



ESTABLISHED 1934

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The answers to the following questions will appear on the websites of the *Detroit Free Press*, the Oakland County Bar Association, and the League of Women Voters - Oakland Area. Please be concise in your answers. Answers to the questions on page 9 will appear in the League of Women Voters Oakland County Voter Guide.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer all questions completely and accurately and return this questionnaire to Jennifer Roosenberg at jroosenberg@ocba.org.
2. Print the Certificate of Accuracy. Sign, scan, and return it to the email listed above, fax to (248) 334-7757, or mail to the Oakland County Bar Association, ATTN: Jennifer Roosenberg, 1760 S. Telegraph Rd., Suite 100, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.

COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES AND CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE OAKLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION:

1. **Name:** Debra Nance
2. **Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Debra Nance
3. **Judicial Office you are seeking:** Judge, 46th District Court, Incumbent/six-year term
4. **Campaign website address:** www.votenance.com
5. **Community in which you live:** City of Southfield
6. **Place of Birth:** Chicago, IL
7. **Have you ever been known by another name not listed above?** YES NO
If YES, what was it?
8. **Please state your marital status. Provide your spouse's full name, including**

maiden name, if applicable. List your spouse's occupation, employer's name and business address(es).

Married, Gregory Nance

9. **Military Service: Have you had any military service? If so, provide particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, and type of discharge received.**

N/A

10. **Education: List each college and law school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.**

J.D., Wayne State University, 1999

B.A., University of Detroit, 1978

11. **Employment Record: List (by year) the following activities:**

A. All non-law-related business and professional activities, including employment by corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or otherwise. Include firms with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college.

Nissan Research & Development Automotive of North America

Benefits Corporation, Inc.

Bartech Incorporated

Hudson's Department Stores, Inc. Detroit,

B. All law-related professional activities, including the names of all law firms, corporate law departments, courts, governmental agencies, and private agencies, with which you were affiliated, and including the names of other lawyers with whom you were associated in any informal association.

Kemp, Klein, Umphrey, Endelman & May P.C.

Ford Motor Company, Office of the General Counsel Litigation Division

Office of the General Counsel International Division

Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, Domestic Violence Unit

Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Child/Family Abuse Bureau

C. **If your past employment includes service as a law clerk to a judge, state the name of the judge, the court, and the dates of your service.**

N/A

12. **Judicial Office: State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.**

Elected (and currently sitting) Judge of the 46th District Court, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin Village.

13. **Public Office: State (chronologically) any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. State (chronologically) any unsuccessful candidacies for elective public office.**

In 2010, I was a Candidate for 46th District Court Judge. Although not successful, I obtained 44% of the vote in my first run for public office. In 2012, I ran again. In my second bid for the bench I came in #1 in the August Primary (among 7 attorneys on the ballot) and I won the November 2012 General Election with over 64% of the vote.

14. **Honors and Awards: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you believe would be of interest to the public.**

-2018 *Respect for the Law Award*, for service advancing the Respect for Law Objective, presented by Optimist International

-front page feature story in the Oakland County Legal News in recognition of my role in planning and participating in *From Expungement to Entrepreneurship: The Pipeline to Possibilities* held on April 6, 2018

- front page feature story in the Oakland County Legal News in recognition of my role in planning and moderating the 46th District *Townhall on the Opioid Epidemic*

held on April 11, 2018

-Certificate of Appreciation, Southfield Public School District, Celebrity Reader Program, 2018

-*Certificate of Appreciation from Southern Poverty Law Center* in recognition of my contributions to the ongoing fight against hatred and intolerance in America, 2017

-*Proclamation from the United States Office of Congress*, from Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence in recognition of my elevation to President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, 2016-2017

-*Award in Special Recognition of Community Service* from Sigma Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. July 2016

-Association of Black Judges of Michigan, *Member of the Year Award 2015-2016* in recognition of unyielding dedication, service and leadership

-featured *Alumni of the Month* in the Wayne State Law School Alumni Newsletter, March 2016

-front page feature story in the Oakland County Legal New on December 2, 2015

-*Certificate of Appreciation* from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc for recognition of valuable contributions to the United Nations 70th Anniversary Celebration, 2015

--*Certificate of Appreciation*, Michigan District Optimist Club, 2014-2015

-front page feature story in the Oakland County Legal News on February 2013
Awards/Recognition in Law School

-Winner of the *Barris Student Trial Advocacy Program, Civil Trial Competition*, December 1998

-Winner of the *Barris Student Trial Advocacy Program, Criminal Trial Competition*, May 1999

15. **Memberships:** List all organizations to which you belong that are active in lobbying before public bodies. Please list all other organizations (other than bar associations or professional societies) to which you now or ever have been a member. If you are no longer a member, state the approximate date your membership ceased.

(partial list)

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. current
- MLK, Jr. Task Force, current
- My Brother's Keeper, Oakland County, current
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters, 2000
- 4-H Clubs of America, 1980
- My Brother's Keeper, Oakland County, current

16. **List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are or were a member and include the dates of membership. Also indicate whether you have served as an officer or committee chair of a bar association, professional society, or similar organization.**

- State of Michigan Trial Court Judges, 2013-present
- Michigan District Judges Association, 2013-present
- Oakland County District Judges Association, 2013-present
- Association of Black Judges of Michigan, Past President, 2013 -present
- Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, 2015, present
- National Association of Women Judges, 2017-present
- United States District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan 2000-present
- State Bar of Michigan, 2000-present
- Women Lawyers of Michigan, 2017-present
- Wolverine Bar Association, 1999-present
- Oakland County Bar Association, 2000-present
- State Bar of Michigan Character and Fitness Committee (former), 2011-2012
- Association of Trial Lawyers of Michigan, 2002-2010
- Volunteer Attorney Mediator for Small Claims and Landlord/Tenant Matters, 2008-2012
- D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Past Board Member, 2003-present
- State Bar of Michigan Adoption Sub-Committee, 2004-2010
- OCBA Advisory Committee on Judicial Candidates (former), 2004

17. **Court Admission:** List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, with dates of admission and lapses if any such memberships lapsed. Please explain the reason for any lapse of membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies which require special admission to practice.

Michigan State Court, 2000

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, 2000

18. **Published Writings:** List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published material you have written or edited. Please supply one copy of all published material not readily available to the public. Also, please supply a copy of all speeches by you on issues involving constitutional law or legal policy. If there were press reports about the speech, and they are readily available to you, please supply them. If any of this material is available online, please include an appropriate link; if the material is available in print format only, please scan the text and append to your responses in electronic format.

-Assisted Reproductive Technology Law: Obtaining Legal Parentage when your Child is Born to a Surrogate; Commentator Summer 2008

-The Causal Nexus Between the Laws of Inheritance and Wrongful Death, Michigan Probate & Estates Journal, Vol 24 Spring 2005, No 2

-Child Custody in Michigan: An Overview, Commentator, Fall 2004

-The Fundamentals of Estate Administration, ICLE 2004

-The Adoption Expense Tax Credit: New and Improved, Commentator, Spring 2004

-The Adoption Option: A Michigan Overview, Commentator, Winter 2003

-written over 40 District Court Judicial Opinions

19. **With respect to the last five years:**

a. **Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally or not at all?**

Daily for the last five years with the exception of conferences and other allowed time off.

b. **What percentage of these appearances was in:**

- 1) **federal courts—0%**
- 2) **state court of record-100% in the court in which I am seeking re-election**

Held								
2014								
DATE TRIAL STARTED	CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	JUDGE	LENGTH OF TRIAL	DISPOSITION	NOTES		
1/14/2014	13-S-1222 13-S-1223	A&B DC	DN	2 Days	See notes			
6/10/2014	14-S-0368	OWI	DN	2 Days	Guilty			
10/28/2014	GC 13 5330	Civil	DN	2 Days	\$641.40			
Jury Trials Held								
2015								
DATE TRIAL STARTED	CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	JUDGE	LENGTH OF TRIAL	DISPOSITION	NOTES		
1/6/2015	14-S-0971	DV 2nd	DN	2 Days	Not Guilty			
1/20/2015	GC 14 0774	Civil	DN	2 Days	\$0			
3/3/2015	14-L-2101	OWI 2nd	DN	1 Day	Guilty			
3/17/2015	GC141175	Civil	DN	2 days	Judgment \$5228.00			
7/7/2015	10-L-1507	DV	DN	1 Day	Not Guilty			
9/1/2015	15-S-743	DV	DN	1 Day	Not Guilty			
9/22/2015	15-S-195	A&B	DN	1 Day	Not Guilty			
Jury Trials Held								
2016								
DATE TRIAL STARTED	CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	JUDGE	LENGTH OF TRIAL	DISPOSITION	NOTES		
2/2/2016	14-M-2214	OWI/CC W w/intox	DN	4 days	Not Guilty			
2/16/2016	GC151863	Civil	DN	1	For Pla. \$13767.04			
3/8/2016	16-S-82	DV	DN	1	Not Guilty			
4/5/2016	15-S-1338	MDOP <\$200	DN	1.5	Not Guilty			
6/7/2016	M2019360 A	OWI	DN	1	Guilty			
9/20/2016	16-S-00230	DV	DN	3	Not Guilty			
10/18/2016	16-S-938	DV	DN	2	Not Guilty			

2017							
DATE TRIAL STARTED	CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	JUDGE	LENGTH OF TRIAL	DISPOSITION	NOTES	
4/11/2017	16-S-65	RF III	DN	1	Not Guilty		
8/8/2017	17-s-00571	DV	DN	1	Guilty		
9/12/2017	17-S-380	DV	DN	1	Not Guilty		
10/3/2017	17-S-437	OWI	DN	1	Guilty		
11/7/2017	17-S-629	DV	DN	1	Not Guilty		

Jury Trials Held

2018

DATE TRIAL STARTED	CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	JUDGE	LENGTH OF TRIAL	DISPOSITION	NOTES	
4/10/2018	18-S-242	DV	DN	1 Day	Not Guilty		

FELONY EXAMS

DATE	CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	BOUND OVER/DISMISSED
2/7/2013	13-S-00024	ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
2/22/2013	13-S-00163	HOME INVASION 1ST	BOUND OVER
2/22/2013	13-S-00211	ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO DO GREAT BODILY HARM	BOUND OVER
2/26/2013	13-S-00300	DEVILERY/ MANUFACTURE MARIJUANNA	BOUND OVER
5/24/2013	13-S-00768	B&E OF A BUILDING WITH INTENT	BOUND OVER
5/30/2013	13-S-00560	UNARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
6/10/2013	13-S-00674	DEVILERY/ MANUFACTURE MARIJUANNA	BOUND OVER
7/8/2013	13-L-	B&E OF A BUILDING WITH	BOUND OVER

	00943		INTENT	
7/18/2013	13-O-00808		IN CERT/FALS	BOUND OVER
8/8/2013	13-S-01104		R&C MOTOR VEHICLE / CONTROLLED SUB	BOUND OVER
9/12/2013	13-L-00515		IDENTITY THEFT	BOUND OVER
10/3/2013	13-S-01360		CS POSS <25	BOUND OVER
10/28/2013	13-F-00896		HOME INVASION 1ST	BOUND OVER
10/28/2013	13-S-01409		UNARMED ROBBERY	REDUCE TO MISD.
11/4/2013	13-L-01371		FLEE 3RD DEG	BOUND OVER
11/4/2013	13-M-00520		PO ASSAULT R/O	BOUND OVER
11/7/2013	13-S-01485		FEL ASSAULT	BOUND OVER
11/18/2013	13-S-01580		FLEE 3RD DEG	BOUND OVER
11/25/2013	13-S-00974		THEFT FROM A BULDING	BOUND OVER
1/16/2014	13-S-01105		CSC 4TH DEGREE	BOUND OVER
1/16/2014	14-S-00013		MV UNLAWFUL DRIVING AWAY	BOUND OVER
3/31/2014	14-S-00278		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
3/31/2014	14-S-00279		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
9/12/2014	14-S-01063		CSC 1ST	BOUND OVER
10/2/2014	14-S-00762		ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO DO GREAT BODILY HARM	BOUND OVER
10/16/2014	14-S-02153		HOME INVASION 3RD	1 COUNT BOUND OVER/ 1 COUNT DISMISSED
10/22/2014	14-S-02113		ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO MURDER	BOUND OVER
11/13/2014	14-S-02309		JOYRIDING	BOUND OVER
11/16/2014	14-S-01026		GUN CONCEAL	BOUND OVER
12/22/2014	14-S-02535		DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 3RD	BOUND OVER

2/5/2015	15-S-00007		FLEE FOURTH	BOUND OVER
3/19/2015	15-S-00307		HOME INVASION 3RD	BOUND OVER
4/9/2015	15-S-00359		FEL ASSAULT	BOUND OVER
4/16/2015	15-S-00346		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
4/20/2015	15-S-00437		FALSE REPORT OF A BOMB	BOUND OVER
5/14/2015	15-S-00522		FEL ASSAULT	BOUND OVER
6/8/2015	15-S-00685		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
6/8/2015	15-S-00686		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
7/31/2015	15-S-00942		HOME INVASION	BOUND OVER
10/22/2015	15-S-01161		GUN CONCEAL	BOUND OVER
11/5/2015	15-S-01321		FEL ASSAULT	BOUND OVER
11/9/2015	15-S-01000		CS POSS < 25	BOUND OVER
11/24/2015	15-S-01412		GUN CONCEAL	BOUND OVER
11/30/2015	15-S-01341		OUIL 3RD	BOUND OVER
12/7/2015	15-S-01473		B&E OF A BUILDING WITH INTENT	BOUND OVER
1/11/2016	15-S-01524		WEAPONS/GUN FELONY/FLEE 3RD	BOUND OVER ON CT3 CT1&2 DISMISSED
1/21/2016	15-S-01495		CS POSS <25	BOUND OVER
2/10/2016	15-S-01360		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
2/23/2016	16-S-00070		FLEE 3RD DEG	BOUND OVER
2/25/2016	16-S-00098		OUIL 3RD	BOUND OVER
3/3/2016	16-S-00183		CS 2ND DBL	BOUND OVER
3/31/2016	16-S-00319		DEL/MAN MARIJANNA	BOUND OVER
4/7/2016	16-S-00290		UTTER & PUBLISH	BOUND OVER

4/7/2016	16-S-00291		UTTER & PUBLISH	BOUND OVER
4/7/2016	16-S-00292		UTTER & PUBLISH	BOUND OVER
4/18/2016	16-S-00341		POSS METH	BOUND OVER
5/26/2016	16-S-00488		FTD-RET W/CN	BOUND OVER
7/14/2016	16-F-00720		HOME INAVASION	BOUND OVER
7/18/2016	16-S-00772		ASSAULT HARM	BOUND OVER
7/25/2016	16-S-00753		B&E VEH DAMG	BOUND OVER
8/11/2016	16-S-00745		PO-ASSL/R/O	BOUND OVER
9/15/2016	16-S-00877		GUN CONCEAL	BOUND OVER
9/15/2016	16-S-00953		ASSAULT HARM	BOUND OVER
10/13/2016	16-S-00974		ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO MURDER	BOUND OVER
10/20/2016	16-S-01048		PO-ASSL/R/O	BOUND OVER
11/3/2016	16-S-01111		CSC 3RD < 13	BOUND OVER
11/4/2016	16-S-01134		FTD-RET W/CN	BOUND OVER
11/8/2016	16-L-01089		DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 3RD	BOUND OVER
11/8/2016	16-L-01173		MDOP	BOUND OVER
11/10/2016	16-S-01105		FAL PRE U/20	BOUND OVER
11/17/2016	16-S-00885		DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 3RD	BOUND OVER
12/22/2016	16-O-01347		DEL/MAN MARIHJANNA	BOUND OVER
1/11/2017	16-M-01399		HUMAN TRAFFICKING	BOUND OVER
2/6/2017	17-H-00018		OUIL 3RD	BOUND OVER
2/27/2017	16-S-01078		RETIAL FRAUD 1ST	BOUND OVER
4/10/2017	17-S-00316		GUN CONCEAL	BOUND OVER

4/20/2017	17-S-00402		R&C MOT VEH	BOUND OVER
4/27/2017	16-O-01257		RENT AL PROPERTY <1000	BOUND OVER
4/27/2017	17-S-00163		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
5/1/2017	17-S-00448		HOME INVASION	REDUCED TO MISD.
6/1/2017	17-S-00544		FEL ASSAULT	BOUND OVER
6/19/2017	17-O-00638		CS< 50 GRAM	BOUND OVER
6/29/2017	17-S-00678		GUN CARRY	BOUND OVER
7/31/2017	17-S-00529		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
7/31/2017	17-S-00530		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
7/31/2017	17-S-00700		R&C MOT VEH	BOUND OVER
8/3/2017	17-M-00602		SEX OF - FT REG	CT 1 DISMISSED CT 2 BOUND OVER
8/7/2017	17-S-00330		FEL ASSAULT	BOUND OVER
8/31/2017	17-S-00872		RETAIL FRAUD 1ST	BOUND OVER
9/29/2017	17-S-00905		HOME INVASION	BOUND OVER
10/2/2017	17-S-00818		ARSON	CT 1& 2 BOUND OVER CT3 DISMISSED
10/23/2017	17-H-00730		THEFT BLDG	BOUND OVER
11/15/2017	17-S-01080		ASSAULT HARM	BOUND OVER
1/5/2018	17-S-02133		ARMED ROBBERY	BOUND OVER
1/8/2018	17-S-02130		CAR JACKING	BOUND OVER
1/8/2018	17-S-02194		TAMPR TETHER	BOUND OVER
1/22/2018	17-S-00168		HOME INVASION	BOUND OVER
2/22/2018	17-S-02258		CS < 50 GRAM	BOUND OVER
2/26/2018	17-S-00664		FINANCIAL TR	BOUND OVER

4/17/2018	18-M-00211		HUMAN TRAFFICKING	DISMISSED
4/17/2018	18-M-00212		HUMAN TRAFFICKING	BOUND OVER
4/23/2018	18-S-00332		OUIL 3RD	BOUND OVER
5/10/2018	18-S-00231		FAL REP BOMB	BOUND OVER

- 20. Describe two (2) of the most significant trials, litigated matters, or matters that would be representative of your litigation experience, which you personally handled and give the citations, if the cases were reported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case, the nature of your participation in the litigation, the date of disposition, the final disposition of the case, and a succinct statement of what you believe to be the particular significance of the case.**

Please see above

- 21. Have you ever taught a law course at a college or law school? If so, provide particulars, including courses taught and any significant committee work or other contributions while a faculty member.**

While I have never been retained to teach a course, I have lectured to lawyers and law students in the legal arena:

- Oakland County Bar Administration, *The Do's and Don'ts of Motion Practice*, 2017
- Oakland County Bar Administration, *Ask the Judges*, 2016
- Cooley Law School, *Preparing for the Practice of Law*, 2016,
- Wayne County Bar Association, *Wrongful Death Litigation*, 2010
- Macomb County Bar Association, *Wrongful Death Litigation*, 2010
- Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), *Adoption and Paternity*, 2010
- Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) *Estate Administration*, 2004
- University of Michigan Law School, *Litigation Practice*, 2003

21. Describe any pro bono or community service activities in which you have engaged.

Pro Bono Work: While I am not allowed to practice law, for a fee or *pro bono*, since taking the bench, I have participated in a number of community outreach and information forums to educate the public.

In additional to my judicial duties, I've stayed busy in the community as well. *I believe that it is important for Judges to step off the bench and into the communities we serve. I have participated in the following, detailed by year:*

2013

-In February, I participated as a Judge in the Michigan High School Regional Mock Trial Competition in Oakland Circuit Court

-In February, I created and presented my first *Careers in the Courtroom* at Levey Middle School

-In March, I created and presented my first *Careers in the Courtroom* at Brace-Lederle K-8 in Southfield

-In March, I took *Careers in the Courtroom* to Eisenhower Middle School

-In April, I attend the Southfield Youth Assistance Recognition Breakfast at Lathrup Village City Hall

-In May I spoke at the *Court in Schools Program* in Warren hosted by the 37th District Court

-In June, I was a guest speaker at the Southfield-Lathrup Optimist Club: *A View from the Bench*

2014

(Similar activities, but didn't keep my actual calendar)

2015

-In January, I swore in new and re-elected City of Southfield School Board Members

-in February, I attended the 33rd Annual PTA Founders Day Program

-In March, I was the keynote speaker for the Hope United Methodist Endowment Brunch: *I Can't Breathe Without Education*

-In March, I also judged the Michigan Center for Civic Education Mock Trial Event

- In April, I presented *Careers in the Courtroom* at Laurus Academy in Southfield
- In April, I also judged in the Michigan District Area V Optimist Club Oratorical Competition
- In May, I presented *Careers in the Courtroom* at Levey Middle School
- In June, I was the keynote speak for the Laurus Academy School Graduation Ceremony:
Making a Plan for your life
- In June, I presented *Careers in the Courtroom* at Bradford Academy

2016

- In April, I judged the Michigan Optimist Are IV 2017 Oratorical Contest
- In May, the Southfield Lathrup Village Youth Recognition awards
- In May, I presented *Careers in the Courtroom* at Levey Middle School
- In July, I was the keynote speaker for the Alpha Phi Alpha Southfield Alumni Scholarship Dinner: *Reforming the Criminal Justice System*
- In August, I was a guest speaker for a community forum at Hope United Methodist Church: *Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration*
- In August, I was a guest speaker at New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church: *Benjamin L. Hooks Legacy Day*
- In August, I greeted and presented give-a-ways to seniors for Senior Appreciation Night at the Burgh
- In August, I was a guest on the Cable Channel 15 Roundtable with Eunirose: *Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration*
- In October, I was the Keynote speaker at New Hope Baptist Church: *Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence*
- In November, I presented *Careers in the Courtroom* at Stevenson Elementary School
- In December, I was a guest on the Mildred Gaddis Show: *Blocking the Prison Pipeline*

2017

- In January, I designed and prepared 26 awards for the 2017 Youth Community Service Awards & Essay Event sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Taskforce,
- In February, I was a speaker at Wayne State Law School: *The Judges Panel*
- In February, I did public service announcements on local radio shows to advertise and

encourage high school student to participate in an essay contest for college scholarships, sponsored by the Wolverine Bar Association in conjunction with the Straker Bar Association and the ABJM.

-In March, I was a guest speaker for the Oakland County Bar Association Forum: *Court Rules in Oakland County District Court*

In August, I was a guest speaker for Christian Gospel Center's 24th Annual Women's Day: *Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence*

-In April, I was a guest speaker and interview coach for the Southfield Public High School Career Day preparation, to assist high school student to meet with local employers in the 2017 Career/Job Fair

-In April, I was a judge at the Michigan Optimist Are IV 2017 Oratorical Contest

-In June, I was a guest speaker at the My Brother Keeper: *Start of Summer* forum to help keep our young people safe and out of harm's way for the summer

-In August, I was the guest speaker at the Lathrup Village Meet and Greet: *How to Prepare for your day in Court*

-In September, I was the guest speaker at the Kingsley Estates Homeowners Association Meeting: *How to Prepare for your day in Court*

-In September, I spoke to the Beverly Elementary School for Constitution Day: *Remembering the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights*

-In October, I was a guest on 910 AM with Bankole Thompson: *Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence*

-In October, I was the guest speaker at the Green Brooke Park homes Condo Association meeting: *How to Prepare for your Day in Court*

-In October, I was the keynote speaker for *the 3rd Annual Angel House Purple Gala Fundraiser for Domestic Violence in Livonia*

-In October, I was also a guest speaker for the Mind, Body and Spirit Resource Fair at Fellowship Chapel in Detroit on *Breaking the Cycle on Domestic Violence*, sponsored by the Nurses Association

-In October, I also presented *Careers in the Courtroom* to the Youth Ministry at Christian Tabernacle Church

-In October, I was also a guest speaker at Cooley Law School: *The Do's and Don'ts of Law Practice*

-In October was the Moderator for the North Oakland County NAACP: *Day of Awareness Forum*

-In November, I was a guest on 910 AM with Bankole Thompson: *Landlord Tenant Matters*

-In December was the guest speaker at the Stonycroft Improvement Association: *How to Prepare for your day in Court*

-In December, I was a guest on 910 AM with Bankole Thompson: *How to avoid a Drunk Driving*

-In December, I Guest Hosted the Cliff Russell radio Show. I planned the show around young people, I interviewed Members of the Martin Luther King Taskforce to highlight the passing the torch program scheduled for January 15, 2018 featuring young diverse students in our community. I also interviewed members of the medical community regarding the Opioid Epidemic in preparation for the upcoming Opioid Townhall I am present for the community.

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2018

-In January at one of many the MLK Programs, I prepared and presented Certificates of Recognition to high school students deserving of special recognition for their community service efforts. I also reached out to my contacts and arranged for Jewish and Chaldean Students to participate in the City of Southfield 33rd annual MLK Celebration.

-In February, I spoke to students at the Jewish Farber Hebrew Day School in a presentation of *Careers in the Courtroom*.

-In March, I participated in the *Annual Oakland County Mock Trial Competition* for County High School Students

-In April, I was responsible for bringing the *Entrepreneurship to Expungement Program: The Pipeline to Possibilities* through the City of Southfield on April 6th. I worked with the Straker

Bar Association and Lakeshore Legal Aid, and Law Professor Dana Thompson from the University of Michigan Law School Entrepreneurship Clinic, to bring law student to an Expungement Fair. Those attending received information to clear their criminal histories, AND learned how to open and operate small business. This was the first Expungement Fair of its kind in Oakland County.

-In April, I did a radio segment on Chaldean Radio on *How to prepare for your Day in Court*. I emphasized that the court had the ability and duty to bring in translators in numerous languages.

-In April, I planned and hosted a *Townhall on the Opioid Epidemic* presented by the City of Southfield on April 11th. I conceived and planned the program to bring together local fire, police, county administrators to update the community on the epidemic in the 46th District. Sheriff Brouhard was present to speak to post-release programs in the County Jail. I also brought in Attorney Mark Bernstein to address the litigation against large pharmaceutical companies, distributors and retailers across the state. Over 200 people attended and 93 people received a free Narcan kit to reverse opioid overdose for emergency use with training by the Southfield Police Department. This program was the first of its kind in Oakland County.

-In May, I spoke before the Southfield Veterans Commission on various *Veteran's Courts Programs* and *Mental Health Court Specialty Programs*.

-In May, spoke at the Tamarack Gardens Neighborhood Association: *How to Prepare for your Day in Court*

-In May, I was the Guest Speaker for the Southfield Lathrup Optimist Club *Respect for the Law Day Program*

-I lecture annually each October on the topic of Domestic Violence in local churches and radio broadcast. I think it is important to educate the public on the signs of domestic abuse, how to determine if the abusive behavior is escalating, and what actions to take. I also explain the domestic violence law, the court process and the victim advocate programs

Overall

-I attend 12-15 local churches each year since 2012 because I believe it is important to worship with the community I serve. I considerate it a community outreach opportunity for citizens to meet with a judge and ask general questions regarding courthouse procedure.

-I attend a host of city sponsored events in my district from Memorial Day Parades in Beverly Hills, to annual Tree Lighting ceremonies in Southfield with other elected colleges as a show of community pride and unity.

-I attend Chaldean Chamber of Commerce Meetings and Events.

-I attend annual AAPAC Dinners in the Arabic community.

-I support Annual Yeshiva Beth Yehudah Scholarship dinners in the Jewish community.

-I attend Educational Scholarship Dinners in the Nigerian and Caribbean Communities.

-I am an active member of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King MLK Task Force in Southfield

-My Brother's Keeper, Oakland County Chapter, 2016-present. I lecture frequently to young people on the hazards of youth related offenses.

23. Have you ever been admonished, reprimanded, suspended, disbarred or otherwise disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee or other professional group? If so, provide details and describe the conduct that led to discipline or citation.

No

24. Have you ever been convicted of any federal, state, county or municipal crime (excluding non-alcohol-related traffic offenses)? If yes, give details.

No

25. Are you aware of any physical, mental, substance abuse, substance addiction, or emotional health impediments to your serving in the judicial position you seek? If yes, give details.

No

26. Please provide the names of all organizations that have endorsed your candidacy. Also provide the names of all organizations for which you will, or have already, requested an endorsement including endorsements that are currently pending or have been denied.

As of this writing Endorsed by:

-Oakland County Democratic Black Caucus

-Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council

-Sheet Metals Local Union 80

-Laborers' Local 1190

Endorsed by in 2012, Request pending for 2018:

- UAW of America
- AFSCME Council 25
- 14th District Democratic Party

While not an endorsement, The Judicial Qualification Committee (“WBAJQC”) evaluates candidates for judicial office based upon, among other things, the candidate’s legal ability, relevant experience, scholarships, civic involvement, reputation, temperament, and commitment to diversity. The Committee does not endorse any candidate for judicial office, but issues written ratings after reviewing the candidate’s questionnaire and conducting an in-person interview. There are five categories of ratings for candidates for election to judicial office: (i) Extremely Well Qualified/Outstanding; (ii) Well Qualified; (iii) Qualified; (iv) Not Qualified; and (v) No Rating. **The Wolverine Bar Association Judicial Qualification Committee rated me:**

EXTREMELY WELL QUALIFIED/OUTSTANDING (EWQ)

27. Identify a current or former judge whom you admire and explain why.

Judge Damon Keith. I read his book “Crusader for Justice”. The imprint he had on the lives of everyday people is inspirational. It does not matter that everyone knows what you did, it matters that you did it. He did the right thing even when no one was looking. That’s integrity!

28. What skills do you possess that qualify you for the judicial office you are seeking?

I feel that I am exceptionally well-qualified for re-election to the office sought. I have over 30 years of professional experience, nearly 20 years as an attorney, and 6 years of experience on the bench as the Presiding Judge in courtroom #2 of the 46th District Court. I am courteous, professional, prompt and punctual in taking the bench. In my first term, due to my leadership skills, I was honored to be elected by my peers as the

President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan. In addition to my judicial duties and Bar activities, I've stayed busy in the community, as well.

In regard to my caseload, to date, I have effectively and efficiently handled through adjudication:

- 2,710 Criminal Misdemeanors (held over 300 Evidentiary hearings, 26 Jury Trials, and 9 Bench trials);

-1000 Probation Violation hearings;

-707 Felonies (held over 115 Felony Exams);

-9,123 General Civil (held 5 jury trials, approximately 35 bench trials, and over 7,300 motion hearings, including ordinance violation motion hearings where testimony was taken, evidence entered and a judicial opinion was rendered);

-11,198 Landlord/Tenant cases; and

-28 Small Claim Appeals (the initial case is handled by Court Magistrates)

Further, I have an exemplary record of case management in both criminal and civil matters for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. I have consistently moved my caseload through to adjudication, at or above the new State-wide Standards.

In addition, after over 25,000 district court case adjudications of all kinds, I have 1 criminal, and 2 civil remands after appeal. All other appeals pursued in my assigned caseload were either denied, dismissed or *my decisions* were affirmed. Also, I am the only Candidate in the race that has "qualified" to be listed on the ballot in November by the Michigan Secretary of State.

29. **How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, judges, clients and litigants?**

Being a judge is a huge responsibility. For the last 6 years, with the grace of divine guidance, I have made tough decisions. I gladly take on this responsibility in service to my community. Litigants come to court to be heard, to be treated fairly, and to obtain closure. I possess the emotional maturity and temperament for the role. I am courteous and professional. I am also prompt and punctual when taking the bench and considerate of the time of the attorneys and litigants appearing before me.

I will also offer, that while judges can hold unruly attorneys or litigants in contempt in some circumstances, during my tenure on the bench I have not held any attorney, or litigant, in contempt of court for direct or indirect conduct. I recognize that attorneys and/or litigants may have a bad day and exhibit conduct unbecoming in the courtroom. When this has occurred with attorneys, I have simply spoken with counsel at side-bar or in my chamber to address the situation. Much more often I have allowed the moment to pass while maintaining courtroom decorum and my own composure.

In regard to litigants, when a person's temper has become disruptive in the courtroom, I have asked the person to take a moment to step out into the hall for a "cooling off" period, rather than be held in contempt and locked up as is done in other court. In all cases, I believe that it is necessary for the judge to keep a calm cool head in order to set the appropriate tone. I have, therefore, never (thus far) found a contempt hearing to be necessary.

30. If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?

I would speak to the attorney at side bar or in chambers. I would recommend that the attorney request an adjournment to better prepare, seek co-counsel in the representation of the client, or refer the representation to another attorney. I would remind the parties that the attorneys lack of preparation or knowledge can set the case on track for an ineffective assistance of counsel claim. Such situations adversely affect the Defendant, may be prejudicial to the People if unable to provide witnesses for a future adjudication, and may be burdensome to the court, as well, if the judge allows such obvious ineffectiveness to persist.

31. Describe the three most important factors that you would consider in fashioning a sentence in a criminal case.

1) Whether the defendant acknowledges their illegal behavior, understands the connection between their behavior and the consequences of that behavior, and has remorse. Also, is the impact on the victim.

2) Past history of criminal offenses, or, the lack of a criminal history.

3) Whether there are current work/educational/family circumstances (or an interest by the Defendant thereof) to help the court assess the current likelihood of successful rehabilitation.

There are other factors, but I consider these the three most important factors.

32. **When called upon to “interpret” law, what considerations do you believe appropriate, and what, if anything, should not be considered?**

It is appropriate to apply the rules/canons of statutory interpretation and research the legislative history of the statute and its intended purpose. Words are to be given their common ordinary meaning. The court is to review and act upon the plain language of the statute when unambiguous, but must resolve any ambiguities to determine how the law applies to a given set of facts. Also, the court must be careful to act only within its discretion as determined by relevant legal authority.

Factors that should not, be considered, are a judge’s personal feelings about the law. Personal feelings, religious belief and political beliefs about the law must be set aside. It is not my role to make the law, only to interpret the law as set forth and apply it to the facts and circumstance.

II. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTER GUIDE

The League of Women Voters Oakland Area distributes a Voter Guide to assist and inform citizens in casting their ballots. In the Voter Guide the League will include the answers to the three items below, provided each of your answers is limited to no more than 125 words. Some of the information will have been included already in the answers to the preceding questions. Only the first 125 words will be printed in the League of Women Voters–Oakland Area’s Voter Guide.

- 1. Summarize your biography, including your education (degrees conferred, colleges and law school), career and employment experience, elected offices held, community service activity, organizational affiliations, and other pertinent information.**

I was elected 46th District Judge on November 6, 2012. Graduate of the University of Detroit, I began my professional career as Assistant Personnel Manager at Hudson’s Northland Store, before serving as Personnel Superintendent for other Hudson’s Stores throughout Michigan. I also worked in Human Resource Management in the automotive industry.

Graduate of Wayne State University Law School, I’ve worked in the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Domestic Violence Unit and prosecuted cases in the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Child & Family Abuse Bureau. I also worked on assignment to the Office of the General Counsel/ Ford Motor Company before going into private practice at a mid-sized law firm, where I developed a successful litigation practice in the areas of General Civil, Child Abuse/Neglect, Family and Adoption Law.

- 2. Describe the general nature of your law practice or other legal work you have done, the typical clients you have represented, areas of specialty or concentration, and the geographic region of your practice.**

As 46th District Judge, I represent Southfield, Lathrup Village, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin Village. I have handled *well over* 2,800 criminal misdemeanors, 800 felony exams, 1,000 probations violations, 9,000 general civil cases and traffic/ordinance violations, 12,000 landlord/tenant cases, and 30 small claim appeals. I have also been active in the community and among my peers, as well. In fact, I was honored to be elected as the President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan

-in my very first term of office. With confidence, I pledge to you:

- *the integrity and strength to render the sentences that will keep our community safe;*
- *the experience and empathy to exercise compassionate judgment when appropriate,*
- *and the wisdom to know the difference.*

3. **Why should voters elect (or re-elect) you to judicial office; what qualities (e.g. temperament, diligence, etc.) and experiences do you have that commend you to the judicial office you seek?**

I have over thirty years of professional experience, nearly twenty years of legal experience, and six years on the bench as the Presiding Judge in courtroom #2 of the 46th District Court. With divine guidance, I have handled over 25,000 cases. I am caring, courteous, professional, and punctual when taking the bench. I believe that litigants come to court to obtain closure, so I have consistently moved my caseload through to adjudication, at or above the new State-wide Standards. In addition to my judicial duties I've stayed busy in the community, as well. I am passionate about working with our young people, and I am committed to keeping our community safe. I am proud to be rated "Extremely Well Qualified/Outstanding by the Wolverine Bar Association.

