APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE

SECTION I: PUBLIC INFORMATION (QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 65)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1.	Full Name: Eliza Beth Johnson
2.	Have you ever used or been known by any other name? _Yes If so, state name: Eliza Beth Smith
3.	Office Address: 1800 E. Palo Verde Street Ste. B Yuma, AZ 85365
4.	How long have you lived in Arizona? What is your home zip code? Most recently since 2012. I also lived in Arizona between 1991-1995 and 1997- 2007. My home zip code is 85365.
	2001 Hilly Helling 2.ip Godd to Goddon
5.	Identify the county you reside in and the years of your residency. Yuma County 5 years
6.	If appointed, will you be 30 years old before taking office? ■ yes □no
	If appointed, will you be younger than age 65 at the time of appointment? ■ yes □no
7.	List your present and any former political party registrations and approximate dates of each: Democrat since approximately 2003
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8.	Gender: female
	Race/Ethnicity:White
	EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND
9.	List names and locations of all post-secondary schools attended and any degrees received. Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, AZ Bachelor of Science Oklahoma City University Oklahoma City, OK Juris Doctor
10.	List major and minor fields of study and extracurricular activities. Criminal Justice Major Psychology Minor, club rugby 2003-2006, Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority Ritual Assistant and Scholarship Chairwoman, Kaplan PMBR Representative, Law Student Ambassador
11.	List scholarships, awards, honors, citations and any other factors (e.g., employment) you consider relevant to your performance during college and law school.
	I was employed throughout college at various offices at the school including the Communications Department and the MBA Program. I worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office as a student employee during my junior year. I maintained a 4.0 grade point average during my last semester of college and graduated a semester early despite welcoming my first child earlier that same year.
	my first child earlier that same year.
	I completed an externship at the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board during law school and also volunteered with the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office prior to becoming a licensed legal intern for them.
	PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE
12.	List all courts in which you have been admitted to the practice of law with dates of admission. Give the same information for any administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.
	Supreme Court of Oklahoma Admitted 9/23/2010 United States District Court Western District of Oklahoma Admitted 5/24/2012 Supreme Court of Arizona Admitted 7/2/2013
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- 13. a. Have you ever been denied admission to the bar of any state due to failure to pass the character and fitness screening? __No__ If so, explain.b. Have you ever had to retake a bar examination in order to be admitted to
 - the bar of any state? __No_ If so, explain any circumstances that may have hindered your performance.

I did not have to retake a bar exam but did have to take both the Oklahoma Bar Exam and the Arizona Bar Exam to be admitted to each state.

14. Describe your employment history since completing your undergraduate degree. List your current position first. If you have not been employed continuously since completing your undergraduate degree, describe what you did during any periods of unemployment or other professional inactivity in excess of three months. Do not attach a resume.

EMPLOYER	DATES	LOCATION
Arizona Attorney General's Office Child and Family Protection Division Protective Services Section Assistant Attorney General Yuma Team Lead (Since May 2	2/2019-Current 021)	Yuma, AZ
Arizona Attorney General's Office Child and Family Protection Division Child Support Services Section Assistant Attorney General	6/2017-2/2019	Yuma, AZ

Arizona Attorney General's Office 12/2014-6/2017 Flagstaff, AZ
Child and Family Protection Division
Child Support Services Section
Assistant Attorney General

Harris & Winger P.C. 8/2013, 12/2014 Flagstaff, AZ

School of Law

Harris & Winger P.C. 8/2013-12/2014 Flagstaff, AZ Associate Attorney

Eliza Johnson, Attorney at Law 10/2010-12/2012 Oklahoma City and Solo Practitioner Mustang, OK

Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office 5/2009-9/2010 Oklahoma City, OK Volunteer and Licensed Legal Intern

Oklahoma City University 8/2009-5/2010 Oklahoma City, OK

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Law Student Ambassador

Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board Legal Extern	1/2009-5/2009	Oklahoma City, OK
Law Student/stay at home mom	8/2007-7/2009	Oklahoma City, OK
Bennigan's Restaurant Server	5/2007-8/2007	Oklahoma City, OK
Stay at home mom	1/2007-5/2007	Flagstaff, AZ

15. List your law partners and associates, if any, within the last five years. You may attach a firm letterhead or other printed list. Applicants who are judges or commissioners should additionally attach a list of judges or commissioners currently on the bench in the court in which they serve.

See Attachment A.

16. Describe the nature of your law practice over the last five years, listing the major areas of law in which you practiced and the percentage each constituted of your total practice. If you have been a judge or commissioner for the last five years, describe the nature of your law practice before your appointment to the bench.

Over the last five years I have been employed with the Arizona Attorney General's Office in the Child and Family Protection Division. I have worked in both sections including Child Support Services between 2017 and 2019. During my time with the Child Support section I represented the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) within the Department of Economic Security. I assisted DCSS with Title IV-D child support cases including establishment of paternity and child support, modification of child support, and enforcement of child support. I represented DCSS in multiple counties in Arizona including Coconino, Apache, Navajo, Yavapai, Mohave, Yuma, Santa Cruz, Gila, and Cochise counties. Since 2019 I have been in the Protective Services section. I represent the Department of Child Safety (DCS) in juvenile court. I work with DCS and represent their interests in everything from the initial removal of children and filing of the petition through family reunification, guardianship, or termination of parental rights and adoption. I have represented DCS in multiple counties as well, including Yuma, Pima, and Maricopa counties. I have represented my clients in mediations, contested hearings, and trials in both sections. Both child support cases and juvenile cases have involved crossover and coordination with Indian Tribes and their courts.

17. List other areas of law in which you have practiced.

I have also practiced as a family attorney, criminal defense attorney as a solo practitioner, criminal defense attorney as part of a public defender contract, small

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18. Identify all areas of specialization for which you have been granted certification by the State Bar of Arizona or a bar organization in any other state. N/A 19. Describe your experience as it relates to negotiating and drafting important legal documents, statutes and/or rules. I have drafted numerous pleadings throughout my practice including but not limited to dependency petitions, severance motions and petitions, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, written closing arguments, motions to suppress, motions in limine, petitions for divorce and child custody and support, discovery motions, disclosure statements, motions for summary judgment, etc. 20. Have you practiced in adversary proceedings before administrative boards or commissions? No If so, state: The agencies and the approximate number of adversary proceedings in a. which you appeared before each agency. N/A b. The approximate number of these matters in which you appeared as: Sole Counsel: N/A Chief Counsel: _N/A_ Associate Counsel: N/A 21. Have you handled any matters that have been arbitrated or mediated? Yes If so, state the approximate number of these matters in which you were involved as: Sole Counsel: 125 Chief Counsel: ___0_ Associate Counsel: 10 **These numbers are approximate based on the high volume of preliminary protective conferences that are involved in juvenile dependency cases, mediations in family law cases, and would be higher if including my mediator type role in child support services when we met Applicant Name: Eliza Johnson Page 5

claims, criminal prosecution as a licensed legal intern, specialty courts including

mental health court, DUI court, and drug court.

with the parties and participated in stipulation conferences and often times reached agreements on current child support amounts and arrears and were able to avoid having a contested hearing.

- 22. List at least three but no more than five contested matters you negotiated to settlement. State as to each case: (1) the date or period of the proceedings; (2) the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of all counsel involved and the party each represented; (3) a summary of the substance of each case: and (4) a statement of any particular significance of the case.
 - 1. In re the Matter of: A.D. S1400JD20220111
 - 1. August 2022
 - 2. I represented the Department of Child Safety.
 - a. Denise Avila Taylor
 Attorney for Child
 denise.avilataylor@gmail.com
 (928) 257-0168
 - b. Candice Orduno Crouse Attorney for Father corduno@molawaz.com (928) 248-4400
 - c. Heather Vinci Attorney for Mother hcvinci@gmail.com (928) 783-2722
 - 3. This was a dependency case involving a mother who while suffering a mental health episode attempted to kill her child. All parties worked together to try to find the least traumatic resolution possible in the case. There was a father that came forward as an available option but all parties agreed that the child would be best served by a guardianship.
 - 4. This case was a situation where we wanted to protect the child while providing permanency as soon as possible to limit the exposure to any unnecessary additional trauma. We had to consider the balance between the different permanency options given the age of the child and the specific circumstances of the case and all parties involved.
 - 2. In re the Matter of: R.R. and R.R. S1400JD20210312 and S1400JD20210313
 - 1. February 2022
 - 2. I represented the Department of Child Safety.
 - a. Bruce Yancey Attorney for Children

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(928) 210-2947 byancey1947@gmail.com

- b. Candice Orduno Crouse Attorney for Father corduno@molawaz.com (928) 248-4400
- c. Penny Higginbottom
 Attorney for Mother
 penny.higginbottom@gmail.com
 (480) 232-3271
- 3. This was a dependency case where the children were removed due to neglect and a dirty home. The mother was going through some mental health issues and the father was working a lot of time and was not around to help. We were able to get the family connected with services and supports to help remedy the situation.
- 4. This was a case where although there were issues that prevented the children from being in the home safely at the time of the removal, we were able to return the children to the home without the need for a trial.

 The resolution in this case was in large part and credit to the parents

 who were so willing to participate in anything that was asked of them so that their family could be reunited.
- 3. In re the Matter of: J.A. S1400JD20210248
 - 1. 2021-2022
 - 2. I represented the Department of Child Safety
 - a. Denise Avila Taylor Attorney for Child denise.avilataylor@gmail.com (928) 257-0168
 - b. Robert Bleich
 Attorney for Father
 <u>robert@yumalawoffice.com</u>
 (928) 329-1991
 - 3. This was a dependency case where the Department requested to go straight to severance because the parents had a long history of substance abuse and lack of participation in services to remedy their circumstances in order to safely parent. The father immediately began participating in services and did everything he needed to do in order to

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reunify and we ultimately agreed not to proceed with the severance.

4. This case stood out to me because we have a lot of parents in the same

		give up based on prior history but this fa did what he needed to do in order to hav case.	
23.	Have you represented clients in If so, state:	litigation in Federal or state trial courts?	_Yes
	The approximate number of cas	es in which you appeared before:	
	Federal Courts:	0	
	State Courts of Record:	_415_	
	Municipal/Justice Courts:	260_	
	The approximate percentage of	those cases which have been:	
	Civil:	60%_	
	Criminal:	40%_	
	The approximate number of tho	se cases in which you were:	
	Sole Counsel:	600	
	Chief Counsel:	10	
	Associate Counsel:	65_	
	The approximate percentage of	those cases in which:	
	partially disposed of the of for summary judgment, a	-trial, trial, or post-trial motion that wholly case (for example, a motion to dismiss, a motion for judgment as a matter of law, cote a response to such a motion:	motion
	You argued a motion des	cribed above	_1%_
	You made a contested conforth in the above respons	ourt appearance (other than as set se)	85%_
	You negotiated a settleme	ent:	_10%

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	The court rendered judgment a	fter trial:	10%_
	A jury rendered a verdict:		_≤ 1%
	The number of cases you have taken	to trial:	
		Limited jurisdiction court	_30
		Superior court	_32
		Federal district court	0
		Jury	3_
	history of case files to accurate	of cases taken to trial, explain why ls I can provide. I do not have acce ly count and have covered trials fo cifically how many and which ones	ess to all or other
24.	Have you practiced in the Federal or s	state appellate courts?No_ If se	o, state:
	The approximate number of your appe	eals which have been:	
	Civil:N	/A_	
	Criminal:N	/A_	
	Other:N	/A_	
	The approximate number of matters in	n which you appeared:	
	As counsel of record on the brid	ef: N/A	
	Personally in oral argument:	N/A	
25.	Have you served as a judicial law clerk or staff attorney to a court?No_ If so, identify the court, judge, and the dates of service and describe your role.		
26.	List at least three but no more than fiv an attorney before mediators, arbitrate appellate courts that were not negotia (1) the date or period of the proceeding	ors, administrative agencies, trial c ted to settlement. State as to eacl	ourts or h case:
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and the name of the judge or officer before whom the case was heard; (3) the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of all counsel involved and the party each represented; (4) a summary of the substance of each case; and (5) a statement of any particular significance of the case.

- In the Matter of: B.S. and C.S. S1400JD20190289 and S1400JD20190290
 - 1. August 2019
 - 2. Yuma County Superior Court Hon. Stephen J. Rouff
 - 3. I represented the Department of Child Safety.
 - a. Candice Orduno Crouse
 Guardian ad Litem for the Children
 (928) 248-4400
 corduno@molawaz.com
 - b. Denise Avila Taylor
 Attorney for Mother
 (928) 257-0168
 denise.avilataylor@gmail.com
 - 4. The mother contested the dependency allegations and requested a trial. This case involved serious physical abuse to a child. The trial included several exhibits documenting the abuse as well as several witnesses including law enforcement, social workers, agency support workers, and medical doctors.
 - 5. This case was complicated further by the fact that it involved some Indian children and some non-Indian children. There were also some children in the home who were the mother's biological children and some who were in her care based on other custody arrangements. The abuse was inflicted on one of the children that was not mother's and was removed from her home and care prior to the trial. I had to connect the inflicted abuse to a child no longer in the home to the risk of abuse to the children who could potentially be returned to the mother's home.
- 2. In the Matter of: M.K. and C.S. S1400JD20200022 and S1400JD20200194
 - 1. September 2020-January 2021
 - 2. Yuma County Superior Court Hon. Stephen J. Rouff
 - 3. I represented the Department of Child Safety.
 - a. Candice Orduno Crouse Guardian ad Litem for the Children (928) 248-4400

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corduno@molawaz.com

- b. Denise Avila Taylor
 Attorney for Mother
 (928) 257-0168
 denise.avilataylor@gmail.com
- c. Bruce Yancey
 Attorney for Father
 (928) 819-6995
 Byancey1947@gmail.com
- d. Penny Higginbottom
 Attorney for Father
 (480) 232-3271
 penny.higginbottom@gmail.com
- 4. One of the father's and the mother contested the allegations in the dependency and severance petitions and requested trial. This trial took four days to complete and involved physical abuse by the father and failure to protect from that abuse as to the mother. The trial involved multiple exhibits documenting the abuse including medical records, police reports, and photos. There were several witnesses including social workers, the parents, law enforcement, and medical professionals.
- 5. This case was complex to present as it involved abuse to the child in multiple different states and involved at least three different incidents. The case was further complicated by the fact that the dependency trial and the severance trial were held at the same time which involved different burdens of proof and evidence to be presented. I had to coordinate many different witnesses from different areas including social work, law enforcement, and medical professionals, as well as accommodate testimony based on trial schedule and different time zones for the out of state witnesses.
- 3. In Re the marriage of Jessica Lynn Brown, Petitioner, v. Fabion Demargio Brown, Respondent FD-2011-1558
 - 1. April 2011-April 2012
 - 2. In The District Court In And For Oklahoma County, Oklahoma Hon. Barry L. Hafar
 - 3. I represented the Respondent.
 - a. Keith D. Magill
 Attorney for Petitioner
 Deceased 7/1/2022

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- 4. This was a divorce case that I took on as a volunteer attorney early in my career through the Lawyers for Heroes program. I represented the Respondent in this case pro bono through this program based on his service in the military. The case was open for about a year and was ultimately dismissed prior to a final decree being entered because the Petitioner died. However, prior to that this case involved contested meetings and hearings.
- 5. This case was of particular significance because the petitioner failed to appear for a hearing in January of 2012 and it was discovered later that same day that she had been murdered. The respondent in this case was arrested and the children were removed by child protective services. The respondent went to trial, chose to represent himself, and was ultimately convicted on murder charges.
- 27. If you now serve or have previously served as a mediator, arbitrator, part-time or full-time judicial officer, or quasi-judicial officer (e.g., administrative law judge, hearing officer, member of state agency tribunal, member of State Bar professionalism tribunal, member of military tribunal, etc.), give dates and details, including the courts or agencies involved, whether elected or appointed, periods of service and a thorough description of your assignments at each court or agency. Include information about the number and kinds of cases or duties you handled at each court or agency (e.g., jury or court trials, settlement conferences, contested hearings, administrative duties, etc.).

 N/A

28. List at least three but no more than five cases you presided over or heard as a judicial or quasi-judicial officer, mediator or arbitrator. State as to each case: (1) the date or period of the proceedings; (2) the name of the court or agency; (3) the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of all counsel involved and the party each represented; (4) a summary of the substance of each case; and (5) a statement of any particular significance of the case.
N/A

29. Describe any additional professional experience you would like to bring to the Governor's attention.

I believe it is important for a judicial officer to have a well rounded background and set of experiences from their time as an attorney to help better look at cases from many different perspectives. I have worked as a criminal defense attorney both private and public which can involve different groups of clients on each end. Although I have not been a criminal prosecutor, I did work with a prosecutor's office as a licensed legal intern and gained that perspective as well. I have worked in family law through divorces and child custody proceedings but also

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through child support and child protection so I have approached family law cases from many different angles. I have had the opportunity to represent both individual clients and agency clients and navigate the differences between those. I have had the opportunity to be part of specialty courts including mental health, and DUI/drug courts on both prosecution and defense sides. I have practiced in both Arizona and Oklahoma and have practiced in many counties and before a variety of judges in both states.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION
30.	Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law or holding judicial or other public office, other than as described at question 14? _No If so, give details, including dates.
31.	Are you now an officer, director, majority stockholder, managing member, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise?No If so, give details, including the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or other description of your position, the nature of your duties and the term of your service.
	Do you intend to resign such positions and withdraw from any participation in the management of any such enterprises if you are appointed? _N/A If not, explain your decision.
32.	Have you filed your state and federal income tax returns for all years you were legally required to file them?_Yes If not, explain.
33.	Have you paid all state, federal and local taxes when due? _Yes If not, explain.
34.	Are there currently any judgments or tax liens outstanding against you?No_ If so, explain.
35.	Have you ever violated a court order addressing your personal conduct, such as orders of protection, or for payment of child or spousal support?No_ If so, explain.

Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit, including an administrative agency

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	matter but excluding divorce?Yes_ If so, identify the nature of the case, your role, the court, and the ultimate disposition. I was a co-defendant in a credit card payment dispute in Flagstaff Justice Court. The dispute was ultimately resolved and the case was dismissed.
37.	Have you ever filed for bankruptcy protection on your own behalf or for an organization in which you held a majority ownership interest?No If so, explain.
38.	Do you have any financial interests including investments, which might conflict with the performance of your judicial duties? _No If so, explain.
	CONDUCT AND ETHICS
39.	Have you ever been terminated, asked to resign, expelled, or suspended from employment or any post-secondary school or course of learning due to allegations of dishonesty, plagiarism, cheating, or any other "cause" that might reflect in any way on your integrity? _No_ If so, provide details.
40.	Have you ever been arrested for, charged with, and/or convicted of any felony, misdemeanor, or Uniform Code of Military Justice violation?No_
	If so, identify the nature of the offense, the court, the presiding judicial officer, and the ultimate disposition. N/A
41.	If you performed military service, please indicate the date and type of discharge. If other than honorable discharge, explain. N/A
42.	List and describe any matter (including mediation, arbitration, negotiated settlement and/or malpractice claim you referred to your insurance carrier) in which you were accused of wrongdoing concerning your law practice. N/A
43.	List and describe any litigation initiated against you based on allegations of misconduct other than any listed in your answer to question 42. N/A
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- 44. List and describe any sanctions imposed upon you by any court.

 N/A
- 45. Have you received a notice of formal charges, cautionary letter, private admonition, referral to a diversionary program, or any other conditional sanction from the Commission on Judicial Conduct, the State Bar, or any other disciplinary body in any jurisdiction? __No_ If so, in each case, state in detail the circumstances and the outcome.

N/A

46. During the last 10 years, have you unlawfully used controlled substances, narcotic drugs or dangerous drugs as defined by federal or state law? _No__ If your answer is "Yes," explain in detail.

N/A

- 47. Within the last five years, have you ever been formally reprimanded, demoted, disciplined, cautioned, placed on probation, suspended, terminated or asked to resign by an employer, regulatory or investigative agency? _No_ If so, state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the date(s) such action was taken, the name(s) and contact information of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action.
- 48. Have you ever refused to submit to a test to determine whether you had consumed and/or were under the influence of alcohol or drugs? _No__ If so, state the date you were requested to submit to such a test, type of test requested, the name and contact information of the entity requesting that you submit to the test, the outcome of your refusal and the reason why you refused to submit to such a test.
- 49. Have you ever been a party to litigation alleging that you failed to comply with the substantive requirements of any business or contractual arrangement, including but not limited to bankruptcy proceedings? __Yes_ If so, explain the circumstances of the litigation, including the background and resolution of the case, and provide the dates litigation was commenced and concluded, and the name(s) and contact information of the parties,

There was a credit card payment dispute that was filed January 22, 2015. I was listed as a co-defendant. The plaintiff was Midland Funding LLC represented by Blatt, Hasenmiller, Leibsker & Moore, LLC 2702 N. 3rd Street, Suite 2010 Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602) 277-5459. Due to job changes and moving from Oklahoma to Arizona in 2012 payment was past due. I was unable to work as an attorney in Arizona until I passed the Arizona bar exam since reciprocity was not an option at that time. I attempted to gain employment at a variety of places and no one would hire me because I was overqualified as an attorney even though I

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could not legally act as one at the time. The credit company was not cooperative and demanded an all or nothing payment. When the dispute was filed in 2015 we were able to resolve it and the case was dismissed June 8, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

50.	Have you published or posted any legal or non-legal books or articles?No If so, list with the citations and dates.
51.	Are you in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to you as a lawyer or judge?Yes_ If not, explain.
52.	Have you taught any courses on law or lectured at bar associations, conferences, law school forums or continuing legal education seminars? _Yes_ If so, describe.
53.	List memberships and activities in professional organizations, including offices held and dates. Oklahoma Bar Association 2010-Current Oklahoma Criminal Defense Lawyers Association 2012
	Arizona Bar Association 2013-Current Coconino County Bar Association 2013-2017 Yuma County Bar Association 2017-Current
	Arizona Women Lawyers Association Western AZ Chapter 2017-Current Vice President/President Elect 2022
	Have you served on any committees of any bar association-(local, state or national) or have you performed any other significant service to the bar?Yes_
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List offices held in bar associations or on bar committees. Provide information about any activities in connection with pro bono legal services (defined as services to the indigent for no fee), legal related volunteer community activities or the like.

I am currently the Vice President/President Elect of the Western Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Women Lawyers Association.

I was a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association's Lawyers for Heroes program from 2010 to 2012 and provided pro bono representation to current and former members of the military.

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I participated in the AZ Court Help program in Coconino County and presented several times to community members about IV-D Child Support Services.

54. Describe the nature and dates of any relevant community or public service you have performed.

I have been volunteering for Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority since 2008. I have had a variety of roles within the volunteer structure but all of them focus on the leadership development of collegiate women. I support various collegiate chapters through mentoring of their chapter advisors, advisory board members, and executive teams. I have supported chapters with financial issues, housing issues, risk management issues, etc. I am part of a team of volunteers that helps these young women learn how to manage chapters of up to several hundred women and bank accounts of substantial amounts where budgeting skills are essential. We are able to teach and develop real life skills that these young women will need no matter where they end up after college. Gamma Phi Beta's philanthropic focus is Building Strong Girls and we regularly support that through support of Girls on the Run and many different leadership opportunities for the collegiate women to participate in throughout the years.

I have been a volunteer soccer coach for the last two seasons for the Yuma Youth Soccer Association. I was a volunteer coach this year for the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation boys summer basketball program. I am a volunteer coach for Yuma Catch and Go flag football organization. I had the opportunity this past spring to coach a team in Yuma's first all girls division for flag football. I enjoyed seeing the excitement in the girls on my team that not only could they form a team of all girls to play football but they were able to play other teams of all girls as well. I believe this experience helped them to dream big and realize that it does not matter what their gender is, they can participate in whatever it is they choose to do.

While in Flagstaff, AZ I volunteered through the elementary school teaching the Masterpiece Art program. This program consisted of parent volunteer's going into classrooms once per month and providing an additional artistic opportunity for the children to participate in that they are not otherwise able to receive as part of the regular curriculum.

I have served on the PTO as secretary/treasurer, and as a general member and parent volunteer.

I have served on church council as the education chair. I have also volunteered through teaching classes, helping with community service projects including trash pick-up, garden clean-up, and assisted food pantries as well.

My Aunt Gina disappeared in October of 2000. Since the early 2000's I have helped raise awareness for missing persons. I have assisted with the

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Squeaky Wheel Tour through GINA for Missing Persons Foundation. I have raised funds as a charity runner two times through the New York City Marathon for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. I have shared numerous fliers and stories of missing persons to help raise awareness and help bring the missing home to their families.

55. List any relevant professional or civic honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition you have received.

Pro Bono and Public Interest Law Service Award 2009-2010
Associate of the Year, Harris and Winger, P.C. 2014
Outstanding Advocate, Arizona Attorney General's Office 2020
Certificate of Appreciation from the AZ Court Help Legal Talk Program 2017

56. List any elected or appointed public offices you have held and/or for which you have been a candidate, and the dates. N/A

Have you ever been removed or resigned from office before your term expired?
____ If so, explain. N/A

Have you voted in all general elections held during the last 10 years? _Yes_ If not, explain.

57. Describe any interests outside the practice of law that you would like to bring to the Governor's attention.

I am a runner and I love to train for destination races or team events. My employment with the Attorney General's Office allowed me to meet the office running team and participate in the annual Baker to Vegas law enforcement race several years now. I look forward to the race every year, not just for the running but for the team atmosphere and excitement of the event.

When I am not working and I'm not running, I enjoy spending time with my family and getting involved in all of the sports and activities that my children are involved in. I also enjoy reading whenever I get the chance to read something for fun and unrelated to my every day work.

HEALTH	

58. Are you physically and mentally able to perform the essential duties of a judge with or without a reasonable accommodation in the court for which you are applying? _Yes_

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

59. Provide any information about yourself (your heritage, background, life experiences, etc.) that you would like the Governor to consider.

I am originally from Nebraska and have also lived in Iowa, Oklahoma, and Arizona. I moved several times as a child and as an adult and have experienced different cultures and communities in each of the places I have lived. I have gained perspective on the different traditions and customs of some of the different Indian Tribes through my times residing in Northern Arizona, Southern Arizona, and in Oklahoma. I had my first child during college, and rather than giving up and quitting I worked harder and ended college with a 4.0 GPA my last semester. I had my second child in between the first and second year of law school and again instead of giving up and quitting I worked harder and studied at random hours as needed to make things work. When my aunt went missing in 2000 no one in the family knew what to do but we all did something and continue to do what we can to raise awareness for missing persons everywhere.

I have a helper attitude engrained in me. I'm always the one that looks around to see if anyone is volunteering and if not, I jump in. There is just something that tells me if no one else is stepping forward that it must be up to me. Although sometimes this can add some stress to my life it has also given me many opportunities and connections in life that I would have never otherwise had. Through one of my "just say yes" moments I began volunteering through my sorority and met a wonderful person who later needed me to volunteer for her. I was able to help her become a mother and am honored to be the Godmother of her children.

60. Provide any additional information relative to your qualifications you would like to bring to the Governor's attention.

I have experience practicing in multiple counties in Arizona and Oklahoma as well as experience in both criminal and family law/juvenile law. I have represented both individual and agency clients. I have experience as a solo practitioner and within a firm. I have handled everything from beginning to end of a case while in private practice and have experience supervising staff in other offices. I have experience with workflow management through the offices I worked in as well as balancing court hearings and representation in multiple different counties and states.

61.	If selected for this position, do you intend to serve a accept rotation to benches outside your areas of pra	
	Applicant Name:	Eliza Johnson

assignment to any court location? __Yes_ If not, explain.

62. Attach a brief statement explaining why you are seeking this position.

See Attachment B.

63. Attach two professional writing samples, which you personally drafted (e.g., brief or motion). Each writing sample should be no more than five pages in length, double-spaced. You may excerpt a portion of a larger document to provide the writing samples. Please redact any personal, identifying information regarding the case at issue, unless it is a published opinion, bearing in mind that the writing sample may be made available to the public.

See Attachment C.

64. If you have ever served as a judicial or quasi-judicial officer, mediator or arbitrator, attach sample copies of not more than two written orders, findings or opinions (whether reported or not) which you personally drafted. **Each writing sample should be no more than five pages in length, double-spaced.** You may excerpt a portion of a larger document to provide the writing sample(s). Please redact any personal, identifying information regarding the case at issue, unless it is a published opinion, bearing in mind that the writing sample may be made available to the public.

N/A

65. If you are currently serving as a judicial officer in any court and are subject to a system of judicial performance review, please attach the public data reports and commission vote reports from your last three performance reviews.

N/A

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Attachment A

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ABBEY, DEBORAH K ACEVEDO HENRY, JILYANE ACOSTA, JOE ACOSTA-COLLINGS, CLAUDIA R ADAMS, AMANDA L ADAMS, CATHERINE S ADAMS, KRISTI M AHL, DAVID E ALLEE, MITCHELL W AMOO, MUKAI ANDERSON, ANDREA R ANDERSON, KIM S ANZINI, LAUREN M ASCHENBACH, RON J ASTA, SARAH A BABIONE, BYRON J BACAL, JOSEPH E BACON, JAMES N BAEK, RICHARD L BAIER, DONALD J BALDNER, VICTORIA A BALL, CASEY D BALL, STEPHEN D BANES, REBECCA A BARRABEE, JONPAUL BARRICK, JENNIFER E BARRY, WILBUR F BASKIN, MONA E BECKLUND, MARJORIE S BEHNKE, KALYN D BELJAN, JOTHI BENJAMIN, DENA R BENNETT, ERIN D BERGIN, DANIEL H BERGIN, VICTORIA J BERNHEIM, ROBERT A BEVINS, WILLIAM F BISHOP, RYAN G BLUM, JENNIFER R BODDINGTON, LISA C BONNELL, NANCY M BORES, JACQUELINE S BOYD, MICHAEL E BOYLE, PATRICK J

BRACHTL, MARK C

BRADLEY, BETHANY E BRANTINGHAM, KATHLEEN BRENNAN, CARRIE J BRNOVICH, MARK BROOKS, MICOLE N BURTON, MICHELLE CAMPBELL, ELIZABETH A CANTRELL, JEFFREY D CAPLINGER, SAMANTHA L CAPUTO, LOUIS F CARLSEN, CHRISTIAN B CARTER, PAUL E CATLETT, MICHAEL S CHAMBERLAIN, KIMBERLY D CHAMPAGNE, DEANA M CHAVEZ, JULIE A CHIASSON, LAURA P CHRISTENSEN, SCOTT A CHRISTOPHER, JANET V CIAFULLO, MARK A CIAFULLO, MARK J CLARK, DOUGLAS L CLAW, GRACYNTHIA D COADY, MONIQUE K COFFMAN, BRIAN R COHEN, ERIN D COLE, DAVID R CONLEY, JACQUELINE CONWAY, JOSHUA M COOPER, LESLIE K COORDES, GREGORY D CORCORAN, AUBREY JOY CORLEY, JASON D COX, CURTIS A

COX, CURTIS A
COX, SOPHIA N
CRESTIN, KEVIN P
CUMMINGS, KYLE R
CUTTS, SHELLEY D
CYGAN, KIMBERLY J
DAILEY, JAMES M
DAMSTRA, KATHRYN A
DAULT, RICHARD D
DAVIS, CHRISTOPHER B
DAVIS, SUSAN E

DILWEG, LAURA E DIVIS, KATLYN J DONALD, SCOTT B DU MEE, MATTHEW B DUPLISSIS, STEVEN J DURAN, GINO A DYLO, JOSEPH E DYSART, ANDREW B EASTERDAY, JASON B EHREDT, AMANDA R EKLUND, MATTHEW P ELLIOTT, STEPHANIE EMERSON, JORDAN E ENSIGN, DREW C EVANS, LYNETTE J FALLON, JANE S FEASEL, CHRISTOPHER J FERRIS, CHARLES W FITZGERALD, LISA J FITZGERALD, MICHAEL J FORSCH, ERICA B FOSTER, ALYSON M FRANCIS, JAMES P FRANCIS, JILLIAN B FREESTONE, SHYLA R FRIES, JERRY A FRITZ, LAURA A GADOW, BLAINE D GALUSHA-TROICKE, NICHOLE J

GALVIN, JEANNE M GANNON, JASON P GARBUTT, BART T GARDNER, AMELIA A GARNER, DEBORAH L GENTRY, GWYNDOLYNN D

GEVERS, ALICIA

GILLILAN-GIBSON, KELLY E

GILLOTT, WENDY M
GILMAN, LINDSEY E
GOLOB, ELCHONON D
GOODWIN, MICHAEL K
GOTTFRIED, MICHAEL E
GOULD, CONNIE T
GOURLAY, VIRGINIA W
GREY, CHRISTINA M
GROVE, PHILIP C
GRUBE, CHARLES A

GUERRERO, BRIAN J GUILLE, MISTY D HACHTEL, LAURIE A HARAMES, BRETT J HARGRAVES, SETH T HARRIS, MARC H HARRIS, VERNON L HARRISS, MARY L HAWKINSON, ERIN B HAZARD, GREGORY M HECKATHORNE, SARAH E HEINRICK, TRACEY L HEINTZ, RACHEL

HENDERSON, CHRISTINA A HERLIHY, MATTHEW T

HERRERA-GONZALES, VIRGINIA

HESSINGER, MARK E HICKS, SARAH K HILSER, MAURA E HOBART, ANN HODGSON, MARK A HOLDEN, MICHELE B HOLGUIN, HOLLIE C HOLLYWOOD, KAITLIN HOLYA, ROBERT B HORN, JEREMY D HORTON, ROY E HOWARD, ZACHARY S HUBBLE, JOSEPH E HUCKABY, LINDSAY B HUDSON, JOHN E HUGHES, KENNETH R HUCHES, LINDSAY M

HUNT, DIANE L
HURTADO, ANGELA M
JACOBS, DAVID F
JAMES, DINITA L
JAQUET, LORENA
JARVIS, GINGER
JASCULCA, NANCY H
JESSEN, KATHERINE H
JOHNSON, ELIZA B
JOHNSON, JANNA L
JOHNSON, JOHN S
JOHNSON, KYLE M
JONES, ALICE M

HUMPHRIES, JOHN L

JONES, DYLAN K JONES, REBECCA K JOSE, THOMAS J JOSYULA, PARVATI KAGIE-SHUTLY, MARIE D KALKBRENNER, LENA M KANEFIELD, JOSEPH A KARLSON, KARA M KATZ, PAUL A KAWAMURA, ANNDREA S KELLY, MATTHEW J KELLY, TANJA K KENNELLY, REBECCA N KERFOOT, DESIREE M KINNEY, DEBORAH C KLINGERMAN, NICHOLAS KNOBLOCH, ERIC K KREDIT, JOSHUA A KREYMER, RITA KRISHNA, SUNITA A KUNZMAN, MICHELLE L KUTER, SHAUN T LACAILLADE, COURTNEY T LAMAGNA, PATRICIA C LARSON BURGGRAF, JENNIFER M LARSON, JUSTIN LAU, DOUGLAS E LAWRENCE, DONALD J LAWSON, TODD C LEAVITT, ISABELLA M LEONE, ASHLEY J LESUEUR, LEO J LEVINE, JONATHAN M LINES, JACOB R LOCHNER, SABRINA A LOMBINO, MICHELLE C LOPEZ, CAROLINA M LUTTINGER, ALINE MACMILLAN, SHAWN MAKAR, ROBERT J MAKSEMOUS, TOM MANJENCICH, ZORA MANLEY, JONATHAN E MANSUR, ERIKA C MANTY, ZACHARY R MARCIANO, VALERIE L

MARTIN, CARROL S

MARTONCIK, KATHLEEN E

MAY, ROBERT F MCBRIDE, JENNIFER E MCCARTHY, ERYN M MCCOY, DIANE S MCCRAY, MATTHEW MCCRIGHT, ROBERT R MCKAY, NEIL T MCNALLY, MARISA R MEDIATE, CARMINE V MEHROTRA, ANSHIKA MEISLIK, ALYSE C MELVIN, LEILA E MOLINA, KEILA E MONAGHAN, SEAMUS P MOODY, KAREN E MOORE, JOSEPH T MOORE, PENNY A MOORE, WILBURN D MORALES, KRISTIAN M MORAN, WILLIAM MORLACCI, MARIA A MORROW, NANETTE C MORSE-BAILEY, ROBIN G MOSS, ELIZABETH C NAPOLITANO, ANTHONY R NELSON, ORIEN P NEUVILLE, LISA A NEWMAN-DAHLQUIST, ANNA C NICKELSON, MIRANDA L NIELSEN, JIMMY D NIMMO, MICHELLE R NORRIS, BENJAMIN R NORTHUP, DAWN M NOWLAN, REX C NYE, KIMBERLY D O'CONNOR, GAVIN J O'CONNOR, JACK L O'DONNELL-SMITH, COLLEEN OELZE, DEBORAH M OLSON, JAMES C O'TOOLE, MICHAEL T PACE, KAYLEN J PATEL, KEENA PATEL, SAMIR R PECKARDT, KAYLA M PEISER, PAMELA J PELLEGRINO, HEATHER J PERKINS, RONALD K

PEVEY, CHEYSSER A PIGNATELLA CAIN, AMY S POLLOCK, LINDA J PRECIADO, HUMBERTO R PRIVITT, ALONZO O PULVER, ROBERTO RAND, LUCY M RANKIN, THOMAS J RAPPAPORT, JAMES W RASSAS, THERESA C RAY, KEVIN D REH, DEANIE J REILLY, ANDREW S REMES, RACHEL M RENNICK, REBECCA C RHODES, JULIE M RICHARDSON, ERIN E RIVERA, MELISSA ROBERTSON, LAWRENCE V ROBINSON, DAVID A ROGERS, JAMES K ROLSTEAD, JAMES H RONALD, DAVID M ROSEN, BILLIE A ROSS, DWAYNE E ROSS, LESLIE A ROTHBLUM, ERIC S ROUN, HEATHER E ROYSDEN, BRUNN W SAKOL, JEFFREY N SALISBURY, REBECCA C SANDERS, JENNIFER J SANDERS, THOMAS K SAUER, LINDA A SAWYER, KATE B SCAGLIONE, DAVID D SCHAACK, DANIEL P SCHRINER, KRISTIN J SCHULTZ, ANGELA R SCHWARTZ, JONATHAN H SCIARROTTA, JOSEPH SCOTFORD, REBEKAH K SETTERS, TIFFANY SHAKER GUERRERO, NICOLE SHAW, VINEET M SHEIRBON, JUDY A

SHELBY, LORI D

SHERIDAN, TODD A

SHREVES, TERESA E SILVERMAN, MATTHEW A SIMON, WILLIAM S SIMONS, FOLKE N SINGH, NEILENDRA SLOOT, CHRISTOPHER M SMITH, CARRIE H SMITH, JOSHUA C SPARKS, JEFFREY L SPENCE AMBRI, MARIETTE S SPRITZER, AUTUMN L ST JOHN, LINDSAY P STERLING, DEBRA G STOKES, EMILY M STORY, KIRSTIN A STRATTON, ELLIOT C STRITTMATTER, MAURA C STRONG, KEVIN A STRUCKMEYER-CROXEN, FREDERICK S STURTZ, ASHLEY D SWEENEY, KATHLEEN P TABER, ALEXANDER M TALAMANTE, DAVID M TEASDALE, SCOT G THORSON, AMY M TIBBEDEAUX, LISA M TROUP, BENNA R TRUMAN, EDWARD B TRYON, GEORGE M TURNER, CAREY S TYRELL, SYREETA A UPDIKE, BENJAMIN H VALADEZ, TONI M VALENZUELA, DENISE W VALEROS, JENILEE M VAMPOTIC, MICHAEL J VILLARREAL-REX, KRISTI L WAGNER, KELLY M WALKER, DARYL R WALSH, MICHAEL J WAN, HOLLY WATSON, TIMOTHY J WEBER, JAYME WEINKAMER, ADRIENNE M WHITAKER, JOSHUA M WHITE, CHRISTOPHER P WHITE, TARAH L WILLIAMS, DAWN R

WILLIAMS, MATTHEW K
WILSON, LINLEY S
WOOTEN, PHILIP R
WORCESTER, BROOKE A
WRIGHT, JENNIFER J
YBARRA, ELIZA C
YOUNG, SHALLON L
ZEISE, CARL E
ZINMAN, JANA M
ZUERLEIN, ASHLEY B

Attachment B

I am interested in serving Yuma County Superior Court as Division 7 Judge in furtherance of my legal career in service to others. I have always had a desire to help others and my legal career reflects that based on the jobs that I have had as an attorney over the years. I have helped numerous families and children with child support and child safety concerns as well as general divorce and custody issues as well. I have helped criminal defendants when in a time of need based on the situations that resulted in them receiving criminal charges. I strive to always be personable and professional with all who I encounter in my daily life through work and other activities. I try to work with others in all cases I have within the court system as best I can even when we do not agree on the ultimate solution. I believe it is very important especially now that people who go to court can trust that they have someone who will listen to what they have to say and find their issues as important as they do, at least if for nothing else during their hearing. The community needs to trust that the judges they see on the bench live in and care about the community where they work and that they are invested in keeping the community safe and helping those that come before the court resolve their issues in the best way possible. I believe that I have the demeanor and the ability to provide the type of courtroom experience that will allow for justice to be done while keeping an environment where everyone feels they have full and fair opportunity to present their case and be heard.

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Attachment C

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In this case, while expert testimony might be appropriate or even necessary, the parents have not timely disclosed any expert reports or at least a meaningful summary of what they will say.

III. Dr. Scheller's Testimony Should Be Excluded and/or Limited Based On Failure To Meet The Requirements of Rule 702.

While Dr. Scheller may have experience in pediatric neurology, he has no special training or experience in pediatric child abuse or non-accidental trauma to form an opinion on those issues that would assist the trier of fact beyond interpretation and opinion beyond pediatric neurology. The child in this case came into care with several unexplained injuries including a finding of suspected non-accidental trauma. Treating professionals in this case have included, a nurse practitioner, emergency room physicians, neurosurgeon, pediatric neuroradiologist, and a pediatrician who is the Division Chief of the child protection team, in a team based assessment and treatment. Dr. Scheller has not conducted any testing, nor consulted with any of these various medical providers. Dr. Scheller has proposed alternative opinions, although only vaguely provided, to this case which are contrary to the Phoenix Children's Hospital team's diagnosis and conclusions, without support or review from providers who have specific expertise in specialties that Dr. Scheller lacks. Dr. Scheller's opinions are not offered for treatment and lack independent validation.

"The purpose of a motion *in limine* is to obtain a pretrial ruling on evidentiary disputes and to avoid the admission of unduly prejudicial evidence to a jury. (*State ex rel. Berger v. Superior Ct.*, 108 Ariz. 396, 499, P.2d 152 (1972)). Where a sufficiently specific motion *in limine* is made and ruled upon on the merits, the objection raised in that motion is

preserved for appeal, without the need for specific objection at trial. (*State v. Burton*, 144 Ariz. 248, 697 P.2d 331 (1985)). (Comment, Ariz. R. Civ. P. 7.2)

Generally, to satisfy Rule 702's reliability requirement, "the party presenting the expert must show that the expert's findings are based on sound science, and this will require some objective, independent validation of the expert's methodology." (*In re Apollo Group, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 527 F.Supp.2d 957, 960 (D.Ariz. 2007), quoting *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm.* (*Daubert II*), 43 F.3d 1311, 1316 (9th Cir. 1995)). ¹

It is not necessary that an expert have the highest possible qualifications and degree of skill and knowledge in order to testify; "expert" is one whose opinions are based on special knowledge acquired through experience or careful study which is unknown to people in general. (*State v. Riggs*, 186 Ariz. 573, 925 P.2d 714, review granted, vacated 189 Ariz. 327, 942 P.2d 1159(App. 1996)).

Rule of Evidence 702 provides that (emphasis added):

A witness who is qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education may testify in the form of an opinion or otherwise, if:

- (a) the expert's scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will help the trier of fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue;
- (b) the testimony is based on sufficient facts or data;
- (c) the testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and,

¹ Motions *in Limine* and *Daubert* Motions are not limited to jury trial cases. The American Bar Association (ABA) Litigation and Trial Practice Committee notes such motions may be filed in advance of bench trials. Since judges are considered "sufficiently sophisticated to disregard evidence," the trial judge may reserve ruling on the Motion until the end of the trial. (Bench Trials. Litigation and Trial Practice. Spring 2021, page 12 of 18).

(d) the expert has reliably applied the principles and methods to the facts of the case.

In the case at bar, Dr. Scheller lacks specialized knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education that assists the Court with the global analysis of non-accidental trauma. While he has education and, training, and experience in pediatric neurology, he has no special expertise or training in accidental head trauma (AHT) or non-accidental trauma. From his extremely limited opinion provided in the disclosure statements, there is no indication he consulted pediatric specialists, let alone consult with those who treated the minor at issue in this case. Further there is no information to determine if the testimony would be based on sufficient facts or data, that it would be the product of reliable principles and methods, and certainly not that the expert has reliably applied the principles and methods to the facts of this case.

At best, Dr. Scheller contradicts the Phoenix Children's Hospital pediatric neuroradiologist and the Division Chief of the Child Protection Team, and proffers alternate hypotheses, which have not been reviewed by peers. It is questionable how Dr. Scheller can assist the court beyond a contrary interpretation of medical notes and scans from Phoenix Children's Hospital. Dr. Scheller's opinions appear based on unfounded speculation. No scientific studies have been provided to support his claims. His proposed testimony is irrelevant to the scientific determination of any issues in this case.

The Comment to the Rule explains (with emphasis added):

The 2012 amendment of Rule 702 adopts Federal Rule of Evidence 702, as restyled. The amendment recognizes that trial courts should serve as gatekeepers in assuring that proposed expert testimony is

reliable and thus helpful to the jury's determination of facts at issue. The amendment is not intended to supplant traditional jury determinations of credibility and the weight to be afforded otherwise admissible testimony, nor is the amendment intended to permit a challenge to the testimony of every expert, preclude the testimony of experience-based experts, or prohibit testimony based on competing methodologies within a field of expertise. The trial court's gatekeeping function is not intended to replace the adversary system. Cross-examination, presentation of contrary evidence, and careful instruction on the burden of proof are the traditional and appropriate means of attacking shaky but admissible evidence.

A trial court's ruling finding an expert's testimony reliable does not necessarily mean that contradictory expert testimony is not reliable. The amendment is broad enough to permit testimony that is the product of competing principles or methods in the same field of expertise. Where there is contradictory, but *reliable*, expert testimony, it is the province of the jury to determine the weight and credibility of the testimony.

"The Arizona Supreme Court amended Rule 702 on September 8, 2011, effective January 1, 2012, to 'adopt[] Federal Rule of Evidence 702, as restyled' and to reflect the principles set forth in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*, Inc., 509 U.S. 579, 113 S.Ct. 2786, 125 L.Ed.2d 469 (1993). Ariz. R. Evid. 702 cmt; Ariz. Sup.Ct. Order No. R–10–0035 (Sept. 8, 2011). Therefore, Arizona will consider federal court decisions interpreting the federal rule as persuasive authority. *Ariz. State Hosp. v. Klein*, 231 Ariz. 467, ¶ 26, 296 P.3d 1003, 1009 (App.2013)." (*State v. Delgado*, 232 Ariz. 182303 P.3d 76 (Ariz.App. 2013)).

In Lohmeier v. Hammer 214 Ariz. 57, (App. Div. 1 2006), the Court stated:

"To determine whether a witness qualifies as an expert, a trial court must decide whether the proffered expert's testimony will assist the

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jury on a particular topic." *Bliss v. Treece*, 134 Ariz. 516, 518–19, 658 P.2d 169, 171–72 (1983). Such a determination is relative, "depending on the particular subject and the particular witness with reference to that subject, and is not fixed or limited to any class of persons acting professionally [.]" *Id.* at 519, 658 P.2d at 172 (quoting 7 Wigmore, Evidence § 1923 at 29 (Chadbourn rev.1978)).

In Lay v. City of Mesa (App. 1991) 168 Ariz. 552 (App. 1991), the Court found the proposed witness not to be an expert and commented (with emphasis added):

Whether a witness is competent to testify as an expert is within the trial court's discretion. (Englehart v. Jeep Corp., 122 Ariz. 256, 258, 594 P.2d 510, 512 (1979); *Pincock*, 146 Ariz. at 95, 703 P.2d at 1244). The court must determine whether the witness' expertise is applicable to the subject about which he intends to testify, and specifically whether the witness' training and experience qualify him to render opinions which will be useful to the trier of fact. (Englehart, 122 Ariz. at 258, 594 P.2d at 512). An expert may be qualified to testify on the basis of actual experience or careful study. (Godwin v. Farmers Ins. Co. of America, 129 Ariz. 416, 420, 631 P.2d 571, 575 (App. 1981)). It is not necessary that the expert "have the highest possible qualifications or highest degree of skill or knowledge ..." to testify. (Good v. City of Glendale, 150 Ariz. 218, 220, 722 P.2d 386, 388 (App.1986)). The trial court did not abuse its discretion in excluding Sloan's testimony. Sloan supervised those responsible for determining the placement of stop signs and stop bars, but he did not make the actual decisions, and most significantly, he was not familiar with the standards the City followed. [emphasis added] The refusal to admit the testimony was not an error.

In the case at bar, the relevant issue is whether the child suffered Non Accidental Trauma, especially considering the constellation of injuries. While Dr. Scheller may have experience in pediatric neurology and is able to offer an interpretation of that part of the medical record, he has no special training or experience in diagnosing and treatment of

case, whose sole responsibility is to advocate for the children's best interests. Both The Department and the Guardian ad Litem have advocated for the children's best interests and believe that remaining in the current placement and being adopted by the foster parents is best for them.

A Court should deny a motion to intervene if, upon examining the *Bechtel* factors, a Court finds that "the party opposing intervention has made a sufficient showing that intervention in not in the child's best interest." *Allen v. Chon-Lopez*, 214 Ariz. 361, 365, 153 P.3d 382, 386 (App.2007). While the Court in *Bechtel* did emphasize the importance of familial relations; however, the Court said the guiding rule is that the best interest of the child should govern. *Bechtel*, 150 Ariz. at 72, 722 P.2d at 240. In this particular case, intervention would not be in the children's best interests at this point in the case. Here, the Court should not grant the Motion because examination of the *Bechtel* factors indicates that doing so would not be in the children's best interests.

First, *The nature and extent of the intervenor's interest*: The paternal grandmother wishes to be considered as placement for the children and wishes to adopt the children. The Department afforded paternal grandmother the opportunity to be placement for the child Jose back in April of 2018 and the grandmother declined at that time. The Department first learned of the grandmother's interest in becoming placement in October of 2019 and did complete an investigation including a home study through ICPC in California and has provided visitation with the children.

Second, The legal position the intervenor seeks to advance, and its probable relation to the merits of the case: Paternal grandmother seeks to become placement for the children. Paternal grandmother failed to articulate any legal position that is not

advanced by a preexisting party to this dependency. The Department, the children's Guardian ad Litem, and the Court are all acting in the children's best interests. The Court does consider relatives when determining which placement would be in the best interests of the children and joining paternal grandmother as a party to this action is not necessary for the Court to complete this analysis.

Third, Whether the intervenor's interests are adequately represented by the other parties: Both DCS and the children's Guardian ad Litem are actively advocating for the children's best interests. Any concerns that paternal grandmother may have regarding the children can be appropriately addressed through the Guardian ad Litem who is charged with the duty of advocating for the children's best interests. The paternal grandmother also has the additional opportunity to participate in court proceedings under A.R.S § 8-847(B)(6) and does not need to be joined as a party in order to participate in court hearings.

Fourth, Whether changes have occurred in the litigation so that intervention that was once denied should be reexamined: Paternal grandmother argued that the change in circumstances is based on a third child being born that has been placed with her. The fact that this third child is with the paternal grandmother does not change her position in her request to intervene in this action. This third child that is mentioned is not a child under this Court's jurisdiction and has never lived with or had a significant relationship with the two children in this case. The Department argues that it is in the best interests of these children and in the interests of providing them with permanency that the paternal grandmother's request for intervention again be denied.

Fifth, Whether parties seeking intervention will significantly contribute to the full development of the underlying factual issues in the suit and to the just and equitable adjudication of the legal questions presented: Paternal grandmother intervening in this case will not significantly contribute to the full development of underlying factual issues. The current parties are able to adequately develop the facts of the case and equitable adjudication of the legal questions presented on the children's behalf. Paternal grandmother can contribute to the factual development of this case as a participant, intervention is not necessary. No benefit will be gained from paternal grandmother becoming a party. The Court is aware of the existence of the paternal grandmother as a potential relative placement and can make placement and adoption decisions without allowing her to intervene and become a party to this action.

Sixth, Whether intervention will prolong or unduly delay the litigation: The addition of yet another party will only create unnecessary litigation and delay. Paternal grandmother has known that these children have been in care since the beginning of this case and becoming involved and requesting to intervene at this late stage has in fact prolonged and/or unduly delayed the litigation. Paternal grandmother first filed her Motion to Intervene in October of 2019. Paternal grandmother then later filed a second Motion to Intervene and has requested continuances of the hearing on the Motion on multiple occasions causing further delay to the permanency of these children. But for the grandmother's late attempt to intervene in this case the children would have already been adopted by their current placement.

The *Bechtel* factors do not weigh in favor of the paternal grandmother. The nature and extent of her interest is minimal. The children are currently in a foster placement and

have been in that placement since their respective births. The paternal grandmother only came forward and made this request for intervention after parental rights for Child 1 were already terminated and Child 2's termination was pending. DCS has allowed paternal grandmother to have visitation with the children. DCS completed the ICPC process through California which approved grandmother as an appropriate placement. Allowing an additional party to intervene would no doubt cause undue delay in this matter as delay has already been shown since the paternal grandmother first appeared in October of 2019.

The child 1 has been in care since January 2018 and Child 2 has been in care since December of 2018. Both children have resided together in their current placement since coming into care. Adoption Petitions have been filed for both children. The only unresolved issue delaying the adoption of these children is for this Court to determine the best placement for the children. The children are very bonded to the current placement as was confirmed by the bonding and best interest assessment completed in this case. Dr. Mastikian opined in his assessment that it would be harmful to remove these children from their placement at this point in time. Dr. Prieto also testified as to the potential harm including long term effects on future relationships the children will have if they are removed from the only home they have known since their respective births.

The paternal grandmother knew about the dependency at least as early as April 5, 2018 when she attended both a visit with Child 1 and a court hearing. Although the paternal grandmother denies it now, she told DCS Case Specialist Villarreal that she was not interested in being placement due to her age. Specialist Villarreal testified that she provided the paternal grandmother information to contact her if she changed her mind about being placement or if she was interested in attending any future visits with Child 1.

The paternal grandmother failed to reach out to DCS at any point until October of 2019, after parental rights to Jose had already been terminated and termination was pending for Child 2. The paternal grandmother testified that she wants to be placement for these children now and that she has no concerns about caring for three children under the age of three. Although there is no discrimination or specific disqualification due to the age of a prospective placement, it is unreasonable to have no concerns for the ability of 64 year old grandmother to care long term for three children under the age of three.

The Department considered the paternal grandmother as a placement in 2018 and she declined. DCS further asked the parents, who know their family best, if there were potential relative placements and the parents never provided paternal grandmother as an option after the contact in April 2018. This Court asked about relatives at multiple court hearings in the presence of the parents about potential relative placements and no names were ever provided. In fact, the parents appeared in court at least 16 times in addition to the April 2018 hearing, over the course of these dependency cases and not once did they suggest paternal grandmother. DCS offered the paternal grandmother visitation with the children. Paternal grandmother argued at the hearing that these visits were "transitional visits", but as DCS Case Specialist Karina Miranda clarified, these were visits to form a relationship with the grandmother because she had never met Child 2 and had only attended one visit with Child 1 in April of 2018. DCS initiated a referral for an ICPC evaluation to determine if paternal grandmother's home would be appropriate for placement. DCS agrees that the result of the ICPC approves paternal grandmother's home as a potential appropriate placement. However, DCS does not believe that it would be in the children's best interest to place them with paternal grandmother at this time. The

WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION

IEliza Johnson hereby authorize the committees of Arizona, all bar associations, references, employers, credit reporting business and professional associations, and all government agency State of Arizona, Office of the Governor any information requested Arizona, Office of the Governor in connection with the processing consideration as a candidate for judicial office. I understand that the applied and all responses provided in Section I of the application and the information provided may be verified and is subject to publication.	ng agencies, sies to release to the I by the State of of my request for he fact that I have he not confidential
Upon submission of this application to the State of Arizona, Office expressly consent to the release of my name and the contents of Sapplication to the public. Furthermore, I waive the benefits of any regulation prescribing confidentiality of records or information that Section I. I understand that it may become public record.	Section I of this statute, rule, or
All of the statements made in this application are true and correct to knowledge, and submission expresses my willingness to accept applied position for which I have applied, should I be selected by the State of Arizona.	pointment to the
Good Admin	8/12/2022
(Signature)	8/12/2022 (Date)
(Signature)	CASSA MAIN COMPANIES CONTRACTOR
	CASSA MAIN COMPANIES CONTRACTOR
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	CASSA MAIN COMPANIES CONTRACTOR

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