 when I began working as the Director of General Liability and Employment Litigation for Nordstrom, Inc., I had no management or corporate in-house experience. I went from litigating cases in Washington State to supervising a large staff of in-house attorneys, claim adjusters, and outside counsel throughout the United States. In addition, I managed a wide array of corporate advisory and training responsibilities. The sheer volume and diversity of responsibilities that I managed at Nordstrom was a significant professional and personal accomplishment.

My work on the 2004 gubernatorial campaign is something for which I am extremely proud. Learning so many aspects of a state-wide campaign from fund-raising and managing volunteers to drafting policy papers was incredibly challenging. Realizing that after being a litigator for 13 years I could assume so many new responsibilities in such a fast-paced and pressure filled environment was extremely rewarding.

15. Please summarize up to eight of the most significant matters that you participated in as an advocate. Please include the dates of your participation and the reason each was significant to you. Please provide the citation if a case was reported. If you have been a judge, please include some cases that have been tried before you.

1. In 2005-2007, I represented a state agency in a negligent investigation case involving the care and custody of a Native American Child who was seriously and permanently injured after being returned to her biological parents. The complexities of the Indian Child Welfare Act; the relationship between my client and the Tribe which had exclusive jurisdiction over the Indian child, and; the realities of respecting the government-to-government relationship between the State and Tribe combined to make the case very challenging. In addition to the legal and political challenges posed by the case, the medical and psychological injured suffered by the child were forensically and emotionally difficult.

2. In 2004-2005, I worked on behalf of the Washington State Democrats in the litigation over the contested 2004 gubernatorial election. The case was fascinating intellectually and historically. The ability to work in novel areas of election law with some of the finest attorneys in Washington State was a once in a lifetime career opportunity.

3. Within 6 weeks of beginning my new position with Nordstrom in 2002, a significant personal injury trial was set to begin in New Jersey. As Director, I was expected to attend trial. As I spent time getting up to speed in preparation for trial, I was stunned. While the accident appeared to be minor, and had not even been reported to the store until months later, Plaintiff was claiming substantial neurological and orthopedic damage. Plaintiff was the owner of a small but successful business and presented a huge wage loss claim with only minimal documentation. The defense lawyers were hanging their hat on this perceived lack of credibility. I viewed the case very differently.

After many calls with our lawyers (both the mall and Nordstrom were parties), I was troubled by the cavalier approach they were taking. The case had been in litigation for

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over three years and their assessment had never changed—despite the significant decline in plaintiff's health and a staggering wage loss claim. I made my serious concerns known to our trial attorneys and Nordstrom management. It was an extremely awkward professional situation -- severely criticizing the case handling by our attorneys, with whom my employer had a long-standing relationship and questioning the lack of effective risk management by my Nordstrom co-workers. I angered some people with my insistence that the risk of trial far out-weighed the benefit and that the case needed a fresh and objective re-assessment. This drove the decision to place the case into binding mediation just two days before trial.

4. In 2001-2002, I represented an individually named Defendant-Instructor at a Pierce County College in a multi-party negligence and breach of contract action stemming from a new two-year course of study at the college. According to plaintiffs, all of whom were students in this program, the curriculum was inadequately developed and lacking in technical substance. They claimed the Instructor, who developed the course materials and taught the program, was incompetent despite his lengthy accomplishments and honors in this particular field.

Despite the alleged deficiencies in the program and Instructor, most of the student-plaintiffs successfully passed their state exam and received their license as promised in the college's advertisements for the program. Against this backdrop, my client, who had been discharged by the college had a serious fall from which he became wheelchair bound, heavily medicated, and frail. It was clear he was not in a position to face a lengthy trial centered on his competence. The case settled at mediation for well over a million dollars.

The case was significant to me on several fronts. The case presented many new legal challenges in an undeveloped area of the law. And though the so called "slippery slope" often presents itself in the law, this case was a textbook example with far reaching implications for every academic institution from K-12 to graduate schools.

5. In 2000 to 2002, I represented Washington State University in a race discrimination suit in Federal District Court stemming from the denial of tenure to an accomplished male African American teacher. On the surface, the battle was over Plaintiff's relative qualifications in a specific subset of science, for which both sides retained experts. However, the true battle was over an alleged sexual relationship he had with a graduate student that he supervised. Both Plaintiff and the student vigorously denied any amorous relationship. Plaintiff had successfully used this "alleged" relationship to his advantage by portraying the University as engaging in a racist witch-hunt and rallying the support of many in the academic community.

During the deposition of the student (who was not a party and was unrepresented by counsel) I sensed that she was afraid of plaintiff. Though her testimony bellied such fear, I followed my intuition and persistently reached out to her. Later, she tearfully confided in me that he had been threatening to sabotage her studies and subsequent career if she admitted to their relationship. She shared the emails he had threatened to send to established professionals in their mutual area of study in effect casting her as a lying racist and discouraging them from associating with her professionally. As a single mother of two, she was petrified of a damaged professional life. The case presented challenging pre-trial motions and motions *in limine* including several defense motions to sanction plaintiff for witness harassment and intimidation. The case proceeded to a jury trial which resulted in a defense verdict. 6.

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6. In 1998 and 1999, I represented a Southwest Washington community college and its President in a reverse discrimination suit. The lawsuit arose from the hiring of an African American female from Brooklyn for a tenure position in the Computer Science Department of this college. Plaintiff was a Caucasian male who, because of his prior teaching experience at the college and his friendship with other faculty members, assumed he would be hired for the tenure position. Plaintiff sued claiming discrimination based on his status as a White male.

The case was complicated by the fact that two other faculty members, one of whom served on the hiring committee for the contested position, were good friends of Plaintiff and were simultaneously suing the college (and the President) on other grounds. In addition, shortly after Plaintiff filed suit, the African American candidate, who had since began her new position, faced her own employment challenges and subsequently sued the college. I represented the College and President in all three of these suits simultaneously.

The case was significant because of the relatively novel legal issues that arose. Specifically, Initiative 200 (which ended affirmative action in state hiring) was just passed and the college, like many state agencies, was struggling to define and implement it. At the time, there lacked any Washington legal precedent on "reverse discrimination" further complicating legal issues in the case. The subsequent termination of the African American candidate brought upon extensive briefing on the evidentiary issue of "after acquired evidence" which, at the time, was also a relatively undeveloped area in Washington law. In addition to the complexities posed by the three simultaneous suits and novel legal issues, I was troubled by what I feared would happen. Namely, that colleges -- and indeed all state agencies -- fearing litigation, would be scared out of hiring qualified minorities. At trial, a defense verdict was obtained. On appeal, the matter was settled for a nominal amount.

7. In 2001-2002, I represented a state agency in a rather unusual disability discrimination action. Plaintiff had mild retardation as well as significant physical limitations. He was hired by the Director of Human Resources who had a similarly situated son and was empathetic to the limited employment options faced by Plaintiff. Plaintiff was hired into a "supported" part-time janitorial position which meant that many of the more physical requirements of the job had been eliminated. Over the years, defendant had undertaken Herculean measures to find portions of the job that Plaintiff could perform while simultaneously paying other employees to do the bulk of the job requirements.

The lawsuit was driven by Plaintiff's mother (his court appointed guardian) who decided that Plaintiff should have been awarded a full-time position (several had come up over the years for which Plaintiff had been denied). Despite Plaintiff's undisputed inability to perform the essential job functions, the court determined that defendant had waived this defense by allowing him to work part-time.

The case was significant to me because of my strong conviction that my client had done a good thing and was now being punished for it. It became clear that the mother (an older woman) was worried about her son's financial future when she would no longer be able to provide for him. This was the single issue driving the case. With this in mind, I worked to put together a structured settlement that would provide for Plaintiff in later years.

8. In 1998, I represented a community college in a negligence case stemming from the sexual assault of two young girls by a teaching assistant employed by the college. The

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young girls had accompanied their mother to the math lab at this college where the teaching assistant offered to watch the girls in another room (where the assault took place) while their mother took a make-up exam. Unbeknownst to the college, a mere month prior to the assault, the teaching assistant had been arrested on suspicion of sexually assaulting two other girls who lived in his neighborhood. As it turned out, the earlier arrest occurred on the grounds of the college—in the very same math lab.

Despite what appeared to be a case of liability, or, at least one replete with questions of fact, I filed a motion for summary judgment. The case received a fair amount of coverage by the press, including the summary judgment proceedings. Truthfully, I never thought the motion would be granted. Ultimately, the Court granted summary judgment noting that it was the closest and one of the most difficult summary judgments His Honor had ever ruled upon. Plaintiff's appeal was later dismissed.

The family was poor and was living in a shelter at the time of the assault. They had fled the mother's abusive boyfriend only to have the children assaulted by a college employee with a history of sexually abusing children. The case showed me the reality that what may be legally correct isn't always fair; winning doesn't always feel right; and, ironically, this is part of what makes our legal system unique.

9. From 1993-1996, I represented several children as a court-appointed Child Advocate and guardian *ad litem* through the Philadelphia Support Center for Child Advocates. I represented two young siblings, Nikole and Jason, who had been placed in different foster homes for years. They were both withdrawn and other than each other—whom they rarely saw—they had no one. I monitored them regularly, visited them every 3 months, and appeared in court frequently on their behalf. Though I never had illusions about what I could accomplish in my limited role, I was adamant that the siblings have frequent contact, more than the "occasional holiday weekend" to which the court system seemed resigned. I fought hard to get them together often, frequently driving them to and from when necessary.

At the time, I was in my 20's and probably did not realize the significance of this representation. Now, looking back with my perspective as a parent and as someone who has worked on difficult DSHS cases, I realize how critical a role this can be.

Educational Background

16. Please list all undergraduate and graduate (non-law school) colleges and universities attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

<u>Seattle University</u>	<u>1983-1987</u>	<u>B.A. in Psychology, <i>cum laude</i></u>
College/University	Dates of Attendance	Degree
_____	_____	_____
College/University	Dates of Attendance	Degree

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17. Please list all law schools attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

<u>Villanova University</u>	<u>1987-1990</u>	<u>Juris Doctor</u>
Law School	Dates of Attendance	Degree
_____	_____	_____
Law School	Dates of Attendance	Degree

Professional Experience

18. Please summarize, briefly, the general nature of your current law practice.

I defend the State of Washington and its agencies in civil lawsuits. See section 9(a) above for complete description of my responsibilities as an Assistant Attorney General.

19. If you are in practice, please describe your typical clients and any areas of special emphasis within your practice.

My clients can be any State agency. My focus is in the area of Civil Rights and specifically in the area of employment law. I also practice in the area of negligence, breach of contract and wrongful death. See section 9(a) for full description.

20. If your present law practice is different from any previous practice, please describe the earlier practice, including the nature of your typical clients and any area of special emphasis within your practice.

With the exception of my work at Nordstrom Inc. and the 2004 gubernatorial campaign, my entire legal career has been in civil litigation. The difference is with my clients which, since 1998, have been State agencies. Prior to that I worked in the private sector representing individuals and businesses. The complexity and diversity of cases I handle has increased greatly during my tenure at the Office of the Attorney General.

21. Within the last 5 years, did you appear in trial court:

Regularly Occasionally Infrequently

22. Within the last 5 years, did you prepare appellate briefs and appear before appellate courts:

Regularly Occasionally Infrequently

23. Within the last five years, how often did you appear in the court for which you are applying:

Regularly Occasionally Infrequently

24. Career Experience

- (a) What percentage of your appearances in the last five years was in:

(1) Federal appellate courts	_____ %
(2) Federal trial courts	<u>25</u> %
(3) State appellate courts	<u>10</u> %
(4) State trial courts	<u>65</u> %
(5) Municipal courts	_____ %
(6) District courts	_____ %

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(7)	Administrative tribunals	_____	%
(8)	Tribal courts	_____	%
(9)	Other	_____	%
	TOTAL	_____	100%

(b) What percentage of your practice in the last five years was:

(1)	Civil litigation (excl. family law)	80	%
(2)	Criminal litigation	_____	%
(3)	Family law litigation	_____	%
(4)	Non-litigation	20	%
	TOTAL	_____	100%

(c) What percentage of your trials in the last five years were:

(1)	Jury trials	90	%
(2)	Non-jury trials	10	%
	TOTAL	_____	100%

d) State the number of cases during your total career that you have tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled) in the following courts, and indicate for each court the following percentages: trials in which you were sole counsel or chief counsel; jury trials; and trials where you were the arbiter/decision maker.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>% as Sole / Chief Counsel</u>	<u>% Jury</u>	<u>% as the Arbiter</u>
3-5	Municipal	100%	0%	_____
	State Dist.	_____	_____	_____
11	State Superior	75%	100%	_____
7	Federal Dist.	80%	80%	_____
	Administrative	_____	_____	_____
0	Tribal Courts	_____	_____	_____
**	Other	_____	_____	_____

**Other: In my seven years of practice in Pennsylvania, I tried hundreds of arbitrations before panels of three attorney-arbitrators. Philadelphia has a mandatory arbitration system for all cases valued at \$75,000 or less. The arbitrations are formal proceedings invoking all applicable rules of civil procedure.

(e) Briefly describe no more than five significant litigation matters that you directly handled as the sole counsel. For each, please provide the name and telephone number of opposing counsel, the name of the judge or other judicial officer, and the citation (if applicable).

See response to question 15 above.

(f) State in detail your experience in adversary proceedings before administrative boards or commissions during the last five years.

N/A

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25. Please briefly describe any legal non-litigation experience that you feel enhances your qualifications to serve as a judge.

My experience supervising in-house attorneys and outside counsel and advising on legal matters as the Director of General Liability and Employment Litigation at Nordstrom Inc. provided me with vast experience which enhances my qualifications to serve as a judge.

My experience serving as a paid arbitrator for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas taught me many skills which will be critical as a judge. See section 24(d) "***Other" on page 10.

26. If you are now an officer or director of any business organization or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprises, please provide the following: the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title of your position, the nature of your duties, and the term of your service. If you are appointed and do not intend to resign such position(s), please state this below along with your reasons for not resigning.

N/A

27. Please list all chairmanships of major committees in bar associations and professional societies and memberships on any committees that you have held and believe to be of particular significance.
- Member of KCBA Domestic Violence Protection Order and Revision Squad, January 2007-present.
 - AWARE (Association Women Attorneys with Real Experience) 2006- present.
 - Member of KCBA Judiciary & Courts Committee, KCBA 2005-2006.
 - Member of Pattern Interrogatory Committee and one of 4 Defense Attorneys who researched and drafted Pattern Interrogatories on behalf of the defense bar to be used in auto cases in King County Superior Court. These interrogatories were approved for use by The Board of Trustees of KCBA in September 2006.

Judicial Interest and Experience

28. In 50 words or less, please describe why you should be appointed/elected and are seeking a judicial position.

I am fortunate to have had an extremely diverse and challenging legal career. I've had the opportunity to learn many areas of the law and practice in three jurisdictions-- Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Washington. In my 18 years of practice, I have worked for law firms, the insurance industry, a Fortune 500 company and the Attorney General's Office. I have always embraced big challenges, worked hard and appreciated the value of mistakes. These attributes give me the confidence—and humility—to handle the challenges and obstacles confronted by Judges in our over-burdened and under-funded system. I am also interested in and have the energy to work on issues to improve the court system to make it more efficient and more accessible.

29. In 50 words or less, please describe your judicial philosophy.

Generally, I support the philosophy of judicial restraint, and believe that courts should take a backseat to the other branches of government and not insert itself in the middle of contentious political debates. I believe that the majority of people are most comfortable with judges in this role and do not want the trial courts to be used to achieve political and social goals.

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30. Have you ever held a judicial office or have you ever been a candidate for such office?
No. If you answered "yes", please provide details, including the courts involved, whether elected or appointed, and the periods of your service.
31. Have you ever held public office other than a judicial office, or have you ever been a candidate for such an office? No. If you answered "yes", please provide details, including the offices involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your service.
32. Please briefly identify all of your experience as a neutral decision-maker (e.g. judge (permanent or pro tem) in any jurisdiction, administrative law judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, etc.). Give courts, approximate dates, and attorneys who appeared before you.

During the years 1992-1997 I served as an Arbitrator for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas on approximately 25 occasions. Arbitrators would be paid by the day to sit on three-attorney panels to decide cases. I have no way of determining the identification of the attorneys who appeared before the arbitration panels on which I was serving.

In addition, I also served as arbitrator for several insurance companies in uninsured/underinsured motorist claims. Because of the passage of time, and the fact that it was in Philadelphia, I am unable to ascertain the litigants in those cases.

Community and Civic Activities

33. Please list your community and civic activities, including dates and leadership roles held, over the last 10 years.
- I am very active in my synagogue, Temple Beth Am (TBA), one of the largest congregations in the Pacific Northwest. Since 2006, I have been a TBA Board Member. I have also taught Sunday School from 2003 to the present. I volunteer for many of our social action and fundraising projects.
 - I am a Speaker and Facilitator for "Check Your Boobies", a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention and early detection of Breast Cancer.
 - I am very active in my children's school. For the past five years I have been the designated Room Parent for one or more of my daughters' teachers. In essence, I am the teacher's chief assistant. These responsibilities include: recruiting weekly volunteers for help in the class and as needed for special projects; planning all class parties; scheduling and preparing the volunteer schedule; developing a project for the yearly school auction and helping the children create it; communicating with parents in the event of emergencies and weather-related contingencies, and; serving as a liaison between parents and the teacher.
 - Volunteer track coach for the Mercer Island Boys and Girls Club.
 - Volunteer and Fundraiser for the Youth Theater Northwest.

From 1992 to 1996, I was actively involved in a number of charitable organizations, in legal and non-legal capacities. I represented several children as a court appointed Child Advocate and guardian *ad litem* through the Philadelphia Support Center for Child Advocates.

I was a volunteer lawyer for the Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) in Philadelphia. Primarily, I was assigned family law cases—for which I had no experience but soon learned. In this capacity, I handled several divorces and child custody matters. Though most of the cases proceeded fairly quickly, one memorable case lasted a couple of years

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during which I represented a father who had lost custody of his daughter, in part, due to a gambling addiction. I represented him through his rehabilitation and his efforts to get his life back on track. Eventually, we were successful in having custody of the daughter fully restored to the father

I was a volunteer for the Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA) during 1992-1996. MANNA provided home cooked meals to individuals and families living with AIDS/HIV. I had a foot route in the downtown Philadelphia area and every Friday would pick up and deliver several lunches. One morning a month, I worked in the kitchen where a group of us would prepare nutritious hot meals for about 200 people. During this same period, I volunteered frequently at the Ronald McDonald house where I cooked meals, answered the phones and gave orientation tours for new families.