

Board Members

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RE: Appointment of New Ethics Officer

May 20, 2022

Mr. Robert Patrick, Presiding Officer Board of Commissioners

DeKalb County Government 1300 Commerce Drive

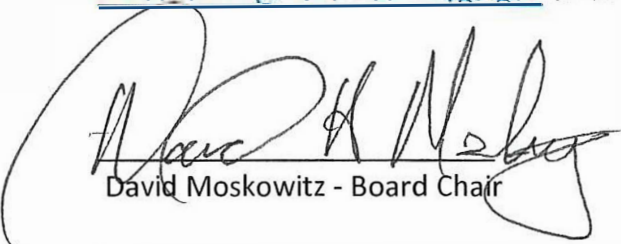
Decatur, GA 30030

Mr. Patrick:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the DeKalb County Board of Ethics. As you know, HB597 establishes the position of Ethics Officer. HB597 provides that "[t]he ethics officer shall be appointed by a majority of the members of the Board of Ethics, subject to confirmation by a majority of the Commission and approval by the Chief Executive, for a period not to exceed six years."

After a unanimous vote, the Board extended an offer to Ms. Elisa Murphy to become the Ethics Officer and Ms. Murphy accepted the offer. Ms. Murphy is a former magistrate judge and business ethics professor from Ohio.

The Board wants this matter to be included on the agenda of the Board of Commissioners at the earliest possible time so that the Ethics Officer can begin her work. I respectfully suggest that it is appropriate for the Board of Commissioners to expedite this matter which will permit the Board of Ethics and the Ethics Officer to achieve the obligations and goals set forth in HB597. Please do not hesitate to contact me at dmoskowitz@dekalbcountyga.gov or 404-502-2771 with any questions you may have.



David Moskowitz - Board Chair

Enclosures

Cc: Michael Thurmond, Chief Executive Officer

www.dekalbcountyethics.org

1300 Commerce Dr. Decatur, GA 30030, Phone: (404) 371-2652

ELISA MURPHY



QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preside over felony and misdemeanor hearings
- Former Legal Counsel with the Secretary of State of Ohio
- Provided legal and strategic guidance to Boards of Elections
- Trained in the areas of Criminal, Juvenile, Compliance, and Elections Law
- Experienced evaluating over 800 settlement agreements and contracts
- Seventeen total years as a judge in Municipal Court and magistrate in Juvenile Court
- Litigator, investigator, negotiator, mediator, and trainer
- Proficient computer and analytical skills (e.g., MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, and OneNote), Google Drive (Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms), Spreadsheets (Excel and Google Sheets), Email (mail merge, filters, and folders), and Presentations/Slideshows (Powerpoint and Google Slides))
- Adjunct Professor, teaching Business Law, Business Ethics, and Compliance Law
- Former LexisNexis' top research attorney
- Successfully managed high volume caseloads in a fast-paced environment

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Magistrate for Franklin County, Ohio, Common Pleas Court - Appointed: 02/2022

- Conduct delinquency (criminal), abuse, neglect, and dependency hearings
- Preside over felony and misdemeanor arraignments, adjudications, and dispositions
- Monitor and analyze new laws, regulations, and policies
- Collaborate with treatment providers, social services, and federal and county agencies
- Discuss alternative dispositions with attorneys, agencies, parents, and children

Elections Attorney with the Ohio Secretary of State - 06/2020 to 02/2022

- Attorney with the Ohio Secretary of State ("SOS"), Hon. Frank LaRose
- Reviewed, advised, and assisted with complex legal, policy, and compliance issues
- Provide guidance and advise the Board of Elections in 88 Ohio counties on legal and ethical issues
- Write, reviewed, and edited directives, advisories, memoranda, and election materials
- Represented and trained SOS divisional personnel
- Assisted senior elections legal and administrative staff
- Drafted, edited, and evaluated legal documents and contracts
- Evaluated and investigated complaints concerning elections and Boards of Elections
- Prepared reports for Boards of Elections, governmental officials, and constituents
- Assisted Boards of Elections in the development of election related materials

Adjunct Professor at Indiana Wesleyan University - 01/2019 - Present Employer

- Instructor in Business Ethics, Labor, Administrative, Business Law, and Management
- Students examine business, ethics, compliance, and social responsibilities while engaging in complex decision-making exercises that explore operations management, business law, regulatory, compliance, and ethical issues with companies

Judge for Hamilton County Municipal Court - 09/2019 to the General Election

- Presided over criminal and civil matters, extensive trial experience
- Fair, Impartial, Efficient, and Respectful Leader
- Worked effectively with administrators, federal and state law enforcement officers, public, probation officers, attorneys, bailiffs, and court support staff
- Counseled attorneys, law enforcement, managers, and the public on legal issues
- Interpreted and analyzed issues and correctly applied the law to the facts
- Managed high-volume caseloads, scheduled hearings, and assisted case management

Magistrate for Hamilton County Juvenile Court - Appointed: 04/2003-09/2019

- Conducted delinquency (criminal), traffic, unruly, custody, abuse, neglect, and dependency hearings
- Presided over pretrial hearings, plea hearings, trials, and settlement conferences
- Conferred with attorneys, public, and governmental workers on alternative dispute resolutions
- Wrote over 3000 clear and accurate decisions that precisely applied the law to the facts
- Monitored and analyzed new laws, regulations, and policies
- Communicated and provided new federal and state laws to judges and magistrates
- Worked with treatment providers, social services, and federal and county agencies
- Interviewed and counseled parents and children

Juvenile Division, Attorney at Law, Hamilton County Public Defender's Office - 01/2000-04/2003

- Trial Attorney in the Guardian ad Litem and Juvenile Division
- Litigated felonies, misdemeanors, custody, and other civil matters
- Prepared legal documents and pleadings
- Participated in Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Reviewed cases for feasibility of court or other legal actions
- Conducted legal research of state and federal laws and regulations
- Prepared legal briefs, memoranda, and pleadings
- Maintained legal records
- Interviewed clients and performed other related legal duties as assigned

Litigation Attorney - Private Practice - 11/1996-04/2003

- Experienced litigator, drafted motions, legal memoranda, and appellate briefs
- Proficient researcher through LexisNexis, Westlaw, and the Internet
- Represented clients in the following courts: Common Pleas, Municipal, Juvenile, and Domestic Relations

LexisNexis Top Research Attorney and Trainer, LexisNexis - 02/1994-11/1996

- Managed, maintained, and serviced top 60 national law firms, which generated 80% of Lexis-Nexis' revenue or sales for the Hotline accounts
- Promoted Trainer and Sales Representative to cover Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri
- Served as Chairperson of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Library
- Core member of the Labor Relations and Medical Team
- Provided telephonic support, trained external and internal customers, and vendors
- Proven Research Attorney
- Drafted legal writings that were published on the LexisNexis database

NON-LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

Supervisor, Levi Strauss & Company - 01/1998-01/2000

- Managed over 120 union personnel per shift. In charge of the budget for the largest department with more than 500 people
- Participated in the grievance process to resolve any concerns
- Conferred with bargaining unit representatives and management to address contract disputes
- Coordinated production and scheduling with other departments
- Created production forms, attendance forms, overtime forms, and newsletters
- Hired and monitored union personnel in three of the largest departments
- Assisted new hires and educated them on union contracts and labor relations laws

EDUCATION:

- Juris Doctor Degree, University of Akron Law School, May 1993
- Bachelor of Science, Purdue University, Major: Operations Management/Supervision, December 1986

BAR ADMISSIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND HONORS:

- Ohio Bar Admissions
- Georgia Bar Admissions
- Federal Bar Admissions: U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- Continuing Legal Education presenter
- Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute - Graduate
- Ohio Association of Magistrates
- Ohio Judicial Conference
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.: former acting president, political and governmental chair, former fundraising chair, and administrator
- Life Member of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati, Ohio
- 100 Wise Women Award, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Commencement Speaker for Dohn High School, Cincinnati, Ohio