

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE VOLUSIA COUNTY COURT

Instructions: Respond fully to the questions asked below. Please make all efforts to include your full answer to each question in this document. You may attach additional pages, as necessary, however it is discouraged. In addition to the application, you must provide a recent color photograph to help identify yourself.

Full Name: JOHN LORAN KIEL, JR. Social Security No.: [REDACTED]

Florida Bar No.: 172588 Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: 9/15/1999

1. Please state your current employer and title, including any professional position and any public or judicial office you hold, your business address and telephone number.

*Selis Law Firm, Senior Associate, 1024 North U.S. Highway 1, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174.
(904) 267-1560 ext. 1006.*

2. Please state your current residential address, including city, county, and zip code. Indicate how long you have resided at this location and how long you have lived in Florida. Additionally, please provide a telephone number where you can be reached (preferably a cell phone number), and your preferred email address.

[REDACTED] *I have resided at this location for 5 years and I was born and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida. Excluding college and military service, I have lived in Florida for 29 years.* [REDACTED]

3. State your birth date and place of birth. [REDACTED] *Daytona Beach, Florida.*
4. Are you a registered voter in Florida (Y/N)? *Yes.*
5. Please list all courts (including state bar admissions) and administrative bodies having special admissions requirements to which you have ever been admitted to practice, giving the dates of admission, and if applicable, state whether you have ever been suspended or resigned. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

1. *The Supreme Court of Florida (September 15, 1999).*
 2. *The United States Supreme Court (March 3, 2008).*
 3. *The U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals (March 3, 2008).*
 4. *The Court of Appeals for the U.S. Armed Forces (May 2019).*
 5. *The U.S. Southern District Court of Florida (January 3, 2023).*
- I have never been suspended or resigned from any of these courts.*

6. Have you ever been known by any aliases? If so, please indicate and when you were known by such alias. *No.*

EDUCATION:

7. List in reverse chronological order each secondary school, college, university, law school or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, the date the degree was received, class standing, and graduating GPA (if your class standing or graduating GPA is unknown, please request the same from such school).

1. *The United States Army Command & General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. No degree conferred, GPA 3.85.*
2. *The United States Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, Virginia. Master of Law Letters (LL.M) with a Specialty in Civil & Administrative Law, May 22, 2008. GPA 3.64.*
3. *The Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, Florida. Juris Doctorate Degree (J.D.) May 8, 1999. GPA 77, Standing 154/203*
4. *Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) in Political Science. April 25, 1996. GPA 3.72.*
5. *Daytona Beach Community College, Associate of Arts Degree (A.A.). GPA 3.62.*

8. List and describe any organizations, clubs, fraternities or sororities, and extracurricular activities you engaged in during your higher education. For each, list any positions or titles you held and the dates of participation.

1. *The Florida State University College of Law, Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law. Associate Editor, 1997-1999.*
2. *The Florida State University College of Law, Journal of Transnational Law & Policy. Articles & Notes Editor, 1997-1999.*
3. *The National Political Science Honor Society (Pi Sigma Alpha), Inducted April 1996.*
4. *The Brigham Young University Political Affairs Society, Pi Sigma Alpha Betu Mu Chapter, 1995 – 1996.*

EMPLOYMENT:

9. List in reverse chronological order all full-time jobs or employment (including internships and clerkships) you have held since the age of 21. Include the name and address of the employer, job title(s) and dates of employment. For non-legal employment, please briefly describe the position and provide a business address and telephone number.

1. *Selis Law Firm, 1024 North U.S. Highway 1, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174, Senior Associate. August 4, 2025 – Current.*

2. *Hertel Legal, PLLC, 140 South Atlantic Avenue, Suite 201, Ormond Beach, FL 32176, Senior Litigation Associate. August 21, 2023 – May 2025.*
3. *Cverko & Associates, PA, 13500 Sutton Park Drive South, Jacksonville, FL 32224, Senior Associate. January 2, 2023 – March 21, 2023.*
4. *New Smyrna Beach Chevrolet, 2375 State Road 44, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168. Telephone (386) 427-1313. Certified Corvette Sales Consult. Post Army Retirement, COVID job. July 2020 – August 10, 2023.*
5. *Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army), National Security Law Division, 2200 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310. Branch Chief, Domestic Operations Branch. July 2019 – July 2020.*
6. *The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School, 600 Massie Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903, Chair & Professor, Criminal Law Department. July 2017 – July 2019.*
7. *Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, I Corps & Joint Base Lewis – McChord, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate. July 2015 – July 2017.*
8. *Office of the Judge Advocate General, Criminal Law Division, 2200 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Policy Branch Chief, Military Justice. July 2013 – July 2015.*
9. *Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate. July 2011 – July 2013.*
10. *3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC (combat deployment to Baghdad, Iraq), Brigade Judge Advocate. October 2008 – June 2010.*
11. *1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC (combat deployment to Talil, Iraq), Brigade Judge Advocate. June 2008 – October 2008.*
12. *United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, Department of Law, Assistant Professor of Constitutional Law & Military Justice. June 2005 – May 2007.*
13. *U.S. Army Trial Defense Service, Vilseck, Germany, Trial Defense Counsel. July 2003 – July 2005.*
14. *XVIII Airborne Corps & Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg, NC, Deputy, Legal Assistance Division. November 2002 – June 2003.*
15. *Combined Joint Task Force 180, Bagram, Afghanistan, Operational & International Law Attorney, Chief Task Force Prosecutor. March 2002 – November 2002.*
16. *XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC, Trial Counsel (Prosecutor). June 2001 – March 2002.*
17. *XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC, Tort Claims Attorney. November 1999 – June 2001.*
18. *Florida Attorney General's Office, PL-01, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399, Externship with the Employment Litigation Division. August 1999 – December 1999.*
19. *Florida Attorney General's Office, PL-01, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399, Internship and paid position with the Torts Litigation Division. July 1997 – October 1999.*
20. *Brigham Young University, D155 ASB, Provo, UT, Teaching Assistant, American Heritage Course, Political Science Department. August 1994 – May 1996.*
21. *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Missionary Training Center, 2005 North 900 East, Provo, UT, Instructor and Small Group Leader. January 1994 – August 1994.*

22. *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Portland Oregon Mission, Portland, OR, Full-time Missionary. October 1991 – November 1993.*

10. Describe the general nature of your current practice including any certifications which you possess; additionally, if your practice is substantially different from your prior practice or if you are not now practicing law, give details of prior practice. Describe your typical clients or former clients and the problems for which they sought your services.

My current practice consists of estate planning, probate and trust administration. At Hertel Legal, our firm handled adversarial proceedings pertaining to probate and trust administration. I decided that I wanted some experience in probate administration and estate planning as it is a huge industry in Florida and very practical. Instead of litigating issues pertaining to incapacity, undue influence, fraud, etc. now I prepare estate planning documents for clients and help them through the probate and trust administration process. This is also an area most new judges have little to no experience in, so I thought it would be invaluable to gain this experience.

My previous practice was as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army where I practiced for 21 years before retiring in the rank of Colonel. I gained extensive leadership and supervisory experience particularly as I became more senior in rank. I managed law offices of over 100 personnel on more than one occasion, including military and civilian lawyers and paralegals. I advised General Officers on a regular basis providing them full spectrum legal support exactly as a General Counsel would do for a large corporation. I specialized in military justice my entire Army career serving as a prosecutor, senior prosecutor, trial defense counsel, Professor of Military Justice, Chair of the Criminal Law Department at the U.S. Army JAG School, and ultimately as The Judge Advocate General's primary legal advisor on military justice policy. I also have extensive experience in international law, operational law, administrative law, tort claims, and legal assistance. My typical clients as a young Judge Advocate were Soldiers, civilians, and retirees, and junior commanders. As I became senior in rank, my clients were General Officers, senior civilian GS employees, and Political Appointees of the President.

11. What percentage of your appearance in court in the last five years or in the last five years of practice (include the dates) was:

	Court		Area of Practice	
Federal Appellate	_____	%	Civil	_____ %
Federal Trial	_____	%	Criminal	_____ %
Federal Other	_____	%	Family	_____ %
State Appellate	_____	%	Probate	30 %
State Trial	_____	%	Other	70 %
State Administrative	_____	%		

State Other _____ %

TOTAL _____ 100 %

TOTAL _____ 100 %

If your appearance in court the last five years is substantially different from your prior practice, please provide a brief explanation:

My appearance in court since retiring from the Army was primarily in county and circuit court, pertaining to general civil litigation. When I practiced in the Army, my appearance in court was before special or general courts-martial and adverse administrative proceedings and various boards of inquiry either as a prosecutor or trial defense counsel. So I have experience practicing criminal law in courts-martial proceedings using the federal rules of evidence and rules for court-martial vs. civil litigation here in Florida using the Florida rules of evidence and civil procedure rules.

12. In your lifetime, how many (number) of the cases that you tried to verdict, judgment, or final decision were:

Jury?	_____ 14 _____	Non-jury?	_____ 24 _____
Arbitration?	_____	Administrative Bodies?	_____ 40 _____
Appellate?	_____		

13. Please list every case that you have argued (or substantially participated) in front of the United States Supreme Court, a United States Circuit Court, the Florida Supreme Court, or a Florida District Court of Appeal, providing the case name, jurisdiction, case number, date of argument, and the name(s), e-mail address(es), and telephone number(s) for opposing appellate counsel. If there is a published opinion, please also include that citation. *N/A.*

14. Within the last ten years, have you ever been formally reprimanded, sanctioned, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, or terminated by an employer or tribunal before which you have appeared? If so, please state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the date(s) such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action. *No.*

15. In the last ten years, have you failed to meet any deadline imposed by court order or received notice that you have not complied with substantive requirements of any business or contractual arrangement? If so, please explain full. *No.*

16. For your last six cases, which were tried to verdict or handled on appeal, either before a jury, judge, appellate panel, arbitration panel or any other administrative hearing officer, list the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the trial/appellate counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases). *This question is optional for sitting judges who have served five years or more.*

1. *United States v. Sergeant Thomas Tharrington (Case No. unavailable), Military Judge Colonel Stephanie Browne, Trial Counsel, Captain Matt Brown, Assistant Defense Counsel Colonel Patrick Lee Cummings, Cmcplc@aol.com, Defense Counsel John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006.*
2. *United States v. Private Eric Winding (Case No. unavailable), Military Judge, Colonel James Pohl; Trial Counsel Captain Angela Crisp Sardelli, Alcrispy36@gmail.com, (520) 390-2611; Trial Defense Counsel John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com, (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006.*
3. *United States v. Specialist Christina Nettles (Case No. unavailable), Military Judge, Colonel Patrick Parrish; Trial Counsel, John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com, (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006; Trial Defense Counsel Major Jennifer McGee, contact information unknown.*
4. *United States v. Specialist Jonathan R. Zak, Case No. Army 20050051, 65 M.J. 786, 2007 CCA Lexis 419. Military Judge, Lieutenant Colonel Robin Hall; Prosecutor (reservist, unknown). Trial Defense Counsel John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com, (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006.*
5. *United States v. Specialist Donald Gentry, Military Judge, Lieutenant Colonel Robin Hall; Prosecutor, Jennifer Brewer, jenbrewer73@gmail.com, (206) 743-7871. Trial Defense Counsel John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com, (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006.*
6. *Edward Baker v. Tree Kings Florida, LLC and Timothy J. Conner as Personal Representative of the Estate of Austin Jeremy Montgomery, Case No. 64-2021-31165, Ronald Hertel, ron@hertellegal.com, (386-238-9899) and John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com, (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006, Attorneys for Plaintiff; Thomas Kevin Knight, kknight@dsklawgroup.com (407)422-2454, Attorney for Timothy J. Conner, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Austin Jeremy Montgomery; Gregory J. Willis gregory.willis@csklegal.com (954) 343-3949, and Scott A. Shelton scott.shelton@csklegal.com (954) 343-3949), Attorneys for Tree Kings Florida LLC.*

17. For your last six cases, which were either settled in mediation or settled without mediation or trial, list the names and telephone numbers of trial counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases). *This question is optional for sitting judges who have served five years or more.*

1. *Case Number 2023-CA-000926, Flagler County Circuit Court. Attorney Eric Sloan (386) 760-3232, Plaintiff's counsel. Attorney John Kiel (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006, Defendant's counsel.*
2. *Case Number 2022-30977-CICI, Volusia County Circuit Court. Attorney Eric Sloan (386) 760-3232, Defendant's counsel. Attorney John Kiel (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006, and Attorney Ron Hertel (386) 238-9899, Plaintiff's counsel.*

3. *Case Number 2024-CC-13624-O, Orange County Court. Attorney Coralys Pagan (321) 221-5759, Plaintiff's counsel. Attorney John Kiel (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006, Defendant's counsel.*
4. *Case Number 2023-12102-CIDL, Volusia County Circuit Court. Attorney Michael Lyons (386) 427-5227, Defendant's counsel. Attorney John Kiel (904) 267-1560, ext. 1006, Plaintiff's counsel.*
5. *Case Number 2024-13177-CICI, Volusia County Circuit Court. Attorney Barry Kalmanson (407) 645-4500 ext. 215, Plaintiff's counsel. Attorney John Kiel (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006, Defendant's counsel.*
6. *All Temporaries Florida, LLC v. Home Health Care of Florida, LLC. Settled before filing. Attorney Taylor Huston (317) 514-5985, Defendant's counsel. Attorney John Kiel (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006, Plaintiff's counsel.*

- 18.** During the last five years, on average, how many times per month have you appeared in Court or at administrative hearings? If during any period you have appeared in court with greater frequency than during the last five years, indicate the period during which you appeared with greater frequency and succinctly explain.

I retired from the United States Army in 2020 after serving 21 years on active duty as a Judge Advocate. I took some time off from practicing law after retiring early as it was during COVID and our daughter had been diagnosed and was being treated for Hodgkins Lymphoma. For the time I was practicing at Hertel Legal, on average, I would say I was in court and mediations every two to three months for hearings and or trials, but mostly hearings.

When I was an Army prosecutor, I had a jury trial or bench trial once per month on average in addition to hearings multiple times per month. I also prosecuted cases before administrative boards on average once every other month. After my 15-month tour as a prosecutor was over, I became a Trial Defense Counsel in Germany for 2 years. On average, I tried one case per month either jury or bench trial, in addition to hearings which averaged a few times per month. I also appeared at least every other month before administrative boards and hearings.

- 19.** If Questions 16, 17, and 18 do not apply to your practice, please list your last six major transactions or other legal matters that were resolved, listing the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the other party counsel. *N/A.*
- 20.** During the last five years, if your practice was greater than 50% personal injury, workers' compensation or professional malpractice, what percentage of your work was in representation of plaintiffs or defendants? *N/A.*
- 21.** List and describe the five most significant cases which you personally litigated giving the case style, number, court and judge, the date of the case, the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the other attorneys involved, and citation to reported decisions, if any. Identify your client and describe the nature of your participation in the case and the reason you believe it to be significant.

1. *United States v. Specialist Christina Nettles* (Case No. unavailable), Military Judge Colonel Patrick Parrish, Trial Counsel, John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006, Trial Defense Counsel Major Jennifer McGee (information unavailable). This was my very first jury trial as a first chair prosecutor. The case is significant to me because the Army was prosecuting a drug ring embedded in the XVIII Airborne and 82nd Airborne Division Military Police Groups. These cases all had significant media coverage from print and television outlets. Mine was the most difficult of the cases as it involved a pretty blonde 19 year old female Specialist who was a member of the drug suppression team of the Army Criminal Investigation Division. She was accused of using and distributing drugs herself. Everyone thought that this was a slam dunk case for the Defense given the lack of evidence and how young and untrained Specialist Nettles was. I tried this case over the course of two days and the jury deliberated for over 7 hours. I was dumped into the deep end on a high visibility case and learned the value of busting my butt on every aspect of this case. I also learned humility early on understanding that you can't control what a jury does as they ended up acquitting her. The military judge presiding over the case sent a kind note to my bosses telling them that I was the most skillful and talented prosecutor who had ever tried a case in front of him and this was very my first court-martial.
2. *United States v. Sergeant Thomas Tharrington* (Case No. unavailable), Military Judge Colonel Stephanie Browne, Trial Counsel, Captain Matt Brown (information unavailable), Assistant Defense Counsel Colonel Patrick Lee Cummings, Cmcplc@aol.com (781) 760-3446, Defense Counsel John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006. This case was significant because it was my first contested rape case in front of a jury. Sergeant Tharrington was accused by the alleged victim of rape, sodomy, and assault along with some lesser included charges. I learned the value of being crafty and persistent when it comes to investigating a case as a defense counsel. My co-counsel and I kept unearthing evidence up until the trial. The cards were stacked against us as the Government had marshalled all of the resources it had available to prosecute the case, including replacing the original prosecutor who was a national guardsman with a prosecutor who was a Harvard Law graduate and Assistant United States Attorney. After nearly 3 hours of deliberation, the jury acquitted Sergeant Tharrington of all charges and lesser included offenses.
3. *United States v. Sergeant James Pousard* (Case No. unavailable), Military Judge Colonel James Pohl, Trial Counsel Captain Douglas Moore, contact information unknown, Trial Defense Counsel John Kiel, Jr., john.kiel@selislaw.com (904) 267-1560 ext. 1006. This case was significant as it garnered local and national media attention at the time. Sergeant Pousard accidentally shot and killed his good friend in Iraq during a deployment after field stripping his pistol to fix a malfunction. He conducted a partial functions check on the pistol and then pulled the trigger which resulted in his friend being shot through the chest and dying almost immediately. I learned of talking to every witness on both sides of the case. The prosecutor listed the mother of the deceased as their primary witness but failed to talk to her until the morning of trial. I had already spoken to her on the phone and as soon as she landed in Germany, she came to my office to meet Sergeant Pousard and his family. It was an extremely emotional meeting and the victim's mother agreed to ask the judge to go light on his sentence. During my cross examination, she asked the judge to do both and voiced her

displeasure with how the government handled the investigation of her son's death and how it failed to communicate with her or her family until the morning of trial. The judge sentenced Sergeant Pousard to one year in confinement and a bad conduct discharge instead of the dishonorable discharge and 3 years in confinement that the government asked for all because of my due diligence in getting to this broken-hearted mother first.

4. *Most of my cases as a prosecutor and defense counsel in the Army are about the same as the cases I have already provided. I would not define most of those as any more significant than the others. However, I was also in the position of working on some extremely high profile cases with national media attention as a prosecutor and senior legal advisor to commanders. For instance, I headed up, along with the Army Criminal Investigation Division, an investigation into the death of two deaf Iraqi teen brothers. A Soldier in our brigade from a previous deployment to Iraq had reportedly shot and killed the two brothers for no reason. His fellow Soldiers reported him before they left the Army. I had to spear head an investigation into what happened while we were in Iraq and after we left Iraq we still had to come back to that area which was now under the complete control of ISIS to speak with the family about exhuming the bodies in preparation of court-martialing this Soldier. I drafted up charges against Staff Sergeant Barbera and forwarded them to my commander for signature who forwarded them to the Division Commander with a recommendation to prosecute. The 82nd Airborne Division commander decided not to refer the charges to a general court-martial which led to a media blitz about the war crimes allegations against SSG Barbera and other members of his small kill team. Eventually, the Army appointed a 2 Star General to conduct a formal 15-6 investigation into why the command did not prefer charges. Because I drafted and had my commander sign and forward charges to the Division commander with a request to prosecute, my commander was cleared of any wrongdoing. The case eventually proceeded to trial out at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The significance of this case was to demonstrate that it is always important to do the right thing and to give the hard legal advice even when it wasn't popular. That decision ended up saving my commander's career. He was a Colonel at the time and ended up retiring as a 3 Star General.*

5. *The other high profile case that I was involved in was United States v. Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl. Sergeant Bergdahl was accused of deserting from his unit and was captured by the Taliban almost immediately. President Obama initiated a hostage exchange with the Taliban that ultimately freed Sergeant Bergdahl from five years in captivity. The Army prosecuted Sergeant Bergdahl for desertion. I became the legal advisor during the Article 32 investigative hearing to the Brigadier General who conducted the formal 15-6 investigation in Iraq. The Investigating Officer came to the conclusion that Sergeant Bergdahl hadn't deserted his post to give up, he left his post in order to draw attention to himself so that he could get a sit down meeting with his brigade commander on another combat outpost. Bergdahl was concerned that his platoon leadership was inept and was going to get more of his fellow Soldier's killed. Needless to say, this narrative did not fit the narrative floating around in the media and one that President Trump later posited. This case was significant because I had to advise the Investigating Officer on how to handle national media. What to say and not say and to give him the courage and confidence to render his opinion in front of the national media about what he thought had happened and his recommendation against*

court-martialing Sergeant Bergdahl for desertion. This in turn gave me the confidence as a young Lieutenant Colonel to help sway a General Officer to do the right thing regardless of the tremendous pressure to modify his testimony and recommendations.

22. Attach at least two, but no more than three, examples of legal writing which you personally wrote. If you have not personally written any legal documents recently, you may attach a writing sample for which you had substantial responsibility. Please describe your degree of involvement in preparing the writing you attached.

1. *The first attachment is a memorandum of law I prepared in response to a motion filed by the opposing party in the action. I am the author of the memorandum.*
2. *The second attachment is a law review article I wrote about an issue I was working on with the majority and minority counsel of the Senate Armed Services Committee pertaining to unlawful command influence in the military. I am the sole author.*

PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE OR PUBLIC OFFICE

23. Have you ever held judicial office or been a candidate for judicial office? If so, state the court(s) involved, the dates of service or dates of candidacy, and any election results. *No.*

24. If you have previously submitted a questionnaire or application to this or any other judicial nominating commission, please give the name(s) of the commission, the approximate date(s) of each submission, and indicate if your name was certified to the Governor's Office for consideration. *N/A.*

25. List any prior quasi-judicial service, including the agency or entity, dates of service, position(s) held, and a brief description of the issues you heard. *N/A.*

26. If you have prior judicial or quasi-judicial experience, please list the following information:

- (i) the names, phone numbers and addresses of six attorneys who appeared before you on matters of substance;
- (ii) the approximate number and nature of the cases you handled during your tenure;
- (iii) the citations of any published opinions; and
- (iv) descriptions of the five most significant cases you have tried or heard, identifying the citation or style, attorneys involved, dates of the case, and the reason you believe these cases to be significant. *N/A.*

27. Provide citations and a brief summary of all of your orders or opinions where your decision was reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, attach copies of the opinions. *N/A.*

28. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, attach copies of the opinions. *N/A.*
29. Has a complaint about you ever been made to the Judicial Qualifications Commission? If so, give the date, describe the complaint, whether or not there was a finding of probable cause, whether or not you have appeared before the Commission, and its resolution. *No.*
30. Have you ever held an attorney in contempt? If so, for each instance state the name of the attorney, case style for the matter in question, approximate date and describe the circumstances. *No.*
31. Have you ever held or been a candidate for any other public office? If so, state the office, location, dates of service or candidacy, and any election results. *No.*

NON-LEGAL BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT

32. If you are now an officer, director, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties, and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment or election to judicial office. *N/A.*
33. Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law? If so, explain and provide dates. If you received any compensation of any kind outside the practice of law during this time, please list the amount of compensation received.

After retiring from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in July of 2020, I took a post-retirement COVID job with my brother who owns New Smyrna Beach Chevrolet. I was a certified corvette sales consultant for the time I worked for him. I made on average \$170,000 per year in this position.

POSSIBLE BIAS OR PREJUDICE

34. The Commission is interested in knowing if there are certain types of cases, groups of entities, or extended relationships or associations which would limit the cases for which you could sit as the presiding judge. Please list all types or classifications of cases or litigants for which you, as a general proposition, believe it would be difficult for you to sit as the presiding judge. Indicate the reason for each situation as to why you believe you might be in conflict. If you have prior judicial experience, describe the types of cases from which you have recused yourself. *None.*

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

35. List the titles, publishers, and dates of any books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published materials you have written or edited, including materials published only on the Internet. Attach a copy of each listed or provide a URL at which a copy can be accessed.

1. "The Military Lending Act May Not Let Service Members Protect Against Mayhem", *Air Force JAG Reporter*, July 2022.
<https://www.jagreporter.af.mil/Portals/88/2020%20Articles/Documents/20200722%20Kiel-MLA.pdf?ver=bRLnGRqg-vwjs9FDJlcyrw%3D%3D>
2. "So You're Telling Me There's a Chance: Why Congress Should Seize the Opportunity to Reform Article 37, UCMJ", *Military Law Review*, February 2019.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3462743
3. "From the Frying Pan Into the Fire: The Story of Captain Jim Bowdish and His Defense of SSG David Mitchell, the First American Soldier Tried for Murder at My Lai", *The Army Lawyer*, March 2018.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3291680
4. "They Came in Like a Wrecking Ball: Recent Trends at CAAF in Dealing with Apparent UCI", *The Army Lawyer*, March 2018.
<https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/armylaw2018&div=8&id=&page=>
5. "Not Your Momma's 32: Explaining the Impetus for Change Behind Key Provisions of the Article 32 Preliminary Hearing", *The Army Lawyer*, July 2016.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3291700
6. "War Crimes in the American Revolution: Examining the Conduct of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and the British Legion During the Southern Campaigns of 1780-1781", *The Military Law Review*, Fall Ed. 2012.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3291696
7. "Crossing the Line: Reconciling the Right to Picket Military Funerals with the 1st Amendment", *The Military Law Review*, Winter Ed. 2008.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3291692
8. "When Soldier's Speak Out: A Survey of Provisions Limiting Freedom of Speech in the Military", *Parameters*, U.S. Army War College Journal, Autumn Ed. 2007.
<https://press.armywarcollege.edu/parameters/vol37/iss3/20/>
9. "Criminal Law Desk Book", Criminal Law Department, The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School, Charlottesville, VA 2019.
https://tjaglcs.army.mil/Portals/0/Publications/Deskbooks%20and%20Handbooks/Criminal%20Law%20Deskbook%202019.pdf?ver=A8BGnflFb6t9m_dizYd5rA%3d%3d
10. "Criminal Law Desk Book", Criminal Law Department, The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School, Charlottesville, VA 2018.
<https://tjaglcs.army.mil/Portals/0/Publications/Deskbooks%20and%20Handbooks/Criminal%20Law%20Deskbook%202018.pdf?ver=NGwffj2Oyzwc3-pSMzGpCAQ%3d%3d>
11. "Commander's Legal Guide to Military Justice", The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School, Charlottesville, VA October 2018.

<https://tjaglcs.army.mil/Portals/0/Publications/Deskbooks%20and%20Handbooks/Commander's%20Legal%20Handbook.pdf?ver=RF-YmplOGOtLGorY0rRqsQ%3d%3d>

36. List any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed to the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. Provide the name of the entity, the date published, and a summary of the document. To the extent you have the document, please attach a copy or provide a URL at which a copy can be accessed. *N/A.*
37. List any speeches or talks you have delivered, including commencement speeches, remarks, interviews, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place they were delivered, the sponsor of the presentation, and a summary of the presentation. If there are any readily available press reports, a transcript or recording, please attach a copy or provide a URL at which a copy can be accessed.
1. *Panelist, The Florida State University College of Law, February 2020. I was asked to serve on a panel to discuss careers in National Security Law in the Washington D.C. area for 1L, 2L and 3L law students.*
 2. *Guest Lecturer, The United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, November 2019. I guest lectured at the Military Academy to pre-law majors about the significance of Unlawful Command Influence in the military and its impact on the legitimacy of the military justice system.*
 3. *Guest Lecturer, The United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, December 2018. I guest lectured to pre-law majors at the Academy about original research I conducted concerning the defense of Soldiers accused of murdering civilians during the My Lai massacre that took place in the Vietnam War.*
 4. *Guest Lecturer, Chapman University, Orange, California, June 2018. Guest Lectured in the history department and law school regarding original research I conducted concerning the defense of Soldiers accused of murdering civilians during the My Lai massacre that took place in the Vietnam War.*
 5. *Panelist, United States Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program (SHARP) Office, Fort Belvoir, VA, 2015. Served as a Panelist and military justice policy expert on a panel describing new and proposed legislation pertaining to sexual assault prevention, response, and prosecution in the military.*
38. Have you ever taught a course at an institution of higher education or a bar association? If so, provide the course title, a description of the course subject matter, the institution at which you taught, and the dates of teaching. If you have a syllabus for each course, please provide.
1. *"Constitutional Law I & Military Justice", United States Military Academy, West Point, NY July 2005 – June 2007. I served as an Assistant Professor of Law teaching Constitutional Law and Military Justice to all graduating Cadets at the West Point. This course was a prerequisite to graduation. It instructed all cadets as to their responsibilities to uphold and*

defend the Constitution as future commissioned officers and their roles as stewards of the military justice system.

2. *“Unlawful Command Influence”, The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center & School, Charlottesville, VA, July 2007 – July 2009. I served as Chair and Assistant Professor of Law of the Criminal Law Department where I taught classes on the significance of unlawful command influence on the military justice system in the following courses: The Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course, The Judge Advocate Officer Advanced Course, The Senior Officer Legal Orientation Course, The Military Judge’s Certification Course.*
3. *“History and Overview of the Military Justice System and the UCMJ”, The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center & School, Charlottesville, VA, July 2007 – July 2009. I also taught a course for brand new Judge Advocate Lieutenants on the history of the military justice system and the uniform code of military justice.*

- 39.** List any fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement. Include the date received and the presenting entity or organization.

A list of my Military Awards, awarded by The United States Army during my 21 year career, includes:

1. *The Legion of Merit Medal (2020).*
2. *The Bronze Star Medal (2009).*
3. *Joint Service Commendation Medal (2002).*
4. *Joint Service Achievement Medal (2002).*
5. *Army Meritorious Service Medal (6 Oak Leaf clusters) (2019, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2010, 2007).*
6. *Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf cluster) (2005, 2003).*
7. *National Defense Service Medal (2002).*
8. *Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2002).*
9. *Army Overseas Service Medal (4 Numeric Devices) (2013, 2009, 2008, 2005).*
10. *Army Service Ribbon (2000).*
11. *Afghanistan Campaign Medal (Bronze Campaign Star) (2002).*
12. *Iraq Campaign Medal (3 Bronze Campaign Stars) (2009, 2008).*
13. *Awarded the Combat Action Badge (2009).*
14. *Authorized to wear the U.S. Army Parachutist Badge, the Australian Army Parachutist Badge, and the German Army Parachutist Badge.*
15. *Authorized to wear The Army Staff Identification Badge (2014).*

- 40.** Do you have a Martindale-Hubbell rating? If so, what is it and when was it earned? *No.*

- 41.** List all bar associations, legal, and judicial-related committees of which you are or have been a member. For each, please provide dates of membership or participation. Also, for each indicate any office you have held and the dates of office.

1. *The Florida Bar, member since 1999.*
2. *The Florida Bar Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC), current member.*
3. *The Florida Bar Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, 2005 – 2007.*
4. *The Volusia County Bar Association, member since 2023.*
5. *The Flagler County Bar Association, member since 2023.*
6. *Inns of Court, Saint Augustine Chapter, member 2023-2024.*
7. *Dunn Blount Inn of Court, Daytona Beach Chapter, member since 2024.*

42. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in the previous question to which you belong, or to which you have belonged since graduating law school. For each, please provide dates of membership or participation and indicate any office you have held and the dates of office.

1. *Republican Club of Northeast Volusia County, member since 2024.*
2. *Ormond Beach Historical Society, member since 2024.*
3. *Field Force Representative, Florida Congressional Districts 6 and 7, United States Military Academy, since 2024.*
4. *United States Military Academy Board Member, Representative Mike Waltz, 2024-2025.*
5. *United States Military Academy Board Member, Representative Randy Fine, 2025 – Current.*
6. *Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce, member since 2023.*
7. *Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 2021 – 2023.*
8. *82nd Airborne Division Association, Greater Daytona Beach Area, member since 2020.*
9. *The Federalist Society, member since 2007*
10. *82nd Airborne Division Association, member since 2003.*

43. Do you now or have you ever belonged to a 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 (other than a church, synagogue, mosque or other religious institution), national origin, or sex (other than an educational institution, fraternity or sorority)? If so, state 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 to serve on the bench. *No.*

44. Please describe any significant pro bono legal work you have done in the past 10 years, giving dates of service. *N/A.*

I was exempt from performing pro bono work while serving as an active duty military attorney.

45. Please describe any hobbies or other vocational interests.

1. *My hobbies include surfing, golf, saltwater fishing, weightlifting, and attending collegiate and professional sporting events with my family.*
2. *My vocational interests include writing law review articles, lecturing on various topics in military history and law, and keeping up with state and federal politics. I also volunteer my time to help Congressman Randy Fine offer Congressional nominations to high school students in his district for The United States Military Academy.*

46. Please state whether you have served or currently serve in the military, including your dates of service, branch, highest rank, and type of discharge.

I commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1999 after completing law school and passing the Florida Bar Exam. I served on active duty as an Army Judge Advocate all over the world for 21 years and have three combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. I retired from the United States Army in 2020 after having attained the rank of Colonel and I received an Honorable Discharge.

47. Please provide links to all social media and blog accounts you currently maintain, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/john-l-kiel-jr-1a06bb199/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-l-kiel-jr-1a06bb199/)
Facebook: [facebook.com/daisy.kiel.5](https://www.facebook.com/daisy.kiel.5)
Instagram: [instagram.com/johnlkieljr](https://www.instagram.com/johnlkieljr)

FAMILY BACKGROUND

48. Please state your current marital status. If you are currently married, please list your spouse's name, current occupation, including employer, and the date of the marriage. If you have ever been divorced, please state for each former spouse their name, current address, current telephone number, the date and place of the divorce and court and case number information.

*I am currently married to Jennifer Hoagland Kiel, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Jennifer and I were married on December 29, 1994.*

49. If you have children, please list their names and ages. If your children are over 18 years of age, please list their current occupation, residential address, and a current telephone number.

1. *Anna Elizabeth Kiel, 25.* [REDACTED]
2. *Alex Gordon Kiel, 22.* [REDACTED]
3. *Colin Arthur Kiel, 18.* [REDACTED]

CRIMINAL AND MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS

50. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, including adjudications of guilt withheld? If so, please list and provide the charges, case style, date of conviction, and terms of any sentence imposed, including whether you have completed those terms. *No.*

51. Have you ever pled nolo contendere or guilty to a crime which is a felony or misdemeanor, including adjudications of guilt withheld? If so, please list and provide the charges, case style, date of conviction, and terms of any sentence imposed, including whether you have completed those terms. *No.*
52. Have you ever been arrested, regardless of whether charges were filed? If so, please list and provide sufficient details surrounding the arrest, the approximate date and jurisdiction. *No.*
53. Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit, either as the plaintiff, defendant, petitioner, or respondent? If so, please supply the case style, jurisdiction/county in which the lawsuit was filed, case number, your status in the case, and describe the nature and disposition of the matter.

I was the Plaintiff in a lawsuit where I had to sue my insurance company to repair my roof that was damaged during a storm. The case was John Kiel, et al. v. Citizen's Property Insurance Corporation, case no. 2022 31455 CICI, Volusia County, FL. Date filed was September 28, 2022. As soon as we requested to take the corporate representative's deposition, Citizen's settled for the full amount.

54. To your knowledge, has there ever been a complaint made or filed alleging malpractice as a result of action or inaction on your part? *No.*
55. To the extent you are aware, have you or your professional liability carrier ever settled a claim against you for professional malpractice? If so, give particulars, including the name of the client(s), approximate dates, nature of the claims, the disposition and any amounts involved. *No.*
56. Has there ever been a finding of probable cause or other citation issued against you or are you presently under investigation for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group. If so, provide the particulars of each finding or investigation. *No.*
57. To your knowledge, within the last ten years, have any of your current or former co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, customers, clients, or the like, ever filed a formal complaint or accusation of misconduct including, but not limited to, any allegations involving sexual harassment, creating a hostile work environment or conditions, or discriminatory behavior against you with any regulatory or investigatory agency or with your employer? If so, please state the date of complaint or accusation, specifics surrounding the complaint or accusation, and the resolution or disposition. *No.*
58. Are you currently the subject of an investigation which could result in civil, administrative, or criminal action against you? If yes, please state the nature of the investigation, the agency conducting the investigation, and the expected completion date of the investigation. *No.*

59. Have you ever filed a personal petition in bankruptcy or has a petition in bankruptcy been filed against you, this includes any corporation or business entity that you were involved with? If so, please provide the case style, case number, approximate date of disposition, and any relevant details surrounding the bankruptcy. *No.*

60. In the past ten years, have you been subject to or threatened with eviction proceedings? If yes, please explain. *No.*

61. Please explain whether you have complied with all legally required tax return filings. To the extent you have ever had to pay a tax penalty or a tax lien was filed against you, please explain giving the date, the amounts, disposition, and current status.

I have always complied with state and federal tax filing requirements.

HEALTH

62. Are you currently addicted to or dependent upon the use of narcotics, drugs, or alcohol? *No.*

63. During the last ten years have you been hospitalized or have you consulted a professional or have you received treatment or a diagnosis from a professional for any of the following: Kleptomania, Pathological or Compulsive Gambling, Pedophilia, Exhibitionism or Voyeurism? If your answer is yes, please direct each such professional, hospital and other facility to furnish the Chairperson of the Commission any information the Commission may request with respect to any such hospitalization, consultation, treatment or diagnosis. ["Professional" includes a Physician, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Psychotherapist or Mental Health Counselor.] Please describe such treatment or diagnosis. *No.*

64. In the past ten years have any of the following occurred to you which would interfere with your ability to work in a competent and professional manner: experiencing periods of no sleep for two or three nights, experiencing periods of hyperactivity, spending money profusely with extremely poor judgment, suffering from extreme loss of appetite, issuing checks without sufficient funds, defaulting on a loan, experiencing frequent mood swings, uncontrollable tiredness, falling asleep without warning in the middle of an activity. If yes, please explain. *No.*

65. Do you currently have a physical or mental impairment which in any way limits your ability or fitness to properly exercise your duties as a member of the Judiciary in a competent and professional manner? If yes please explain the limitation or impairment and any treatment, program or counseling sought or prescribed. *No.*

66. During the last ten years, have you ever been declared legally incompetent or have you or your property been placed under any guardianship, conservatorship or committee? If yes, provide full details as to court, date, and circumstances. *No.*

67. During the last ten years, have you unlawfully used controlled substances, narcotic drugs, or dangerous drugs as defined by Federal or State laws? If your answer is "Yes," explain in detail. (Unlawful use includes the use of one or more drugs and/or the unlawful possession or distribution of drugs. It does not include the use of drugs taken under supervision of a licensed health care professional or other uses authorized by Federal or State law provisions.) *No.*
68. In the past ten years, have you ever been reprimanded, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, cautioned, or terminated by an employer as result of your alleged consumption of alcohol, prescription drugs, or illegal drugs? If so, please state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action. *No.*
69. 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? If so, please state the date you were requested to submit to such a test, the type of test required, the name 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. *No.*
70. In the past ten years, have you suffered memory loss or impaired judgment for any reason? If so, please explain in full. *No.*

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

71. Describe any additional education or experiences you have which could assist you in holding judicial office.

I served as an Assistant Professor teaching Constitutional Law to Cadets at the United States Military Academy where we explored key concepts of the Constitution and the Founding of America through seminal Supreme Court cases. I also had the opportunity to host Justices Antonin Scalia and Sandra Day O'Connor who reinforced these principals and concepts through a series of lectures hosted by the Department of Law at the Academy.

I also served as the Chief of Military Justice Policy to The Judge Advocate General from 2013-2015. In that position, the Judge Advocate General and I met with various Senators and Representatives to help inform them as they made statutory revisions to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. I also sat on the Joint Service Committee on Military Justice where we prepared Presidential Executive Orders amending the rules of procedure and practice in the Manual for Courts-Martial. In this job I saw the inner workings on how legislation was formulated, approved and drafted. I was able to understand the legislative intent behind these statutes, how statutes are formally and informally drafted and amended until they become final and how critical precision in language is when it comes to drafting statutes and rules of procedure.

Lastly, I served as Chair of the Criminal Law Department of The Judge Advocate General's School where I was responsible for training and certifying all brand new trial and appellate judges for every branch of service. The Military Judge's Certification Course is a three week

intensive Course that trains Judges on judicial demeanor, ethics, rules of procedure, substantive law updates. The course also includes a number of practical exercises like handling objections at trial and presiding over mini mock trials during the course.

I was selected to serve as a military judge at Fort Bliss, Texas before being asked to take on a larger supervisory assignment at Joint Base Lewis McChord. When I had my second chance to become a military judge, our daughter Anna unfortunately was diagnosed with cancer shortly after I was promoted to Colonel. Our family made the decision to retire from the Army at 21 years. My next assignment out of the Pentagon would have been to serve as a trial judge or as an appellate judge on the Army Court of Criminal Appeals. Being a judge was the position I was being groomed for throughout my military career and my only regret in my blessed military career was that I never got to serve as a judge. I am hopeful that I get the chance now.

72. Explain the particular contribution you believe your selection would bring to this position and provide any additional information you feel would be helpful to the Commission and Governor in evaluating your application.

Before retiring from the U.S. Army, I was one of the top 2 or 3 experts in Military Justice in the United States Army. I was the military justice policy advisor to The Judge Advocate General and served as Chair of the Criminal Law Department of The Judge Advocate General's School. I served as a prosecutor, senior prosecutor, and trial defense counsel. I have experience trying federal felony cases on both sides of the aisle. I also had the opportunity to train and certify military judges from every branch of service.

For the twenty months or so I was with Hertel Legal, I gained experience in civil litigation. In my current position with Selis Law, I am gaining valuable experience in probate and trust administration, an area I know few new judges have familiarity with. I feel like I would be a very well-rounded and fair judge having been both a prosecutor and defense counsel and having familiarity with both criminal and civil litigation. I also understand the importance of stare decisis, judicial philosophy and statutory interpretation from my experience as a Professor of Constitutional Law at the United States Military Academy and from working on Capitol Hill with members of Congress who relied on my expertise and assistance in crafting amendments to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. I also grew up in Volusia County and reside here so I have a vested interest in serving and protecting the community I have been a part of for so long.

Lastly, it is rare to find a veteran's court in the country, let alone having two of them in one county. I would find it an absolute honor to serve as one of the presiding judges over the Veteran's court in either Daytona Beach or Deland, Florida. From my understanding there is only one Circuit Judge in this entire Judicial Circuit who has military experience and he was also a former Army Judge Advocate. He currently presides over the veteran's court in Saint Augustine, Florida.

REFERENCES

73. List the names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of ten persons who are in a position to comment on your qualifications for a judicial position and of whom inquiry may be made by the Commission and the Governor.

1. *Honorable Thomas J. Rooney*, [REDACTED]
2. *Judge (Ret.) James R. Clayton*, [REDACTED]
3. *Judge (Ret.) Steve Henricks*, [REDACTED]
4. *Judge Steve Berlin*, [REDACTED]
5. *Judge (Ret.) Mike Mulligan*, [REDACTED]
6. *Lieutenant General (Ret.) Stuart Risch*, 6423 Thirteenth Street, Alexandria, VA 22307, stuart.risch@gmail.com (703) 975-6477.
7. *Lieutenant General (Ret.) Charles Pede*, 7 N. Chamberlain Court, Gettysburg, PA 17325, cpede98@yahoo.com (571) 334-9202.
8. *Brigadier General David Mendelson*, 4110 Legato Road, Fairfax, VA 22033, davidmendelsonva@gmail.com (717) 706-9651.
9. *Colonel Joseph Fairfield*, 8109 Constellation Blvd, Tampa, FL 33621, jfairfield913@gmail.com (910) 366-3184.
10. *Attorney Ronald Hertel*, 140 South Atlantic Avenue, Suite 201, Ormond Beach, FL 32176, ron@hertellegal.com (352) 246-5711.

CERTIFICATE

I have read the foregoing questions carefully and have answered them truthfully, fully and completely. I hereby waive notice by and authorize The Florida Bar or any of its committees, educational and other institutions, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners or any judicial or professional disciplinary or supervisory body or commission, any references furnished by me, employers, business and professional associates, all governmental agencies and instrumentalities and all consumer and credit reporting agencies to release to the respective Judicial Nominating Commission and Office of the Governor any information, files, records or credit reports requested by the commission in connection with any consideration of me as possible nominee for appointment to judicial office. Information relating to any Florida Bar disciplinary proceedings is to be made available in accordance with Rule 3-7.1(1), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. I recognize and agree that, pursuant to the Florida Constitution and the Uniform Rules of this commission, the contents of this questionnaire and other information received from or concerning me, and all interviews and proceedings of the commission, except for deliberations by the commission, shall be open to the public.

Further, I stipulate I have read and understand the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2026

John L. Kiel, Jr.

Printed Name

[Signature]

Signature

(Pursuant to Section 119.071(4)(d)(1), F.S.), . . . The home addresses and telephone numbers of justices of the Supreme Court, district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and county court judges; the home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment of the spouses and children of justices and judges; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of justices and judges are exempt from the provisions of subsection (1), dealing with public records.

FINANCIAL HISTORY

1. State the amount of gross income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (before deducting expenses and taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.

Current Year-To-Date: \$27,352.00 (bonuses later in the year)

Last Three Years: \$ \$55,115.00 \$141,306.00 \$57,740.00

2. State the amount of net income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (after deducting expenses but not taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.

Current Year-To-Date: \$27,352.00 (bonuses later in the year)

Last Three Years: \$55,115.00 \$141,306.00 \$57,740.00

3. State the gross amount of income or losses incurred (before deducting expenses or taxes) you have earned in the preceding three years on a year by year basis from all sources other than the practice of law, and generally describe the source of such income or losses.

Current Year-To-Date: \$31,593.00

Last Three Years: \$122,930.00 \$118,292.00 \$140,847.00

The source of income for the current year and second preceding year is from my military pension and VA disability compensation having retired from the U.S. Army. For the last year, the total is from my military pension, VA disability and from commissions working in sales at New Smyrna Chevy.

4. State the amount you have earned in the preceding three years on a year by year basis from all sources other than the practice of law, and generally describe the source of such income or losses.

Current Year-To-Date: \$31,593.00

Last Three Years: \$122,930.00 \$118,292.00 \$140,847.00

The source of income for the current year and second preceding year is from my military pension and VA disability compensation having retired from the U.S. Army. For the last year, the total is from my military pension, VA disability and from commissions working in sales at New Smyrna Chevy.

5. State the amount of net income you have earned or losses incurred (after deducting

expenses) from all sources other than the practice of law for the preceding three-year period on a year by year basis, and generally describe the sources of such income or losses.

Current Year-To-Date: \$31,593.00

Last Three Years: \$122,930.00 \$118,292.00 \$140,847.00

The source of income for the current year and second preceding year is from my military pension and VA disability compensation having retired from the U.S. Army. For the last year, the total is from my military pension, VA disability and from commissions working in sales at New Smyrna Chevy.

**FORM 6
FULL AND PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE OF
FINANCIAL INTEREST**

PART A – NET WORTH

Please enter the value of your net worth as of December 31 or a more current date. [Note: Net worth is not calculated by subtracting your *reported* liabilities from your *reported* assets, so please see the instructions on page 3.]

My net worth as of March, 2026 was \$843,762.00.

PART B - ASSETS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

Household goods and personal effects may be reported in a lump sum if their aggregate value exceeds \$1,000. This category includes any of the following, if not held for investment purposes; jewelry; collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic items; art objects; household equipment and furnishings; clothing; other household items; and vehicles for personal use.

The aggregate value of my household goods and personal effects (described above) is \$150,000.00

ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT OVER \$1,000:

DESCRIPTION OF ASSET (specific description is required – see instructions p. 3)

VALUE OF ASSET

DESCRIPTION OF ASSET (specific description is required – see instructions p. 3)	VALUE OF ASSET
USAA Checking Account(s)	\$11,000.00
Barclays High Yield Savings Account	\$41,500.00
Property 23 Indianhead Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32174 (homestead)	\$695,000.00
Ameriprise Investment Account	\$258,000.00
2024 Chevy Silverado 1500	\$24,000.00

PART C - LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000 (See instructions on page 4):

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR	AMOUNT OF LIABILITY
Lake View / Loan Care Mortgage. 4425 Ponce De Leon Blvd, MS 5-251, Coral Gables, FL 33146.	\$333,088.00

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

N/A	

PART D - INCOME

You may ***EITHER*** (1) file a complete copy of your latest federal income tax return, *including all W2's, schedules, and attachments*, ***OR*** (2) file a sworn statement identifying each separate source and amount of income which exceeds \$1,000 including secondary sources of income, by completing the remainder of Part D, below.

I elect to file a copy of my latest federal income tax return and all W2's, schedules, and attachments.
 (if you check this box and attach a copy of your latest tax return, you need not complete the remainder of Part D.)

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME (See instructions on page 5):

NAME OF SOURCE OF INCOME EXCEEDING \$1,000	ADDRESS OF SOURCE OF INCOME	AMOUNT
Selis Law Firm	1024 North U.S. Highway 1, Ormond Beach, FL 32174	\$85,000.00 plus qualifying bonuses (none distributed yet)
Military Pension (U.S. Army)	8899 E 56 th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46249	\$76,476.00
VA Disability (not taxable)	810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420	\$49,897.00

SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME [Major customers, clients, etc., of businesses owned by reporting person—see instructions on page 6]

NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY	NAME OF MAJOR SOURCES OF BUSINESS' INCOME	ADDRESS OF SOURCE	PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF SOURCE
None.	None.	None.	None.

PART E – INTERESTS IN SPECIFIC BUSINESS [Instructions on page 7]

	BUSINESS ENTITY #1	BUSINESS ENTITY #2	BUSINESS ENTITY #3
NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY	None.	None.	None.
ADDRESS OF BUSINESS ENTITY			
PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY			
POSITION HELD WITH ENTITY			
DO I OWN MORE THAN A 5% INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS			
NATURE OF MY OWNERSHIP INTEREST			

IF ANY OF PARTS A THROUGH E ARE CONTINUED ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE CHECK HERE

OATH

I, the person whose name appears at the beginning of this form, do depose on oath or affirmation and say that the information disclosed on this form and any attachments hereto is true, accurate, and complete.


SIGNATURE

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF rowisia

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 9th day of March, 20 26 by John Kiel, Jr.





HILARY MACCHIA
Commission # HH 682016
Expires June 20, 2029

(Signature of Notary Public—State of Florida)
Hilary Macchia

(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known _____ OR Produced Identification X

Type of Identification Produced Florida Driver's License

JUDICIAL APPLICATION DATA RECORD

The judicial application shall include a separate page asking applicants to identify their race, ethnicity and gender. Completion of this page shall be optional, and the page shall include an explanation that the information is requested for data collection purposes in order to assess and promote diversity in the judiciary. The chair of the Commission shall forward all such completed pages, along with the names of the nominees to the JNC Coordinator in the Governor's Office (pursuant to JNC Uniform Rule of Procedure).

(Please Type or Print)

Date: 03/09/2026
JNC Submitting To: 7th Judicial Circuit
Name (please print): John Loran Kiel, Jr.
Current Occupation: Attorney
Telephone Number: 386-286-3085 Attorney No.: 172588
Gender (check one): Male Female
Ethnic Origin (check one) White, non-Hispanic
 Hispanic
 Black
 American Indian/Alaskan Native
 Asian/Pacific Islander
County of Residence: Volusia

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO THE
FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT (FCRA)

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) may obtain one or more consumer reports, including but not limited to credit reports, about you, for employment purposes as defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, including for determinations related to initial employment, reassignment, promotion, or other employment-related actions.

CONSUMER'S AUTHORIZATION FOR
FDLE TO OBTAIN CONSUMER REPORT(S)

I have read and understand the above Disclosure. I authorize the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to obtain one or more consumer reports on me, for employment purposes, as described in the above Disclosure.

Printed Name of Applicant *John Loran Kiel, Jr.*

Signature of Applicant



Date: 03/09/2026
