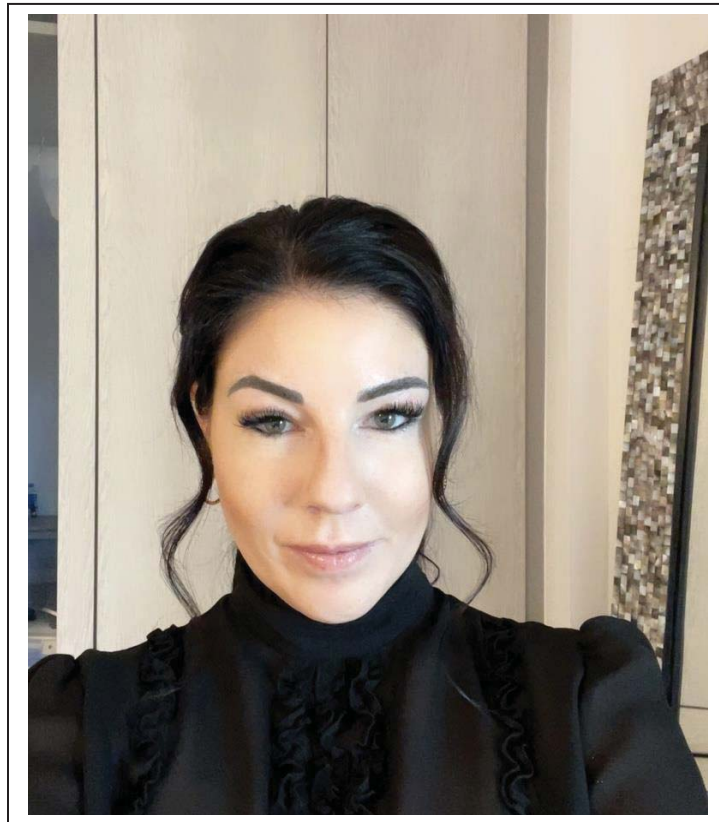


**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION
APPLICATION
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
DEPARTMENT 11**

By

Amanda Pellizzari
(Insert applicant name)



**SECTION I: PUBLIC INFORMATION
(QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 47)**

Personal Information

1. **Full Name:** Amanda Sarah Gregory Pellizzari
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.**

Yes. My maiden name is Amanda Cook. I was married in 2003 and my name was Amanda Drake. I was divorced and then remarried in 2010 and my name was Amanda Gregory. I was divorced and remarried in 2016 and am now Amanda Pellizzari.

3. **Work Address:** 321 S. Casino Center Blvd, Suite 112, Las Vegas, NV 89101
4. **How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?** 30 years
5. **Age:** 39 years old
(NRS 3.060 states that a district judge must be at least 25 years old.)

Employment History

6. **Using the format provided in Attachment “A” please start with your current employment or most recent employment, self-employment, and periods of unemployment for the 20 years immediately preceding the filing of this Application.**

Please see Attachment “A”

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.**

High School: Shiloh Christian School
Attended: 1996-2000
Address: The school is no longer open so has no address. It was in Las Vegas, NV.
Degrees: High School Diploma
Reason for Leaving: I graduated.

College: University of Nevada Las Vegas
Attended: 2000-2005
Address: 4505 S. Maryland Pwky, Las Vegas, NV
Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Reason for Leaving: I graduated.

8. Describe significant high school and college activities including extracurricular activities, positions of leadership, special projects that contributed to the learning experience.

High school: I graduated high school as valedictorian. While in high school I participated on the basketball team. I earned a full ride scholarship that was granted by Citibank Scholarship fund that was only given to a small number of students. I was the captain of the academic olympics. I also was provided my own math class where I was the only student attending so I could begin working on a higher level of math than the school provided. Lastly, I was a member of the band for the entire time and was the lead saxophone player for the entirety of my high school experience.

College: In college I participated in a forensic psychology clinic where I worked with professors and graduate students on their projects, research, and publications. I also interned at the juvenile detention center as a student psychology assistant where I administered mental health assessments to the children, as well as provided counseling when requested by a children. I also worked as a tutor. Lastly, I dictated class notes for deaf and blind students. I maintained a high GPA while holding employment. I was on the Dean's Honor List, a member of the Golden Key Honor Society, the Psi Chi Honor Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholar.

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.

Law School: William S. Boyd School of Law
Address: 4505 S. Maryland Pwky, Las Vegas, NV
Degree: Juris Doctorate (Attorney and Counselor of Law) awarded in 2008
Ranking: Boyd law school only ranks the top third of the class. I was not in the top third so I did not receive a ranking.

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 by several jobs during law school. When I was not in class or studying, I was working. The following is the list of my employment:

- I worked as a Teacher's Assistant for Legal Writing Class. My Employer was UNLV. I received the highest grade in the class in my first year and worked 5-10 hours a week helping students with their legal writing skills. This was part time employment. I worked this job from August 2005 to May 2006.
- I worked as an Assistant Librarian at the Wiener-Rogers Law Library. I assisted students in legal research, as well as helped pro per litigants research and find proper forms needed for their cases. This was part time employment. I worked in the library from 2005-2008.
- I worked as a Real Estate Assistant for Prudential Real Estate. I showed homes to buyers, listed homes, prepared files for review by the broker, and conducted basic administrative tasks. This was part time employment. I worked at this job from 2002-2007.
- I worked as a law clerk for the law firm of Law Siciliano as a part time law clerk working in family law and criminal law. I worked there from 2007-2008.

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

- While in law school I participated in the Juvenile Justice Clinic where I was certified to take on cases in juvenile court and make appearances in court under the supervision of a licensed attorney.
- I participated in the mock trial competition where I made it to a semi-finalist.
- As stated above, I was a teacher's assistant for the legal writing class.
- I interned at the Public Defender's Office.
- I interned for Judge Douglas Herndon.
- I received the 2006 Community Service Program Outstanding Student Award

Law Practice

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

2008

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

N/A

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.

No

15. Estimate what percentage of your work over the last 5 years has involved litigation matters, distinguishing between trial and appellate courts. For judges, answer questions 16-20 for the 5 years directly preceding your appointment or election to the bench.

The percentage of my work over the last 5 years has consisted of approximately 90 percent of litigation matters. Of the 90 percent, approximately 80 percent have been cases that could be set for trial, and 20 percent have been appellate and post-conviction work.

16. Estimate percentage of time spent on:

(1) domestic/family and juvenile law matters: 5 percent

(2) civil litigation: 15 percent

(3) criminal matters: 80 percent

(4) administrative litigation: 0 percent

17. In the past 5 years, what percentage of your litigation matters involved cases set for jury trials vs. non-jury trials?

90 percent of my cases involved litigation matters set for jury trials, and 10 percent consisted of non-jury 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.

In the past 5 years I have conducted 7 jury trials to conclusion as lead counsel. I have conducted 2 non-jury trials as lead counsel.

19. List courts and counties in any state where you have practiced in the past 5 years.

- Las Vegas Municipal Court

- North Las Vegas Municipal Court
- Henderson Justice Court
- Eighth Judicial District Court
- Nevada Supreme Court
- North Las Vegas Justice Court
- Nevada Court of Appeals
- United States District Court for the District of Nevada
- Moapa Justice Court

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), and list or describe:

1. Smith

a. case name and date: State of Nevada v. Smith; 2015

b. court and presiding judge and all counsel: Eight Judicial District Court Department 10 – Judge Walsh; counsel were myself and Jennifer Waldo.

c. the importance of this case to you and the impact of this case on you: This case is significant to me because it was the first jury trial I conducted as lead counsel, with no supervising attorney. I tried this case shortly after beginning my own firm.

d. your role in the case: Lead counsel

2. Frostick

a. case name and date: State of Nevada vs. Frostick; 2019

b. court and presiding judge and all counsel: Eight Judicial District Court Department 9, Judge Togliatti; counsel were myself and Jennifer Waldo.

c. the importance of each case to you and the impact of each case on you: This was important to me because I litigated a new issue which had never been litigated before. I was able to argue in front of the Nevada Supreme Court, which is what made it of most significance to me. Because of the motion work and issues preserved on the case, it ended up starting as an attempt murder, and dealing as an obstruction misdemeanor.

d. your role in the case. Lead counsel

3. Arseno

a. case name and date: State of Nevada vs. Arseno; 2019

b. court and presiding judge and all counsel: Eight Judicial District Court, Department 10 – Judge Jones; counsel were myself and Jennifer Waldo.

c. the importance of each case to you and the impact of each case on you: This was important to me because Ms. Arseno was the youngest client I had ever represented in adult court. My client was 14 years old. She was not receiving proper education in the Clark County Detention Center, nor was she safe, so she was allowed to be housed at the Juvenile Detention Center. The ability for a young female to receive a high school diploma or GED at the women's' prison is not as available as it is at the men's' prison. As such, I was able to convince the Court not to sentence her until she completed her high school diploma at the Juvenile Detention Center. She ultimately received her Diploma and was able to begin college courses before getting parole. This case impacted me because I truly believe I impacted this young girl's future.

d. your role in the case. Lead counsel

4. Broner

a. case name and date: Reyes vs. Broner; 2016

b. court and presiding judge and all counsel: Eight Judicial District Court – Judge Crockett; counsel were myself and Andrea Luem.

c. the importance of each case to you and the impact of each case on you: This was important to me because it was a civil case that I was brought onto right before trial. Prior to me taking over the case, there had been no work done on the case. By the time it went to trial the case was more than ready to go. At the close of the case, I made a motion prior to the case going to the jury which dismissed punitive damages, as no evidence of punitive damages was presented to the jury. The Defendant was very wealthy, and as such, punitive damages could have been massive for him.

d. your role in the case. Co-Counsel

5. Hernandez

- a. **case name and date:** State of Nevada vs. Hernandez; 2018
- b. **court and presiding judge and all counsel:** Eight Judicial District Court – Judge Bonaventure; counsel were myself and Jennifer Waldo.
- c. **the importance of each case to you and the impact of each case on you:** This was important to me because of the verdict. This was my first not guilty I received at a jury trial. We had spent a significant time preparing the case, had a plethora of evidence that made it look as though my client could be guilty, and yet we were able to convince the jury that the State had not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt.
- d. **your role in the case.** Co-Counsel

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.

I currently serve as an alternate judge in Las Vegas Municipal Court. I have been in this role since 2014. I sit for any of the judges when they are unavailable. I have presided over revocation hearings, trials, pleas, arraignments, and standard status checks. I have also been responsible for approving arrest warrants as my time as an alternate judge.

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

I have worked as a CAP attorney where I represented abused and neglected children. I handle all traffic tickets for free, whether I know the individual or not. When I have court appointed clients who have other matters, such as bench warrants, I will handle those for them at no cost. When clients need simple work such as contract reviews or powers of attorney, I do not charge for those.

While not a recognized program, myself and my children regularly prepare meals and necessities for the homeless community and drive around the city to provide food, clothing, and other necessities to those in need. While it is not a recognized program, we do it to help the community.

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. I am a member of the Nevada State Bar

24. List all courses, seminars, or institutes you have attended relating to continuing legal education during the past 5 years. Are you in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to you as a lawyer or judge?

I am in compliance with continuing education requirements and am almost compliant through 2022.

I attended a 3 day seminar on defending sex assault cases.

I have attended all substance abuse courses since they became a requirement.

I have attended all required ethics courses.

Most recently, because I am newer to the CJA panel, my courses have been in federal law.

I have attended courses in family law, civil law, appellate law, criminal law, bankruptcy, post-conviction cases, client conflicts, tax law, personal injury law, contract law, probate law, estate planning, and medical malpractice during the past 5 years. I am always compliant and attempt to obtain all credits in a variety of areas so that I can be as knowledgeable as possible in all areas.

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

I do not have Professional Liability Insurance and I do not work for a governmental agency.

Business and 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.

- Real Estate from 2002-2007
- Sales from 2000-2002

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:

Yes.

a. the nature of the business:

Law firm.

b. the nature of your duties:

Handling all cases from start to finish; conducting consultations and determining which cases to take; taking on court appointed cases, personal injury cases, contract cases, juvenile cases, family law cases, and civil defense.

c. the extent of your involvement in the administration or management of the business:

I have an administrative assistant who handles the basic office duties required in running a business. I am solely involved in management of the business.

c. the terms of your service:

Because I am a sole practitioner, I decide terms of service on a case-by-case basis. With any staff I have or other professionals I employ, they are required to report to me and not do anything without my consent. I also ensure no employees or non-attorney independent contractors give legal advice.

d. the percentage of your ownership.

100 percent.

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.

N/A

Civic, Professional and Community Involvement

29. Have you ever held an elective or appointive public office in this or any other state? Have you been a candidate for such an office? If so, give details, including the offices involved, whether initially appointed or elected, and the length of service. Exclude political affiliation.

No

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

Providing to the homeless community.

Donating to several non-profit organizations.

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

While in law school I taught a clinic for pro per litigants to obtain guardianship over minors and adults.

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

I donate to charitable organizations on a regular basis. Myself and my family take our own initiative to donate food and other necessities to the community. From the time I was a teenager until my mid-twenties I was a member of a church in which we regularly participated in activities to help the community. My family is a military family, and as such, we have always supported the military. The father of my children is an Army veteran who served multiple missions in Iraq, and we had to sacrifice as a family to support that mission he chose.

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

- 2006 Community Service Program Outstanding Student Award
- Dean's list
- Citibank Employee Scholarship recipient
- Millennium Scholarship recipient
- Membership in multiple honor societies

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.

N/A

36. During the past 10 years, have you been registered to vote? Have you voted in the general elections held in those years?

Yes. I have voted in the general elections since I was 18 years old.

37. List avocational interests and hobbies.

- Reading
- Traveling
- Providing my children with as many important life experiences as possible
- Collecting artwork
- Studying mental health and illness, as well as addiction

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.

No.

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 question 73.

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.

No.

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.

The only reason I can think of that I would have to recuse myself from a case is if I previously represented one of the parties.

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.**

N/A

- 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 particular education, experience, personality or character traits you possess or have acquired that you feel qualify you as a good district court judge. In so doing, address both the civil (including family law matters) and criminal processes (including criminal sentencing.)**

Please see attached.

- 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.**

As I have already stated, I believe the main thing that qualifies me is my experience as a judge. I also have worked in almost every area of law that a District Court judge would be exposed to.

- 49. Attach a sample of no more than 10 pages of your original writing in the form of a decision, “points and authorities,” or appellate brief generated within the past 5 years, which demonstrates your ability to write in a logical, cohesive, concise, organized, and persuasive fashion.**

Please see attached.

Attachment A
Employment History

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: Law Office of Amanda Pellizzari, LLC

Phone Number: 702-830-7925 (office) 702-581-3059 (cell)

Address: 321 S. Casino Center Blvd, Suite 112, Las Vegas, NV 89101

From: 2014 **To:** present

Supervisor's Name: Self

Supervisor's Job Title: Managing Member

Your Title: Partner

Specific Duties: I practice mostly criminal law. I also occasionally practice civil law and personal injury cases. I am court appointed counsel from the Office of Appointed Counsel where I have a track in North Las Vegas Justice Court Department 3 where I am the sole conflict attorney. I also am qualified for and receive Category A felonies such as murders and sex assaults. I handle cases from beginning to end on my own, including felony trials. I also handle Post Conviction habeas cases.

Additionally, I am on the federal CJA panel where I am appointed on federal criminal cases.

I also manage my business on my own.

Reason for Leaving: N/A

Current Employer: Las Vegas Municipal Court

Phone Number: 702-382-6878

Address: 100 E Clark Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101

From: 2015 **To:** present

Supervisor's Name: All municipal court judges

Attachment A
Employment History
(continuation sheet)

Supervisor's Job Title: All municipal court judges

Your Title: Alternate Judge

Specific Duties: I sit as an alternate judge when judges in Las Vegas Municipal Court are unavailable to sit. I handle arraignments, pretrials, pleas, revocation hearings, and trials. I am usually one of the first alternates requested, as I am very familiar with the laws, court protocol, procedures, and am very respectful to the defendants and the court staff. I feel I am a very fair judge when I am on the bench.

Reason for Leaving: N/A

Previous Employer: Bellon & Maningo

Phone Number: Closed Business

Address: Closed Business

From: 2011 **To:** 2014

Supervisor's Name: Peter Bellon

Supervisor's Job Title: Managing Member

Your Title: Associate Attorney

Specific Duties: Represent clients primarily in criminal defense and civil matters. Experience includes representing clients at trial, legal research, drafting and arguing motions, negotiating cases, investigating cases, client and witness interviews, discovery, and trial preparation. I have experience with trials, court appearances, preliminary hearings, depositions, and arbitrations.

Reason for Leaving: The only reason I left was to open my own law firm.

Attachment A
Employment History
(continuation sheet)

Previous Employer: Tharpe & Howell (Las Vegas Office Closed)

Phone Number: Phone: (818) 205-9955

Address: 15250 Ventura Boulevard
Ninth Floor
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

From: 2008 **To:** 2011

Supervisor's Name: Byron Ames

Supervisor's Job Title: Partner – Las Vegas office

Your Title: Associate Attorney

Specific Duties: Represent diverse range of clients in criminal and civil litigation matters. Experience includes legal research, drafting and arguing motions, settlement negotiations, client and witness interviews, and drafting legal pleadings and discovery. Experience with court appearances, depositions, and arbitrations.

Reason for Leaving: I left to move on to a criminal law firm.

Previous Employer: Prudential Americana Group, Realtors

Phone Number: 702-460-5150

Address: Office no longer open

From: 2002 **To:** 2008

Supervisor's Name: Thomas Mangione

Supervisor's Job Title: Real Estate Agent – Team Chief

Your Title: Real Estate Assistant

Attachment A
Employment History
(continuation sheet)

Specific Duties: I worked in a real estate office for a team of agents under my supervisor. I showed homes to buyers, listed homes, prepared files for review by the broker, and conducted basic administrative tasks. This was part time employment.

Reason for Leaving: I left to pursue law.

Previous Employer: Boyd Law School Law Library

Phone Number: (702) 895-2420

Address: 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451080
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-1080

From: 2005 **To:** 2008

Supervisor's Name: No longer at library

Supervisor's Job Title: Head Librarian

Your Title: Assistant Librarian

Specific Duties: I worked at the reference desk at the law library and assisted students in legal research. I also assisted pro per individuals in finding case law and appropriate legal forms. Additionally, I taught law students research skills.

Reason for Leaving: I graduated law school.

Previous Employer: Bath & Body Works

Phone Number: (702) 878-0374

Address: 4300 Meadows Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89107

From: 2000 **To:** 2002

Supervisor's Name: Stephanie Taylor

Supervisor's Job Title: Store Manager

Attachment A
Employment History
(continuation sheet)

Your Title: Sales Representative

Specific Duties: I worked in sales at the store. I sold products to customers, worked at the cash register, cleaned up and restocked the store at closing, and set up the store for seasonal decoration changes..

Reason for Leaving: I began working at a real estate office.

QUESTION 47

Amanda Pellizzari – Applicant for Department 11

My career goal since college has to be a judge. I believe there are several things that distinguish me from the other candidates. While I respect the other candidates, the following are examples of my life experiences that I believe distinguish me from other candidates.

When I was in college, I decided I wanted to be a lawyer. However, I knew that the goal was to be a judge. I then developed my career to accomplish that goal. If you study my resume, with an explanation, you will see that everything about it reflects that.

While in law school it was obvious that my interest was in criminal law. However, my first job was in insurance defense. While inherently, I was not satisfied with that, I knew it was a step on my journey. At my first firm I took every experience that was offered to me, from arbitrations to depositions to trials to discovery – all to learn a necessary experience to be a judge – civil law. I was a female attorney in a mostly male office, yet usually treated as their secretary, not their peer. Despite the discouragement, I took every lesson and experience possible to learn what I needed to so I could handle the civil cases as a district court judge. While it was demoralizing at times, I stayed positive, studied every chance I could, and made sure that I knew the civil rules of procedure, as well as the caselaw, so that I could combat any adversary. Once I knew I gained everything I could from that firm, I decided to move on to a criminal firm.

My next experience was an associate at criminal defense firm. From the start I was thrown into a world I knew nothing about. I was approved to be a public attorney in municipal court even though I was lacking the minimum qualifications. From my first week there I showed up to court handling arraignments, pleas, revocations hearings, and trials – having very little experience in what I was handling. Despite that, I studied and did what I needed to so that my clients were getting the best representation possible. Once I left that position, I was asked to become an alternate judge.

QUESTION 47

Amanda Pellizzari – Applicant for Department 11

I then decided to finally do what I had made a goal of mine early on. I decided that by 30 years old I would have my own law firm. I had to take on any case that would bring in income to support my family. When I was asked to be an alternate judge in municipal court, that meant giving up any case that I could defend in that court. As a sole practitioner, handling cases in Municipal court was a large source of income. However, I took myself off any municipal court case, and for over the past several years, I have rejected any Municipal court cases. Because my goal since law school has been to be a judge, I knew that the monetary benefit of handling municipal cases ultimately would be insignificant to my final goal – to be a judge. I have rejected all municipal cases in exchange for the \$100 per session I earn every time I sit on the bench as a municipal court alternate judge.

As an alternate judge, I have been told by the staff that I am the first person they go to when they need an alternate. I have been told that I get through the calendars efficiently, I minimize the work for the clerks, and that I hold the attorneys to a standard of being on time and prepared.

When you look at my resume you see a trend of 2+ years at any job, with the exception of working for myself. I worked at a civil firm learning while studying. When I knew I got everything I could from that I went to criminal (at a significant pay cut). Once I learned what I could from that I made my own firm where I learned everything else. I handled juvenile court, family court, personal injury, contracts, and everything in between. I have handled more criminal sentencings than I can count and have worked on more civil cases than I can count.

I truly Feel that I am as well rounded as anyone could be to be a district court judge. In addition to my legal interest, I was also a psychology major, and focused my entire time in college in forensic psychology. I am very knowledgeable about mental illness and mental health

QUESTION 47

Amanda Pellizzari – Applicant for Department 11

and understand how important it is to understand the mental impact on everyone – especially people who are victims of crime or accused of crime.

Aside from my professional experience, my life experience qualifies me. I am not a person who had my life handed to me to be a judge. I grew up in a very poor household and neighborhood and knew that if I wanted to be anything more it was all on my shoulders to accomplish that. From the time I was in high school I worked to do that. I had jobs since I was old enough to work, and only did school and jobs throughout my early adulthood, and once I got to law school had my eye on the prize of being a judge.

My history prior to law school was full of adversity, poverty, and learning at a young age that it was all on me to make something of myself without having anyone in my corner. Everything I have accomplished has been completely due to my own hard work.

While I have respect for every other applicant, I feel like my life and career history far separates me from anyone else. I know that this is my future. If I am not accepted this time, you will see me again every other time. I do not want to be elected for my first role as a judge. I want to be appointed so that I have the confidence that my experience and drive proved that I am qualified for the job. While I do not want to minimize anyone that is elected, I would prefer to be appointed to prove to myself that a committee of my peers had the belief that I am the right fit for this honor.