

# Dutchess County Bar Association

## Judicial Screening Questionnaire

1. Full Name: Keri A. Fiore
2. Identify the Court for which you are a candidate and state whether you are a candidate for election or appointment: I am a candidate for New York State Supreme Court Justice and this position is an elected position.
3. List the political party or parties which are supporting your candidacy, or of which you are seeking nomination: Democratic Party
4. List in reverse chronological order all employment and periods of unemployment since graduation from law school. Please feel free to continue on an additional page or attach a resume or CV. Please see Appendix A: Resume

Name of Employer	Location	Dates of Employment	Job Title

- Have you ever been issued a license, other than a marriage license, driver's license, license to practice law or license as a notary public? If yes, please describe the license and list the dates of its initial issuance and its last renewal:

I have a yacht salesperson license in the State of Florida. That license was issued in or around December 2021.

- Has any license, including a license to practice law, a license as a notary public or a driver's license, ever been revoked or suspended? If yes, please describe the circumstances: No

- College and professional schools (other than law schools) attended: Please see Appendix A: Resume

School	Major/Course of Study	Dates Attended	Date of Graduation

- Law Schools Attended: Please see Appendix A: Resume

School	Location	Dates Attended	Date of Graduation

- List all courts in which you are admitted or have ever been admitted to practice, along with the date of admission for each:

New York State, 1<sup>st</sup> Department, 2009

- List all areas of law in which you have concentrated or have had substantial experience for any sustained period of time: I have concentrated my practice in the area of matrimonial and family law.

11. FOR ATTORNEYS: Have you complied with all registration requirements for lawyers, including Continuing Legal Education, in the state of New York and any other jurisdiction in which you are licensed to practice law? If no, please describe the circumstances:

Yes, I have completed all registration requirements for lawyers, including maintaining the required number of Continuing Legal Education credits.

12. FOR JUDGES: Have you attended the mandatory Judicial Ethics Training courses offered at the Judicial Institute? If no, please provide the dates of any such courses for which you are registered to attend:

Not applicable.

13. List any bar associations or professional organizations that you are a member of. If you have served in a leadership capacity for the organization, please also include the position you held:

Please see Appendix A: Resume

14. List any community service activities you participate in:

Please see Appendix A: Resume

15. Have you written any articles for publication? If yes, please give the name and date of the publication and title of each article:

I have not written any articles for publication.

16. Have you had any teaching experience, including serving as a presenter for Continuing Legal Education programs, in law or related fields? If yes, please list:

I have presented three Continuing Legal Education programs as follows:

1. April 2019: New York State Bar Association: Primer on Support Proceedings in Family Court
2. December 2019: Westchester County Bar Association Grievance Committee: Ethics and the Movies
3. September 2020: New Rochelle Bar Association: COVID and the Courts

17. Have your qualifications for public office previously been reviewed by any bar or other professional association? If yes, please list the organization, date of review and findings of the organization:

Yes, the Westchester County Bar Association and the Westchester Women's Bar Association are both currently reviewing my qualifications and credentials to serve as a New York State Supreme Court Justice. The review is currently taking place so there are no findings issued as of yet.

18. FOR ATTORNEYS: Attach a list of five cases in which you have actively and substantially participated in that you feel best represent the scope of your work. Please include the title of the case, the index or docket number, the court in which the case was heard and a brief description of the case.

19. FOR JUDGES: Attach a list of five opinions, trials or appeals that you feel best represent the scope of your judicial experience. Please include the citation for each (if published) or a brief description of the nature of the case (if not published).

Please see Appendix B: Recent Trials

20. FOR ALL CANDIDATES: Please include any additional information which is reasonable to expect our membership would want to know when considering your qualifications for the office you seek.

Thank you for the opportunity to seek a rating from the Dutchess County Bar Association. I would ask your membership to please consider not only my professional experience, but also my extensive experience in community service to the public and to the Bar. I am a firm believer in access to justice, diversity, and community service. My resume reflects my commitment to these endeavors. Thank you.

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I acknowledge by my signature that the answers I have given are true and complete and recognize my continuing obligation during the evaluation process to correct and supplement my answers in order to ensure that they remain true and complete.

*Kiri A Fin*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

9/16/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# APPENDIX A: Resume

# KERI A. FIORE, ESQ.

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## EXPERIENCE

**New York State Unified Court System, Yonkers, NY** November 2017 - present

**Support Magistrate, Yonkers Family Court**

- Conduct hearings to establish support orders for both spousal support and child support, modifications or violations of support orders, and paternity.
- Evaluate testimony and evidence, examine witnesses, rule on the admissibility of evidence, make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and prepare detailed written decisions.
- Research and analyze complex legal issues and rule on motions.

**New York State Unified Court System, White Plains, NY** January 2011 - November 2017

**Associate Court Attorney, Hon. Hal B. Greenwald, J.F.C., White Plains Family Court**

- Drafted Decisions and Orders on various Motions, Orders to Show Cause and Decisions after Trial.
- Conferenced cases with litigants and attorneys in an attempt to resolve various issues concerning PINS matters, custody and visitation issues, juvenile delinquency matters, paternity proceedings, family offense proceedings as well as abuse and neglect proceedings.
- Assisted Judge Greenwald with evidentiary rulings during trial.
- Maintained a filing system for Orders noticed for settlement to ensure timely submission of Orders to the Judge for signature.

**New York State Unified Court System, White Plains, NY** January 2009 - January 2011

**Assistant Law Clerk, Hon. Sam D. Walker, J.S.C., Westchester County Supreme Court**

- Assisted Judge Walker with evidentiary rulings in hearings and served in a confidential capacity.
- Drafted Decisions and Orders and legal memoranda on various Motions, Orders to Show Cause and Decisions after Trial concerning *pendente lite* determinations, support determinations, custody and visitation issues, financial discovery and equitable distribution.
- Conferenced cases with attorneys in an attempt to resolve issues of grounds for divorce, child support, visitation, custody, as well as equitable distribution.
- Reviewed all uncontested Judgment of Divorce filings. Corresponded with litigants to submit the proper documents and, once completed, presented the Judgment of Divorce to the Judge for signature.
- Conducted various administrative tasks such as drafting, faxing and/or mailing correspondence, filing documents with the Westchester County Clerk's Office and maintained a filing system for motions.

**Law Offices of J. Stewart Moore, P.C., Central Islip, NY**

May 2008 - January 2009

**Law Clerk**

- Drafted and reviewed various documents including Summonses and Complaints, Real Estate Contracts, Orders to Show Cause, Notices of Motion, Attorney Affirmations, Affidavits and Stipulations of Settlement.
- Drafted discovery demands and reviewed documents and responses to interrogatories produced pursuant to a discovery request or demand.
- Provided support for attorneys in the form of research, cite checking, and proof reading.
- Managed and directed office personnel by delegating administrative tasks and reviewing completed tasks.

**Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, St. Louis, MO**

Summer 2006

**Legal Intern**

- Assisted attorney with drafting wills and visited AIDS patients in the hospital seeking to execute wills.
- Interviewed clients, drafted summary of argument, and assembled case files for Medicaid denial hearings.

Honorable Leonard D. Wexler, Central Islip, NY

Summer 2005

**Judicial Intern**

- Drafted memoranda proposing determination of motions for Change of Venue and Motions to Dismiss.
- Researched federal and state employment and racial discrimination issues, presenting findings to Law Clerk.

Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC

March 2005 - May 2007

**Research Assistant for Professor Andrew Taslitz**

- Conducted research in the areas of criminal procedure (primarily search and seizure), criminal law, evidence, legal history (emphasizing slavery and Reconstruction), and the interrelation of philosophy, social science and law.

**EDUCATION**

Howard University School of Law, J.D., May 2007

Clinical Skills: Civil Rights Clinic – Spring 2006 – Fall 2006

- Wrote Amicus Brief defending voluntary integration plans.
- Wrote opposition to Motion for Decision without a Hearing in Title VII and ADA case. Filed Appellate Brief in Fourth Circuit regarding Title VII claims.
- Filed Petition for Writ of Certiorari for Title VII claims in federal court.

St. John's University, B.S., Criminal Justice, June 2002

- Dean's List - 1999-2002
- St. John's University Cheerleader - 1997-2002 - Captain: 2000-2002

**INITIATIVES IN THE COURT**

- Unified Court System Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Diversity Task Force - This statewide group is a joint effort of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to tackle diversity issues in the workforce. I am a member of the Diversity Summit sub-committee and Judicial Opportunities sub-committee. The inaugural Diversity Summit was a virtual event that took place on March 4, 2021 and the keynote speaker was Khalil Gabran Muhammad.
- Governor Cuomo Lean Initiative - 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Liaison - The Lean Initiative was an innovative public-private partnership designed to make government more efficient and responsive. My role as the liaison for the 9<sup>th</sup> JD was to assess the processing times in Westchester County Family Court for Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases, identify ways to streamline the process from the filing of the TPR petition through disposition, and to implement best practices among all the Family Court Judges in Westchester County Family Court.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorneys for Children Advisory Committee Member - Along with other committee members, I review attorney applications for admission to the panel to represent children in Supreme Court and Family Court. The Chair of the Committee is the Hon. Joseph A. Egitto, Supervising Judge of the Family Courts in the 9<sup>th</sup> JD.
- Westchester County Access to Justice Initiative - The mission of the Access to Justice Initiative is to ensure access to justice in civil, criminal, and family matters for New Yorkers of all backgrounds, incomes, and special needs, by using every resource, including pro bono programs, self-help services, and technological tools, and by securing stable and adequate non-profit and government funding for civil and criminal legal services programs. I am a member of the Family Court sub-committee and assisted former 9<sup>th</sup> JD Administrative Judge Kathie E. Davidson with the Faith Based Court Access Initiative which designated houses of worship in Westchester County to operate as a safe-haven for unrepresented persons who don't have access to, or cannot safely access technology or personal computer equipment in their home.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judiciary Civil Legal Services RFP Formulation - I recently worked with Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Edwina G. Mendelson's office and the Access to Justice Initiative to formulate an RFP on behalf of the 9<sup>th</sup> JD to tailor the RFP to meet the needs of the Court.



- 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judiciary Civil Legal Services Proposal Review - I recently worked with Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Edwina G. Mendelson's office and the Office of Court Administration budget and contract office to rate organizations applying to provide civil legal services in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The organizations were rated on various criteria provided in the RFP.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Juvenile Defense Attorney for Children Proposal Review - I recently worked with the Office of Court Administration budget and contract office to rate organizations applying to provide attorney representation for children as part of the Raise The Age Initiative. The organizations were required to meet certain benchmarks in order to receive a contract to provide services.
- The Tribune Society, Inc. - The Tribune Society, Inc. of the Courts in the State of New York is a fraternal organization of African Americans and other minority judicial and non-judicial personnel. I assisted with organizing the Virtual Career Workshop taking place on April 27-29, 2021 and I am committed to being a writing mentor for Court staff.
- Westchester Girls' Justice Initiative - I worked with the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children and the former 9<sup>th</sup> JD Administrative Judge Kathie E. Davidson to establish the GRIP (Gender Responsive Initiatives and Partnerships) Court. This project was a collaboration between the courts, service providers, stakeholders and system involved youth.
- Interview panel member for Support Magistrate vacancies - I was selected as the Support Magistrate on four different interview panels: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District (Albany), the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Syracuse), the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Binghamton) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Rochester).

#### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

- New York State Bar Association, Family Law Section Committee Member
- Westchester Black Bar Association, 2nd Vice President
- Westchester County Bar Association, Diversity Committee Co-Chair
- Westchester County Bar Association, Grievance Committee Member
- Westchester County Bar Association, Chair of the Committee to Commission an Oil Painting of the Hon. Sam D. Walker, J.S.C., as the first Black President of the Westchester County Bar Association
- Westchester Women's Bar Association, Member
- New Rochelle Bar Association, Member

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITIONS**

- New Rochelle Bar Association, Lawyer in the Classroom - Certificate of Appreciation
- Mt. Vernon Razorbacks, Cheer Coach - Certificate of Appreciation
- Mt. Vernon High School, Law Day - Know Your Miranda Rights Panel - Certificate of Appreciation
- Yonkers P.S. 23 Read Across America - Certificate of Appreciation

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Lakeland Central School District Board of Education Trustee - Former Member
- Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson - Adult Member
- New York State Parent Teacher Association - former Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School Board Member
- Yonkers Residential Center - Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner

# APPENDIX B:

# Recent Trials

## List of Trials

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CASE NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1.	8/25/22	Matter of Mascorro v Williams	Mother's petition seeking an upward modification of child support based on an increase in the father's income and the passage of more than three years since entry of the prior order of support. The application was granted after a hearing. The Father defaulted in appearing before the Court and the Court imputed income to the Father based on documents he provided to the Court.
2.	8/25/22	Matter of Grant v Montaque	Father's petition seeking a downward modification of child support based on a loss of employment and alleged disability. The application was denied after a hearing due to Petitioner's failure to sustain his burden
3.	8/25/22	Matter of Jorge v Murphy	Mother's petition seeking child support for the parties' child. The application was granted after a hearing. The Father defaulted in appearing before the Court and the Court imputed income to the Father based on documents he provided to the Court.
4.	8/23/22	Matter of DSS o/b/o Maldonado v Herrera	DSS petition seeking child support for the parties' child. The Father appeared before the Court but he failed to provide in full the mandatory financial disclosure. The Court imputed income to the Father based on wages reported by the Support Collection Unit.
5.	8/23/22	Matter of O'Shei v Karalanian	Mother's petition seeking child support for the parties' child. The Fact Finding Hearing was adjourned to November 1 <sup>st</sup> .
6.	8/23/22	Matter of Sosa v Santana	Father's petition seeking child support for the parties' three children. The Fact Finding Hearing was adjourned to December 1 <sup>st</sup>
7.	8/22/22	Matter of DSS o/b/o Munoz Garcia v Espinal	DSS petition seeking child support for the parties' child. The Fact Finding Hearing was adjourned to November 29 <sup>th</sup>
8.	8/22/22	Matter of Jamison v Jamison	Wife's petition seeking spousal support from the Husband. The application was denied after the spousal support calculation would have resulted in the Wife being the payor for spousal support.
9.	8/22/22	Matter of Diaz v Jeffries	Mom's petition seeking child support for the parties' two children. The Fact Finding Hearing was adjourned to November 30 <sup>th</sup>
10.	8/12/22	Matter of Peruccio v O'Connor	Mom's violation petition seeking a willful finding and incarceration for the Father's failure to comply with the order of support. The application was granted after a hearing. The matter was referred to a Family Court Judge for a confirmation of willfulness hearing. The Court recommended a purge of the total past due current support in the amount of \$11,319.94 (total owed was \$36,650.64) or one month incarceration.