

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Jaime Marie Hickton, Esq., a candidate for judicial office, have familiarized myself with the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Code of Civility, as promulgated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. I have directed special attention to Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, including Rules 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4. I agree to conduct my judicial campaign consistent therewith and further consistent with *Republican Party v. White*, 536 U.S. 765 (2002). I further pledge that all campaign advertising will be done fairly, accurately, truthfully, and will maintain the dignity appropriate to the judicial office which I am seeking.



Signature of Candidate

12/29/24

Date

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

As a candidate or potential candidate for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas the Pennsylvania Appellate or Federal Courts, I hereby acknowledge and authorize the procedures of the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee, including the following:

1. If I become a candidate, the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee will make available to the public the Questionnaire, and my responses, except for the questions and responses which are acknowledged to be confidential, which information shall remain available only to the Committee.
2. My responses are provided without breaching client confidentiality as embodied in Rule 1.6 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
3. If I become a candidate, the rating assigned to me by the Committee will be publicly announced. Ratings remain valid for 2 years but are subject to reevaluation upon request.
4. Should I receive a *Not Recommended* rating the Committee will endeavor to notify me prior to a public announcement. If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.
5. I hereby authorize the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners to transmit my entire file and record, including confidential information contained therein, to the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.
6. I hereby authorize the Judicial Conduct Board, the Disciplinary Board, and the Board of Law Examiners, or the equivalent, in any jurisdiction where I have practiced, been admitted to practice or have applied to either take a bar examination or for admission to the bar to transmit my entire file and record, including confidential information contained therein, to the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.
7. The Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee may change, during the course of my campaign for office, the original rating assigned to me for cause.

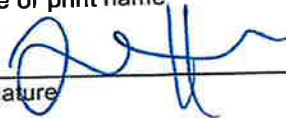
Jaime Marie Hickton, Esq.

Type or print name

Signature

Date

12/29/24



ACBA JUDICIARY COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LAWYER APPLICANTS

I am seeking a rating for the following court:

- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
- Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court
- Pennsylvania Superior Court
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court

1. State your full name and list any other name by which you have ever been known.
Jaime Marie Hickton
2. Date and place of birth.
April 18, 1984; Magee Women's Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA.
3. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give date and place of naturalization.
No.
4. Family status:
 - a) Are you married? If so, state the date of marriage and your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if applicable.

Yes. February 16, 2024. Elizabeth Kathryn Hickton (Reiter).
 - b) Have you been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court.

Yes. February 2, 2022, FD-20-008447; Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division.
5. Have you served in the military? If so,
 - a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate and present status;

I have never served in the military.
 - b) Have you ever been rejected or released from the armed services for reasons other than honorable? If so, give details.

6. List each college and law school you attended, including dates of attendance, any scholastic honors, and the degrees awarded. If you left any institution without receiving a degree, state the reason for leaving.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (Evening Division) (n/k/a Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University), Pittsburgh, PA August 2009 - June 2013; J. D.
Specialization in Trial Advocacy
Order of the Barristers Award
Shalom Moot Court Award
2012 Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition Quarter Finalist and "Best Summation" Award
2012 and 2013 National Trial Competition; Regional Semi-Finalist (2012)
Research Assistant to Law School Professor S. Michael Streib for his 2013 presentation for the AOPC Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA
Outstanding Oral Argument, Legal Research and Writing (2009)

SETON HILL UNIVERSITY; August 2002 - June 2006; B. A. in Political Science and History, Minor in Legal Studies
Class Vice President
Public Policy Intern to (then) President Dr. JoAnne Boyle
NAIA Academic All-American and All-Regional Team: Women's Soccer.

7. List all jurisdictions in which you have applied to take a bar examination, have applied for admission or have been admitted to practice. Include dates of admissions and if not admitted, give application dates and explain the outcome.
- Admitted by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on May 9, 2014 to the bar of the Courts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an Attorney at Law. Pennsylvania I.D. Number 317821. There has been no lapse in membership.
 - Admitted to practice by the United States District Court - Western District of Pennsylvania on May 27, 2014. There has been no lapse in membership.
8. List your professional mailing address and telephone number including the name of any associated law firm. Please also list any personal and professional social media usernames and/or handles and any websites you maintain or to which you know that your profile is shared.

HICKTON + STEIN LAW GROUP, LLC
445 Fort Pitt Blvd., Suite 230, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-775-4400
<https://hicktonsteinlaw.com/>

Professional:

Facebook: Hickton + Stein Law Group, LLC
The Law Office of Jaime M. Hickton (no longer active)

Instagram: hicktonsteinlawgroup
LinkedIn: Jaime Hickton
X: @jhicktonlaw

Personal

Facebook: Jaime Hickton/Luca Hickton
Instagram: jaimemhickton
X: @HicktonJai83478

9. Describe chronologically your law practice and experience after your graduation from law school, including:

- a) Whether you served as clerk to a judge and, if so, the name of the judge, the court, and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

JUDICIAL LAW CLERK
The Honorable Judge Meagan Bilik-DeFazio
Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas
January 2014 - July 2015.

- b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates;

THE LAW OFFICE OF JAIME M. HICKTON
445 Fort Pitt Blvd., Suite 140, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
July 2021 - April 2022.

- c) The dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been connected and the nature of your connection with each; and,

HICKTON + STEIN LAW GROUP, LLC
445 Fort Pitt Blvd., Suite 230, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
April 2022 - present
Founding Partner

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES
100 W. Beau Street, #502, Washington, PA 15301
June 2023 - present
Special Solicitor in Juvenile Dependency matters

DERISO, DERISO, SUHER & JEFFRIES (n/d/b/a DERISO LAW GROUP)
429 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1801; Pittsburgh, PA 15219
May 2020 - July 2021
Associate Attorney

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

436 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
July 2015 - May 2020
Assistant District Attorney (Child Abuse Unit and, prior to that, Juvenile Unit)

d) Any other relevant particulars.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY - JUVENILE
JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMITTEE
3101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
April 2020 - April 2024
Appointed Committee Member

10. Regarding your practice:

- a) What has been the general character of your practice, dividing it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years?

Following my admission to the bar in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in May of 2014, I maintained my position as Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Judge Meagan Bilik-DeFazio in the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas. I was the first law clerk that Judge Bilik-DeFazio had after she won the election in 2013, and we were first assigned to the Family Division. In that role, I conducted all statutory and case law research, drafted memorandums of law, orders of court, and opinions; and audited necessary proceedings to document and advise Judge Bilik-DeFazio on legal parameters consistent with statutory interpretation, precedential case law, and relevant procedural rules. After six (6) months, we were transferred to the Criminal Division, and I performed the same responsibilities for the remainder of my time as Judge Bilik-DeFazio's law clerk. In that Division, however, a substantial part of my responsibilities included maintaining court files, briefing schedules, and coordination of pre-trial and post-trial motions as well as drafting 1925 opinions for appellate matters.

In July of 2015, I accepted a position with the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. After starting in the Screening Unit, I was promoted to handle trial prosecutions in the Juvenile Unit in approximately April of 2016. In that role, I appeared in at least two (2) courtrooms at least three (3) days each week with a typical daily docket of approximately thirty (30) or more cases. I was often required to appear in two (2) courtrooms to handle more than one (1) docket. Unique to the Juvenile Unit, I prosecuted every type of juvenile delinquency matter including, but not limited to, misdemeanor thefts, felony and misdemeanor firearms offenses, felony rape of a child, and felony aggravated assaults. I prosecuted at least ten (10) non-jury trials and numerous omnibus pre-trial motions. I also litigated expungement requests, some of which were contested by the Commonwealth and necessitated hearings that required judicial decision/determination. Additionally, one (1) day each week, in matters where a family was active in both the juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency systems, those matters were heard as a "dual day." While participating in those proceedings, I gained valuable insight into the complexities and nuances of how those systems and services interact with and impact each other.

In February of 2019, I was promoted to the Child Abuse Unit, which was responsible for prosecuting criminal cases involving physical and sexual abuse of children. During that period, I appeared in Allegheny County Criminal Court daily, and I tried to jury verdict at least three (3) cases involving child physical and/or sexual abuse. I prosecuted at least three (3) non-jury trials, litigated many pre-trial motions, and prosecuted numerous preliminary hearings before Magisterial District Courts. I also prosecuted a homicide case involving a child victim. I worked regularly with city, county, and state law enforcement

agents to investigate and identify child abusers to prosecute those matters on behalf of child victims. I spent considerable time partnering with community-based organizations to facilitate services for victims and their families in an effort to end cycles of abuse and bring awareness to victims' rights and needs. During that time, I also worked with local, state, and federal leaders as a member of the Working Together LGBTQ+ Group which identified policies within the Allegheny County Jail ("ACJ") that were not compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act ("PREA"). As a result of our efforts, our group was able to work with ACJ to gain PREA compliance which substantially improved standards and safety for LGBTQIA+ individuals who were housed at ACJ.

In April of 2020, I was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee where I served my full term until April of 2024. In that role, I routinely worked with statewide members and stakeholders to plan, coordinate, and make policy recommendations to Governor Wolf and then Governor Josh Shapiro for the purpose of developing a comprehensive, long-range plan and related policies for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. We also worked together to set priorities for various juvenile justice-related projects that were supported by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's various funding streams to better support the juvenile justice systems across the Commonwealth.

I made the decision to leave government service and enter private practice in May of 2020. I joined the law firm of DeRiso, DeRiso, Suher & Jeffries (n/d/b/a DeRiso Law Group) as an Associate Attorney. As a result of my time in both the criminal and family divisions in Allegheny County and Westmoreland County, I concentrated on representing plaintiffs and defendants in family law (divorce, custody, support, protection from abuse), criminal law, and child welfare matters. I maintained approximately 80 cases at any given time while working there, and I expanded my experience in appearing before multiple judges in the aforementioned divisions in Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Lawrence and Washington Counties. In family law matters, I litigated several custody trials, juvenile delinquency and dependency adjudication proceedings, and protection from abuse final hearings. During that time, I was also admitted into the Federal Public Defender - Western District of Pennsylvania's CJA Panel Mentee Program where I was paired with CJA Panel Members to represent individuals who were charged with federal crimes in the Western District of Pennsylvania. While in that program, I appeared before several United States District Court Magistrates and United States Federal Judges on behalf of criminal defendants in the Western District of Pennsylvania.

In July of 2021, I left the firm to start my own law practice, The Law Office of Jaime M. Hickton. Nearly all of my clients came with me, and I continued to represent individuals within the Juvenile Division (juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency), Family

Division (divorce, custody, support, and protection from abuse matters), and Criminal Division in the aforementioned counties. I also expanded my practice into Indiana County. After successfully managing my solo law practice and increasing my footprint in the legal community, in April of 2022, I partnered with another colleague and former child abuse prosecutor to create Hickton + Stein Law Group, LLC. Because my law partner had experience in civil litigation, employment and labor law, business and contract law, and estate planning, my practice areas expanded to support our ever-growing law firm. We now manage three (3) full time employees: an associate attorney and two (2) paralegals.

During my time in private practice, I tried to jury verdict three (3) felony criminal cases, at least three (3) criminal bench trials, multiple termination of parental rights matters, delinquency and dependency adjudications, and I've been appointed to represent at least three (3) individuals in homicide matters in addition to dozens of other felony criminal matters. I've also represented clients in adoption proceedings, landlord/tenant disputes, and civil matters before Magisterial District Court Judges. In June of 2023, Washington County contracted with our law firm to provide legal representation as Special Solicitors in Juvenile Dependency matters where we represent Washington County Children & Youth Services as their Solicitor.

- b) Describe your typical clients and mention the areas in which you have concentrated your practice.

Approximately 60% of my clients are privately retained in family law, juvenile delinquency and dependency matters, and criminal matters. Approximately 40% of my clients are court-appointed in either the juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, and/or criminal matters.

11. Regarding the last ten years:

- a) Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally, or not at all? If the frequency of your appearances in court has varied during this period, describe each such variance, giving the dates thereof;

When I first became a licensed attorney in 2014, I was a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Judge Meagan Bilik-DeFazio. In that role, I attended proceedings every week, whether it was for pre-trial motions, trials, or post-trial motions/argument(s). In July of 2015, I became an Assistant District Attorney in Allegheny County. While I was in the Screening Unit, I only appeared in court approximately once per month for Summary Appeals. In 2016, I was promoted to the Juvenile Unit and, in that role, I appeared in court at least three (3) days each week, often in multiple courtrooms. In approximately February of 2019, I was promoted to the Child Abuse Unit. In that role, I was typically in court multiple days each week. In May of 2020, I went into private practice for a family and criminal law firm in Pittsburgh, PA. While there, I appeared in court on average two (2) times per week. In July of 2021, I started

my own law practice and, in that role, I appeared in court on average three (3) times per week. In April of 2022, Attorney Greg Stein and I created Hickton + Stein Law Group, LLC. Since that time, I appear in court on average four (4) times per week, often in more than one (1) proceeding each day.

b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

1. Federal courts:

Less than 1%. I am in the Federal Public Defender's CJA Mentoring Program. Within that program, I am periodically assigned cases where I work with a supervising attorney who is a CJA Panel Member. I have been in that program since May of 2021. Within the program, mentees are only assigned cases when panel members request the assistance of a mentee. When I was with DeRiso, DeRiso, Suher & Jeffries, I was assigned to assist on all of the firm's matters. After I went into private practice for myself, and since that time, I have been assigned to assist with two (2) federal cases.

2. State courts of record:

99%

3. Other courts:

Less than 1%. I appeared on behalf of a client in one (1) Pennsylvania Superior Court case.

c) What percentage of your litigation was:

1. Civil:

Less than 1%.

2. Criminal:

49%

3. Family:

50%

4. Orphans' Division:

Less than 1%

- d) State the number of cases in courts of record you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel.

It is impossible to know the true number of cases that I've tried to verdict or judgement because the juvenile system is confidential. I attempted to access some of the cases that I tried in the juvenile system as a Juvenile Unit Prosecutor, but I am unable to able to access them anymore in that I no longer work for the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. I am certain that I have tried at least 40 cases to verdict or judgment, but I know that I tried many more than that number. I do not want to misrepresent the accurate total since I am unable to access the records from the period of time when I was a Juvenile Unit Prosecutor. I was sole counsel in all of those matters other than one (1) (two [2] criminal jury trials where I was co-counsel; one [1] was when I was a Child Abuse Prosecutor and one [1] was with my law partner where we were co-counsel in a criminal jury trial).

- e) What percentage of these trials were:

1. Jury:

Approximately 15%

2. Non-jury:

Approximately 85%

12. Summarize your experience in court the last ten years, indicating:

- a) Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent;

See detailed answer in Question 10(a) and 11(a) above.

- b) Any significant changes in the percentages stated in your answers to question 11(b), (c) and (e); and,

N/A

- c) Any significant changes in the number of cases per year in courts of record you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), as sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel.

Nearly all of my experience in the number of cases per year in court of record that I tried to verdict or judgment were as sole counsel.

13. Describe five of the most significant litigated matters which you personally handled (give the citations if the cases were reported and docket numbers if unreported) by providing a

capsule summary of each case and a succinct statement of what you believe to be the particular significance of the case; the party or parties whom you represented; the name of the Court, Judge and contact information if known of counsel for any other party; your role in the litigation; and the final disposition.

Com. v. Jaron Brimage; CP-02-CR-0000014-2021

Allegheny County Criminal Court

Judge Beth A. Lazzara; TPalmer@alleghenycountycourts.us (Tim Palmer; Judicial Minute Clerk)

Prosecution: Chase Stelzer, Esq.; CStelzer@alleghenycountycourts.us; 412-350-4401

Defense Counsel: Jaime M. Hickton, Esq.

In this Allegheny County criminal matter, I represented the defendant, Jaron Brimage, in two (2) separate criminal matters; one (1) of which included a criminal attempt- criminal homicide charge. I was at least the second criminal defense counsel in this matter and, after obtaining prior counsel's file and reviewing the discovery provided by the Commonwealth, the matter was listed for a jury trial. Leading up to the jury trial, the Commonwealth indicated that the two (2) alleged victims would testify and identify my client as "the shooter" who caused their injuries and attempted to murder one (1) of the victims. Despite our zealous advocacy regarding what actually occurred during the incident, the Commonwealth did not agree with our position. Days before we were scheduled to pick the jury, the Commonwealth notified us that the alleged victims would not appear and that the Commonwealth did not intend to call them as material witnesses. This case was significant to me because, when we learned that critical information, we drafted and filed a motion in limine wherein we challenged several other involved police officers' identifications of my client as the alleged shooter during the investigation and prior to my client being criminally charged.

During a pre-trial hearing on the motion, we were able to show that the officers did not have an independent interaction with my client which could overcome the influenced and/or suggestive identification that those officers made during the investigation in this matter. As a result, the Honorable Judge Beth Lazzara granted our motion and precluded those officers from testifying at trial as to both their prior identification and their anticipated in-court identification of my client. After that ruling, the Commonwealth was unable to proceed and submitted a *nolle pros*; which the Court granted. My client was housed in the Allegheny County Jail for approximately two (2) years because his bond modifications were denied due to the seriousness of the charges. My client was thereafter released from ACJ and, while it will always be a tragedy that he lost those two (2) years of his life while incarcerated pre-trial, we were able to handle the matter in such a way that he did not have to face life-long consequences for the charges that he was facing. While I've handled other cases that taught me to never give up the fight that needs to be fought, this case was the first significant criminal case that I handled where someone's life (and future) was completely changed by our continued efforts.

Commonwealth v. Duane Jemison; CP-02-CR-0006438-2022

Allegheny County Criminal Court

Judge Jill E. Rangos; aford@alleghencycourts.us (Abigail Ford; Judicial Secretary)
Prosecutor: Connor Adair; CA dair@alleghencycountyda.us; 412-350-4401
Defense Counsel: Jaime M. Hickton, Esq.

In this Allegheny County criminal matter, I represented the defendant, Duane Jemison, as a court-appointed attorney, but I was at least his third attorney in the matter. Mr. Jemison was charged with felony aggravated assault, felony firearms offenses, and various other felony and misdemeanor offenses. By the time I was appointed to represent Mr. Jemison, he had been extradited from the State of Ohio (on another Allegheny County criminal case), he had been held in the Allegheny County Jail for more than a year and a half pre-trial, and his mental health was deteriorating as a result. This case is significant to me because, through my efforts to obtain records from prior counsel, the Magisterial District Court, and the Courts in Ohio, I was able to prepare, file, and litigate a Rule 600 Motion before The Honorable Judge Jill Rangos. During the hearing on the Motion, I was able to prove that the Commonwealth had not exercised due diligence and, after the parties filed briefs in support of their positions, the Court granted our Rule 600 Motion and dismissed the charges. Mr. Jemison was thereafter returned to the State of Ohio and has since been released from prison. I still have contact with Mr. Jemison who plans to earn a paralegal certificate because he hopes to help other marginalized individuals like himself navigate a complex legal system that doesn't always find justice.

IN RE: B.M. (confidential docket);
IN RE: T.W. (confidential docket);
IN RE: W.W. (confidential docket); and
IN RE: C.Y. (confidential docket).

Allegheny County Juvenile Dependency Court

Judge Kathryn Hens-Greco; KHensGreco@alleghencycourts.us

Solicitor: Sarah Itzkoff, Esq. (multiple Solicitors handled the case prior to Ms. Itzkoff);
Sarah.Itzkoff@AlleghenyCounty.us

Parent Advocate: Jaime M. Hickton, Esq. (for the mother)

Parent Advocate: Caitlin Manges, Esq. (for the father); cmccabe@acbfparentadvocates.org

Guardian Ad Litem: Anne Terrien (KidsVoice); aterrien@kidsvoice.org

In this Allegheny County dependency matter, I was initially privately retained to represent a mother who, as a result of proceedings and events prior to my representation, had her four children were removed from her care. After reviewing the proceedings, speaking with my client, and consulting with other involved community members and providers, we suspected that numerous misrepresentations were made to the Court which impacted the Court's pre-adjudication determinations; specifically, whether removal for at least three (3) of the four (4) children was necessary. We also learned that Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families failed to provide material discovery which would have or could have made a difference in the Court's decision-making if some of the information contained in the undisclosed discovery had been made available to all counsel and the Court. This case is significant to me because, after we were able to compel discovery and review the materials, we were able to present the additional information to the Court which, after the Court considered the same, the Court returned

three (3) of the four (4) children within a few months of our representation. This case altered the trajectory of my practice in that I began taking on more dependency court appointments in an effort to guarantee that more families would have access to zealous advocacy on their behalf.

Ultimately, through our efforts, we were able to have the remaining child returned and the case closed successfully. This case is also significant to me because it was clear to me from the beginning of our representation that this mother had a tremendous amount of system-induced trauma and that the Agency was not considering the same when making case-related decisions. When I represent parents in dependency matters now, as a result of handling this case, I am better able to bring that legitimate issue to the court's (and other counsels') attention to achieve more equitable and just results.

Robert Sargent v. Stacey Schell; FD-20-009145-008
Allegheny County Family Court (Custody)
Judge Cathleen E. Bubash; judgecbubash@gmail.com
Counsel for Plaintiff/Father: Jaime M. Hickton, Esq.
Counsel for Defendant/Mother: Tara Sease, Esq.; Tsease@adamczykloffice.com

In this Allegheny County custody matter, a father, who was previously represented by another family law attorney, was only permitted visits with his young son that were supervised by a professional provider (that the father had to pay for) for more than a year and a half. While the custody matter was still pending, and before the custody trial was scheduled, the father thereafter retained us to represent him. Through our efforts, we were able to demonstrate to the Court that the father was not the monster that the mother had painted the father to be and that the mother was manipulating multiple court systems in an attempt to further restrict the father's access to the parties' minor child. Our representation led to the father having unsupervised visits with his son and even increased to overnight visits prior to the scheduled custody trial. As a result of our advancements and despite the mother's pre-trial representations that she would never agree to a shared physical and legal custody arrangement, we were able to conciliate the matter on the first day of the three-day custody trial. The mother ultimately agreed to shared physical and legal custody on the first day of the three-day custody trial.

This matter is significant to me because, prior to our representation, the father had spent more than \$50,000.00 in legal counsel, professional evaluators, and supervision fees. The father was not a wealthy person and, because we were able to shift the trajectory of the case pre-trial, the father was spared the expense and trauma of a full custody trial while also enjoying the result of shared physical and legal custody. The practice in family law is incredibly emotionally and financially challenging. Often times, litigants are forced to settle for less than the law allows simply because they cannot afford to continue the litigation. By aggressively defending the father in the support and protection from abuse matters that were initiated by the mother, and by doing the same in the custody matter that was initiated by the father, we were able to resolve the case relatively quickly and to help the father achieve his goals. Now, this child has his father in his life, and the client felt vindicated in the eyes of the system.

IN RE: R.G. (confidential docket)

Allegheny County Juvenile Delinquency Court

Judge Kim Berkeley Clark; Kim.Clark@alleghencourts.us

Juvenile Prosecutor: Jaime M. Hickton, Esq.

Defense Counsel: The Honorable Judge Tiffany Sizemore (prior to her election as an Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judge); TSizemore@alleghencourts.us

In this Allegheny County Juvenile Delinquency matter, I represented the Commonwealth as a Juvenile Unit Prosecutor for the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. This 17-year-old juvenile was charged in five (5) separate juvenile delinquency matters and had a significant juvenile history, several of which involved felony robbery adjudications. When the five (5) new juvenile petitions were filed and, after review of those new allegations and the juvenile's history of delinquency adjudications, I filed a certification motion wherein I asked the Court to consider certifying the case to criminal court proceedings. I took this route because I did not believe that the juvenile was amendable to any of the services or programs offered within the juvenile system. Part of the reason was also because, despite having been involved in the juvenile system previously and having received residential and community-based services within the juvenile system, some of the new juvenile allegations involved the juvenile harming victims within the community and one of which involved the juvenile and his co-actors engaging in a highly sophisticated and coordinated plan which led to them breaking out of Shuman Juvenile Detention Facility. After the juveniles fled from Shuman, they victimized numerous other community members and this juvenile essentially went on a crime spree that spanned several jurisdictions.

This case was significant for me because, at the time that I prosecuted this case, it was the most comprehensive matter that I had handled in that it required that I prosecute five (5) separate juvenile allegations which required that I have over 40 witnesses available for testimony and more than 60 exhibits for the Court's consideration. This case presented various challenges for me as a young prosecutor and helped me better understand the interplay between the juvenile and adult criminal court systems. It also reminded me the importance of the role of a prosecutor in seeking justice regardless of the outcome. The Court ultimately did not grant the certification motion, but the experience that I gained while handling this case greatly expanded my ability to litigate complex matters consistent with the procedural rules and within the bounds of the statutes and case law that impacts the court process.

14. If a substantial period of your practice has been before administrative boards, commissions or agencies during the past ten years, identify the boards, commissions or agencies before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto.

N/A

15. If a substantial portion of your practice has been before Appellate courts during the past ten years, identify the Appellate Courts before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto.

N/A

16. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, give dates and details, including the court involved, whether elected or appointed, periods of services and a description of the jurisdiction of each of such courts with any limitations upon the jurisdiction of each court indicating the time(s) that you were the subject of a Motion or Petition for Recusal.

No.

17. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, give details, including the office, whether elected or appointed and the length of your service, giving details.

No.

18. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

No.

19. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law or the holding of judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

Duquesne University School of Law (n/k/a Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University)

Trial Advocacy Adjunct Professor
2016 and 2017

Job Description: Worked with law students to gain better understanding of openings and closings, direct and cross examinations, evidentiary issues and objections, trial practices and strategies, and competition structure to perform in national trial advocacy competitions.

Duquesne University School of Law (n/k/a Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University)

Research Assistant to Law Professor S. Michael Streib

2013 Presentation on "Unjust Enrichment" for the AOPC Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA

Job Description: Researched issues, case law, statutes, and historical progression on legal issues; generated materials for presentation and presented materials before participating Judges from across the Commonwealth.

Westmoreland County

Juvenile Probation Officer

2771 S. Grande Blvd., Greensburg, PA 15601

724-830-4200

October 2006 - January 2014

Job Description: Conducted interviews; researched, and developed comprehensive court reports and summaries through contact and communication with various service providers, families, police agencies, and other social service organizations; managed caseload of juveniles to enforce court-ordered stipulations and adhere to probation regulations.

Rock Springs Guest Ranch

Assistant Head Wrangler

64201 Tyler Road, Bend, Oregon 97701

*no longer in business/owned by another entity

June through August (2004, 2005, and 2006)

Job Description: Managed, coordinated, and developed large herd horse operation for small dude ranch destination resort. Coordinated and facilitated services for multicultural guests to target positive/safe interactive trail rides across thousands of acres of leased and permitted land.

Yough High School

Assistant Head Women's Soccer Coach

919 Lowber Rd., Herminie, PA 15637

August 2007- December 2008

Job Description: Assistant Head Coach and Goalie Coach responsible for helping to manage and develop 20 players (including primarily being responsible for coaching and developing the goalies) on varsity for the 2007 and 2008 high school varsity seasons.

Foothills Soccer Club Association

Assistant Head Coach and Goalie Coach to U-14 Girls Soccer Team

16 S. 8th Street, Youngwood, PA 15697

2005-2006

Job Description: Responsible for helping to manage and develop approximately 18 players (including primarily being responsible for coaching and developing the goalies) for two (2) seasons.

20. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business

enterprise?

- a) If so, give details, including the name of your enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or other description of your position, the nature of your duties and the term of your service.

No.

- b) Is it your intention to resign such positions and withdraw from any participation in the management of any such enterprises if you are elected and confirmed? If not, give reasons.

Yes.

21. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? If so, give details.

No.

22. Have you ever been charged or convicted of any violation of a local, state or federal law, any misdemeanor or felony, court martialled, been granted immunity from prosecution, been held in contempt of court or been the subject of a final protection from abuse order? If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses.

No.

23. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? If so, give details.

No.

24. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give details.

No.

25. Have you ever been a party to or otherwise involved in any other legal proceedings? If so, give the particulars. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian *ad litem* or stakeholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, a material witness, were named as co-conspirator or a co-respondent and any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject or in which you appeared as a witness.

Commonwealth v. Kirk Rice

Docket Number: CP-02-CR-0003520-2024

I, along with attorney Lisa Mantella, Esquire, was hired by Congressional Candidate Steve Irwin's campaign to conduct a fact-finding investigation into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State Petitions that Kirk Rice circulated and submitted wherein Mr. Rice verified that Mr. Rice obtained signatures from Democratic voters within Allegheny County for the 2022 Congressional Race for the 12th District of Pennsylvania. For that purpose, Attorney Mantella and I interviewed Mr. Rice and submitted our findings to Candidate Irwin's campaign. Thereafter, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office conducted an investigation and criminally charged Mr. Rice at the above-referenced docket

number. I testified during the preliminary hearing in the matter and I anticipate that I will have to testify regarding my investigation and findings should the matter go to trial. The matter is currently scheduled for a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Jennifer Satler on February 18, 2025.

DeRiso, DeRiso & Suher v. Jaime M. Hickton
Docket Number: AR-21-004430
Employment Dispute

In this matter, I left employment from the above-referenced law firm prior to the expiration of my contract. My employer sued me, wherein they claimed that a liquidated damages clause permitted them to recover monies from me. The parties resolved the matter and a voluntary discontinuation was filed by the employer.

26. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee or other professional group? If so, give the details.

No.

27. Currently or within the past five (5) years have you suffered from any medical or other

condition which could affect or impair your judgment, reliability or ability to perform the essential functions of the judicial position you are seeking? If so, describe.

No.

28. Do any circumstances exist that would affect your ability to perform the function of the position you seek or fulfill the term of office? If so, please explain.

No.

29. Furnish one (1) writing sample that reflects your analysis of a legal problem or issue.

See attached.

30. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups. Please also identify any leadership role you have held in such groups.

- Member of the Allegheny County Bar Association
- Former Member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Former Member of the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association

31. List your experiences in teaching and lecturing, including law school, continuing legal education and to non-legal audiences.

As detailed above in response to Question 19, I presented/lectured/assisted with Law Professor S. Michael Streib during the 2013 AOPC Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA on unjust enrichment and I was also an Adjunct Law Professor for the Duquesne University School of Law's (n/k/a Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University) Trial Advocacy program for two (2) years.

32. List all organizations other than bar associations, professional associations or societies of which you are or have been a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations.

Board Member:

- Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)
81 S. 19th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203
(412) 431-5665; <https://paar.net/>
Board of Directors Member and Treasurer

July 1, 2021 - present

PAAR is a non-profit entity that provides comprehensive services to victims of sexual violence and to their families, serving children and adults of all gender identities, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- Planned Parenthood of Western PA (PPWP)
933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-562-1900;
<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-western-pennsylvania>
Board of Directors Member
July 1, 2024 - present

PPWP provides high-quality reproductive health care services, comprehensive sexuality education, and strategic advocacy at seven (7) locations in six (6) areas.

Other organizations:

- Steel City Stonewall Democrats;
- Young Democrats of Allegheny County; and
- Three Rivers Democratic Women.

33. List any honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition which you have received (including any indication of academic distinction in college or law school) other than those mentioned in answers to the foregoing questions.

N/A

34. State any other information which may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed.

N/A

35. Why do you wish to become a Justice or Judge? What strengths do you possess that would particularly well qualify you for such a position?

Privilege is defined as a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group. Being a Justice or a Judge is a privilege and, through my lived-experience, only those who uniquely understand that privilege should be permitted to sit in judgement of others. I was born into a blue-collar family in Southwestern Pennsylvania. None of my immediate family attended school beyond high school. They worked manual labor jobs that earned meager incomes. They were hardworking, but despite their sweat equity, we were relatively poor. For four years, we grew up as trailer park kids. While that time taught me the importance of family for protection and love, it did not allow me to know or experience that other children and families were in much more desperate circumstances with even less support.

In high school, I was first exposed to the disparity of opportunity between the haves and have nots. I had friends who wore the newest clothes while we waited for our clothes to be paid off from the Hills layaway; hoping that it would be in time for the new school year. I joke that, while my friends wore the latest Nike tennis shoes, we wore "Mikeys," or some off-brand shoe. I decided in high school that I wanted the ability to do more, but college was not an option, nor was it something to strive for when you're worried about having enough food on the table for a family of seven.

With few options and a mountain range of obstacles in my path, I decided that I would try out for the high school girls soccer team because I had learned that there were a lot of college soccer scholarships. I volunteered to try out for the position of goalie because I had no foot skills and thus knew I'd not likely make the team as a field player. When I was selected for the junior varsity team that year as a goalie, I promised myself that I would listen to every bit of advice and do whatever it took to improve and position myself to jockey for a college soccer scholarship down the road.

Each week, I would lift weights and work out at the gym independently to get better, stronger,

faster. I did drills on my own to increase my hand-eye coordination and skill. The following year, as a sophomore, I made the varsity team and, by my senior year, I was offered several soccer college scholarships for goalie. Despite the obstacles in my path, I've always been willing to set my sights and do the necessary work to learn more and do the hard work to be better.

I earned a soccer scholarship to Seton Hill University and, while there, I continued to distinguish myself. I became class vice president while double majoring in political science and history and I worked as a public policy intern to University President Dr. JoAnne Boyle. That was my first exposure to politics and to elected officials who could make a direct impact in the lives of those that they serve. I traveled to Harrisburg and DC with Dr. Boyle and the other interns to lobby our state and federal representatives to give more money to higher education so students like me could afford to go to college. That experience taught me to believe in myself as a woman, to never underestimate my power, and to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

After undergraduate school, I accepted a job as a juvenile probation officer. For the first time in my life, I began to really learn about my privilege. I had regarded my childhood with largely negative feelings and thought that I had struggled. That I had not been given things that I was owed and that I had missed opportunities that I should have been handed to me. Working with kids and families in the juvenile system helped me understand that I had been given more protection and more help than almost all of the kids that I worked with. That opportunity and insight cemented in me the need to go back to school so that I could help kids and families in a different and more powerful way. I applied for and was accepted into Duquesne University's School of Law evening program. Despite my relatively moderate success, I couldn't afford to stop working to go to school. I worked full time as a school-based probation officer in Westmoreland County and commuted to Pittsburgh at night to attend law school. While working and attending law school, I also was accepted into Duquesne's National Trial Team program. For the next two years, I competed against some of the nation's best students in multiple national trial competitions. For the first time, I was up against the best and brightest advocates, and yet, in my last competition, I won the top award of Best Summation.

When I graduated from law school, I knew that the only way that I could directly help children and families was by being a trial attorney, and the best way to learn how to do that was to first work for a judge as their law clerk. Seeing behind the curtain and learning to understand how a judge thinks was critical to learning how to best advocate for someone. I worked for a judge in Westmoreland County; however, for the first significant time in my life, I experienced severe discrimination. I'm a straight-passing lesbian. At the time, I was in an openly lesbian relationship, but it mostly didn't impact my life. However, when my ex-wife and I decided to get married, two (2) judges in Westmoreland County refused to perform the ceremony. I was crushed and confronted with the reality of what most marginalized individuals deal with daily. My straight-passing appearance shielded me from the every-day discrimination that those who cannot conceal their marginalized status experience. That was when I learned about another form of my privilege. Even still, I couldn't get a job in the DA's office in Westmoreland County, so I applied to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, and I came back home.

Because of my substantial experience, my path in the DA's office was abnormal. I quickly made it to their Juvenile Prosecution Unit and to Judge Clark's courtroom. I watched her take seriously the issues that children and families brought before her, and I listened when she encouraged

me to think outside the box to handle the case in a manner consistent with the need to try to rehabilitate and help the kids. Judge Clark made every effort to treat everyone in her courtroom with dignity and respect regardless of how that person presented or whether they wanted it. In working with kids and families in that way, and having the opportunity to learn from Judge Clark, I wanted to do more. I then became a Child Abuse prosecutor and, in that role, I felt that I could directly impact the safety and protection of every child victim that I interacted with and I could ensure that the cases that I handled were properly litigated. I think, had my personal life not changed, I would still be a Child Abuse prosecutor today.

My ex-wife and I separated and, faced with the reality of caring for our three (3) children adopted from the child welfare system, two (2) of whom have special needs, I was not able to provide for them financially as a prosecutor. I chose my children over my career and went into private practice. I now appreciate the lessons that life was teaching me, because I would not have had the opportunity to represent and defend children and their families in the child welfare and juvenile delinquency system or the criminal and family law system if I had stayed in the prosecutor's office.

Understanding and recognizing the privilege that I have enjoyed and appreciating the ways in which I have not experienced privilege have helped to shape the advocate that I have become. Having worked in the trenches as a juvenile probation officer or standing beside a parent or child when the state is trying to take that child away has given me a unique perspective on what really matters and the importance of the roles that we all play are. Judges have a unique ability to, positively or negatively, significantly impact the life of each and every person who appears before them. What's more, though, is that, in rendering their decision on each and every case, our judges impact each one of us as members of that same community. For our society to function as it's meant to, the system requires that we put people in judicial roles who intimately understand both the power and corresponding responsibility of a judge. I believe that because of my lived personal and professional journey, I possess a unique combination of experience, skill, and temperament that will aid my ability as a judge. I spent almost twenty years in a courtroom, and I've worn every hat within it. The positions that I have held in government have forced me to make difficult decisions, often subject to public scrutiny, and I've had to demonstrate the courage to fight for truth and justice. The positions that I have held in private practice have offered me the chance to see a case from every angle. A judge must fundamentally understand the nuanced issues that exist in each case for every person that appears before them and the collateral consequences that result from each decision she will make. I believe that I possess that ability and, for all of the aforementioned reasons, I am running for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judge in 2025.

36. What do you consider a significant achievement in your life outside your profession?

The most significant achievement in my life has been adopting and raising my three (3) children that my ex-wife and I adopted from the child welfare system. It has always been my belief that raising, helping, and supporting children is the most important function each of us has with the time that we have in life. We did not know that our two sons were special needs when we fostered them, but learning more about their disabilities and helping them grow into the most capable version of themselves has been incredibly rewarding and humbling. We knew our daughter was biracial and working to better understand her culture and need to feel connected to her heritage has been both a challenge and a blessing. Nothing is more important than supporting our children and creating as many opportunities for them as this world has to offer. I feel truly blessed to have had them come into our lives and forever grateful for the experiences that we've shared with them as our children.

37. Please identify specific efforts you have made, or been involved with, to support equality and inclusion in the legal profession.

As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community who has personally experienced discrimination, I focus a portion of my efforts on supporting other members within the community who are either members of the Pennsylvania Bar or who are considering becoming members of the Pennsylvania Bar. As a law firm, we prioritize hiring members of both the LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized communities. Our law firm has five (5) employees; three (3) attorney's and two (2) paralegals. Both of our paralegals, who plan to attend law school in the near future, are within a marginalized community. One (1) of which is in the LGBTQIA+ community and one (1) of which is an African American woman. I also often informally consult with other individuals in the legal profession who are within a marginalized group on matters or issues that they are confronting as they navigate their legal career.

In my professional life outside of the practice of law, I have helped to organize and operate the Pittsburgh Women's March in 2021, I helped to organize the 2024 Rally for our Rights event with Progress PA and Shaler Democratic Committee, and I marched with other local leaders during the 2024 Pittsburgh Pride Parade.

The undersigned certifies that the statements made in this questionnaire are true, complete and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

JAIMEM. HICKSON
Type or print name


Signature

12/29/24
Date

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