

SECTION I – Public Information		
Last Name	First Name	MI
Dunne (formerly Svoboda)	Pamela	Hearn
How many years have you resided in Arizona immediately preceding this application? 49		
Have you had at least five years practice of law? If no, describe what equivalent legal experience you have.		
Yes. Thirty-five (35) years, the last twenty (20) on the bench.		
Arizona State Bar Number		Date of Admission
013253		October 1990
Schools Attended (preparatory, college and law)	Dates: mm/dd/yy	Degree
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law	From: 8/1988 Through: 5/1990	Law degree
California Western School of Law	From: 8/1987 Through: 5/1988	Transferred to ASU
Smith College	From: 9/1980 Through: 5/1982	
Arizona State University	From: 8/1982 Through: 5/1983	Junior year away
Smith College	From: 9/1983 Through: 5/1984	Bachelor of Arts degree

1) Indicate major and minor fields of study.

My major was Government, which was Smith's equivalent of a Political Science major. I also took two years of Spanish.

2) Indicate college and law school extracurricular activities.

In college I was the Parsons House student representative in 1981-82. I also volunteered through Service Organizations of Smith. Through that organization, I met with an inmate from the jail to provide encouragement and goal planning. Given how academically rigorous Smith was, I mainly focused on studying.

In law school, I was Vice-President and then President of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. I was also on the Environmental Law Moot Court team. We competed nationally in New York.

3) Indicate all bar admissions, numbers, and dates.

Arizona, 013253. October 1990.

4) If you have been certified as a specialist by the Arizona State Bar, identify specialty.

Not applicable

5) Explain if you have been denied admission to any State Bar.

Not applicable.

6) Current Job Title	Employer	Date(s) of Employment
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Superior Court Judge	Maricopa County Superior Court	From: Through:
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March 2005-present

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.

Superior Court Commissioner March 2005-March 2012. Served in the Initial Appearance, Initial Pre-Trial Conference and Aggravated DUI courts. I served four years in the Aggravated DUI court, presiding over eighty (80) aggravated DUI trials. Commissioner assignments are very high volume, and that experience was tremendously invaluable in teaching me effective courtroom management.

Superior Court Judge March 2012 to present. Served in the Criminal department twice, from March 2012-June 2015 and from June 2024 to present. Served in Family court from June 2015 to February 2018 and in Juvenile court from February 2018-June 2024. I was the Associate Juvenile Presiding Judge at Durango twice, for a total of two years. I have presided over approximately 170 felony jury trials, including the eighty (80) aggravated DUI trials listed above. I have also presided over hundreds of bench trials in Family and Juvenile court.

Please see answer D below for my law practice experience prior to joining the bench

B. If you have served as a clerk to a judge, indicate the name of the judge, the court, and the dates.

Not applicable.

C. If you practiced alone, indicate the addresses and dates.

Not applicable.

agencies, or other organizations for which you have been employed, and describe the nature of that employment.

Assistant Attorney General: April 1995-March 2005. Office of the Attorney General 1275 W. Washington in Phoenix. The building has since been demolished. Their offices are now located at 2005 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004. I served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for my entire tenure. I was promoted to lead the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit as their Unit Chief Counsel/Director in 1997, and I served in that role until I left in 2005 to join the bench. The unit handled the investigation and prosecution of Medicaid fraud cases, and abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of those in Medicaid funded facilities such as nursing homes and adult care homes. I supervised a unit of thirteen (13) people, including investigators, lawyers, support staff and a registered nurse. I oversaw a million dollar federal budget, and I was required to submit annual reports detailing our cases and our compliance with the federal grant. See question 17 for awards received while in the office.

Deputy County Attorney: October 1990-April 1995. Maricopa County Attorney's Office, now located at 225. West Madison in Phoenix. I was in Trial Group A, Vehicular Crimes and Juvenile divisions. I handled twenty-five (25) jury trials, including several aggravated DUI cases.

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.

I have been a public servant for my entire thirty-five (35) year legal career, serving as a prosecutor for fifteen (15) years and a judge and commissioner for twenty (20) years. As indicated herein, I have helped our most vulnerable, often voiceless victims from elderly nursing home residents to minors who have been victims of sex trafficking. I have extensive experience presiding over jury trials, and four (4) years presiding over aggravated DUI cases. My combined experience as a prosecutor (15 years), and on the criminal bench, is twenty-six (26) years.

I have not served in a fiduciary capacity.

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.

I was in Maricopa County Superior Court daily as a Deputy County Attorney from October 1990-April 1995. As an Assistant Attorney General from April 1995-March 2005 I appeared in several counties across Arizona, including Maricopa, Pima, Mohave, Apache, Graham, Gila, Yavapai, and Coconino counties. This enabled me to appear before various judges throughout the state and to learn great judicial demeanor and calendar management from them. The nature of my appearances for those fifteen (15) years was to serve as a prosecutor representing the State, from grand jury through trial, including making charging decisions, and filing and responding to motions. I also appeared before the Arizona Court of Appeals for Division One in 1995, on a juvenile appellate brief I wrote and then argued.

A. Indicate the percentage of these appearances between the listed court types.

Federal Courts	State Courts 100%	Justice Courts
City Courts	Administrative Boards or Commissions	

B. Indicate the percentage of your litigation practice.

Civil	Criminal 100%	Traffic	Administrative
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C. State the number of cases you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), for each of the following:

Sole Counsel 25 felony trials	Chief Counsel	Associate Counsel
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D. What percentage of these trials was:

Jury All but one	Non-Jury
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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. Michael Daw CR97-000212. Approximately 1997 in Mohave County. I was co-counsel with Steve Wiggs. The defendant was the Mohave County Public Fiduciary and he was accused of embezzling approximately \$875,000 from his vulnerable wards over whom he had guardianship and conservatorship to support his gambling addiction. After realizing the strength of the State's case, he pled guilty and was sentenced to ten (10) years in prison. Retired Judge Steve Conn of Mohave County Superior Court presided over the proceedings. The defense attorney was Lee Novak, 212 N. 4th Street Suite 2. Kingman, AZ 86401. 928-718-1700. This case was significant because as the appointed public fiduciary, he was in a position of trust over the most vulnerable people, and he exploited that trust by stealing their funds, some of whom had no money left after his embezzlement. Public corruption cannot be tolerated.

2)

State v. Rudy Rodriguez. The trial occurred in 1991 in Maricopa County Superior Court. CR1991-003520-001. This was my second trial as a prosecutor. Retired Judge Bernard Dougherty presided over the trial and defense counsel was Phil Vavalides, who no longer practices in Arizona. His last contact information is 4307 Shoal Creek Drive Greensboro, N.C. 27410-8669. My maiden name was Hearn when I tried this case and the Daugherty trial. The defendant was charged with three counts of Armed Robbery. He robbed an elderly Chinese couple on three different dates at gun point at their store. He was convicted and ordered to serve 27 years in prison. This case was significant because the charges were serious, and because the victims were very fearful of the defendant, as he lived near their market in South Phoenix and they were afraid he would retaliate. I helped them feel comfortable testifying. They bravely told their story through a Chinese interpreter. It was my longest trial as a prosecutor, lasting two weeks. The conviction was affirmed on appeal.

3)

State v. Jean Owens 1991 in Maricopa County Superior Court. The defendant was a 60 year old woman charged with pointing a gun at a woman in a bank parking lot. Since it was charged as aggravated assault, a class 3 dangerous felony, a prison of 5-15 years was mandatory after trial. This case was significant because I fought to have the prison mandatory enhancement dismissed. The defendant had no prior record, and I felt strongly that the State should drop the allegation of dangerousness, making her probation eligible after trial. Prosecutors must do justice, and I felt that would be a just result and prison would not. This went against the policy at the County Attorney's Office at the time. After my impassioned discussion with my supervisor, he permitted me to dismiss the allegation. While I had only practiced law for one year, my adversary had practiced law over thirty (30) years. The jury convicted the defendant, and she was able to receive probation, which was the appropriate result. Retired Judge Bernard Dougherty presided. Larry Debus (now deceased) and Tracey Westerhausen were opposing counsel. Ms. Westerhausen is now a superior court judge with me.

4)

State v. Denise Daugherty. CR1991-00271-001 in Maricopa County Superior Court. This was my first trial as a prosecutor. The defendant was charged with pandering and keeping a house of prostitution. The case was significant because a corpus issue came up in trial and I was successfully argued it, and the conviction was affirmed on appeal. It was also significant as not many female defendants had been charged with running a house of prostitution during this timeframe. Retired Judge Ted Noyes presided, and Jeff Ross was the defense attorney. He can be reached at 602-953-9110. His address is Budoff & Ross 801 N. 1st Ave, Suite 21-553 Phoenix, AZ 85012. See Attachment A.

5)

State v. Tom Dale Smith. P-1300-CR95-0315. I handled this case from 1995-96. The defendant had been a CNA, certified nursing assistant. He worked at a nursing home in Yavapai County. He physically abused several elderly and frail female residents. With one of them, he forced the 90 -year old's contracted legs apart to clean her, causing one of her legs to break. Another one of the residents had long gray hair, and he picked her up by her ponytail to move her around which caused her to scream out in pain. With another resident, the defendant stuffed a feces covered washcloth in her mouth so she would stop talking. He pled guilty to vulnerable adult abuse and was sentenced to eight (8) years in prison. This case was significant because these very vulnerable, elderly female residents could not defend themselves and it was rewarding to try and provide them a measure of justice. I was always passionate about vulnerable adult abuse cases because they were so defenseless, and they need someone to be their voice and to protect them. The family of the woman with the broken leg wrote me a very heartwarming thank you note after his sentencing. Judge Kiger, Yavapai County Superior Court, handled the proceedings, and Arlene West was the defense attorney. Ms. West practiced in California, possibly Oakland, and was of counsel here.

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.

State v. David Gordon CR2022-141671-001. July 2024. The prosecutor was Bernita Clark and the defense attorney was Victoria Washington. He was charged with Second Degree Murder, a class 1 dangerous felony, for shooting and killing his boss. I wrote a ruling on the constitutionality of his misconduct involving weapons charge which was severed for trial. He was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison. The appeal is pending. This case was significant due to the serious nature of the charges and the evidentiary issues which arose before and during trial. I have presided over other murder trials, however, this is the most recent.

State v. Robert Lee, CR2024-006141-001. The trial was held in October 2024. The prosecutor was Maggie Toth and the defense attorney was Michael Rothman. The defendant was charged with several counts of sexual conduct of a minor for molesting his stepdaughter, starting at the age of 9, and for sexually abusing her teenage friend. He was convicted on all counts. Given the age of his victim, he had to be sentenced to life in prison on two of the counts, and to lengthy consecutive prison sentences on the remaining counts. This case is significant due to the nature of the charges and the evidentiary issues which arose in dealing with both DNA testimony and an expert witness in child molestation cases. I have presided over many similar trials. His appeal is pending.

State v. Adan Orduno CR2011-156533-002 and CR2012-158171-001. He had three open felony cases with serious charges, including one with multiple counts of aggravated assault as his co-defendant shot at police as they were fleeing an armed robbery. I presided over two of his trials. After he was convicted in two of them, the State agreed to dismiss the third case. These cases are significant because with two trials there were several evidentiary issues, and his conduct required me to maintain my composure, which is an essential quality for a judge. During his second trial he threw water on me while on the witness stand. He admitted later that he assaulted me in hopes of stalling his prison sentence. The defendant also yelled at the top of his lungs during his entire sentencing, and my calm judicial demeanor allowed me to not be rattled. Finally, my even-keeled judicial temperament was needed many times as the two lawyers battled out the cases. April Sponsel was the prosecutor, and David Lockhart was the defense attorney. See Attachment A.

State v. Walsh CR2013-001171-001-005. This case involved a mother, father and their three teenage to adult children assaulting an individual. This case was significant because I had five (5) defense attorneys, and this has been my only multiple co-defendant trial. My court management skills were called into play repeatedly as I handled objections and evidentiary issues from five defense attorneys, often at the same time. The prosecutor was Lisa Weiler-Parsons and the defense attorneys were Tyrone Mitchell, Sherri Lauritano, Phillip Beatty, Matthew Leathers and Glen Allen, who is also now a superior court judge. See Attachment A.

State v. Joel Woods CR2024-006319-001. The defendant was charged with First Degree Murder for shooting and killing what turned out to be the wrong person in retaliation for one of his fellow gang members. I am including this as a significant case given the nature of the charges, and I issued a lengthy Rule 404(b) ruling in October 2024 regarding other acts evidence the State sought to introduce at trial. Rulings on murder cases always carry extra scrutiny given the severity of the charges. I included detailed facts so the parties and the appellate court would know the evidence I considered. The defendant was self-represented. I am currently managing several murder cases. The prosecutor was Daniel Fisher and advisory counsel was Jocquese Blackwell. I have included that ruling in Attachment A.

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

I was a paralegal before law school for the now defunct personal injury firm of Murray and Bilinski. I worked there from 1986-1987. Mr. Murray has passed away and Mr. Bilinski retired many years ago.

I worked as a claims adjuster for Prudential Insurance from 1984-1986. I handled auto and homeowner claims, assessing liability for collisions and interpreting our policies to see if other losses were covered. I had authority to settle claims on behalf of the company.

11) Are you now, or have you ever been an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? 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.

Not applicable.

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.

13) Have you ever been sued by a client or a party? If yes, give details, including dates.

No.

14) Have you published any legal or other books or articles? If yes, please list them, giving the citations and dates.

I was a contributor to a booklet on Elder Abuse in the late 1990s. The acknowledgment of the contributors is on the last page where my name appears. I also wrote an article for an Elder Abuse brochure. Both of these were distributed throughout the State, either by the Attorney General's Office or the Maricopa Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance. I have included copies of both under Attachment B.

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

Yes. I have attended many CLE classes each year, however, the bulk of my hours have come from attending the yearly judicial conference in June.

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

I have lectured on trafficked youth in my role as one of the two STRENGTH Court judges in Maricopa County. STRENGTH stands for Succeed Through Resilience, Empower New Growth Through Hope. STRENGTH Court is trauma-informed court which serves minor victims of sex trafficking. The lectures have included a presentation to the National Center for Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2024, a presentation to the Judicial Conference in 2022, and one at the Juvenile Bench and Bar conference in 2020.

I have previously lectured at over sixty (60) seminars on Medicaid fraud, or elder abuse and exploitation including at the Governor's Conference on Aging and at the annual Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council (APAAC) conference. I have attached a list under Attachment C.

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

I was the Unit Chief counsel/Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit when the unit was given the State Fraud award by the Office of Inspector General in 2002. In addition to being the supervisor, I was one of two (2) prosecutors in the unit. There were forty-seven (47) units throughout the United States, and my unit was recognized as the Outstanding Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for the nation that year.

In 1997 I received the Prosecutor of the Year award for the Attorney General's Office. The award was presented by then Attorney General Grant Woods.

In 2023 I received the Game Changer award from the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network for my work with trafficked minors in STRENGTH Court. The award was bestowed at their annual fundraiser with approximately 500 people in attendance.

In 2024 I received the Heart of Justice award from ALWAYS, which stands for Arizona Legal Women's and Youth Services. This was also bestowed at their annual fundraiser, and was in recognition for my work with minor victims of sex trafficking in STRENGTH Court. Judge David Gass, now of the Arizona Court of Appeals, and I started STRENGTH Court in August 2018. I ran the court at Durango from 2018 until my rotation in June 2024.

18) List any public offices held and dates.

I have been a retained judge on the ballot every four years in Maricopa County since 2012.

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

Co-founder and co-chair of the Maricopa County Superior Court Peer Support Team. Our team offers support to colleagues dealing with upsetting cases or vicarious trauma from what they read or see in court. I co-founded this committee in 2013 with former Judge Dawn Bergin, and I have remained the co-chair.

Former member of the Sandra Day O'Connor Inn of Court from approximately 2010-2015. Co-pupilage leader 2013-2014.

Former member of the Appointments Committee of the State Bar, serving a five- year term from approximately 2007-2012. Former member of the Peer Review Committee in the early 1990's.

Optional: List memberships and activities in civic organizations, including offices held.

I volunteered to help prepare and serve meals at the Ronald McDonald house in July 2025. I have volunteered on a Saturday for many years to preside over adoptions at National Adoption Day. I volunteered all day on a Saturday in 2006 to help individuals with warrants resolve their matters. While at Durango each year I selected a child's name to provide him/her gifts at Christmas. Often these were the only gifts the child received at the holidays. For several years on the bench I was a divorced mother of two, and although I wanted to engage in more volunteer efforts, I was committed to being home with my children when I was not at work.

20) List vocational interests and hobbies.

I thoroughly enjoy helping my colleagues in a peer support capacity. Being a judge can be very stressful, and helping them process upsetting evidence they have viewed or difficult cases they have handled is rewarding. As for hobbies, I enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, exercising, scrapbooking and reading.

21) Has any complaint of professional misconduct ever been filed, in any jurisdiction, where any form of disciplinary action has been taken against you? If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?

Not applicable.

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? If yes, when and where? How was it resolved?

No.

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.

While I do not provide diversity from an ethnic perspective, I do provide an upbringing that is likely diverse. I was raised by a single mother, who divorced when I was a baby. That was quite unheard of for that time. We lived in apartments, with my grandparents and in a mobile home, because my mother earned a low salary. We lived in sixteen (16) places before I was 18 years old. I am the first person in my family to graduate from college. Because of my humble background, I can truly relate to most of the litigants who have appeared in my court over the years. If I think it is relevant, I have mentioned it to defendants or often to juveniles who were in my court for a delinquency or dependency matters. I have also spoken to many kids over the years who have toured the courthouse and watched court as part of the Courthouse Experience program. I have told each class about my very humble beginnings. I have told them they cannot assume I had wealth or had it easy just because I am a judge. I tell them that no matter what their circumstances, if they apply themselves, the sky is the limit, and they can become anything they want.

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.

I have been on the bench for twenty years. I have presided over aggravated DUI cases for four of those years, handling eighty (80) aggravated DUI trials. I know the City of Phoenix Municipal Court presides over DUI cases, so I believe my experience aligns very well with that caseload. In addition to presiding over approximately 170 felony jury trials, I have presided over hundreds of bench trials, which is another of the duties of a City of Phoenix municipal judge.

Superior court judges are rated every two years for a four- month period by litigants, jurors, lawyers, witnesses and court personnel such as clerks and court interpreters, and by our staff. It is called the judicial performance review or JPR for short. My JPR scores have always been excellent, and they are available upon request. I have a twenty- year record of treating everyone who comes before me with fairness, dignity, impartiality and equality, and I always uphold their due process rights to be heard. My judicial temperament and my ability to manage my calendar efficiently and effectively are reflected in those high scores, as is my knowledge of the law. I also have a stellar appellate record, which is also available upon request. That record, of course, speaks to my knowledge of the relevant law, the rules of evidence, handling evidentiary issues such as dealing with scientific evidence or expert witnesses, and all aspects of trial practice and sentencing. It spans my rotations to Criminal, Family and Juvenile departments. All this to say I am a known entity, with a proven track record, who could hit the ground running day one. The City of Phoenix Judicial Selection Advisory Board, the City of Phoenix Municipal Court bench and the citizens of Phoenix can be assured that I will be a fair, impartial and effective judge who knows the law and treats people with dignity and respect. I adhere to the rule of law. I absolutely love being a judge, and helping all those who come before me, and I plan on serving on the bench for many more years. I welcome the opportunity to serve the City of Phoenix litigants and victims with distinction, alongside all the other outstanding judges on this municipal bench.