

Michele Mercedes Burris Holden  
[REDACTED]

July 25, 2025

To the Honorable Katie Hobbs and the Mohave County Committee on Special Judicial Officer Appointments:

I am pleased to offer my application for consideration for appointment as a judge in the new Mohave County Division 8, or, alternatively, to be placed on the 12-month hiring register for Court Commissioner positions in Mohave County. I have wanted to be judge or commissioner for as long as I have been in Mohave County. I have applied for similar openings the past but looking back I can see that I was not ready then. Either I had not yet mastered trial practice, or I did not have enough breadth of legal experience or solid connections to this county. Having practiced law for 27 years, having resided in Mohave County for 22 years, and having worked with and among a great number of excellent judicial officers and lawyers I now have the training and experience for this position.

I want to be a judge so that I can apply that experience to the administration of justice in service to the people of this county. I also want to be a role model for newer attorneys arriving in this county so that the judiciary of future is left in good hands. I cannot promise that every litigant coming before me will be happy with the result, but I am committed to doing all I can to ensure that due process is satisfied and that a just result is achieved.

Sincerely,



Michele Holden

**APPLICATION ADDENDUM FOR APPOINTMENT TO JUDICIAL OFFICE**  
**MOHAVE COUNTY - DIVISION 8**

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**Note: Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct applies to candidates for judicial office. See Ariz. Sup. Ct. R. 81, Application.**

1. In order to be considered for appointment as a judge to Division 8, you must complete both the "Application Form for Special Judicial Officer Position Appointments" produced by the Mohave County Superior Court and this application addendum.
2. Completely answer all questions. If a question does not apply, write "Not applicable" in the space provided. If information is not available, write "Not available" and state the reason(s) the information is not available. Sign the Waiver of Confidentiality and Release of Information Sheet.
3. If you wish to be considered for appointment by the Presiding Judge as a court commissioner in addition to appointment by the Governor to Division 8, you must submit the application to the Mohave County Superior Court as required for its commissioner selection process. Court staff will forward the completed application to the Governor for consideration.
4. If you wish to be considered for appointment by the Governor **only**, you must submit the application by emailing a signed PDF copy to [azgovlegal@az.gov](mailto:azgovlegal@az.gov).
5. The deadline for applications is **5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2025.** Applications should be submitted by the stated deadline.

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Applicant Name: MICHELE MERCEDES BURRIS HOLDEN

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTERS OF REFERENCE AND TELEPHONE CALLS

The Governor's Office welcomes and needs written assessments of the applicants' skills, expertise, ethics, and any other characteristic relevant to an individual's qualifications to be a judge. Many applicants solicit letters of reference. "More" is not necessarily "better." Applicants are encouraged to solicit ten to twelve substantive letters of reference from those with significant experience with and insight into a candidate's professional experience and qualifications. This number provides sufficient insight into the applicant's potential for serving as an outstanding judge.

Letters regarding applicants should be emailed to [azgovlegal@az.gov](mailto:azgovlegal@az.gov) by **5:00 p.m. on August 11, 2025**. All letters timely submitted to that address will be considered.

## SUMMARY OF THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS

1. **Application Period**: The Governor's Office announces the vacancy. The press release announcing the vacancy provides specific information about the process for the particular vacancy and advises where application forms can be obtained and the deadline for submitting applications.
2. **Application Review**: The Governor's Office reviews all applications received and the results of any investigation conducted by staff and selects applicants to be interviewed.
3. **Notification to Applicants**: Applicants selected for interview are notified by email of the date, time, and location of the interviews. Applicants not selected for interview are notified by email.
4. **Public Notice**: The Governor's Office announces the names of the applicants to be interviewed and invites oral or written public comment regarding their qualifications.
5. **Investigation**: Further investigation of the applicants to be interviewed is conducted. The Governor's Office seeks comments from judges, attorneys, and the community.
6. **Initial Interviews**: Selected applicants will be interviewed by Governor's Office staff in a public session. In fairness to other applicants, an applicant should not attend earlier scheduled interviews of other applicants or otherwise seek out or accept information about the content of such interviews.
7. **Interviews with the Governor and Appointment**: The names of at least two applicants are selected for interviews with the Governor. The Governor will make her appointment following the interview. The appointee will be notified by telephone

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and letter. Applicants not selected will be notified by email.

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
JUDICIAL OFFICE**

Please select one by initialing:

MBH

I wish to be considered for appointment as a court commissioner AND to Division 8. I recognize that I must submit my application to the Mohave County Superior Court for consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be considered for appointment ONLY to Division 8. I recognize that I must submit my application directly to the Governor's Office for consideration.

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE**

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

Over the last five years I have exclusively practiced juvenile law as an Assistant Attorney General in the Protective Services Section. For a portion of that time I served as a Unit Chief Counsel responsible for and practicing in Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo and Apache counties.

2. Identify all areas of specialization for which you have been granted certification by the State Bar of Arizona or a bar organization in any other state.

None, except admittance to the United States Patent Bar, which, in and of itself might be considered a specialization to some extent, but not necessarily as that term is used by the State Bar of Arizona.

3. Describe your experience as it relates to negotiating and drafting important legal documents, statutes and/or rules.

In my current position, drafting of legal documents is not very complex. As a private practitioner for many years, I drafted all of my own legal documents.

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**BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

4. Are you now an officer, director, majority stockholder, managing member, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? NO If so, give details, including the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or other description of your position, the nature of your duties and the term of your service.

Not Applicable

Do you intend to resign such positions and withdraw from any participation in the management of any such enterprises if you are appointed? N/A If not, explain your decision.

Not Applicable

5. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy protection on your own behalf or for an organization in which you held a majority ownership interest? YES If so, explain.

I filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 13 in 2011 as a result of a business operated by my spouse and I that was forced to close in 2006 when the lease on the building was not renewed due to an excessive above-market renewal rate, coupled with a poor economy. After covering the debt for a number of years without the benefit of any any income from that business, by 2011, it was no longer possible to sustain. While I likely could have qualified for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy to immediately discharge all of the debts, I opted for a Chapter 13 filing as it provided a path to meet certain obligations under a payment plan that was successfully adhered to over the course of 5 years.

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6. Do you have any financial interests including investments, which might conflict with the performance of your judicial duties? NO If so, explain.

Not Applicable

**PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

7. Provide information about any activities in connection with pro bono legal services (defined as services to the indigent for no fee), legal related volunteer community activities, or the like.

No such activities have been undertaken since joining the Attorney General's Office in 2016. Prior to this employment, I have volunteered for a wills for seniors/veterans program, volunteered some time to support programs for the local community legal services office, and volunteered to teach some programs for COJET.

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

Military service (1986-1992): While not directly relevant to the legal profession, the leadership and life-skills honed in that time are relevant. Like every 21 year old 2nd Lieutenant, I was afforded every opportunity to work hard, learn from others' as well as my own experiences and make important decisions on issues with real-life consequences.

Attorney General's Office (2016-present): Helping to protect abused/neglected children has been the highest public service I have been honored to perform.

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

I served as an appointed Justice of Peace, Pro Tem, from 2012-2016. While I have applied for some other judicial offices in the past, I have never been a candidate for an elected political office.

Have you ever been removed or resigned from office before your term expired?  
NO If so, explain.

Not Applicable

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

10. The Governor seeks to consider the diversity of the county's population in making her appointment. Provide any information about yourself (your heritage, background, life experiences, etc.) that may be relevant to this consideration.
- I understand the importance of ensuring equal opportunity while bolstering a judiciary that is representative of the diverse county being served. My heritage (Hispanic), my sex (female), my sexual orientation (lesbian), my training (engineering), my military service (Air Force officer), my socio-economic background (single-parent household, with little to no financial security other than SSA benefits after death of my father at age three, no stability - new residences and new schools every year or two), my legal experience (patent law, family law, juvenile and civil law), my age (over 60), and even my lack of political affiliation, could all be used to check some boxes [continued]
11. Attach a brief statement explaining why you are seeking this position.
- The extremely short answer is that I want to be a judge because it is one more way to be of service. The full answer does need a bit of context, so here is the longer answer:
- I went to law school without any real guidance or plan - I just knew being a lawyer was something I wanted to do so I could make a difference in this world. But, as I started law school on my 30th birthday, I felt the tug of financial responsibilities and the need to get ahead in life. [continued]
12. If you are currently serving as a judicial officer in any court and are subject to a system of judicial performance review, please attach the public data reports and commission vote reports from your last three performance reviews.

Not Applicable

13. List your present and any former political party registrations and approximate dates of each:

1982-April 2013: Independent/No Party  
April 2013-April 2013: Republican Party  
April 2013-Present: Independent/No Party


Note: I registered with the Republican Party in 2013 as it was a requirement for appointment when I applied for a Justice of Peace opening. To this day I regret changing my affiliation for the sole purpose of getting a job. Had I received that appointment I believe I would have maintained that party affiliation out of a sense of duty. However I am fundamentally opposed to the idea that a judicial position should even be tied to political party status. I am more aligned with the Democratic Party and have been for much of the last 30 years, but I will not register with any political party again. I can agree with different aspects of policies associated with each of this country's major political parties, but do not want to be judged on the basis of a label that does not wholly comport with my core beliefs.

**WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

I, MICHELE MERCEDEAS BURRIS HOLDEN, hereby authorize the committees of the State Bar of Arizona, all bar associations, references, employers, credit reporting agencies, business and professional associations, and all government agencies to release to the Governor's Office any information requested by the Governor's Office in connection with the processing of my request for consideration as a candidate for judicial office. I understand that the fact that I have applied and all responses provided in the application addendum are not confidential and the information provided may be verified and is subject to public disclosure.

Upon submission of this application to the Governor's Office (including by submission through the Mohave County Superior Court), I expressly consent to the release of my name and the contents of this application addendum to the public. Furthermore, I waive the benefits of any statute, rule, or regulation prescribing confidentiality of records or information that is disclosed.

All of the statements made in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and submission expresses my willingness to accept appointment to the judicial position for which I have applied, should I be selected by the Governor of the State of Arizona.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

July 25, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Question 10 (Continued)**

to show that my appointment to this position brings more diversity to the Mohave County judiciary. On the other hand, I am not sure these traits or experiences make me more representative of the people of Mohave County, and none of them make me any more or less qualified to serve as a judge in this county. That being said, there is no doubt, that, taken as a whole, my heritage, background, and life experiences all inform the person I am today. In the end, despite the many differences in my background and experiences, I am really not much different than the majority of my peers: I try to do what is right; I try to be helpful; I try to make things better, I try to anticipate to avoid redundancy or wasted efforts.

**Question 11 (Continued)**

Accordingly, upon graduation I took the easier route and became a patent attorney. After 5 years of big law/corporate law and knowing that being a lawyer, for me, was not supposed to simply be a means for financial security but a way to continue serving, I started seeking out a way to fulfill that purpose. This led me to take a position with the Attorney General's Office, which, in turn brought me to Kingman and to the courtroom. I knew from the first day this was where I belonged. It was very clear that my experiences to that point had prepared me for a life in the courtroom. I also knew from start that I wanted to one day become a judge. In those earlier days, I was very lucky to be able to appear before a highly competent but relatively small core of judicial officers. Whether they knew it or not, they were my mentors - I wanted to emulate them and to become one of them. At that time, I thought that being a judge meant that one had arrived at the apex of the legal profession. Since then, I have come to understand that being a judge does not necessarily represent some advancement, achievement, or even a validation of one's efforts. Instead it is merely another way to serve the public good. After a number of years and many twists and turns along my legal path (only staying for a short time with the AG the first time, joining different firms, practicing solo during various periods, returning to the AG Office) I am ready serve in a different capacity. I believe as a judge I will be able to rely on my years of experience to positively impact the lives those who come before me. I would also hope that as a judge I would serve as good role model for the next generation of attorneys coming up in Mohave County as was done for me.

MOHAVE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

APPLICATION FORM FOR SPECIAL JUDICIAL OFFICER  
POSITION APPOINTMENTS

This application form must be completed and filed with the Mohave County Superior Court Human Resource Office by the position closing date or as otherwise designated in the position announcement. Submit completed application materials to:

Human Resource Office  
Superior Court in Mohave County  
P.O. Box 7000  
Kingman, Arizona 86402-7000

A. Personal Information

Name: MICHELE MERCEDES BURRIS HOLDEN  
First Middle Last

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]  
GOLDEN VALLEY, AZ 86413

Residence Telephone: [REDACTED]

Office Address: [REDACTED]

Office Telephone: [REDACTED]

Are you an Arizona Resident?  Yes  No  
If yes, indicate how long you have lived in Arizona: 23 years, 3 months

Is your Arizona residence your primary residence?  Yes  No

Driver's License number: [REDACTED] Expiration date: [REDACTED]

Issuing State of Driver's License: ARIZONA

List the addresses of all your places of residence and dates during the last ten (10) years.

[REDACTED]

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**B. Education Background**

List the names and locations of schools attended (i.e. college, advanced degrees and/or law, etc.)

dates attended, and degrees.

Washington State University. Sept. 1982-June 1986, B.S.

Boston University, Jan. 1988-Dec 1991, M.S.

Georgetown University Law Center, Aug. 1994-May 1998, J.D

List major and minor fields of study and extracurricular activities.

WSU: Major Mathematics, Minor Computer Science; club crew team 1 year, club softball team 2 years, AF ROTC 4 years

BU: Mechanical Engineering; full time Active Duty, base softball and cross-country teams (USAFE champions in both sports), Berlin and Copenhagen marathons

GULC: Full time employment all years, except one semester participated in a full time clinical program, USMC marathon

List scholarships, awards, honors, citations, and other factors (e.g., employment) you consider relevant to your performance during college and/or law school.

3.5 year full AFROTC scholarship; as noted above, was employed full time during

graduate and law school programs.

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**C. Professional Background and Experience**

Are you a member of the Arizona State Bar Association?  Yes  No  
If yes, indicate when you were admitted to practice law in Arizona: circa. October 2002

Are you a member of a Bar Association in another State?  Yes  No  
If yes, please list all other Bar memberships and dates admitted to practice law.  
Virgina, admitted October 1998, presently maintained as an associate member  
Washington DC, admitted circa. January 1999, resigned July 2018  
United States Patent Bar, admitted circa. June 1999.

Have you ever been involved in any disciplinary action, suspended from practice, or denied admission to or disbarred from the practice of law in any state?  Yes  No  
If yes, explain:

I have never been suspended from practice, denied admission or disbarred from the  
practice of law in any state. However, I was involved in informal action in  
Arizona in approximately 2004 in a matter arising out of trust accounting procedures.  
The matter was fully and resolved without any formal action and no subsequent such  
issues ever arising.

Are you actively engaged in the practice of law at the current time?  Yes  No  
If yes, list the names of your current law partners and associates. \_\_\_\_\_

Listing names of partners and associates is not exactly applicable as I am employed by  
the State of Arizona in the Arizona Attorney General's Office as an Assistant Attorney  
General.

Please describe chronologically your employment experience and any legal experience including employer or firm name, address, telephone numbers, position titles, duties and responsibilities,

supervisor name and dates worked.

Below is a summary of full-time employment; more information about the nature of the employment, and part-time positions can be found in the attached resume.

12/2016-present: AZ Attorney General's Office, Assistant Attorney General, 100% juvenile law; served as Unit Chief Counsel from October 2018-November 2021. (Contact information provided on the attached continuation page.)

11/2012-12/2016: Solo practice, primarily family law and juvenile law, some juvenile delinquency cases.

11/2008-10/2012: Kelley, Moss & Holden, PLLC, partner (Apr. 2009-Oct. 2012), primarily family law, some some civil law, and some juvenile law.

03/2005-11/2008: Solo practice, primarily family law and juvenile law, some criminal defense and juvenile delinquency cases.

02/2004-02/2005: Law Office of Scott Wickland, associate, primarily family law and juvenile law.

06/2003-01/2004: AZ Attorney General's Office, Assistant Attorney General, 100% juvenile law.

04/2002-06/2003: Honeywell International Inc., Assistant General Counsel, overseeing patent prosecution program for multiple units in the Aerospace Electronics Division.

05/1997-04/2002: Crowell and Moring LLP and Shaw Pittman LLP, law clerk, associate, primarily patent prosecution, but also part of multiple patent litigation cases and some government procurement litigation cases.

09/1994-01/1997: Public Broadcasting Service, Computer Operations Manager

02/1993-09/1994: Computer Sciences Corporation, computer systems analyst

01/1993-2/1993: Titan Corporation, computer systems advisor

12/1986-12/1992: US Air Force, Communications-Computer Officer

Have you served as a judicial law clerk or staff attorney to a court?

Yes

No

If yes, list the name and address of the court, the name of the judge, the dates you served, and your experience.

Not Applicable

Describe your experience as a mediator or arbitrator, if any. \_\_\_\_\_

I have served as court-appointed arbitrator in two civil disputes pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure related to Compulsory Arbitration.

I also served as a mediator to handle disputes for the Wyoming Department of Education.

If applicable, please identify the judicial office you currently hold, any judicial offices you have previously held, the name and jurisdiction of the courts involved, whether you were elected or appointed, and the dates of service. \_\_\_\_\_

I was appointed to serve as Justice of the Peace, Pro Tem, from June 2012 -

November 2016. As such, I primarily worked to cover weekend initial hearings for all of the Mohave County justice court precincts. Additionally, I covered other hearings and trials in the Kingman/Cerbat Justice Court and the Bullhead Justice Court.

During essentially the same period, I was also appointed to serve as a City Magistrate, Pro Tem, for the Bullhead City Magistrate Court.

Do you intend to resign from your current position if you are appointed to this position?

Yes  No If no, please give reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

Have you ever been sued by a client or been a party to a lawsuit?  Yes  No  
If yes, please explain:

My law firm, myself, and an out of state attorney for whom I was acting a local counsel were all sued by a former client that was unhappy about the result of her suit. All of the defendants prevailed in the trial court as well as through appeal with no findings of malpractice.

**D. Training and Extracurricular Activities**

Have you had any legal or non-legal books or articles published?  Yes  No  
If yes, please list each including the titles, citations and dates published: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

Have you attended the Arizona Supreme Court and/or Bar Association continuing legal education courses?  Yes  No  
If yes, please list the courses taken including the sponsoring organizations, dates, and nature of courses. \_\_\_\_\_

See Attached Continuation Page

Have you served as faculty for any law courses or lectured at Supreme Court and/or bar association conferences, law school forums, and/or continuing legal education programs?  Yes  No If yes, please list the courses presented including the sponsoring organizations, dates, and nature of

courses: I have served as faculty for multiple Trial Colleges presented by the Arizona Attorney General's Office for the Protective Services Section. Specific topics have included Evidence, Cross-Examination, Direct Examination, and judging mock trial presentations for junior attorneys. I have also taught some courses for COJET.

List any honors, prizes, awards, and/or other forms of recognition which you have received during your professional career.

2024 Attorney of the Year for the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Protective Services Section.

Are you a registered voter in Arizona?  Yes  No  
If yes, how long have you been registered to vote? In AZ since 2002, overall since 1982

Have you voted in all general elections held during those years?  Yes  No  
If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

I planned to vote in every general election. However, a review of my AZ voting history shows I missed the General Election of 2002. I do not recall why but it was likely an unexpected out of state trip while working for Honeywell. I am quite certain I have voted in all General Elections prior to residing in Arizona so that one was an anomaly.

Have you served on any committees of the Supreme Court and/or bar association?  Yes  No  
If yes, please list the name of the committee and the dates served: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

List memberships and activities in professional organizations including offices and/or positions held and dates: \_\_\_\_\_

None

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List memberships and activities in civic organizations, including offices and/or positions held and dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Bullhead Rotary Club, 2009-2012

AYSO Soccer Volunteer Referee and Tournament Score Keeper, 2009-2016

Venture Club of Kingman, circa 2013-2016

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Describe any personal interests you would like to bring to the Committee's attention: \_\_\_\_\_

Since being with the Attorney General's Office, free time has been at a premium due to excessively high case loads for a period of years. However, starting in early 2025, I have returned to my roots enjoying a more active lifestyle. I have become an avid hiker enjoying weekly hikes in the Hualapai Mountains and other local hiking locales. I am presently in training to participate in one of the shorter Camino de Santiago pilgrimages in the fall of 2026, starting in Porto, Portugal and ending in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. These experiences, while so basic, are becoming key to a renewal of my overall sense of wellbeing.

Are you able to perform the essential duties of a judge in the court(s) for which you are applying with or without reasonable accommodation?  Yes  No

**E. Conduct and Ethics**

Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Not applicable

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Have you filed your federal and state income tax returns for all years you were legally required to file them?  Yes  No

If not, please explain.

There were some late filings and consequent penalties assessed and paid in the past. ~~None of the issues were intentional or with an aim to avoid paying all taxes due. Most~~ recently, my wife's very small business related to purchasing small items such as toys and consumer electronics and reselling via Ebay resulted in an error in the filing for 2019 which then snowballed into late filings for years 2020-2023 until the errors could be corrected. ~~It is important to note that even after applicable penalties were assessed,~~ the actual sums due and owing over the period was minimal to non-existent in light of the withholdings I ensured were taken from my salaried position over the same period.

Have you paid all federal, state and local taxes when due?  Yes  No

If not, please explain.

To date all taxes have been paid, but as note above, there were some late filings and consequently late payments.

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To your knowledge, has any formal charge of professional misconduct ever been filed against you?  Yes  No

If yes, indicate who charged you, what you were charged with, and how this situation was resolved:

Not Applicable

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Have you ever unlawfully used controlled substances, narcotics or dangerous drugs as defined by federal and state laws?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain.

While illicit drugs have not been a part of my life, I am a recovering alcoholic with more than 20 years of sobriety. I never had any legal or employment problems related to my alcohol use but that is only because I was lucky and/or a hard worker. For me, being sober has provided the opportunity to be a productive member of society.

Have you ever been reprimanded, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, cautioned or terminated by an employer as a result of your alleged consumption of alcohol, prescription drugs or illegal use of drugs?  Yes  No  
If yes, explain 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

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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?  Yes  No  
If yes, indicate the date you were requested to submit to such a test, type of test requested, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

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Have you ever been charged with or been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice?  Yes  No  
If yes, indicate who charged you, what you were charged with, and how this situation was resolved: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

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Has any court ever imposed sanctions against you for violation of any rule or procedure or for any other professional impropriety?  Yes  No If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

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Have you ever violated a court order including but not limited to an order for payment of child or spousal support?  Yes  No  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

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Have you ever been discharged or requested to resign in lieu of termination for any position?

Yes  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable

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Have any of your current or former co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, customers or clients ever filed a complaint or accusation of misconduct against you with any regulatory or investigatory agency, or with your employer?  Yes  No

If yes, state the date(s) of such accusations, the specific accusation(s) made, and the background and resolution of such action(s).

Not Applicable

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Have you performed military service?  Yes  No

If yes, please indicate the dates, branch, and type of discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Air Force, December 7, 1986 - December 31, 1992, Honorable

Discharge. Highest Rank Achieved: Captain

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#### F. References

Please list the names, addresses, telephone numbers and, if available, e-mail addresses of any lawyers or judges who are familiar with your professional activities and would recommend you as qualified to serve as a judge.

See Attached Continuation Page

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Please list the names, addresses, telephone numbers and, if available, e-mail addresses of three (3) persons who are not lawyers or judges who would recommend you as qualified to serve as a

judge. Marianne Mallet, Paralegal, [REDACTED]

Caleb Chappellear, Program Manager, [REDACTED]

Melissa McCapes, Program Manager, [REDACTED]

**G. Additional Information**

Please include any further information relative to your candidacy, qualifications, skills, and/or abilities that you wish to forward to the Mohave County Committee on Special Judicial Officer Appointments to assist them in evaluating your application. Please attach a resume, and cover letter explaining why you are seeking this position.

~~My resume provides the raw data showing the breath and depth of my overall experiences. However, facts in isolation do not really paint a full picture upon which my application, or really any judicial application, should be evaluated. I say this because, in my experience working with numerous judges over the years, it is clear that it takes more than a law degree and a few years of legal practice to be a good judge. In my experience, the best judges are those that are clear, consistent, professional, and strive to do justice based in the facts within the bounds of the law. In my view, these qualities really cannot be assessed from a piece of paper evidencing one or more achievements or boxes checked but require personal knowledge and observation over a period of years. I urge the Committee to give great weight to input received from any judge or lawyer that knows me and my body of work as I believe that will provide the best insight into whether or not I should be appointed to serve as a judicial officer.~~

If you are appointed by the Presiding Judge to serve as a special judicial officer, are you aware of any reason why you would be unable or unwilling to serve a full term?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable


\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are appointed by the Presiding Judge to serve as special judicial officer, would you accept assignments outside your area of residence?  Yes  No If no, please explain.

Not Applicable

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby authorizes any bar association, reference, employer, educational institution, credit reporting agency, business and professional associate, or governmental agency to release to the Mohave County Committee on Special Judicial Officer Appointments and Presiding Judge or designee any information requested in connection with the processing of my request for consideration as a special judicial officer. I understand that the fact I have applied is not confidential and the information provided may be verified. By submitting this application, I agree that the Court may publish my name to solicit public comment. All statements in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Submission of this application expresses my willingness to accept appointment to the judicial position applied for in this application if made by the Presiding Judge of the Mohave County Superior Court.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

July 25, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**Section E**

**Employer or firm name, address, telephone numbers:**

Arizona Attorney General's Office

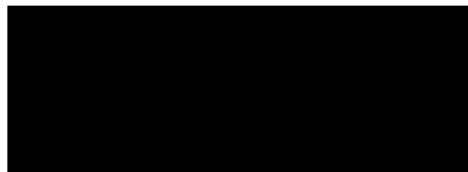
Office Address:



Kingman, Arizona 86409

**Supervisor Contact Information:**

Elise Melvin  
Unit Chief Counsel North Unit



**Section D**

**Arizona Supreme Court and/or Bar Association continuing legal education courses taken:**

| <b>COURSE</b>   | <b>DATE</b> | <b>PROVIDER</b>                                |
|---|-------------|--|
| ICWA Series: Constitutional Implications & Issues post- Brackeen  | 2/14/24     | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program) |
| The Impact of Chemical Dependency on Families, Part 1   | 4/07/15     | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program) |
| Dependency Attorney Training  | 3/12/12     | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program) |
| Arizona Dependency: Introduction to Child Representation, Section 1: Medical and Psychological Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect | 10/17/12    | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program) |
| Arizona Dependency: Introduction to Child Representation, Section 3: The Arizona Dependency Process                               | 10/17/12    | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program) |
| Arizona Dependency: Introduction to Child Representation, Section 2: Legal Framework for Child Welfare Law                        | 10/21/12    | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program) |
| Arizona Dependency: Introduction to Child Representation, Section 4: Role   | 10/21/12    | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program) |

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Applicant Name: MICHELE MERCEDES BURRIS HOLDEN

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|   |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| and Duties of the Child Representative and Ethics in the Dependency Process |                 |   |
| Dependency Attorney Training  | 3/15/16         | Arizona Courts (AOC Court Improvement Program)      |
| Arizona Court System  | 12/14/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Arizona Evidence  | 12/14/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Conducting Proceedings  | 12/15/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Domestic Violence 101 for Judges  | 12/14/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Legal Research  | 12/15/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Legal Terminology   | 12/14/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation                                  | 1/09/12         | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation                                  | 1/23/12         | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Limited Jurisdiction New Judge Orientation                                  | 4/23/12         | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Restitution   | 12/15/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| Top 10 Questions Related to Domestic Violence                               | 12/14/11        | Education Services Division - Arizona Supreme Court |
| The Whole Enchilada   | 9/26/09         | Mohave County Bar Association                       |
| Annual Meeting  | 3/14/09         | Mohave County Bar Association                       |
| Another Full CLE in Your Backyard   | 10/05/12        | Mohave County Bar Association                       |
| Full CLE In Your Backyard   | 1/20/11         | Mohave County Bar Association                       |
| 2009 Advanced Family Law  | 5/25/10         | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| 2011 College of Trial Advocacy  | 8/02/11-8/06/11 | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| 7/14-Ethics- CLE by the Sea-2010  | 7/14/10         | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| 7/15-Foreclosure-Thursday-CLE by the Sea 2010                               | 7/15/10         | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| 7/16-Foreclosure-Friday-CLE by the Sea 2010                                 | 7/16/10         | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| 7/17-Foreclosure-Saturday-CLE by the Sea 2010                               | 7/17/10         | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| ABC's of Guardianships, Conservatorships, and Probate                       | 4/7/05          | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| Advanced Interstate Issues in Family Law                                    | 12/05/12        | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| Arizona Family Law Institute Day 1 "Boot Camp" (1/19/2012)                  | 10/05/14        | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| Dispositive Motions   | 5/23/09         | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| For Better or For Worse 2005  | 6/20/05         | State Bar of Arizona                                |
| Mastering Construction Law - 11313-412                                      | 2/25/11         | State Bar of Arizona                                |

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|   |           |                      |
|---|-----------|----------------------|
| Pretrial Motions  | 5/30/09   | State Bar of Arizona |
| Servicemembers Civil Relief Act   | 4/20/15   | State Bar of Arizona |
| WEBCAST: Court Assigned Arbitration   | 3/18/10   | State Bar of Arizona |
| WEBCAST: Probate Court-Appointed Attorney and Guardian Ad Litem Training - 12456-466                                    | 8/29/12   | State Bar of Arizona |
| Ethics Café Series: Revised Ethics Rules for Government Lawyers   | 2/4/2025  | State Bar of Arizona |
| Shaken Baby Syndrome / Abusive Head Trauma  | 1/31/2020 | State Bar of Arizona |
| vLex Fastcase Benefit Introduction  | 10/2/2024 | State Bar of Arizona |
| What Lawyers, Advocates and Judges Need to Know About the Americans with Disabilities Act in light of Jessica P. v. DCS | 9/11/2020 | State Bar of Arizona |

**Section F**

**Names, addresses, telephone numbers and, e-mail addresses of any lawyers or judges who are familiar with my professional activities and would recommend me as qualified to serve as a judge.**

[Note, the majority of the people named below were not contacted prior being listed here. Accordingly, if they are contacted they may express surprise but I am confident they would recommend me as qualified to serve.]

Megan A. McCoy, Mohave County Superior Court Judge, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Derek Carlisle, Mohave County Superior Court Judge, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Steven C. Moss, Mohave County Superior Court Presiding Judge, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Lee Jantzen, Mohave County Superior Court Judge, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Rick Williams, Mohave County Superior Court Judge, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Rick Lambert, Mohave County Superior Court Judge, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Aaron Demke, Mohave County Superior Court Judge, Pro Tempore, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Doug Camacho, Mohave County Superior Court Judge, Pro Tempore, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Anna Young, Yavapai County Superior Court Judge, [REDACTED]

Garrett Whiting, Apache County Superior Court Judge, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Angela Kircher, Coconino County Superior Court Judge, Pro Tempore, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tracey Heinrick, Unit Chief Counsel, [REDACTED]

Carey Turner, Section Chief Counsel, [REDACTED]

Brian Strickman, [REDACTED]

Joy Riddle, [REDACTED]

Eric J. Engan, [REDACTED]

Heather Wellborn, [REDACTED]

Stephen Irgens, [REDACTED]

Carlene Lacy, [REDACTED]

Filing Date: July 25, 2025

Applicant Name: MICHELE MERCEDES BURRIS HOLDEN

**AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK**

The Mohave County Court System may check credit, criminal, educational, employment and disciplinary records of applicants. I hereby authorize the Presiding Judge or designee to conduct credit, criminal background, educational, employment and disciplinary records investigations as part of the application process for judicial appointment.

Name: MICHELE MERCEDES BURRIS HOLDEN

Address: [REDACTED]

Fax Number: NONE

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Place of Birth: [REDACTED]

Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

State Bar Number: [REDACTED]

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

[Signature]  
Signature of Applicant

State of Arizona )  
                                  )ss.  
County of Mohave )

Subscribed to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

[Signature]  
Notary Public





## LEGAL AND JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

### **Arizona Office of the Attorney General, Kingman, Arizona**

*Assistant Attorney General, Child and Family Protection Division/Protective Services Section, June 2003 to January 2004, December 2016-Present*

- Mentor and trial attorney representing the Department of Child Safety in cases before the juvenile court in Mohave County.
- Advise and train client on topics such as policy, regulatory and statutory provisions, and trial practice.
- August 2018-November 2021, Unit Chief Counsel, North Unit, supervising and assisting AAGs covering Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo, and Apache counties.

### **Law Office of Michele Holden, PLLC, Kingman, Arizona**

*Sole Practitioner, February 2005 to November 2008, November 2012 to December 2016*

- Trial attorney practicing primarily in the fields of juvenile dependency law and domestic relations. Responsible for all trial management, drafting pleadings, trial and case strategy, and client relations.
- Additional responsibilities include all aspects of managing a small law practice, including supervision of staff, contract management, budgeting, and client development.

### **Mohave County and Bullhead City, Arizona**

*Justice of the Peace Pro Tem and Associate Magistrate Pro Tem, April 2012 to December 2016*

- Perform all judicial functions of the respective offices of Justice of the Peace and City Magistrate on an as-needed basis.

### **Wyoming Department of Education, Cheyenne, Wyoming**

*Hearing Officer and Mediator, Contract June 2013 to June 2016*

- Serve as hearing officer or mediator for disputes arising under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

### **Kelley, Moss & Holden, P.L.L.C., Bullhead City, Arizona**

*Partner, April 2009 to October 2012; Associate, November 2008 to April 2009*

- Trial attorney practicing the fields of domestic relations, civil litigation, and juvenile dependency law. Responsible for all trial management, drafting pleadings, trial and case strategy, and client relations.
- Managed firm office technology policy and oversaw implementation and ongoing operations of new firm billing, account management, and case management systems.

### **Law Office of J. Scott Wickland, Kingman, Arizona**

*Associate, January 2004 to February 2005*

- Trial attorney practicing primarily in the fields of juvenile dependency law and domestic relations and secondary fields of patent and trademark prosecution.

### **Honeywell International Inc, Phoenix, Arizona**

*Assistant General Counsel, Aerospace Electronic Systems, April 2002 to June 2003*

- Responsible for all intellectual property issues in multi-billion dollar defense and space electronics business.
- Counseled clients with respect to all areas of intellectual property, with emphasis on preserving patent rights and development of sound patent practices.

**Shaw Pittman, L.L.P.**, Washington, District of Columbia and McLean, Virginia  
*Associate*, Intellectual Property Group, May 2000 to April 2002 (moved with entire IP group to new firm)

- Assisted in patent litigation involving a computer data collection system and a trade secret litigation involving an enhanced caller-id system. Specific responsibilities included factual analysis, witness preparation, and legal research and analysis.
- Patent prosecution, including interviewing inventors, reviewing prior art, drafting patent applications and responding to office actions in the USPTO. Technical fields: telephony systems, vehicle safety apparatus, polyethylene terephthalate fibers, business method patents, database systems, and software applications, among others.

**Crowell & Moring, L.L.P.**, Washington, District of Columbia  
*Associate*, Litigation Group, May 1998 to May 2000, *Law Clerk*, September 1997 to May 1998, *Summer Associate*, May 1997 to September 1997

- Assisted in patent infringement defense involving call routing in the public switched telephone network.
- Performed legal research, complex document review, witness preparation and case analysis in patent infringement case involving polyethylene terephthalate yarns used in automobile tires, resulting in a successful settlement agreement.
- Performed document review and detailed analysis of factual issues, witness preparation and second-chaired numerous depositions in an appeal before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

## EDUCATION

- **Georgetown University Law Center**  
Juris Doctor: May 1998  
Law Review: Georgetown International Environmental Law Review  
Clinic: Institute for Public Representation, Spring 1997
- **Boston University**  
Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, January, 1992
- **Washington State University**  
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, December, 1985  
Minor: Computer Science, May, 1986

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Mohave Community College**, Bullhead City, Arizona  
*Adjunct Professor*, January 2010 to December 2012

- Taught courses in the paralegal program to students both on-ground and via distance learning tools such as interactive television.

- Prepared lessons plans, evaluation tools, and provide feedback to students to insure a quality educational experience for the students.

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

### **Public Broadcasting Service, Alexandria, Virginia**

*Computer Operations Manager, September 1994 to January 1997*

- Managed all computer operations including planning, customer support, and implementation of new system and network configurations, managed capital budget for future acquisitions, as well as annual operational budget.
- Oversaw operations of the 200 node PBS Wide Area Network supporting corporate and external electronic mail and conferencing services.
- Supervised four system administrators, two computer operators and three technical support specialists.

### **Computer Sciences Corporation, Stuttgart, Germany and Reston, Virginia**

*Senior Member Technical Staff, February 1993 to September 1994*

- Developed and implemented a detailed plan to provide systems integration for a disparate suite of computer hardware and software for US European Command Headquarters' advanced policy and planning center.
- Worked closely with the system users and managers to develop solutions meeting the unique needs of each group and provided training as required.

## **MILITARY EXPERIENCE**

**United States Air Force Officer, December 7, 1986 through December 31, 1992.**

**Highest Rank Attained: Captain (O-3). Discharge: Honorable**

### **Description of Military Duties**

#### **U.S. Air Force, Warrior Preparation Center, Einsiedlerhof, Germany**

*Chief, Computer Operations Division, October 1989 to December 1992*

- Served as the senior computer and network manager of the largest U.S. military computer war gaming center in Europe. Responsible for all aspects of operations and management of hardware and software systems valued at over \$30M.
- Managed team of five military and three contractor personnel. Responsible for over \$3M annual operational and capital budgets. Responsible evaluating, recommending, procuring and implementing new system software and hardware.
- Awarded two Air Force Commendation Medals (1991, 1992), Air Force Achievement Medal (1991), and selected Company Grade Officer of the Year (1991).

#### **U.S. Air Force, European Communications Division, Kaiserslautern, Germany**

*Communications-Computer Staff Officer, May 1987 to October 1989*

- Developed multi-vendor local area network in support of the headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe and presented written and oral briefings to senior commanders and subordinate field unit commanders.
- Awarded Air Force Commendation Medal (1989).