

Jonathan McDonell

Whitewater, WI | 920.728.3644 | jonmcdonell@gmail.com

April 22, 2024

Dear Common Council:

I am writing to express my interest in the municipal judge position for the City of Whitewater. With eight years of experience as an attorney, including serving as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Whitewater from 2016 to 2023 and currently as the City Attorney for the same city, I bring a deep understanding of municipal law and a passion for serving our community.

Throughout my career, I have long aspired to preside as a municipal judge. It is a role I view not only as a professional opportunity but also as a chance to contribute to the fair administration of justice within our municipality. My tenure as the city prosecutor since 2016 has provided me with invaluable insights into the nuances of municipal law and the responsibilities associated with adjudicating cases at this level.

Having closely observed the model conduct of our past municipal judges, Judge Kelly and Judge Taylor, I have gained a profound appreciation for the qualities that define an effective judicial officer, including impartiality, integrity, and a commitment to upholding the law. I am eager to leverage my experience and insights to continue their legacy of excellence and to ensure that every individual appearing before the court receives a fair and impartial hearing.

As a lifelong resident of Whitewater, I have a deep-rooted connection to our community and a genuine investment in its well-being. My familiarity with the unique needs and dynamics of our city positions me well to serve as a compassionate and responsive municipal judge, dedicated to promoting the interests of our residents and upholding the principles of justice.

In my current role as City Attorney, I have honed my legal skills and developed a keen understanding of the complexities inherent in municipal governance. I have collaborated closely with various stakeholders to address legal challenges and navigate intricate legal issues, further enhancing my ability to serve as a judicious and conscientious municipal judge.

I am excited about the opportunity to bring my unique blend of experience and dedication to the position of municipal judge in the City of Whitewater. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the continued success and prosperity of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan K. McDonell

Jonathan McDonell

Whitewater, WI | 262-473-7900 | jm@hmattys.com

Education & Bar Membership

B.A. HISTORY | 2012 | UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

JURIS DOCTORATE | 2015 | DRAKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

WISCONSIN STATE BAR | 2016 |

Experience

ATTORNEY | HARRISON, WILLIAMS & MCDONELL LLP | 2016 – PRESENT

- General practice attorney with extensive experience in municipal law, personal injury, estate planning, criminal law, contract drafting, real estate, small business, and family law.
- City Prosecutor for the City of Whitewater 2016 – Present.
- Assistant City Attorney for the City of Whitewater from 2016 – 2023.
- City Attorney for the City of Whitewater from 2023 – Present.
- Hundreds of hours of in-court experience including bench trials and jury trials with favorable results.
- Public Defender service for Walworth County and Jefferson County.
- Specially appointed by other municipalities for legal matters:
 - Special Prosecutor for the City of Elkhorn
 - Special Legal Counsel for the City of Elkhorn
 - Special Prosecutor for the City of Delavan
 - Special Prosecutor for the City of Jefferson
 - Special Prosecutor for the City of Fort Atkinson
 - Special Prosecutor for the Town of Walworth

LAW CLERK | HARRISON, WILLIAMS & MCDONELL LLP | 2012 – 2015

- Drafted motions and affidavits.
- Organized legal memoranda and client correspondence.
- Conducted legal research to assist attorneys on complex legal questions.

Skills & Abilities

LEADERSHIP

- Vice President of the White Memorial Library Association from 2020 - 2023
- Member of the Walworth County and Jefferson County State Bar Association
- Criminal Defense Clinic at Drake University Law School

References

- Attorney Marty Harrison – 920-723-7234
- Attorney Mark Olm – 262-473-1819
- Former Whitewater Municipal Judge Richard Kelly – 262-203-6332
- Charles Dickmeyer, Tincher Realty – 262-473-4175