




MEMORANDUM

Date: April 13, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Appointment of Megan Page as Pima County Public Defender**

Following receipt of the pending resignation of Pima County Public Defender Joel Feineman, a process was developed to evaluate potential candidates and recommend the most qualified which has been outlined in the April 13, 2022 memorandum from the Public Defense Services Director, Dean Brault. (Attachment 1)

The Evaluation Committee interviewed six highly qualified applicants in which I interviewed two candidates on April 12, 2022 and it is my recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to appoint Ms. Megan Page as the Pima County Public Defender.

Enclosed is Ms. Page's resume for your information and review. (Attachment 2)

I will place Ms. Page's recommended appointment as Pima County Public Defender on the April 19, 2022 Addendum for Board of Supervisors ratification.

JKL/mp

Attachments

c: Dean Brault, Director, Public Defense Services

ATTACHMENT 1



PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

To: Jan Leshner
County Administrator

Date: April 13, 2022

From: Dean Brault
PDS Director

Subject: Recommendation for Pima County Public Defender appointment

Following the announced resignation of Pima County Public Defender, Joel Feinman, a committee was formed to select a recommended replacement. The committee was composed of Rosemarie Pena-Lynch, Director of the Maricopa County Office of Public Defense Services, Kate Vesely, Director of Justice Services, James Fullin, Pima County Legal Defender, Mary Trejo, City of Tucson Public Defender, and myself. The position was posted on the Pima County website and was open to all County employees. We received six applicants, all of whom were qualified for the position. All six applicants were interviewed by the committee. Following those interviews, the committee unanimously recommended Megan Page to be presented to the Pima County Board of Supervisors for appointment as the Pima County Public Defender.

Ms. Page received her Bachelors of Arts in history from the University of Arizona in 2007, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in 2010, again graduating Summa Cum Laude. In August of 2010, she started as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Deborah Bernini at the Pima County Superior Court.

Ms. Page was hired by the Pima County Public Defender as an Assistant Public Defender in 2011 as a felony trial attorney, handling a full caseload that included all types of cases including homicides and sexual assaults. She was promoted to be a Team Leader of one of the Adult Felony Trial Teams in 2017. In 2018, she was selected to be the Chief Assistant Public Defender. In that position, working with the Public Defender, she has effectively managed the attorneys and staff of the Public Defender's Office and been a strong leader that has garnered respect from all aspects of the criminal justice system in Pima County.

Her resume is attached for your review.

ATTACHMENT 2

MEGAN K. PAGE

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pima County Public Defender's Office, Tucson, AZ (April 2011 to Present)

Chief Assistant Public Defender (March 2018 to Present)

- Managed approximately 160 employees, including attorneys and staff
- Expanded the mission of the office, including developing a misdemeanor unit, social work and mitigation unit, and a free, weekly legal clinic
- Collaborated with other stakeholders to improve indigent defense in Pima County, including development and implementation of a pre-indictment diversion program
- Assisted in developing a training programs for attorneys and staff

Adult Felony Team Leader (May 2017 to March 2018)

- Supervised 15 attorneys and 7 paralegals
- Led regular team meetings and trial reviews
- Trained and mentored new attorneys
- Represented indigent clients charged with felony offenses

Adult Felony Criminal Defense Attorney

- Maintained a full caseload of adult felony cases, including aggravated assault, sex assault, and homicide cases
- Represented clients in court hearings and jury trials

Pima County Superior Court, Tucson, AZ (August 2010 to April 2011)

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Deborah Bernini

Office of the Federal Public Defender, Tucson, AZ (June 2008 to May 2010)

Law Clerk

EDUCATION

University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ

Juris Doctor, May 2010, Summa Cum Laude

- *Arizona Law Review*, Second and Third Year Writer
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Certificate in Criminal Law and Policy
- Order of the Coif
- Outstanding Performance in Oral Advocacy Award

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Bachelor of Arts, History, May 2007, Summa Cum Laude

ASSOCIATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Arizona, 2010 to Present

National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Defender Counsel Member, 2020 to Present

Amphi Foundation, Board Member, 2020 to Present