

The Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana

JAMES RYAN NEWHART

No.2020-C-01001

VS.

**DIEDRE PIERCE KELLY AND ARTHUR
MORRELL, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS
CLERK OF COURT IN THE PARISH OF
ORLEANS, STATE OF LOUISIANA**

C/W

C. GARY WAINWRIGHT

VS.

**DIEDRE PIERCE KELLY AND THE
HONORABLE ARTHUR A. MORRELL**

IN RE: James Ryan Newhart - Applicant Plaintiff; Election, Parish of Orleans Civil,
Civil District Court Number(s) 2020-6387 c/w 2020-6401, Court of Appeal, Fourth
Circuit, Number(s) 20-CA-0374 c/w 20-CA-0375;

August 17, 2020

Writ application granted. See per curiam.

JTG

JLW

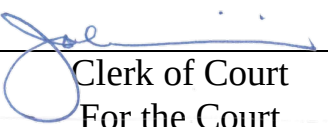
SJC

WJC

JHB

Hughes, J., would deny.
Johnson, C.J., recused.

Supreme Court of Louisiana
August 17, 2020



Clerk of Court
For the Court

08/17/20

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

No. 2020-C-1001

James Ryan Newhart

vs.

Diedre Pierce Kelly and
Arthur Morrell, in his Official Capacity as the Clerk of Court for the Parish of
Orleans, State of Louisiana

On Supervisory Writ to the Civil District Court,
Parish of Orleans

Granted. Louisiana Constitution article V, § 24 states that potential candidates “shall have been **admitted to the practice of law** in the state” for eight years in order to qualify for a district judicial seat (emphasis added). Ms. Kelly was admitted to the bar on October 20, 2011. She was suspended from the practice of law between April 2, 2015, and November 15, 2016. It follows that the period of her suspension did not accrue towards the required eight years of admission to the practice of law. Thus, the lower courts’ rulings are reversed, and Ms. Kelly is disqualified as a candidate for Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge, Section “K.”