

SECTION I – Public Information		
Last Name	First Name	MI
Paulsen	Dane	C
How many years have you resided in Arizona immediately preceding this application? 17 years		
Have you had at least five years practice of law? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If no, describe what equivalent legal experience you have.		
Arizona State Bar Number	Date of Admission	
029225	March 12, 2012	
Schools Attended (preparatory, college and law)	Dates: mm/dd/yy	Degree
Arizona State Univesity	From: 08/2008 Through: 05/2011	Juris Doctor
Brigham Young University	From: 01/2005 Through: 08/2007	Bachelor of Arts
Cabrillo College (Aptos, CA)	From: 09/2000 Through: 06/2002	
Harbor High School (Santa Cruz, CA)	From: 09/1997 Through: 06/2001	High School
	From: Through:	

1) Indicate major and minor fields of study.
Arizona State University - Juris Doctor Brigham Young University - Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
2) Indicate college and law school extracurricular activities.
Arizona State University - Finalist, Oral Argument Competition; J. Reuben Clark Law Society; Innocence Project (Post-Conviction Clinic); Maricopa County Superior Court clerk to the Honorable Janet Barton (2009); law clerk, Maricopa County Attorney's Office (2010); law clerk at Neeley Law (2009); law clerk to sole practitioner David Christensen (2010); Prosecution Clinic, Rule 39 intern at Glendale Prosecutor's Office (2011); law clerk for Never Again Foundation (2012) Brigham Young University - Vice President, Political Science Association (2006); intern, Utah State Legislature (2007)
3) Indicate all bar admissions, numbers, and dates.
Arizona State Bar: March 12, 2012 (029225) US District Court of Arizona: December 12, 2016 (029225)
4) If you have been certified as a specialist by the Arizona State Bar, identify specialty.
N/A

5) Explain if you have been denied admission to any State Bar.		
N/A		
6) Current Job Title	Employer	Date(s) of Employment
Assistant City Attorney IV	City of Phoenix	From: 06/2021 - present Through:
7) Describe chronologically, providing dates, your law practice and relevant experience following your graduation from law school, specifically indicating the following:		
A. If you have served as a judge, indicate the court(s) and dates of service.		
N/A		
B. If you have served as a clerk to a judge, indicate the name of the judge, the court, and the dates.		
Clerk to the Honorable Janet Barton, Maricopa County Superior Court (Summer 2009)		
C. If you practiced alone, indicate the addresses and dates.		
N/A		

D. Provide the names, addresses and dates of law firms or law offices, companies, governmental agencies, or other organizations for which you have been employed, and describe the nature of that employment.

City of Phoenix, City Attorney's Office, 200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ, 85003 (November 2024 to present) - Assistant City Attorney, Legal Advisor to Phoenix Police Department; advise on legal and policy matters

City of Phoenix, City Prosecutor's Office, 300 W. Washington St. 8th Floor, Phoenix, AZ, 85003 (June 2021 to November 2024) - Assistant City Prosecutor, criminal prosecution, Team Captain, Trial Bureau, supervision of Rule 39 externs

Neeley Law, 1120 S. Dobson Rd., Suite 230, Chandler, AZ, 85286 (December 2016 to June 2021) - Associate Attorney, advise clients on tax, bankruptcy and civil litigation matters

Graham County Attorney's Office, 800 Main St., Safford, AZ, 85546 (April 2015 to December 2016) - Deputy County Attorney, felony criminal prosecution, civil litigation and advisor to county departments

Maricopa County Attorney's Office, 225 W. Madison St., Phoenix, AZ, 85003 (May 2012 to April 2015) - Deputy County Attorney, felony criminal prosecution

E. Describe the types of major clients you have served and mention areas of law in which you have specialized or focused. Give details of any service you have provided in a fiduciary capacity.

Major clients in civil capacity as a Deputy County Attorney included the County at-large in civil litigation matters and specifically the Assessor's Office in tax litigation. I also routinely gave legal advice to county departments such as the Elections Department and Public Fiduciary. In private civil practice, I represented small businesses and individuals in tax and bankruptcy matters in addition to civil litigation. In private practice, I specialized in bankruptcy law and tax discharge in bankruptcy. As a criminal prosecutor, I specialized in the rules of criminal procedure and evidence.

8) Indicate your frequency of appearances in court as a lawyer:			
Describe the nature of your appearances, giving dates, court names, and the nature of the proceedings.			
<p>Maricopa County Superior Court (November 2024 to present) - various appearances in relation to Interpleader actions and Public Records Request special actions</p> <p>Phoenix Municipal Court (June 2021 to November 2024) - regular, weekly appearances in court, appearances included pre-trial conferences, motion litigation, and bench and jury trials</p> <p>Arizona District Court and Federal Bankruptcy Court (December 2016 to June 2021) - regular, weekly appearances in creditor meetings with bankruptcy trustees, appearances in court in representation of bankruptcy clients and bankruptcy creditors in procedural actions and civil litigation</p> <p>Graham County Superior Court (April 2015 to December 2016) - regular, weekly appearances in court, appearances included pre-trial conferences, motion litigation and jury trials, also frequent appearances in Justice Court for probable cause hearings</p> <p>Maricopa County Tax Court (Summer 2016) - various appearances in tax court for oral argument on motions in civil litigation for Graham County Attorney's Office</p> <p>Maricopa County Superior Court (May 2012 to December 2016) - regular, daily appearances in court, appearances included pre-trial conferences, motion litigation, bench and jury trials, also appeared regularly in Grand Jury proceedings and Justice Court in the same capacity</p>			
A. Indicate the percentage of these appearances between the listed court types.			
Federal Courts 20	State Courts 35	Justice Courts 10	
City Courts 35		Administrative Boards or Commissions	
B. Indicate the percentage of your litigation practice.			
Civil 30	Criminal 70	Traffic	Administrative
C. State the number of cases you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), for each of the following:			
Sole Counsel 100+	Chief Counsel approx 3-5	Associate Counsel 1	
D. What percentage of these trials was:			
Jury 35		Non-Jury 65	

E. Describe not more than five significant litigated matters in which you participated and give the citations, if reported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each matter and a succinct statement of the particular significance. Please identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe the nature of your participation in the matter; and the final disposition. Please state, as to each matter: 1) the date of the matter; 2) the name of the court and the judge before whom the matter was presented; and 3) the names and addresses of counsel for the other parties.

1)

State v. Boudreau, Maricopa County Superior Court Case No. CR 2013-103520-003, Hon. Erin O'Brien Otis, (Appellate Memorandum Decision 2016 WL 4750174); Defense Counsel: William A. Peterson, Maricopa County Public Defender's Office (620 W Jackson Street, Suite 3076, Phoenix, AZ 85003); Jury Trial, September 2014

I represented the State of Arizona as sole counsel in a felony burglary trial to a jury. The defendant was found guilty at trial by the jury. The defendant and co-defendant were found exiting the yard of the victim's home and were in possession of financial documents and property that the victim testified were taken from the home. The case was especially complex as it involved an immunity agreement, the assertion of an alibi defense, significant circumstantial evidence and the impeachment of the defendant who testified in his own defense. The case was appealed (citation provided above) and the Arizona Court of Appeals reviewed my conduct during the trial and found it within the rules of evidence and ethics. A subsequent review for post-conviction relief made the same determination. The case was one of my early felony trials and required significant preparation and use of the rules of criminal procedure and evidence.

2)

State v. Newton, Phoenix Municipal Court Case No. 20228000848, Hon. Alex Navidad; Defense Counsel: Stephanie Ehrbright, 300 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003; DUI fatality case, Defendant plead guilty to the court, June 2023

I represented the State in a case that involved a DUI accident that resulted in a fatality. The defendant had previous DUI convictions and was driving while under the influence of THC and turned in front of the victim that directly caused the victim's death in the collision. The case was extremely emotionally charged for the victim's family and required many conversations with the victim's family about the criminal process. This case would have been a very complex DUI to try to a jury had the matter proceeded to trial. This case highlights the delicate and difficult nature of representing the State in THC DUI cases but as important, being empathetic and stalwart in pursuing justice for victims. The defendant was sentenced to the maximum penalty for the offense by the judge at a lengthy sentencing hearing.

3)

State v. Wenzl, Phoenix Municipal Court Case No. 100517666, Hon. Cynthia Certa; Defense Counsel: Charles Franklin, 8901 E Pima Center Pkwy, Ste 115, Scottsdale, AZ 85258; Jury Trial, March 2024

I represented the State in this DUI case. The defendant was found in the middle of the street in an intoxicated state. Officers tried numerous times to rouse the defendant and when he finally woke up, the defendant pushed a police vehicle out of the way and drove about a mile down the road before stopping. Due to health reasons, police were unable to extract blood from the defendant and the case proceeded to trial without the benefit of a chemical test to establish what substances were impairing the defendant. The defendant was found guilty by the jury at trial, but due to misconduct by a juror, a new trial was ordered. The defendant was found guilty again at the second trial after a significant delay in motion litigation between the two trials.

4)

State v. Denney, Phoenix Municipal Court Case No. 100532635, Hon. Alex Navidad; Defense Counsel: Jack Litwak, 1 N 1st Street, Ste. 716, Phoenix, AZ, 85004; Jury Trial, March 2023

I represented the State in a DUI case in which the defendant struck a parked vehicle and was taken to the hospital. The defendant was under the influence of a common opioid that is not banned in Arizona or the United States known as kratom. The case was also very challenging given the administration of prescribed medication to the defendant at the hospital after the collision. The defendant was found guilty by the jury at trial.

5)

Pinaleno Foothills L.P. v. Graham County, Maricopa County Superior (Tax) Court; Hon. Christopher Whitten; Defense Counsel: Douglas John, 1850 N Central Ave., Ste. 1800, Phoenix, AZ 85004; Settled out-of-court, July 2016
I represented Graham County in this matter brought to recover property taxes. The plaintiffs argued that Graham County had committed an error in the assessment of their commercial property because the property hosted low-income housing units that should have been considered in the assessment. Graham County took the position that the error was on the plaintiff's side for failing to notify the County of the status of the property. I participated in preparing the pleadings in the case including dueling motions for summary judgment. I also argued the case to the tax court judge and wrote the appellate brief when the Superior Court ruled against the County. Before the appeal could be heard on its merits, the case was settled out of court. Up until my participation in this case, I had very little litigation experience beyond criminal cases. I worked hard to make myself competent in tax matters and litigate against much more experienced attorneys.

9) If you are or have been a judge, describe not more than five significant cases you have tried, or opinions you have written. For opinions, give the citations if the opinions were reported as well as citations to any appellate review of such opinions. Finally, please attach copies of the opinions, to include any appellate review of those opinions.

N/A

10) Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law or holding judicial office? Yes If yes, please provide details, including dates.

Operations Technical Support Services, Brigham Young University (Fall 2006 to Fall 2007) - advanced technical support for server and network connectivity, support in both English and Spanish for worldwide remote troubleshooting

11) Are you now, or have you ever been an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? No If yes, 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 terms of your service.

N/A

12) Is it your intention to resign such position and withdraw from any participation in the management of any of such enterprises if you are appointed? If no, please explain.

N/A

13) Have you ever been sued by a client or a party? No If yes, give details, including dates.

14) Have you published any legal or other books or articles? No If yes, please list them, giving the citations and dates.

N/A

15) Are you in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to you? Yes If yes, list the courses and dates of attendance for the last two (2) years.

2024-2025
Annual Criminal Law Legislative Updates - 9/10/2024
Phoenix Community Court - 10/2/2024
Motor Monday, Actual Physical Control (DUI) - 10/7/2024
New Rules for All Government Lawyers - 1/27/2025
Brady Issues for Law Enforcement - 1/31/2025
Subpoenas, Service, and Importance of Waivers - 3/24/2025
Liquor Laws and Enforcement - 3/28/2025
Offers of Judgment - 4/14/2025
Title II Transition Plan - 5/12/2025
Right to Counsel in DUI Cases (Taught Course) - 6/2/2025
Data Privacy and Data Protection - 6/13/2025
Appeals - 6/13/2025
Leave and A.R. Compliance - 6/13/2025
Public Records/Special Actions - 6/13/2025
Criminal Updates, Tips & Helpful Reminders - 6/13/2025
Representing a Public Organization - 6/13/2025

2023-2024
2023 Legislative Update - 6/25/2024
2023 Criminal Year Seminar - Criminal Rules Update - 6/26/2024
2023 Criminal Year Seminar - DUI and Constitutional Law Update - 6/26/2024
2023 Criminal Year Seminar - Criminal Code Update - 6/27/2024
Criminal Year Seminar, Evidence Update - 6/27/2024
Criminal Year Seminar, Defense Perspective - 6/27/2024
2023 Criminal Year Seminar, US Supreme Court Law Update - 6/28/2024

16) Have you taught any courses on law or lectured at bar associations, conferences, law school forums, or continuing legal education seminars? Yes If yes, please describe by providing the name of the course, the subject matter, the date and the place.

"Right to Counsel in DUI Cases" (June 2025); Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council, Webinar from Phoenix, AZ APAAC office; instruction on 5th and 6th Amendment right to counsel in criminal cases (specifically DUI cases), Miranda requirements and evidence concerns for DUI investigations

"Closing Arguments" (June 2024); City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office CLE; instruction on strategies in closing arguments and ethical considerations when making closing arguments in jury trials

"Estate Planning" (April 2023); instruction to private organization in Chandler, AZ; instruction on wills and trusts and other legal concerns when engaging in estate planning

17) List any honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition which you have received.

Barrister's Award, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office (July 2024) for Trial Advocacy

18) List any public offices held and dates.

N/A

19) List memberships and activities in professional organizations, including offices held and dates.

J. Reuben Clark Law Society (2008 to present) - member

Optional: List memberships and activities in civic organizations, including offices held.	
Service in various roles, including leadership positions, in an ecclesiastical capacity; service includes regular volunteer work with service organizations	
20) List vocational interests and hobbies.	
Outdoor activities such as hiking, mountain biking, swimming Avid reader including fiction and history non-fiction	
21)	Has any complaint of professional misconduct ever been filed, in any jurisdiction, where any form of disciplinary action has been taken against you? No If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?
N/A	
22)	Have you ever been convicted of any misdemeanor or felony, or violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in the United States, or any foreign country? No If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?
N/A	

23) Phoenix City Code ("P.C.C."), Section 2-96(C)(3) provides that merit shall be the primary consideration for the Judicial Selection Advisory Board in making recommendations to the City Council for appointment to judicial office. Under P.C.C. § 2-96 (C)(3) and consistent with the Arizona Constitution (see AZ Const. Art. 6 § 37(C)), the Judicial Selection Advisory Board has the duty to consider the diversity of the City's population. Please provide any information about yourself (e.g., your heritage, background, life experiences, etc.) that you believe is relevant to this consideration.

I am the privileged descendant of poor immigrants who recently came to this country seeking opportunity, often facing hardship, discrimination, and economic instability. Their perseverance instilled in me a strong work ethic and a respect for the legal system that safeguards opportunity and justice. My upbringing gave me a firsthand understanding of how socioeconomic struggles can affect individuals and families - knowledge that can't be learned in textbooks alone. During my college years, I took a break from my studies and spent two years serving impoverished communities in South America. There, I witnessed what justice looks like when systems fail the most vulnerable and I came to deeply appreciate the importance of a fair and functioning judicial system. That experience strengthened my belief that access to justice must be equitable, and it taught me compassion for people navigating life while facing personal and societal adversity and economic and political instability. Members of my own family have faced a range of serious challenges - including abuse, depression, poverty and addiction. My closeness to those experiences has broadened my understanding of the suffering of others and has deepened my empathy. They remind me daily that every individual who appears before the court brings with them all their life experiences and that they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

24) Include any further information relative to your candidacy or qualifications that you wish to transmit to the Judicial Selection Advisory Board at this time.

My path to a legal career began in a courtroom in high school. As part of a community service requirement, I chose to participate in a "Teen Court" where a juvenile judge would allow students to act as prosecutors, defense attorneys and jurors and call witnesses, present evidence, and make arguments. By chance, I was chosen to be a prosecutor. We presented a real case to the judge where a real young person would be have their crime adjudicated. At the end of the trial, the judge called me up to the bench and asked what my plans were after high school. Of course, I wasn't really sure at the time. And what the judge said next changed my life: he said that I should consider law school based on what he had seen of me in court that day. Since then, I have spent the majority of my career inside a courtroom. I am extremely passionate about the value that a stable and fair justice system adds to our society. We live in a time where confidence in the justice system has waned. A great judge is the type of person that brings passion for the law, expertise in the rules of procedure and evidence, and compassion and respect for every person that enters into the courtroom. A great judge also lives their life and administers justice according to the highest ethics. I have striven to develop those qualities and I am convinced that I would be a judge that would help to strengthen the confidence in the justice system that we need right now.