

# THE NELSON LAW CHAMBERS LLC

Attorney & Counselor at Law

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JOHN WILLIAM NELSON, ESQ.  
**Licensed to practice in**  
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WASHINGTON D.C.  
WISCONSIN

23 April 2024

Becky Magestro, Chief of Staff  
City of Whitewater  
312 W Whitewater Street  
Whitewater, WI 53190

**SENT VIA EMAIL TO:**  
[bmagestro@whitewater-wi.gov](mailto:bmagestro@whitewater-wi.gov)

**RE: APPLICATION FOR INTERIM MUNICIPAL JUDGE POSITION**

Dear City of Whitewater,

Please consider this letter as my application to be appointed as the interim Municipal Judge for the City of Whitewater. I understand this position will only be held until such time as the people of Whitewater elect the new, non-interim, Municipal Judge. I also intend to run for that position.

Enclosed with this letter is my résumé, which provides a summary of my education and experience, plus some of my accomplishments.

I am a litigation and trial attorney licensed to practice law in Wisconsin, and I live with my family at 302 S. Prince St. next to Lincoln Elementary. My two kids attended Lincoln, and now attend the Middle School across the field. I am qualified for this position because I am a qualified elector in the City of Whitewater.

The reason I believe I am well suited for this position is because of my experience running my own law firm while focusing on trial and litigation matters. I am familiar with courtroom procedure in multiple jurisdictions, including the rules of evidence. I have handled multiple jury trials—including civil and criminal trials in State and Federal courts—as well as hundreds of non-jury trials like the ones held in Municipal Court. I know I can run trials and hearings effectively, efficiently, and within the bounds of the law.

My practice in Georgia resulted in the representation of numerous clients for whom English was a second language, or who did not speak English at all. This included immigrants from all over the world, including Central and South America, Asia, and Africa. I know how to accommodate non-native English speakers because of this experience, as well

as many of the pitfalls and risks non-native English speakers and immigrants face when interacting with the court system.

I have experienced many different types of judges and courtrooms over the years in my trial practice. This includes many different judicial approaches to managing a courtroom. I believe patience is important for a judge, along with a willingness to listen, and an ability to understand and respect all of those before the Court—from the City’s attorney, to the officers who dealt with the ordinance violations, and the defendants before the Court. Further, impartiality is important—something I know I can provide. Being able to separate the person from the issues and facts is an important skill for a trial attorney, and it is one I have honed over the years.

I know the current and incoming Court staff—Beatriz Aranda and David Gempler—also possess invaluable experience. I would lean on their expertise to ensure the Court runs smoothly, effectively, and efficiently. Further, as someone who has run his own firm since 2011, I know I am capable of handling any administrative work necessary.

Personally, reducing recidivism is important to me in the judicial system. I know this was important to Judge Taylor as well. My goal would be to continue the programs implemented by Judge Taylor that were designed to do reduce recidivism.

This includes Judge Taylor’s programs designed to help provide solutions to juvenile issues brought before the Court. I understand he worked to ensure juveniles and their families had the opportunity to gain support from those in the community—social workers and school system representatives—best placed to aid them. I believe in the youth in this community, and I believe in Judge Taylor’s goals to provide juveniles an off-ramp from the law enforcement side of the judicial system.

The role of Municipal Judge is important to this community. I have watched Judge Taylor’s handling of the Court in person, and I know anyone who takes the position will have big shoes to fill. Nevertheless, I know I am up to the task.

My hope is to serve our community in a role for which I am qualified. I look forward to answering any questions you may have about my application.

Sincerely,  
John William Nelson  
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Enclosures: Resume.

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## LAW LICENSES

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GEORGIA

TENNESSEE

WISCONSIN

WASHINGTON D.C.

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## EMPLOYMENT

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### The Nelson Law Chambers LLC, Atlanta, Georgia

*July 2011 to the present.*

- Managing a single-member firm focused on representing technology startups and early stage companies.
- Drafting initial company formation documents and guiding company founders through the startup process.
- Representing individuals in credit card debt collection lawsuits in magistrate, state, and superior courts.
- Representing consumers in consumer rights cases in federal court, including multiple trials.
- Representing multiple small businesses in commercial disputes.
- Representing company owners in business divorce cases.
- Defended technology startup company and its founders against copyright trolls in federal court.
- Drafting motions, memos, contracts, and pleadings.
- Negotiating with opposing parties.
- Protected the international copyrights of a client who has international independent contractors.
- Wiped out a client's \$30k+ credit card debt plus recovered attorney fees to cover his expenses.
- Saved a local government client hundreds of thousands of dollars by reviewing whether claimed fees were actually owed.
- Obtained judgments worth \$40,000 and \$60,000 for consumers in federal jury trials, not including attorneys' fees.
- Represented consumer clients on appeal to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Represented clients in bench trials in civil penalty (traffic) cases and a single felony jury trial (assault with a deadly weapon) to verdict in Georgia courts.

### Professional Boundaries, Inc., a Florida Corporation

*November 2010 to October 2011.*

- General Counsel Chief Technology Officer for a small, national education company.
- Managed the company's IP assets.
- Negotiated and drafted contracts and licensing agreements.
- Rehabilitated the company's corporate documents.
- Kept the company out of court.

### The Law Offices of Wm. Thomas Craig, Covington, Georgia

*August 2009 to November 2010.*

- Attorney working for the law firm acting as Newton County's Attorney and one of the foremost environmental law firms in Georgia.
- Drafted memos to be read by the Newton County Board of Commissioners.
- Drafted ordinances and regulations; prepared memos on local government issues.
- Represented Newton County in litigation.
- Saved Newton County hundreds of thousands of dollars through legal analysis of complicated tax and regulatory issues.
- Represented Newton County in a jury trial in Rockdale County over violations of a water reservoir buffer.

## EDUCATION

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### **University of East Anglia**

Norwich, United Kingdom

*LLM, with Distinction, in International Information, Technology, and Intellectual Property Law, February 2010*

Recipient, *Norwich Law School Prize for Best Dissertation Performance*

Sir Edward Coke Scholar

### **Cumberland School of Law**

Birmingham, Alabama

*Juris Doctor, May 2008 (3.496 GPA / Top 17% / 26 of 159)*

*Scholar of Merit Award, Contracts II*

Judge Abraham Caruthers Teaching Fellow

Senior Associate Editor, AMERICAN JOURNAL OF TRIAL ADVOCACY

Member, 2008 ABA NAAC Moot Court Team, National Finalists, Dallas Regional 3rd Best Brief

### **University of Georgia**

Athens, Georgia

*Bachelor of Arts in History, August 2003*

Historian, *Phi Kappa Debate & Literary Society*, Spring 2003

## PUBLICATIONS

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*A Virtual Property Solution: How Privacy Law Can Protect the Citizens of Virtual Worlds*, 36 OKLA. CITY U. L. REV. 395 (2011).

*The Virtual Property Problem: What property rights in virtual resources might look like, how they might work, and why they are a bad idea*, 41 MCGEORGE L. REV. 281 (2010).

*Fiber Optic Foxes: Virtual objects and virtual worlds through the lens of Pierson v. Post and the Law of Capture*, 14 J. TECH. L. & POL'Y 5 (2009).

*Border Confidential: Why Searches of Laptop Computers at the Border Should Require Reasonable Suspicion*, 31 AM. J. TRIAL ADVOC. 137 (2007).

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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“Photograph copyright and the need for a bright-line rule,” February 4, 2012, Sharing Scholarship Building Teachers Workshop, Albany Law School, Albany, New York. — *15-minute presentation of a working paper and research on the need for a bright line rule for copying, derivative works, and photographs.*

“The Law and the Meaning of Mine,” March 4, 2011. [Association for Law, Property, & Society 2011 Conference \(ALPS\)](#), Washington D.C. — *Twenty-minute presentation talk on a working paper examining how concepts of ownership and presentation have developed in law and society.*

“Copyright: Or how I learned to relax and love the Law,” October 31, 2009. [University of Georgia — Gwinnett County Extension](#), Lawrenceville, Georgia. — *One-hour introduction to copyright law presented to students studying for a Masters degree in Instructional Technology and School Library Media.*