



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 10, 2017

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Appointment of Joel Feinman as Public Defender**

I have appointed Mr. Joel Feinman as Pima County's Public Defender. The process to evaluate potential candidates and recommend the most qualified is outlined in the attached April 7, 2017 memorandum from the Public Defense Services Director.

The Evaluation Committee interviewed five highly qualified applicants, and the Committee ranked Mr. Feinman the most qualified. Hence, it is my pleasure to appoint Mr. Feinman as the Public Defender.

Mr. Feinman's resume is attached for your information and review.

I will place Mr. Feinman's appointment as Public Defender on the April 18, 2017 Addendum for Board of Supervisors ratification.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator
Lori Lefferts, Director, Public Defense Services



PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/7/2017

From: Lori J. Lefferts
PDS Director

To: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: Recommendation for Pima County Public Defender appointment

In response to the retirement of Pima County Public Defender, Steve Sonenberg, a committee was formed to select his replacement. The committee was composed of Jan Leshner, Chief County Administrator; Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator; Dean Brault, Legal Defender, and myself. The position was posted on the County website, and notice of the vacancy was distributed statewide by Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice, Arizona Public Defender Association, and Arizona Minority Bar Association. Applications from 12 qualified candidates were received. Five applicants were interviewed. Each of them was highly qualified for the position, making the decision a difficult one. Nonetheless, the committee recommends the appointment of Joel Feinman to Pima County Public Defender.

Mr. Feinman received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona, where he won several awards for his oral advocacy and trial skills. He also holds a Master of Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona. Mr. Feinman served as an Assistant Public Defender for eight years, assigned to serious felony trial cases. During his tenure, he was the 2011 recipient of the Rising Star Award by the Arizona Public Defender Association. He currently is a private practitioner, specializing in criminal defense representation. Mr. Feinman is an Adjunct Professor of Law, teaching trial practice at the University of Arizona College Of Law, and for nine seasons, has served as a mock trial coach to high school students.

Please contact me if you would like a meeting with Mr. Feinman, and I will make the arrangements. Attached is his resume for your review.

c: Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Dean Brault, Legal Defender



Legal Experience

OWNER AND SOLO PRACTITIONER, FEINMAN LAW PLLC; TUCSON, AZ; 2017 - PRESENT

- Own and operate a private law firm specializing in criminal defense.
- Represent clients throughout all stages of the legal process, from initial appearance, to trial, to sentencing and filing of a notice of appeal.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER, PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER; TUCSON, AZ; 2007 - 2015

- Tried 41 felony cases, including 6 homicide trials as first chair and 5 as second chair.
- Awarded the 2012 "Rule 11 King Award" by the Honorable Deborah Bernini of the Pima County Superior Court.
- Awarded the 2011 "Rising Star Award" by the Arizona Public Defender Association.

LAW CLERK, NASH & KIRCHNER, PC; TUCSON, AZ; 2006 - 2007

- Assisted with police and DEA interviews, planned trial strategy, interviewed witnesses and clients, researched and drafted memoranda and motions on topics including pre-indictment delay, prior bad acts, severance, Miranda and voluntariness violations, Lacey Act, Endangered Species Act, search & seizure issues, post-indictment dismissal.

LAW CLERK, ELLINWOOD, FRANCIS & PLOWMAN, LLP; TUCSON, AZ; 2005 - 2006

- Interviewed clients, attended court proceedings, researched and drafted memoranda on a broad range of legal topics including search & seizure, staleness of warrant, statutory rape, paternity, preclusion of expert testimony regarding child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome.

JUDICIAL EXTERN, PIMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, HON. TED B. BOREK; TUCSON, AZ; 2004

- Served as intern, research assistant, and bailiff for Judge Borek. Attended court, researched and drafted memoranda on a range of issues including suppression of improperly seized evidence, probable cause to arrest, propriety of DUI arrests and breath tests.

Teaching, Research and Writing Experience

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF LAW (2013 - PRESENT)

- Teach two classes on trial practice and advocacy skills to law students. Teach all aspects of criminal and civil trial work, from rules of evidence to pre-trial motion practice to witness examination and closing arguments.

MOCK TRIAL COACH, (2008 - PRESENT)

- Coach high school and undergraduate students competing in regional and national mock trial competitions. Teach the practice all aspects of criminal and civil trial work.

MEIKLEJOHN CIVIL LIBERTIES INSTITUTE; BERKELEY, CA; (SUMMER 2004)

- Awarded summer fellowship to human rights organization. Wrote and edited more than fifty human rights reports. Attended and helped organize various community meetings and marches addressing topics that included civil liberties, racism, military intervention, corporate constitutional rights and responsibilities.

ENGLISH AND HISTORY TEACHER, AEON CORPORATION; OKINAWA, JAPAN; (2000 - 2001)

- Taught English grammar and conversation to students of all ages and across a wide range of professional backgrounds in Okinawa, Japan. Created, developed, and taught Aeon's first new class in twenty years - an intensive sixteen week course on U.S. history and political theory. Students included representatives to the Japanese legislature and the Governor of Okinawa.

Education

JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA; JURIS DOCTOR, 2007

- William T. Birmingham Advanced Trial Advocacy Award, 2006
- Richard Grand Damages Closing Argument Competition Finalist, 2006
- American College of Trial Lawyers Jenckes Closing Argument Competition Co-Winner, 2005 & 2006
- Jessup International Moot Court Team Member, 2004 - 2005
- Award for Excellence in Oral Advocacy, 2004

GRADUATE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA; MASTER OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, 2007

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILL; BACHELOR OF ARTS, LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY, 2000

BAR/ CLE Activities

- Presented CLE seminar for the Pima County Inn of Court titled, "Using Terror Management Theory in the Courtroom," March 7, 2017
- Member, Arizona State Bar Mentorship Committee, 2013 - 2015

- Presented CLE seminar for the Pima County Bar Association on using storytelling to enhance trial practice, 2014.
- Moderated Arizona State Bar CLE seminar on indigent defense and the right to counsel, 2013.
- Presented in-house CLE seminar at the Pima County Public Defender on motion writing, pre-trial interviews, and trial practice, 2013.
- Presented three in-house CLE seminars at the Pima County Public Defender on new developments in *Brady* disclosure law, *Crawford* confrontation law, and motions to dismiss indictments, 2007.

Community Activities

- Board of Directors, Planned Parenthood Arizona, 2012 - present
 - Chairperson of the Board of Directors, 2014 - 2016
- Member, Pima County Democratic Party Executive Committee, 2016 - present
- Democratic candidate for Pima County Attorney, 2016
- Mentor, Pima County Juvenile Court mentorship program, 2009 - 2011

References

HON. CASEY MCGINLEY

Pima County Superior Court Judge; 520-724-3667

HON. TERESA GODOY

Pima County Superior Court Judge; 520-724-3242