



**KANSAS BAR
ASSOCIATION**

1200 SW Harrison St.
Topeka, KS 66612-1806
Phone: (785) 234-5696
Fax: (785) 234-3813
E-mail: info@ksbar.org
Website: www.ksbar.org

February 7, 2022

Senator Ty Masterson
President of the Senate
Chair, Kansas Commission on Interstate Cooperation
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Room 332-E
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws
Appointments

Dear President Masterson:

Kansas is represented on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, commonly referred to as the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), by the chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees and three members of the Kansas bar “to be appointed by” the Kansas Commission on Interstate Cooperation “with the advice of the president of the bar association of the state of Kansas.” K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 46-407a(a)(2). Currently, two Commissioner vacancies exist because of the appointments previously held by Commissioners Jan Pauls and Richard Hite who are now deceased.

As president of the Kansas Bar Association, I respectfully recommend appointment of the Honorable Athena E. Andaya and the Honorable Sarah E. Warner as Commissioners. ULC Commissioners volunteer their time to draft uniform legislative for consideration by state legislatures. The work is very detailed oriented and involves hours drafting suggested statutory language that is clear and concise. Both Judge Andaya and Judge Warner have the skills and background to most ably represent Kansas at the ULC.

Judge Andaya has a lengthy career in government including positions that required her to draft statutory language. As a Deputy Attorney General, Judge Andaya drafted statutory language and Attorney General opinions that interpreted statutory language. Judge Andaya provided research and analysis of bills to the Kansas Legislature as a research analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department. Because of her experience, Judge Andaya is well suited for a ULC Commissioner’s work in ensuring any suggested uniform laws are clear and concise.

Judge Warner’s career similarly has revolved around excellence in writing. As a Chambers Law Clerk for the Kansas Supreme Court, Judge Warner drafted opinions and was mentored in her writing skills. Judge Warner further honed her writing skills as an advocate, including writing appellate briefs at the appellate

level, for her clients. During her confirmation hearing for the Kansas Court of Appeals, Judge Warner's knowledge of writing was evident when she was asked about and testified about her views on the Oxford comma.

The remaining Kansas Commissioner is James M. Concannon, the Senator Robert J. Dole Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus and former Dean at Washburn University School of Law. Professor Concannon currently serves as Chair of the Uniform Law Commission's Committee on Style, which edits all uniform acts and, as the ULC Legislative Liaison for Kansas, I recommend that he continue to serve as a Commissioner from Kansas.

Further information about Judge Andaya and Judge Warner is enclosed with this letter. I look forward to meeting with the Kansas Commission on Interstate Cooperation about these nominations.

Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Whelan
President, Kansas Bar Association

enclosure

The Honorable Athena E. Andaya

Athena E. Andaya was born in the Philippines and immigrated to the United States with her parents and sister when she was three years old. She grew up in Wichita and attended Washburn University where she majored in Political Science. Judge Andaya earned her law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law where she was on the Environmental Moot Court team and participated in the legal aid clinic.

Before her appointment as an administrative law judge, Judge Andaya spent 30 years in service to the people of Kansas. She worked as a prosecutor, general counsel, principal research analyst, and a deputy Kansas attorney general before she was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge with the Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings in August 2021. Judge Andaya is a member of various professional organizations including the Kansas Bar Association, and has volunteered in her community for TARC and the YWCA. She married Gordon Self in 1993 and they have four adult children.

The Honorable Sarah E. Warner

Sarah E. Warner joined the Kansas Court of Appeals in July 2019, being appointed by Governor Laura Kelly and confirmed 37-1 by the Kansas Senate. Judge Warner grew up in Pittsburg and attended the University of Kansas, where she completed majors with honors and distinction in French, international studies, mathematics, and political science. Judge Warner received her law degree in 2006 from Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She graduated magna cum laude, was a senior editor of the *Ave Maria Law Review*, and at commencement received the highest award given to a law school graduate based on intellect, grades, and character.

Before joining the bench, Judge Warner spent 10 years in private practice at Thompson Warner, P.A., where she had an active civil litigation practice at both the trial and appellate levels in state and federal court. She previously served as chambers counsel for Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Davis. Judge Warner has been an adjunct professor at Washburn University School of Law since 2009, where she teaches courses in Conflict of Laws and Appellate Practice; she was named Washburn Law School's Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2018 and 2020. She has served as president of numerous professional organizations, including president of the Kansas Bar Association from 2018 to 2019, and is a former member of the Kansas Board for Discipline of Attorneys.