

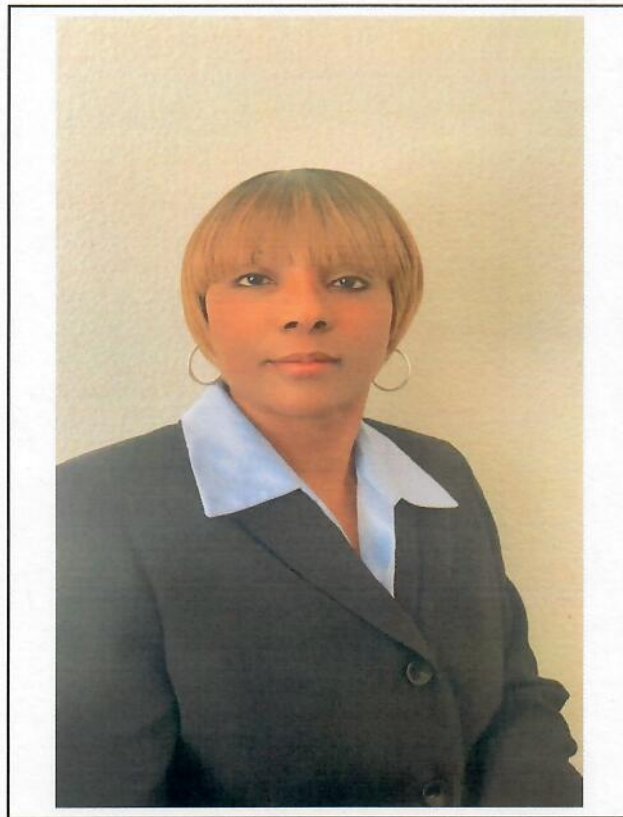
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT O

Replace the highlighted spaces on this page with the vacancy you seek to fill
VII, XXIX, C or N
Candidates may only choose one department.

By

(Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.)



Personal Information

1.	Full Name	Stephanie Marie Keels
2.	Have you ever used or been known by any other legal name (including a maiden name)? If so, state name and reason for the name change and years used.	Stephanie Marie Glass I married. I have been married and have used "Keels" since August 2004.
3.	How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?	23 years
4.	City and county of residence	Las Vegas, Clark
5.	Age	51

Employment History

6. Please start with your current employment or most recent employment, self-employment, and periods of unemployment for the last 20 years preceding the filing of this Application.

Current or Last Employer	Mountaintop Faith Ministries, Inc.
Phone	(702) 367-1636
Physical Address & Website	2845 Lindell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89146 www.mfmnv.org
Date(s) of Employment	February 2004 to present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Johnny Simon Chief Operations Officer
Your Title	Legal Counsel
Describe Your Key Duties	Reviewing and negotiating contracts, advising the Board, providing human resource support, and assisting with parishioners issues
Reason for Leaving	Still employed

Current Employer	Keels Law Group, Inc.
Phone	(702) 253-0068
Address & Website	7473 West Lake Mead Blvd. Ste 100, Las Vegas, NV 89128 No website
Date(s) of Employment	July 2010 to present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Stephanie Keels President
Your Title	Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	Represent clients in child abuse and neglect cases
Reason for Leaving	Still employed

Previous Employer	Sole proprietorship
Phone	(702) 253-0068
Address & Website	West Sahara No website
Date(s) of Employment	February 2006-July 2010
Supervisor's Name and Title	Stephanie Keels Attorney
Your Title	Lawyer
Describe Your Key Duties	Provide legal services to clients in family law and child abuse/neglect matters
Reason for Leaving	Created a non-profit legal corporation

Previous Employer	Jimmerson Law Firm (fka Jimmerson Hansen)
Phone	(702) 388-7171
Address & Website	415 S. Sixth Street, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Jimmersonlawfirm.com
Date(s) of Employment	1/2001 – 2/2004
Supervisor's Name and Title	James Jimmerson Partner
Your Title	Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	Provide legal services to clients in family law matters
Reason for Leaving	I resigned to work for Mountaintop Faith Ministries

Educational Background

7. List names and addresses of high schools, colleges and graduate schools (other than law school) attended; dates of attendance; certificates or degrees awarded; reason for leaving.
- A. La Sierra High School. 4145 La Sierra Ave, Riverside, CA 92505. Attended from 1985-1987 and 1988-1989. Graduated in June 1989 with a diploma.
- B. Rubidoux High School. 4250 Opal St, Riverside, CA 92509. I attended from 1987-1988. I left La Sierra and went to Rubidoux because my family moved out of the La Sierra High School district. My parents rented a home in the La Sierra School District at the end of my Junior year and I returned to La Sierra for my final year Senior year.
- C. University of California at Los Angeles. Attended from 1989-1996. Graduated in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.
8. Describe significant high school and college activities including extracurricular activities, positions of leadership, special projects that contributed to the learning experience.
- None.

9. List names and addresses of law schools attended; degree and date awarded; your rank in your graduating class; if more than one law school attended, explain reason for change.

California Western School of Law. Attended from 1996-1999. Graduated in May 1999 with a Juris Doctor. I do not recall my rank.

10. Indicate whether you were employed during law school, whether the employment was full-time or part-time, the nature of your employment, the name(s) of your employer(s), and dates of employment.

I was employed part time while attending law school. I worked at Lugar & Pohl doing office work from 1997-1998. I left to work for the Federal Public Defenders Office for nine months in 1998-1999.

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

None.

Law Practice

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

2000

13. Name states (other than Nevada) where you are or were admitted to practice law and your year of admission.

Washington State, 2018

14. Have you ever been suspended, disbarred, or voluntarily resigned from the practice of law in Nevada or any other state? If so, describe the circumstance, dates, and locations.

Yes

I was suspended from practicing law in Washington in 2022 for failing to timely pay the annual dues. I promptly rectified the matter and was reinstated.

15. Estimate what percentage of your work over the last five years has involved litigation matters, distinguishing between trial and appellate courts. For judges, answer questions 16-20 for the five years directly preceding your appointment or election to the bench.

I spend at least 2 days per week in court arguing matters. However, less than 10% of my cases proceed to trial.

16. Estimate percentage of time spent on:

Legal Discipline	Percentage of Practice
Domestic/family	0
Juvenile matters	70
Trial court civil	0
Appellate civil	0
Trial court criminal	0
Appellate criminal	0
Administrative litigation	0
Other: Please describe	30 corporate and HR

17. In the past five years, what percentage of your litigation matters involved cases set for jury trials vs. non-jury trials?

0% of my cases involved jury trials; all of my adjudicatory hearings and trials are bench trials.

18. Give the approximate number of jury cases tried to a conclusion during the past five years with you as lead counsel. Give the approximate number of non-jury cases tried to a decision in the same period.

None.

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

Eighth Judicial District Court, Family Division in Clark County, Nevada.

20. List by case name and date the five cases of most significance to you (not including cases pending in which you have been involved), complete the following tables:

Case 1
Case name and date: Marie L. (This is a confidential child welfare case); 2009-2014
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Dept. O; Judge Frank Sullivan; Quinton Dollente, Esq.; Janne Hanrahan, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case was important to me because it was a monumental success for Maria Landeros, Jonathan Woods and their child. It was a five year long, hard fought case that went to the Nevada Supreme Court and finally ended with the parents reunifying with their daughter. This case reaffirmed the importance of persevering and not letting a difficult process cause you to settle.
Your role in the case: Legal counsel for natural mother

Case 2
Case name and date: Nicole S. (This is a confidential child welfare case); 2011-2014
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Dept. G; Judge Giuliani; Jennifer Kuhlman, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case was important because it taught me that no matter how great a parent is, he/she will not reunify with their children if they remain in a violent relationship. The natural mother in this case took all of the required classes, consistently visited her children, attended all of her children's medical appointments, had knowledge of her children's medical and special needs, attended every court hearing, and demonstrated a true love for her children. However, she lost her parental rights because she could not stay away from the children's father who was physically violent. This case changed the way I advised the client's involved in domestic violence.
Your role in the case: Legal counsel for natural mother

Case 3
Case name and date: K. Wilson (This is a confidential child welfare case); 2013-2015
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Dept. K; Judge Giuliani; Ronald Cordes, Esq.; Jason Frierson, Esq.; Maria Cleveland, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case taught me to listen to clients, even when they tell you things you might initially want to reject and to think outside of the box. In this case, the client argued that the case worker had a bias against her. Unfortunately, her representation was true and the case worker's bias caused the case to proceed to a termination of parental rights trial although the mother had completed her case plan. The case also taught me that unresolved mental health issues do not make a parent unsafe. (The mother won the trial and was successfully reunified with her children.)
Your role in the case: Legal Counsel for natural mother

Case 4
Case name and date: Charlene H. (This is a confidential child welfare case.); 2020
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Hearing Master Holly Roys; Judge Rhonda Forsberg; Todd L. Moody, Esq.; Courtney Ketter, Esq.; Catherine Jorgenson, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case was important because it resulted in a young mother getting her son back after he was taken from her at the hospital and quickly put up for adoption without her consent. This case confirmed that the "little guy" can win against Goliath, which was a hospital and adoption agency in this case, and that there are good people around that will stand up and do the right thing.

Your role in the case: Legal counsel for natural mother
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Case 5
Case name and date: Zachary C. (This is a confidential child welfare case); 2001
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: Dept. R; Judge Bill Henderson; Randy Richards, Esq.
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: This case was important because Judge Henderson appointed me to represent the natural father in a termination of parental rights action filed by his father-the minor's child's grandfather. The case reaffirmed that child welfare cases are difficult and attorneys can make things worse for the family by being unnecessarily litigious and nasty. As I represented the father, I kept in mind that he, the grandfather, and the minor child would be a family long after the case was over and I should be careful not to destroy their relationship by being nasty and mean spirited.
Your role in the case: Legal counsel for natural father

21. Do you now serve, or have you previously served as a mediator, an arbitrator, a part-time or full-time judicial officer, or a quasi-judicial officer? To the extent possible, explain each experience.

No

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

I represent parents in child abuse and neglect cases at reduced rates and have done so since 2007. In 2012, I stopped taking any other legal cases and solely focused the law practice on representing parents facing child abuse & neglect allegations appointed to the law firm by the Clark County courts. I believe it is my calling to help families.

23. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are or have been a member. Give titles and dates of offices held. List chairs or committees in such groups you believe to be of significance. Exclude information regarding your political affiliation.

None.

24. List all courses, seminars, or institutes you have attended relating to continuing legal education during the past five years. Are you in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to you as a lawyer or judge?

Please refer to the attachments for a list of the courses and seminars I have attended over the last 5 years. Yes, I am in compliance with my continuing legal education requirements.

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

Yes, I have professional liability insurance and have maintained such insurance since 2008.

Business & Occupational Experience

26. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than a judicial officer or the practice of law? If yes, please list, including the dates of your involvement with the occupation, business, or profession.

Yes. I work as legal counsel at a local church. I have worked at the church from February 2004 to the present.

27. Do you currently serve or have you in the past served as a manager, officer, or director of any business enterprise, including a law practice? If so, please provide details as to:

- a. the nature of the business: Law firm
- b. the nature of your duties: provide legal services
- c. the extent of your involvement in the administration or management of the business: significant.
- d. the terms of your service: to provide legal assistance to clients.
- e. the percentage of your ownership: the business is a non-profit. As such, there are no owners.

28. List experience as an executor, trustee, or in any other fiduciary capacity. Give name, address, position title, nature of your duties, terms of service and, if any, the percentage of your ownership.

None.

Civic Professional & Community Involvement

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

No

Have you been a candidate for such an office?

No

If so, give details, including the offices involved, whether initially appointed or elected, and the length of service. Exclude political affiliation.

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

None.

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

None.

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

I have participated in programs that feed the homeless, help veterans, and provide relationship support to people in convalescent homes.

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

None.

34. Have you at any time in the last 12 months belonged to, or do you currently belong to, any club or organization that in practice or policy restricts (or restricted during the time of your membership) its membership on the basis of race, religion, creed, national origin or sex? If so, detail the name and nature of the club(s) or organization(s), relevant policies and practices, and whether you intend to continue as a member if you are selected for this vacancy.

No

35. List books, articles, speeches and public statements published, or examples of opinions rendered, with citations and dates.

None.

36. During the past ten years, have you been registered to vote?

Yes

Have you voted in the general elections held in those years?

Yes

37. List avocational interests and hobbies.

Reading, camping and traveling.

Conduct

38. Have you read the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct and are you able to comply if appointed?

Yes

39. Have you ever been convicted of or formally found to be in violation of federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation? Provide details of circumstances, charges, and dispositions.

Yes

I was arrested when I was 19 for shoplifting. I was placed on probation. I successfully completed probation.

40. Have you ever been sanctioned, disciplined, reprimanded, found to have breached an ethics rule or to have acted unprofessionally by any judicial or bar association discipline commission, other professional organization or administrative body or military tribunal? If yes, explain. If the disciplinary action is confidential, please respond to the corresponding question in the confidential section.

No

41. Have you ever been dropped, suspended, disqualified, expelled, dismissed from, or placed on probation at any college, university, professional school or law school for any reason including scholastic, criminal, or moral? If yes, explain.

Yes

I was placed on academic probation at UCLA for failing to maintain the requisite GPA. I brought my grades up and was taken off of academic probation.

42. Have you ever been refused admission to or been released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable discharge? If yes, explain.

No

43. Has a lien ever been asserted against you or any property of yours that was not discharged within 30 days? If yes, explain.

No

44. Has any Bankruptcy Court in a case where you are or were the debtor, entered an order providing a creditor automatic relief from the bankruptcy stay (providing in rem relief) in any present or future bankruptcy case, related to property in which you have an interest?

No

45. Are you aware of anything that may require you to recuse or disqualify yourself from hearing a case if you are appointed to serve as a member of the judiciary? If so, please describe the circumstances where you may be required to recuse or disqualify yourself.

Yes

I have represented over 600 clients in child/abuse neglect cases since 2007. If a party from one of those cases appeared before me, my impartiality could reasonably be questioned. As such, I would have to disqualify myself if the parties/attorneys chose not to waive the disqualification.

Other

46. If you have previously submitted a questionnaire or Application to this or any other judicial nominating commission, please provide the name of the commission, the approximate date(s) of submission, and the result.

Not Applicable.

47. In no more than three pages (double spaced) attached to this Application, provide a statement describing what you believe sets you apart from your peers, and explains what education, experience, personality or character traits you possess, or have acquired, that you feel qualify you as a supreme court justice. In so doing, address appellate, civil (including family law matters), and criminal processes (including criminal sentencing).

Please see the attached statement.

48. Detail any further information relative to your judicial candidacy that you desire to call to the attention of the members of the Commission on Judicial Selection.

I have zealously represented numerous parents in child welfare cases. Department O currently handles child welfare cases. I am familiar with the law, the families, and the process. I would be a good and fair judge.

49. Attach a sample of no more than ten pages of your original writing in the form of a decision, "points and authorities," or appellate brief generated within the past five years, which demonstrates your ability to write in a logical, cohesive, concise, organized, and persuasive fashion.

Please see the attached writing sample.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT 0

QUESTION 24

S. Keels
Commission on Judicial
Selection Application
January 2023

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

Certification Summary

Name		Bar #
Stephanie Keels		7350
Certification		Status
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education		Credit Compliant
Start Date	End Date	Exempt Reason
Monday January 01, 2018	Monday December 31, 2018	
General Credits Required	Ethics Credits Required	AAMH Credits Required
10.00	2.00	1.00
General Credits Earned	Ethics Credits Earned	AAMH Credits Earned
10.00	2.00	1.00

Certification Details

Provider	Course/Description	Course Taken Date	General	Ethics	AAMH
	Credits carried forward to 2018 from 2017		2.00	0.00	0.00
Eighth Judicial District Court	Juvenile Dependency Bench/Bar Meeting	8/2/2018	0.50	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Am I Drinking Too Much is a Rhetorical Question	11/27/2018	0.00	0.00	1.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	The Attorney-Client Privilege, Work Product Doctrine & Confidence	11/29/2018	0.00	1.00	0.00
Eighth Judicial District Court	Juvenile Dependency Bench/Bar Meeting	12/6/2018	0.50	0.00	0.00
Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts	2017 CIP Attorney Training	12/11/2018	6.50	0.50	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Ethics and the Small Law Practitioner	12/20/2018	0.00	1.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	An Overview of Family Law Practice	12/23/2018	1.00	0.00	0.00
	2018 Total		10.50	2.50	1.00
	Credits Earned Towards 2018 Compliance		10.00	2.00	1.00
	Credits carried forward from 2018 to 2019*		0.50	0.50	0.00

*Subject to the carry forward provisions of SCR 210(2)(b) and SCR 210(2)(c)

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

Certification Summary

Name		Bar #
Stephanie Keels		7350
Certification		Status
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education		Credit Compliant
Start Date	End Date	Exempt Reason
Tuesday January 01, 2019	Tuesday December 31, 2019	
General Credits Required	Ethics Credits Required	AAMH Credits Required
10.00	2.00	1.00
General Credits Earned	Ethics Credits Earned	AAMH Credits Earned
10.00	2.00	1.00

Certification Details

Provider	Course/Description	Course Taken Date	General	Ethics	AAMH
	Credits carried forward to 2019 from 2018		0.50	0.50	0.00
Eighth Judicial District Court	Bench/Bar Meeting	2/14/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada	Evidence for Dummies (Common Evidentiary Issues in Child Welfare Ca	3/15/2019	1.50	0.00	0.00
Eighth Judicial District Court	Dependency Bench Bar: Debrief on Various Child Welfare Legislation f	8/1/2019	0.50	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Cell Phone Forensics for Legal Professionals	12/17/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Common Ethics Violations to Avoid	12/17/2019	0.00	1.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Burnt, Smashed, or Broken: Property Damage & Homeowners Insurance	12/17/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Cyberbullying and Free Speech in Schools	12/18/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Dealing with Defaulted Student Loans	12/19/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	eDiscovery Fundamentals	12/19/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Dealing with Clients & Attorneys with Substance Abuse & Mental Health	12/19/2019	0.00	0.00	1.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Ten Tips to Avoid Ethical Violations & Malpractice Claims	12/19/2019	0.00	1.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Document Fraud in Elder Abuse Cases	12/19/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00

Attorney Credits Online Education	The Hearsay Conundrum	12/27/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	The Fourth Amendment & Search Warrants in the Digital Age	12/27/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	The Role of Trial Lawyers in Protecting the Public	12/27/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Franchise Law	12/27/2019	1.00	0.00	0.00
2019 Total			13.50	2.50	1.00
Credits Earned Towards 2019 Compliance			10.00	2.00	1.00
Credits carried forward from 2019 to 2020*			3.50	0.50	0.00

**Subject to the carry forward provisions of SCR 210(2)(b) and SCR 210(2)(c)*

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

Certification Summary

Name		Bar #
Stephanie Keels		7350
Certification		Status
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education		Credit Compliant
Start Date	End Date	Exempt Reason
Wednesday January 01, 2020	Thursday December 31, 2020	
General Credits Required	Ethics Credits Required	AAMH Credits Required
10.00	2.00	1.00
General Credits Earned	Ethics Credits Earned	AAMH Credits Earned
10.00	2.00	1.00

Certification Details

Provider	Course/Description	Course Taken Date	General	Ethics	AAMH
	Credits carried forward to 2020 from 2019		3.50	0.50	0.00
Clark County Public Defender	Mental Illness & the Court	3/5/2020	0.00	0.00	2.00
Nevada Legal Services-Las Vegas	Probate CLE	9/17/2020	2.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Federal Cultural Resources Protection	12/2/2020	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	How Bias Affects Your Decision Making	12/7/2020	0.00	1.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	How to Handle High Conflict Clients & Attorneys	12/7/2020	0.00	1.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Addiction & Evolution: Implications for Self-Care for Attorneys	12/8/2020	0.00	0.00	1.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	The Legal Ethics of Using Social Media	12/8/2020	0.00	1.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	IP Protection for Products Made or Distributed Aboard	12/8/2020	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Jury Selection: How Social Media is Changing the Game	12/8/2020	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Justice at Nuremberg: Lessons for Attorneys	12/10/2020	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Avoiding Ethical Conflicts of Interest	12/10/2020	0.00	1.00	0.00
	Total Credits Earned		9.50	4.50	3.00
	Ethics and AAMH credits applying to general				

requirement	0.50	0.00	-0.50
Revised Total	10.00	4.50	2.50
Credits Earned Towards 2020 Compliance	10.00	2.00	1.00
Credits carried forward from 2020 to 2021*	0.00	2.00	1.00
Credits carried forward from 2020 to 2022*	0.00	0.50	0.50

**Subject to the carry forward provisions of SCR 210(2)(b) and SCR 210(2)(c)*

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

Certification Summary

Name		Bar #
Stephanie Keels		7350
Certification		Status
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education		Credit Compliant
Start Date	End Date	Exempt Reason
Friday January 01, 2021	Friday December 31, 2021	
General Credits Required	Ethics Credits Required	AAMH Credits Required
10.00	2.00	1.00
General Credits Earned	Ethics Credits Earned	AAMH Credits Earned
10.00	2.00	1.00

Certification Details

Provider	Course/Description	Course Taken Date	General	Ethics	AAMH
	Credits carried forward to 2021 from 2020		0.00	2.00	1.00
State Bar of Nevada	Thin Walls, Smart Homes, Zoom Towns, & Data Breaches: 21 Things Lawy	2/23/2021	0.00	1.00	0.00
Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services	Anatomy of a Case - Fighting the Good Fight From Appointment to Tria	4/22/2021	2.00	0.00	0.00
Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services	Representing the Challenged Client - Identifying, Raising, and Chall	4/22/2021	2.00	0.00	0.00
Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services	Pozner on Cross: Advanced techniques using the Chapter Method.	4/23/2021	6.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada	Ethics: Questions Arising From Working With Parents, Placements, & C	5/14/2021	0.00	1.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Attorney's Guide to Online Defamation & Website Removal	11/22/2021	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Advanced Planning Using Trusts	11/22/2021	1.00	0.00	0.00
Attorney Credits Online Education	Legal Issues & Practices in Hiring	11/24/2021	1.00	0.00	0.00
	2021 Total		13.00	4.00	1.00
	Credits Earned Towards 2021 Compliance		10.00	2.00	1.00
	Credits carried forward from 2021 to 2022*		3.00	2.00	0.00

*Subject to the carry forward provisions of SCR 210(2)(b) and SCR 210(2)(c)

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

Certification Summary

Name		Bar #
Stephanie Keels		7350
Certification		Status
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education		Credit Compliant
Start Date	End Date	Exempt Reason
Saturday January 01, 2022	Saturday December 31, 2022	
General Credits Required	Ethics Credits Required	AAMH Credits Required
10.00	2.00	1.00
General Credits Earned	Ethics Credits Earned	AAMH Credits Earned
10.00	2.00	1.00

Certification Details

Provider	Course/Description	Course Taken Date	General	Ethics	AAMH
	Credits carried forward to 2022 from 2020		0.00	0.50	0.50
	Credits carried forward to 2022 from 2021		3.00	2.00	0.00
Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services	DIDS Second Annual Conference, Day 1: Experts	5/26/2022	3.00	1.50	1.00
Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services	DIDS Second Annual Conference, Day 2: Investigators	5/27/2022	5.50	0.00	0.00
	2022 Total		11.50	4.00	1.50
	Credits Earned Towards 2022 Compliance		10.00	2.00	1.00
	Credits carrying forward to 2023*		1.50	2.00	0.50

*Subject to the carry forward provisions of SCR 210(2)(b) and SCR 210(2)(c)

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT 0

QUESTION 47

S. Keels
Commission on Judicial
Selection Application
January 2023

Keels Law Group, Inc.

Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.

7473 West Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 100

Las Vegas, Nevada 89128

(702) 253-0068 Telephone (702) 253-0071 Facsimile

This statement is submitted in response to question #47 on the application

January 16, 2023

Dear Commission on Judicial Selection:

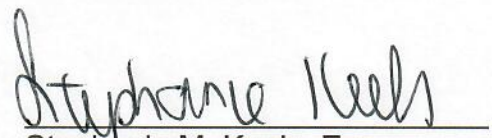
I humbly submit that I am qualified to be the judge in Department O because I care about the well-being of children and the preservation of safe families. I have represented parents in child abuse and neglect cases in Clark County, Nevada since 2007 as a court appointed attorney. Department O primarily adjudicates child abuse and neglect cases. As such, I believe that my years of experience will aid me on the bench and be a great benefit to those who appear before me. Not only do I understand the challenges that parents face, I know the excuses they use and the barriers they face to reunification. I am also well versed in the programs and treatment options available to them. Additionally, I know the legal requirements for them to reunify and for their parental rights to be terminated. Similarly, I know the procedures the Department of Family Services must follow and the Federal and state timelines that must be met.

Just as important as my legal experience detailed above, I have a passion for family law. As a parents' attorney for the last fifteen (15) years, I have zealously advocated for my clients. Additionally, I have strongly admonished them when they were making mistakes, redirected their focus back to their children when they were distracted, supported them when they were making positive efforts, encouraged them when they

were hopeless and frustrated, and celebrated them when they were successful. Because of my passion and the similar background and culture I have with some of my clients, I have been able to tell them with confidence that their past does not have to control their destiny and that their mistakes do not have to define their future. The judge in Department O must be able to support, encourage and admonish parents while upholding the law and keeping the best interest of the children at the forefront. I am well skilled in doing so and will bring this expertise to the bench.

I further believe that I am the best candidate for Department O because I believe in professional conduct. Throughout my years of representing parents, I have treated opposing counsel, district attorneys, workers, parents, and the court with respect, no matter how intense the hearing, difficult the case, or unprofessional the other party. I will bring this same level of respect and professionalism to the bench.

As a judge in Department O, I will fairly adjudicate child welfare cases. I believe in helping people who want to help themselves and in giving people the support they need to change their lives, the lives of their children, and the lives of their family, possibly for generations. I respectfully ask the Commission to give me the opportunity to do so. (And if Department O will no longer be a specialty court, I am still the best candidate for the judgeship because I will bring experience, diversity, and passion for families to the court.)


Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT 0

QUESTION 49

S. Keels
Commission on Judicial
Selection Application
January 2023

1 **ORDR**
2 **STEPHANIE M. KEELS, ESQ.**
3 **KEELS LAW GROUP, INC.**
4 Nevada Bar Number 007350
5 7473 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Ste., 100
6 Las Vegas, Nevada 89128
7 (702) 253-0068 office
8 (702) 253-0071 facsimile
9 Attorney for Respondent,
10 Joseph Coheen

11 **DISTRICT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION**

12 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

13 In the Matter as to the Parental Rights of:

14 [REDACTED]

CASE NO.: D-20-608968-R
DEPT.: R
COURTROOM: Judge Henderson-1

15
16 A Minor Under 18 Years of Age.

17 **FINDINGS OF FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER**
18 **DENYING PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS**

19 THIS matter came on for trial on August 24, 2021, August 26, 2021, September 28, 2021,
20 October 22, 2021, November 5, 2021, and November 19, 2021. Petitioners, David Coheen and
21 [REDACTED] were present in person each day of the trial, with the exception of November 19,
22 2021 where they appeared by video, and were represented by their counsel Randy Richards,
23 Esq. of Kelleher & Kelleher. Respondent, Joseph Coheen, was present in person for trial on
24 August 24, 2021, August 26, 2021 and September 28, 2021 and by video on October 22, 2021,
25 November 5, 2021, and November 19, 2021, and was represented by Mark J. McGannon, Esq.
26 on August 24, 2021, August 26, 2021, and September 28, 2021 and by Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.
27 on October 22, 2021, November 5, 2021, and November 19, 2021, after Attorney McGannon
28 withdrew as his counsel on September 28, 2021. Respondent, Maureen Vogel, was not present
29 on any days of trial, in person or by any other means, and was not represented by an attorney
30
31
32

1 during trial. The court being fully apprized of the law and facts of the case and having reviewed
2 the Pre-Trial Memorandums filed herein and the exhibits admitted into evidence, and having
3 heard the oral arguments of the parties and the testimony of Petitioners, Respondent, and
4 Respondent's mother, hereby finds that:
5

6 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

7 This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter involved and of the parties hereto.

8 Respondent, Joseph Coheen ("Joseph"), is the biological father of [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10
11 Respondent, Maureen Vogel ("Maureen"), is the biological mother of [REDACTED]

12 Petitioner, David Coheen ("David"), is [REDACTED] paternal grandfather.

13 Petitioner, Liz Overstreet ("Liz"), is David's wife.

14 David, has legal guardianship of [REDACTED]

15 David was co-guardian of [REDACTED] with maternal grandmother, Karen Vogel ("Karen"),
16 until she passed away in May 2020.
17

18 Joseph consented to David and Karen having guardianship of [REDACTED]

19 Joseph intended to maintain a relationship with [REDACTED] after the guardianship.

20 Joseph lived in Las Vegas, Nevada when [REDACTED] was born.

21 Joseph was present at [REDACTED] birth.

22 Joseph had heart surgery in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2017.

23 Joseph relocated to Texas to live with his mother after the surgery.

24 Joseph's mother helped nurse him back to health after the heart surgery.

25 Joseph has lived in the same home with his mother in Texas since moving in with her in
26
27
28
29 2017.

30 Joseph has made improvements to the home.

31 Joseph's sister and nephew also reside in the home with Joseph and his mother.

32 Joseph helps care for his nephew.

1 [REDACTED] as resided primarily with Karen Vogel or the Petitioners since 2017.

2 Petitioners have taken good care of [REDACTED]

3 Joseph had video visits with [REDACTED] several times a year after moving to Texas. Joseph's
4 behavior was appropriate during the video visits.
5

6 Joseph bought [REDACTED] birthday gifts and Christmas gifts every year after moving to
7 Texas, either personally or through his mother.

8 David and [REDACTED] visited Joseph in June 2019 and stayed at his home for a week. The
9 visit went well and Joseph's behavior was appropriate and loving.
10

11 David and [REDACTED] intended to visit Joseph again in June 2020 and stay with him but the
12 visit was cancelled due to COVID-19.

13 Joseph wanted to see [REDACTED] in 2021 when he was present in town for trial but
14 arrangements could not be made.
15

16 After filing the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights, David and Liz refused to allow Joseph
17 to see [REDACTED] or to speak to him more than a few times on the advice of counsel.
18

19 [REDACTED] calls Joseph "dad".

20 Joseph was actively using illegal drugs in 2017.

21 Joseph had been involuntarily committed to a mental health facility in 2017.

22 There was no substantial evidence or testimony to demonstrate that Joseph is still using
23 illegal drugs.
24

25 Joseph is receiving methadone treatment and has been receiving treatment since 2018.

26 Joseph's health has substantially improved since 2017.

27 Joseph did not provide any financial support to Petitioners for [REDACTED]

28 Maureen did not participate in the trial proceedings.

29 Maureen has not had consistent or regular contact with [REDACTED] since the guardianship.

30 Maureen has been in and out of jail since the guardianship.
31
32

1 Maureen's attorney filed a motion to withdraw as her counsel on February 28, 2021 due
2 to lack of contact.

3
4 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

5 In considering the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights, the Court must decide if
6 Petitioners proved by clear and convincing evidence that it is in [REDACTED] best interest for Joseph
7 and Maureen's parental rights to be terminated and that parental fault exists upon which to
8 terminate their parental rights. *NRS 128.105* and *Santosky v. Kramer*, 455 U.S. 745, 102 S. Ct.
9 1388, 71 L.Ed.2d 599 (1982).

10
11 The court must also consider that "[t]he parent-child relationship is a fundamental liberty
12 interest, *Parental Rights as to M. Florela M. v. Robert M.*, 281 P.3d 1186 (Nev. 2009), and that
13 severance of the parent-child relationship is "tantamount to imposition of a civil death penalty." *In*
14 *re Termination of Parental Rights as to N.J.*, 116 Nev. 790, 795, 8 P.3d 126, 129 (2000).

15
16 **1. Best Interest**

17 Petitioners did not prove by clear and convincing evidence that it is in [REDACTED] best
18 interest for Joseph's parental rights to be terminated. [REDACTED] calls Joseph "dad", [REDACTED] has a
19 bond with Joseph, and [REDACTED] can have a bond with his cousin and his extended family whom
20 he visited in June 2019 and was scheduled to visit again in June 2020.

21
22 NRS 128.109 addresses presumptions regarding best interest if a child has been placed
23 outside his/her home due to an abuse or neglect action. NRS 128.109 does not apply in this case
24 because there was no substantial evidence to prove that [REDACTED] was removed by Child
25 Protective Services (CPS) or that Joseph consented to the guardianship for fear that [REDACTED]
26 would be removed by CPS if he did not consent.

27
28
29 **2. Parental Fault**

30 Petitioners did not prove by clear and convincing evidence that parental fault exists upon
31 which Joseph's parental rights should be terminated.
32

1 Petitioners did prove that Maureen abandoned [REDACTED] by not having contact with him for
2 more than six months and not providing any support for him.

3
4 *a. Abandonment*

5 Joseph did not abandon [REDACTED] within the meaning of the law as he did not evince a
6 settled purpose to forgo custody or relinquish claims and did not go without communicating with
7 [REDACTED] for more than six months, except for the period when Petitioners did not allow him contact
8 on the advice of counsel. See NRS 128.012. Additionally, he intended to maintain contact with
9 [REDACTED] after the guardianship and did so. He sent [REDACTED] gifts each year, he had
10 telephone/video contact with him several times a year, he wanted to visit [REDACTED] while he was
11 in Las Vegas for the trial in 2021, he welcomed [REDACTED] visit in Texas with his father in June
12 2019 and wanted them to visit again in June 2020 but for Covid-19.

13
14
15 *b. Neglect and Unfitness*

16 Joseph did not neglect [REDACTED] within the meaning of the law and is not an unfit parent
17 within the meaning of the law. See NRS 128.014, NRS 128.018, and NRS 128.105. Joseph
18 granted his father and Karen guardianship of [REDACTED] David and Karen, together with Liz, have
19 taken good care of [REDACTED] As such, by consenting to the guardianship, Joseph ensured his son
20 received proper care.

21
22 Additionally, at the time that the guardianship was granted, Joseph was on illegal drugs,
23 had been involuntarily committed to a mental health facility and was in poor physical health
24 following his heart surgery. Now, Joseph is on methadone and is physically able to work, run,
25 clean the house, help care for his nephew, drive, and make renovations to his mother's home.

26
27 There was no evidence to demonstrate that Joseph is still consuming illegal drugs or that
28 the illegal drug use is excessive and consistently renders him unable to care for [REDACTED] See
29 NRS 128.106(d). Similarly, Petitioners did not prove by clear and convincing evidence that
30 Joseph is suffering from an emotional illness, mental illness, or mental deficiency that renders
31 him consistently unable to care for [REDACTED] for extended periods of time. See NRS 128.106(a).
32

1 Petitioners did prove that Maureen neglected [REDACTED] and is unfit. She has been in and
2 out of jail since the guardianship was obtained, has not maintained regular contact with [REDACTED]
3 has not provided any support for him, and did not participate in the trial proceeding. As such, she
4 has evinced a settled purpose to forego her parental rights.
5

6 c. *Failure of Parental Adjustment and Token Efforts*

7 Joseph was not provided with a plan to reunify with [REDACTED]. See NRS 128.0126 and
8 NRS 128.0155. However, as set forth above, Joseph has adjusted his circumstances since 2017,
9 when the guardianship was granted, to the time of trial, has maintained contact with [REDACTED], and
10 has purchased gifts for [REDACTED] each year on his birthday and Christmas. See NRS 128.107.
11

12 Maureen failed to adjust her circumstances since the guardianship was granted and has
13 only made token efforts to maintain contact with [REDACTED].
14

15 3. *Default as to Maureen Vogel*

16 Maureen did not participate in the trial and did not have an attorney representing her at
17 the trial. See NRCP 55.
18

19 Any conclusion of law construed to constitute a finding of fact is hereby adopted as a
20 finding of fact to the same extent as if it had been so designated.

21 In view of the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

22 **ORDER AND DECREE**

23
24 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Petition to Terminate
25 Parental is denied as to Joseph Coheen.

26 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Petitioners are awarded
27 a default judgment against Maureen Vogel.
28

29 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Petition to Terminate
30 Parental Rights is granted as to Maureen based on abandonment, neglect, unfitness, token
31 efforts, failure of parental adjustment and [REDACTED] best interest.
32

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that [REDACTED] shall continue to
2 reside with Petitioners and that David Coheen shall continue to have guardianship of [REDACTED]

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that any future custody action
4 shall be heard by this Court pursuant to the one family, one judge rule.
5

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that any action brought in the
7 guardianship case shall be heard by this Court pursuant to the one family, one judge rule and
8 shall be tracked with the D case.
9

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Joseph shall have one (1)
11 yearly in person visit with [REDACTED]. The visit shall be for one (1) to two (2) weeks and shall take
12 place in either Las Vegas or Texas. If the visit takes place in Texas, Joseph shall buy a round
13 trip ticket for [REDACTED] and one (1) round trip ticket for David Coheen or Liz Overstreet to
14 accompany [REDACTED] until he is able to travel alone. David Coheen and/or Liz Overstreet shall be
15 responsible for the hotel accommodations in Texas. However, the Court strongly encourages
16 Joseph to allow David to stay at his residence.
17

18 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Joseph shall have video
19 contact with [REDACTED] at least two (2) times per month.
20

21 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Joseph shall have an
22 additional video visit or telephone call with [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] birthday and on Christmas day.
23

24 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Joseph shall pay child
25 support in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per month beginning December 1,
26 2021 for at least one (1) year. Child support should increase to Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00)
27 per month within the next twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months.
28

29 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Joseph shall provide
30 meaningful gifts to [REDACTED] every Christmas and on his birthday.
31
32

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Joseph shall provide
2 financial records to Petitioners each month demonstrating the amount of money he is earning
3 from any and all employment.
4

5 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Joseph shall provide
6 documentation to the court regarding his methadone treatment plan by March 15, 2022.

7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that each party shall incur their
8 own attorney's fees and costs.
9

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the parties are put on
11 notice that NRS 125B.145 allows the court to review a child support order every three years or
12 upon a change in circumstances to determine whether child support can be modified to align with
13 the statutory formula set out in NAC 425.140; the parties must request a review, it is not an
14 automatic function of the court.
15

16 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the parties are put on
17 notice that pursuant to NRS 125.007, a parent responsible for paying child support is subject to
18 NRS 31A.010 through NRS 31A.340, inclusive, and Sections 2 and 3 of Chapter 31A of the
19 Nevada Revised statutes, regarding the withholding of wages and commissions for the delinquent
20 payment of support, that these statutes and provisions require that, if a parent responsible for
21 paying child support is delinquent in paying the support of a child that such person has been
22 ordered to pay, then that person's wages or commissions shall immediately be subject to wage
23 assignment and garnishment, pursuant of the provisions of the above-referenced statutes.
24
25

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

29 ///

30 ///

31 ///

32 ///

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.
2 shall prepare the order and Randy Richard, Esq. shall approve it.
3

4 DATED this _____ day of February 2022.

5 Dated this 7th day of February, 2022

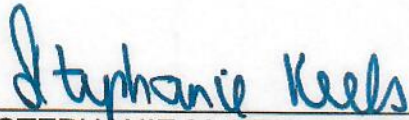
6 

7 _____
8 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

9 47A E4A 0C40 A1BF
10 Bill Henderson
11 District Court Judge

12 Approved as to Form and Content:

13 Respectfully Submitted By:

14 

15 _____
16 STEPHANIE M. KEELS, ESQ.
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19 Las Vegas, Nevada 89128
20 (702) 253-0068 (702) 253-0071 Fax
21 Attorney for Natural Father,
22 Joseph Coheen

23 

24 _____
25 RANDY RICHARDS, ESQ.
26 Nevada Bar No. 006794
27 Kelleher & Kelleher
28 40 S. Stephanie Street, Suite 201
29 Henderson, Nevada 89012
30 (702) 384-7494 (702) 384-7545
31 Attorney for Petitioners,
32 David Coheen and Liz Overstreet

From: Randy Richards, Esq.

rrichards@kelleherandkelleher.com

Subject: Re: Coheen Case #D-20-608968-R

Date: Jan 25, 2022 at 11:49:12 AM

To: Stephanie Keels stephanie@keelslawgroup.com

Stephanie,

I, Randy Richards, Esq., have read and approved the attached Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Denying Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and authorize my electronic signature. /s/
Randy Richards, Esq.

On 1/25/2022 11:07 AM, Stephanie Keels wrote:

Randy,

I pray that everyone in your office fully recovers. This Omicron variant may be milder than the original virus or the Delta variant but its very contagious and was still hard on me. I made the change you requested below. No other changes were made.

Sincerely,
(Sent from my iPad)

Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.
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7473 West Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128
(702) 253-0068