

**DISTRICT JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION
AND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JOINT JUDICIAL APPLICATION**

Please complete this application by placing your responses in normal type, immediately beneath each request for information. Requested documents should be attached at the end of the application or in separate PDF files, clearly identifying the numbered request to which each document is responsive. Completed applications are public records. If you cannot fully respond to a question without disclosing information that is confidential under state or federal law, please submit that portion of your answer separately, along with your legal basis for considering the information confidential. Do not submit opinions or other writing samples containing confidential information unless you are able to appropriately redact the document to avoid disclosing the identity of the parties or other confidential information.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. State your full name.

Lisa Kay Mazurek

2. State your current occupation or title. (Lawyers: identify name of firm, organization, or government agency; judicial officers: identify title and judicial election district.)

Judicial Magistrate for the 3rd Judicial District of Iowa, Judicial Election District 3A
Cherokee County

Attorney with Miller, Miller, Miller P.C.

3. State your date of birth (to determine statutory eligibility).

July 22, 1982

4. State your current city and county of residence.

Cherokee, Cherokee County

PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

- 5. List in reverse chronological order each college and law school you attended including the dates of attendance, the degree awarded, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree from that institution was awarded.**

University of Iowa College of Law: May 2003 – December 2005, awarded the degree of Juris Doctor

University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts: August 2000– December 2002, awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Western Iowa Tech Community College: August 1999 – August 2000, no degree because I transferred to the University of Iowa to finish my undergraduate education.

- 6. Describe in reverse chronological order all of your work experience since graduating from college, including:**
- a. Your position, dates (beginning and end) of your employment, addresses of law firms or offices, companies, or governmental agencies with which you have been connected, and the name of your supervisor or a knowledgeable colleague if possible.**
 - b. Your periods of military service, if any, including active duty, reserves or other status. Give the date, branch of service, your rank or rating, and present status or discharge status.**

State of Iowa Judicial Branch
Judicial Magistrate – Cherokee County
520 W Main St.
Cherokee, IA 51012
(712)225-6744
December 2010 – present
Knowledgeable colleague: District Associate Judge Andrew Smith

I was appointed the magistrate for Cherokee County effective December 1, 2010. I have been handling and continue to handle magistrate matters for Cherokee County since that time. Magistrate matters include a wide array of small claims actions, frequently having the same complex legal issues as district court civil actions. Magistrate matters also include mental health committals and hearings, all simple misdemeanor proceedings, criminal felony and misdemeanor appearances, preliminary hearings, warrants on complaint and search warrants, civil infractions, landlord/tenant disputes including forcible entry and detainer actions, and replevin actions. I have presided over actions from the simplest appearance proceedings to criminal jury trials. I have also engaged in administrative responsibilities such as being involved in the implementation of the EDMS system and developing the weekend protocol for magistrates. I continually make myself available to cover conflict cases and scheduling conflicts for other magistrates in our district. I primarily cover conflict cases in Buena

Vista County and I have also covered in O'Brien, Clay, Palo Alto, Monona, Plymouth, Woodbury and Sioux Counties.

MILLER, MILLER, MILLER P.C.

May 2015 – Present

216 W. Main St.

Cherokee, IA 51012

(712)225-5194

Supervisor / Knowledgeable Colleague: M.W. Miller Jr.

In April, 2015 M.W. Miller Jr. decided he no longer wished to be the Cherokee City Attorney and resigned that employment. With the ethical restrictions lifted, I returned to work as an associate with Miller, Miller, Miller P.C. While working for the Millers I have continued to maintain a diverse general practice including family law, juvenile law, contracts, business formation, tax issues, probate, real estate, and other matters. The firm continues to give me immense freedom to handle my own case load and to work as sole counsel.

MAZUREK LAW FIRM P.C.

November 2010 – April, 2015

227 W Maple St.

P.O. Box 984

Cherokee, IA 51012

(712)225-5908

Knowledgeable Colleague: M.W. Miller Jr.

On December 1, 2010 I became the Cherokee County Magistrate. My employer, M.W. Miller Jr., was the Cherokee City Attorney. The ethics opinions made it clear that the Cherokee County Magistrate and the Cherokee City Attorney cannot be in the same office due to conflicts of interest. The need to avoid that conflict of interest caused me to open my own solo law practice at the end of November, 2010. When I left Millers, over 97% of my existing clients chose to transfer with me to my new office. My practice continued to exemplify the diversity I already enjoyed and I also added more complex probate situations, an FLSA case, a criminal jury trial, and complex negligent construction issues.

MILLER, MILLER, MILLER P.C.

January 2006 – November 2010

216 W. Main St.

Cherokee, IA 51012

(712)225-5194

Supervisor / Knowledgeable Colleague: M.W. Miller Jr.

I worked as an associate with Miller, Miller, Miller P.C. While working for the Millers I was expected to obtain and carry my own caseload. My caseload was diverse consisting of criminal defense, personal injury, family law, juvenile law, probate

matters, contracts, business matters, property actions, and other client needs. This firm gave me immense freedom to handle my cases always as lead counsel.

7. **List the dates you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses or terminations of membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse or termination of membership.**

Courts for the State of Iowa

September 21, 2006.

I have not had any lapse or termination of membership.

8. **Describe the general character of your legal experience, dividing it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years, including:**

- a. **A description of your typical clients and the areas of the law in which you have focused, including the approximate percentage of time spent in each area of practice.**

My typical client is referred to me by a colleague, former client, or sometimes a former opposing party. The client comes to me with an important problem that affects their freedom, their money, or their family. Most often this problem is weighing heavily on their mind and they come for my assistance and expertise. My clients expect me to educate them on the legal system and the process used to obtain the results they want. They also expect me to assist them in determining what their goals should be and whether those goals are realistic. As a general practitioner I do not have a focus, though most generally the clients that seek me out are clients who have goals relating to their family's needs, their business's needs, and their personal wellbeing.

I am a general practitioner with diverse practice areas. In law school I assisted with federal criminal actions from the prosecution's perspective and civil actions from a governmental defense perspective. When I obtained my license, I began to handle state criminal actions from the defense perspective and also branched into many other areas of the law. My practice is now truly that of a general practitioner with cases in family law (30%), juvenile law (30%) including family treatment court, personal injury (5%), probate (5%), criminal law (5-10%), contract litigation (5%), mechanics lien cases, property law matters (5-10%), federal and state tax matters and preparation (5-10%), and 236 civil domestic relations actions (5%). I am one of the attorneys in District 3 trained in collaborative law. In September, 2014 I also added a mediation component to my practice when I completed the 40 hour comprehensive mediation training offered by Crilley Mediation Services.

b. The approximate percentage of your practice that has been in areas other than appearance before courts or other tribunals and a description of the nature of that practice.

The majority of my practice involves appearances in court. The remaining portion of my practice involves preparation of tax returns and handling tax issues, writing title opinion and assisting with property law and real estate related issues, drafting and interpreting contracts and handling business law issues for corporation clients, and mediation. I estimate that 20% of my time is spent on cases that do not involve court appearances.

c. The approximate percentage of your practice that involved litigation in court or other tribunals.

I appear in court frequently. As an attorney working primarily in the rural counties of District 3A I am in court an average of three days per week. It is common for me to split my time on a court service day between multiple counties. I am in Juvenile Court handling anywhere from two to eight hearings on a weekly to twice a week basis. I also have trials scheduled almost every month though that schedule is more variable as cases often settle prior to the scheduled trial date.

I spend approximately 10 to 25 hours per week in the magistrate role. I handle magistrate matters in the courtroom on Thursday, initial appearances for felony's and misdemeanors each day, and I am on call at all times for any warrants on complaint and search warrants.

I estimate that 80% of my time is spent on cases that do involve court appearances.

d. The approximate percentage of your litigation that was: Administrative, Civil, and Criminal.

In the early part of my career my litigation was approximately forty percent criminal and sixty percent civil. I handled some cases with administrative agencies during that time but those were usually in conjunction with a criminal or civil case. Over the years my private practice has shifted to being approximately ninety-five percent civil, including my work as a mediator, and five percent criminal and administrative. My magistrate responsibilities remain more heavily weighted toward criminal proceedings with criminal proceedings taking approximately sixty percent of my time and civil proceedings taking approximately forty percent.

- e. **The approximate number of cases or contested matters you tried (rather than settled) in the last 10 years, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel, and whether the matter was tried to a jury or directly to the court or other tribunal. If desired, you may also provide separate data for experience beyond the last 10 years.**

I have been sole counsel on every trial that I have been involved in. As an attorney I have tried approximately eighty cases, excluding juvenile court. I have tried between 200 and 250 juvenile court matters. The majority of my trials are directly to the court. I have litigated a criminal jury trial as defense counsel and have presided over hundreds of bench trials and multiple jury trials in the magistrate role.

- f. **The approximate number of appeals in which you participated within the last 10 years, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel. If desired, you may also provide separate data for experience beyond the last 10 years.**

I have been sole counsel on every appeal that I have participated in and have participated in approximately 35 appeals in the past ten years.

9. Describe your pro bono work over at least the past 10 years, including:

- a. **Approximate number of pro bono cases you've handled.**
- b. **Average number of hours of pro bono service per year.**
- c. **Types of pro bono cases.**

Attorneys have an ethical obligation under Iowa R. of Prof'l Conduct 32:6.1 to take on pro bono cases. There is a 50 hour per year suggestion for the appropriate amount of pro bono legal services to engage in. As an attorney in Northwest Iowa who understands the financial constraints of many of our residents, I take my pro bono ethical obligation seriously. I attempt to have two active pro bono cases at any given time and I have done so since being admitted to practice law in Iowa. I estimate that I have handled 40 pro bono cases in the past ten years. I have met or exceeded 50 hours of pro bono work per year in the past ten years.

I am on the list of attorneys accepting cases through the Iowa Volunteer Lawyer's Project, though that is not my primary source of pro bono work. More often I am approached to pursue a matter in District Court so that an associated Juvenile Court action can attain safe case closure. Those potential clients often come to my attention as a referral from a colleague. I feel that using my pro bono hours on these cases benefits my client and also the legal system on a whole. The work assists a Juvenile Court action to attain case closure which reduces the Juvenile Court docket and the attorney fees billed to the Indigent Defense Fund.

10. If you have ever held judicial office or served in a quasi-judicial position:

- a. Describe the details, including the title of the position, the courts or other tribunals involved, the method of selection, the periods of service, and a description of the jurisdiction of each of court or tribunal.**

I currently hold the position of Judicial Magistrate for Cherokee County. Judicial Magistrates are appointed to a four year term by the county magistrate appointing commission. I have been in this position continuously since I was first appointed effective December of 2010. The Magistrate jurisdiction and responsibilities include the following: (1) initial appearances of all arrested persons, (2) reviewing and ruling on search warrants and warrants on complaint, (3) handling all simple misdemeanors through trial proceedings, (4) handling all small claims which include any civil litigation for an amount not exceeding \$6500.00, (5) handling landlord/tenant disputes including forcible entry and detainer actions, and (6) handling cases of involuntary committals due to mental health or substance abuse issues.

- b. List any cases in which your decision was reversed by a court or other reviewing entity. For each case, include a citation for your reversed opinion and the reviewing entity's or court's opinion and attach a copy of each opinion.**

I do not have the detailed information necessary to properly address this question. I have contacted the Cherokee County Clerk and asked if there is a method available to obtain a list of any cases I have ruled on that have subsequently been appealed. I have been advised that there is no method to produce that list. The Clerk was able to tell me that she does not recall any appeals and she believes that she would recall if there had been any recently.

With that disclaimer in mind, I do believe I was reversed one time, shortly after I first became a magistrate. My recollection is that it was a consumer credit transaction where I found in favor of the defendant and the decision was reversed by Judge Borth on appeal. I do not recall the names of the parties and thus am unable to locate the case number.

- c. List any case in which you wrote a significant opinion on federal or state constitutional issues. For each case, include a citation for your opinion and any reviewing entity's or court's opinion and attach a copy of each opinion.**

State of Iowa v. Joshua Edward Brinklow
Sioux County Case NTA0029575
copy attached as Mazurek – St. v. Brinklow – Question 10(c).pdf

State of Iowa v. Paul Robert Dorr
Sioux County Case SMSM026797
copy attached as Mazurek – St. v. Dorr – Question 10(c).pdf

11. If you have been subject to the reporting requirements of Court Rule 22.10:

a. State the number of times you have failed to file timely rule 22.10 reports.

I believe that I have always timely filed my rule 22.10 reports. However; there was one time where I was contacted by State Court Administration because two of my reports went missing. The IT department was able to locate one of them but I did have to recreate the other.

b. State the number of matters, along with an explanation of the delay, that you have taken under advisement for longer than:

i. 120 days.

One. I agreed to cover a complicated magistrate matter in Buena Vista County. After I agreed to cover that proceeding and prior to the trial my father succumbed to a critical illness that lasted most of a year. The illness occurred when he was out of State for work and involved him being in critical condition and on life support for almost two months. During those weeks my siblings and I rotated staying in New York State with my mother to ensure that she wouldn't be alone if he were to die. While I was assisting my family during that critical time and his subsequent recovery I was not able to be as efficient as I like and this matter was taken under submission during that time period. The matter was complicated and the ruling ended up being 23 pages long. I filed the ruling on day 123. Copy attached as Mazurek – Writing Sample 1 and Questions 11(b) and 12.pdf

ii. 180 days.

None

iii. 240 days.

None

iv. One year.

None

12. Describe at least three of the most significant legal matters in which you have participated as an attorney or presided over as a judge or other impartial decision maker. If they were litigated matters, give the citation if available. For each matter please state the following:

- a. Title of the case and venue,
- b. A brief summary of the substance of each matter,
- c. A succinct statement of what you believe to be the significance of it,
- d. The name of the party you represented, if applicable,
- e. The nature of your participation in the case,
- f. Dates of your involvement,
- g. The outcome of the case,
- h. Name(s) and address(es) [city, state] of co-counsel (if any),
- i. Name(s) of counsel for opposing parties in the case, and
- j. Name of the judge before whom you tried the case, if applicable.

Trevina Jefferson v. Peterson Rentals d/b/a Peterson Rentals

Buena Vista County Case SCCV030352

Copy attached as Mazurek – Writing Sample 1 and Questions 11(b) and 12.pdf

Appellate decision attached as Mazurek – Appellate decision of Writing Sample 1

	<u>Party</u>	<u>Counsel</u>
Plaintiff:	Trevina Jefferson	pro se
Defendant:	David Peterson	Patrick Sealey Phil Redenbaugh

I presided over this matter as magistrate in 2016. The matter stems from a landlord / tenant relationship between the parties that was clearly unsatisfactory to both sides. The Plaintiff pursued several theories of recovery for what she felt were unlawful actions by the Defendant's agents and Defendant counterclaimed including, among others, a counterclaim for non-payment of rent. The Court dismissed all of Plaintiff's claims. The Court found in favor of the Defendant regarding non-payment of rent and dismissed Defendant's other counterclaims.

I offer this case as significant to your commission's purpose for three reasons. First this opinion illustrates the complexity and detail sometimes involved in the small claims actions that I have experience handling. Secondly, this opinion gives the commission an example of a case where the skills of listening with compassion and empathy had to be balanced with writing a decision that was firm, confident, and could be understood by a pro se litigant, attorneys, and the appellate court. Lastly, this opinion provides an example of my ability to work on a complicated case while keeping all of my audiences in mind, even when in a time of personal stress, as this case occurred during my father's critical illness.

Zub's Shop, Inc. v. Rasmus Realty
Cherokee County Case SCCV025180

Copy attached as Mazurek – Writing Sample 2 and Question 12
Appellate decision attached as Mazurek – Appellate decision of Writing Sample 2

	<u>Party</u>	<u>Counsel</u>
Plaintiff:	Zubs Shop	William Klinker
Defendant:	Rasmus Realty	John Cook Jr.

I presided over this matter as magistrate in 2017. The matter came before the Court after Zubs Shop was not paid for fuel delivered to and used at Creekfest in the summer of 2016. Zubs Shop Inc. argued that Rasmus Realty was the entity owing on their invoice as Rasmus Realty is the entity they assumed they were contracting with. Rasmus Realty argued that Jamin-R Enterprise L.L.C., the entity responsible for Creekfest, was the undisclosed principal who had entered into the contract with Zubs Shop. The parties brought the action in an effort to have the Court determine who the contracting parties were. The Court ruled that the identity of the contracting parties could not be determined from the evidence presented and thus the Plaintiff had not met their burden of proof. The matter was dismissed and that dismissal was upheld on appeal.

I offer this case as significant to your commission's purpose as it shows that I have the integrity and the courage to issue a decision based on the law, even when that decision is unpopular. When several local businesses were not paid for goods and services provided for the 2016 Creekfest many people in the local community had opinions about the situation and the people involved. I knew that dismissing this case would be an unpopular decision. I also am aware that a decision, if unpopular enough, can have negative consequences for a judge regarding retention, or reappointment in the case of a magistrate. It is inevitable that these types of situations will present themselves many times in a judge's career. This ruling shows that I have the integrity and the courage necessary to perform the responsibilities of a District Court Judge.

State of Iowa vs. Jonathan Edward Eickholt
Cherokee County Case STA0019253
Copy attached as Mazurek – Writing Sample 3 and Question 12

	<u>Party</u>	<u>Counsel</u>
Plaintiff:	State of Iowa	Kristal Phillips
Defendant:	Jonathan Eickholt	pro se

I presided over this matter as magistrate in 2020. Mr. Eickholt and two others were hunting for deer in Cherokee County. While hunting they crossed over privately held land believing the land to be publicly held. The State argued that the statute's wording criminalized the act of hunting on private land regardless of whether or not Mr.

Eickholt knew the land was private. Mr. Eickholt argued that he should be found not guilty because he did not intend to trespass and believed the land to be public. The Court held that knowledge of the land being private was a necessary element to criminal trespass and dismissed the case.

I offer this opinion as significant to your commission's purpose because it allows me to discuss the importance I place upon litigants feeling heard and my role in promoting confidence in the judicial system. My usual practice is to rule from the bench. Communicating my findings and conclusions while being able to visually gauge whether the litigants understand the analysis or whether I need to use different words to explain the ruling is a practice I use to ensure that litigants feel heard and to promote confidence in our judicial system. At the conclusion of the trial on the merits in this matter I did not immediately know the correct analysis. Though I was not able to provide the end result immediately following the trial, it remained important to me to ensure that the parties felt heard and knew that I cared about providing a reasoned answer. To that end, I recited my findings of fact and then explained that I was taking the matter under advisement because I needed an opportunity to engage in the necessary research prior to issuing my decision. I felt that explaining what I was doing and why this case was being handled differently than my usual practice was important to promote confidence in the process. Though certainly my current method of ruling from the bench will not be appropriate as often as a District Court Judge, the goals of ensuring that parties feel heard and promoting confidence in the judicial system will continue to be important to me. Finding ways to promote those goals is something that I have strived to do as a magistrate and will strive to do as a District Court Judge.

13. Describe how your non-litigation legal experience, if any, would enhance your ability to serve as a judge.

The non-litigation legal experience I have provides me with a working knowledge of many processes and areas of law that impact a Judge's ability to understand the evidence before them. For example, tax returns are often provided in family law matters as evidence of a party's income. This is especially true if one of the parties is self-employed. I have experience preparing tax returns and understand what information is provided by the various tax schedules and worksheets. I can read a depreciation schedule and understand whether that depreciation was taken in a way that impacted the final reflection of taxable income. This working knowledge is critical to being able to use the tax return to determine income. The same benefit of being better able to understand the evidence before me applies to the other non-litigation work that I perform, such as drafting a deed, preparing a title opinion, or drafting a contract.

14. If you have ever held public office or have you ever been a candidate for public office, describe the public office held or sought, the location of the public office, and the dates of service.

I have never held public office other than judicial office.

- 15. If you are currently an officer, director, partner, sole proprietor, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise or nonprofit organization other than a law practice, provide the following information about your position(s) and title(s):**
- a. Name of business / organization.**
 - b. Your title.**
 - c. Your duties.**
 - d. Dates of involvement.**

MAZUREK LAW FIRM P.C. is no longer active; however, there are a few clients still on payment plans and I do continue to file a business tax return to report that income. I was and continue to be the sole owner of that business.

- 16. List all bar associations and legal- or judicial-related committees or groups of which you are or have been a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you held in those groups.**

Cherokee County Bar Association, I was the secretary/treasurer for a couple of years early in my career

Iowa State Bar Association

Northwest Iowa Collaborative Law Professionals

Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys

- 17. List all other professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed above, to which you have participated, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation and indicate any office you held. "Participation" means consistent or repeated involvement in a given organization, membership, or regular attendance at events or meetings.**

I am a member of the Catholic Church.

As I am a magistrate, there are already some limitations on my activities in organizations. I am careful to limit my involvement to those things that would not violate the judicial canons and would not create any appearance of impropriety.

- 18. If you have held judicial office, list at least three opinions that best reflect your approach to writing and deciding cases. For each case, include a brief explanation as to why you selected the opinion and a citation for your opinion and any reviewing entity's or court's opinion. If either opinion is not publicly available (i.e., available**

on Westlaw or a public website other than the court's electronic filing system), please attach a copy of the opinion.

I am providing, as my writing samples, the decisions that were discussed in answer to question 12. These writing samples include two civil opinions and one criminal opinion all of which reflect my writing style. The significance I attach to each decision was discussed in answer to question 12 and I feel that cumulatively they will give the commission a better ability to assess my qualifications and judicial temperament; including, my ability to take in evidence with empathy and compassion, my ability to deliver a ruling with firmness and confidence, the diligence and dedication that I bring to my work, and the courage and integrity that are a part of my character.

Trevina Jefferson v. David Peterson d/b/a Peterson Rentals
Buena Vista County Case SCCV030352
copy attached as Mazurek – Writing Sample 1 and Questions 11(b) and 12
appellate decision attached as Mazurek – Appellate decision of Writing Sample 1

Zub's Shop, Inc. v. Rasmus Realty
Cherokee County Case SCCV025180
copy attached as Mazurek – Writing Sample 2 and Question 12
appellate decision attached as Mazurek – Appellate decision of Writing Sample 2

State of Iowa v. Jonathan Edward Eickholt
Cherokee County Case STA0019253
copy attached as Mazurek – Writing Sample 3 and Question 12
this decision was not appealed

- 19. If you have not held judicial office or served in a quasi-judicial position, provide at least three writing samples (brief, article, book, etc.) that reflect your work.**

Not applicable

OTHER INFORMATION

- 20. If any member of the District Judicial Nominating Commission is your spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister, state the Commissioner's name and his or her familial relationship with you.**

None

- 21. If any member of the District Judicial Nominating Commission is a current law partner or business partner, state the Commissioner's name and describe his or her professional relationship with you.**

None

- 22. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, blog posts, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited.**

None

- 23. List all speeches, talks, or other public presentations that you have delivered for at least the last ten years, including the title of the presentation or a brief summary of the subject matter of the presentation, the group to whom the presentation was delivered, and the date of the presentation.**

I was assigned the task of moderating a Judges Panel for the Lawyer's Chautauqua in 2017.

- 24. List all the social media applications (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, LinkedIn) that you have used in the past five years and your account name or other identifying information (excluding passwords) for each account.**

Facebook: I do have a Facebook account with the name, Lisa Kay, which is my first and middle name. I have one friend on the account, my husband. The account was opened when my daughter wanted to play an online game that required an account and I was not comfortable with her having her own account.

My husband also has a Facebook account with the name Nick Mazurek. His account can be further identified using his residence of Cherokee, Iowa. I do have his passwords and have posted using his account, such as in 2016 when I posted a video of my husband and daughter performing their dance at my daughter's dance recital. If you choose to look at his account, and I hope that you will, then you will see that I am a wife and a mother in addition to being a lawyer and a magistrate. You will learn that my husband and I have discovered that for us, the key to a happy marriage is to continue to date and to have fun together. You will notice that my children enjoy playing basketball, that my family recently grew with the addition of a puppy, and that we watch a lot of movies together. If you scroll back in time far enough you will even find a photo of my son and I dressed up as power rangers for a mother/son event.

LinkedIn: I once activated a LinkedIn account but I have not used it in many years. At present I do not know the password or even the e-mail address it is associated with. It is listed under my name, Lisa Mazurek.

- 25. 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.**

I was recognized in the Iowa Lawyer for my pro bono work.

- 26. Provide the names and telephone numbers of at least five people who would be able to comment on your qualifications to serve in judicial office. Briefly state the nature of your relationship with each person.**

Marvin Wallace Miller (Wally Sr.)
(712)225-5194

Wally Sr. is a partner in the law office that I work for.

M.W. Miller (Wally Jr.)
(712)225-5194

Wally Jr. is a partner in the law office that I work for.

Katie Morgan
(515)451-3643

Katie is a colleague that I have worked with in various roles.

The Honorable Associate Juvenile Judge Mary Timko
(712)299-0700

Judge Timko is the Court that I appear in front of the most frequently.

The Honorable District Associate Judge Andrew Smith
(712)887-0498

Judge Smith performs the magistrate responsibilities for Buena Vista County and in that capacity is the Judge with whom I share conflict coverage, weekend coverage, and vacation coverage. Prior to being appointed to the District Associate Court, Judge Smith was an attorney who I regularly worked with.

- 27. Explain why you are seeking this judicial position.**

I am a scholar at heart and I truly enjoy the practice of law. When asked what part of my practice I like the best, I am able to answer that my role as magistrate is my favorite. I enjoy the process of listening to and learning the parties' story, then writing a decision on the issues presented. I also enjoy the challenges presented in this role, both those that come from encountering a new or different set of facts and those that come from the task of effectively communicating to the individuals who appear in front of me. I have been in the magistrate role for almost ten years now, and though there are still times that I encounter something new or challenging in a different way, it is less frequent. I am ready for and want the new challenges that this judicial position will provide.

28. Explain how your appointment would enhance the court.

One of the most difficult things about this position is the reality that there is and will always be more work to do. Our sub-district has ten counties and only five District Court Judges. It is not uncommon for our Judges to spend two, three, and sometimes as many as five hours driving to and from their assigned court proceedings. In addition to their scheduled court coverage obligations, most, perhaps all of our District Court Judges also give up some of their desk days to hold additional court proceedings. This takes away from time they would otherwise have to write decisions on matters under submission. The work of a District Court Judge is a balancing act, taking organization and prioritization skills, flexibility, a strong work ethic, intelligence, and the ability to be comfortable with a constant need to make decisions that seldom receive universal approval.

Throughout my career I have handled a diverse and fairly substantial caseload requiring me to switch roles and types of law frequently throughout each day. While handling a diverse practice I also have to perform the roles that come with my Magistrate position. I am able to handle this workload by having strong organizational skills, utilizing my resources to be as efficient as I can, and by being flexible. Inevitably, there will be an unexpected client crisis, or a search warrant, or often multiple such unexpected events that will derail the plan I had for my day. I am constantly re-prioritizing the tasks I need to do and reassessing what issue needs my attention right now, what issue needs my attention today, what issue needs my attention this week, and what issue will ultimately will have to wait until later. This process of organizing, prioritizing and being flexible so that unexpected situations can be addressed as needed is the same process that I would bring with me to the District Court position.

My work ethic is one of my greatest strengths and has gotten me to where I am now. I finished high school in three years, received my undergraduate degree in three and a half years, and completed law school in two and a half years. During law school I became engaged, got married, and graduated seven months pregnant with our first child. I did this all while working 40 – 60 hours per week. This work ethic has continued and to this day I find myself working a tremendous number of hours and always striving to create processes that allow me to be more efficient and better equipped to take on even more tasks.

I am personable, patient, and I care deeply about our population and their legal matters. I have the ability and capacity to listen compassionately and then reason through the decision. I also have the ability to write decisions that allow the people affected to understand the decision made even if they do not like the contents or result. I am comfortable with making decisions knowing that sometimes those decisions will be unpopular. I have the skill set necessary to engage in the balancing act that is being a District Court Judge.

29. Provide any additional information that you believe the Commission or the Governor should know in considering your application.

I am a member of the community in Cherokee County. I have made my home in southern 3A. My business is here, and my family is established and connected to this area.

I have practiced heavily in the counties of 3A, mostly within the southern counties of our sub-district where we do not currently have a resident District Court Judge. I have been in and understand what the hallways in those courtrooms look like on court service

days. I worked on the implementation of EDMS and have used the system for years as magistrate. I am also a known team player, having shown myself again and again to be willing to provide coverage when other magistrates have conflicts or are otherwise unavailable.

I understand that the person appointed to this position will need to fill the void that will be left upon the Honorable Judge Don E. Courtney's retirement. I am aware of the needs of that position and I am competent to perform it.

Dated

7/6/2020

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. May", written over a horizontal line.