

ERNEST MUELLER

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September 27, 2024

City Council
City of Deltona, Florida

Dear City of Deltona City Council Members:

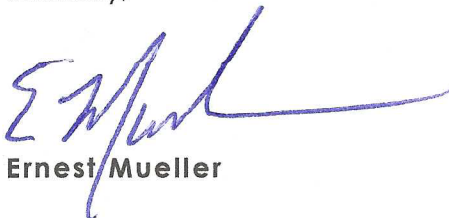
I am quite interested in the City of Deltona City Attorney opportunity and have attached my resume for your consideration. As you will see from my resume, I have been a local government attorney in Florida for the past 25 years. I have been part of the legal teams at the cities of St. Petersburg (Assistant City Attorney), Tampa (Senior Assistant & Chief Assistant City Attorney), and Temple Terrace (Deputy City Attorney).

I have extensive experience in most, if not all, the areas that the City Attorney for the City of Deltona must be familiar: code enforcement, lien collection, foreclosures, litigation, employment, and land use. I have advised numerous quasi-judicial boards such as public nuisance abatement, historic preservation, code enforcement, and variance review boards. I have appeared in court as a municipal prosecutor and as a litigator. I have worked in both the city manager and strong mayor forms of municipal government.

I possess the leadership and experience necessary to build a City Attorney's Office. When I became Chief Assistant City Attorney at the City of Tampa, I managed 12 attorneys and 8 Support Staff. I restructured the office organization so that our senior attorneys could lead and mentor our junior attorneys. I worked to bring in or upgrade the resources and technology necessary to allow the attorneys to be successful.

I look forward to an opportunity to discuss in further detail how my 25+ years of municipal law experience and leadership skills will help the City of Deltona satisfy its goal of establishing an in-house legal department.

Sincerely,



Ernest Mueller

Email:  badgeratlaw@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy City Attorney, City of Temple Terrace

2019 - Present

- Providing legal services to city officials, departments, and employees:
 - Code Enforcement Prosecutions
 - RPOs
 - Advisor to Quasi-Judicial Boards
 - Contract Review

Chief Assistant City Attorney, City of Tampa

2017 - 2019

- Managed 12 Attorneys and 8 Support Staff;
- Delegated attorney assignments and created business process improvements to ensure the legal needs of the City were met;
- Conducted performance evaluations for attorneys and staff with the goal of motivating improved work performance and career development;
- Spearheaded the development and installation of a document management system to increase efficiency with regard to public record storage and retrieval;
- Retained many of the assignments of Senior Assistant Attorney role.

Sr. Assistant City Attorney, City of Tampa

2006 - 2017

- Advised several City Departments, including Human Resources, Code Enforcement;
- Represented City in administrative proceedings and foreclosure matters;
- Advised Hearing Officers and Quasi-Judicial Boards;
- Engaged in collection work for City departments, particularly Code Enforcement liens, and unpaid utilities balances;
- Created relationships with Florida Law Schools to develop a comprehensive legal extern program;
- Trained and mentored newer attorneys in their legal assignments.

Assistant City Attorney, City of St. Petersburg

1999 - 2006

- Provided legal advice to all City departments on employment issues: including benefits, employee discipline, state and federal discrimination law, and internal investigations;
- Represented City management in arbitrations and civil service boards;
- Defended City, elected officials, and employees in federal and state employment lawsuits;
- Prosecuted Municipal Ordinance Violations;
- Initiated collections on judgments and unpaid accounts.

Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, State of Florida

1996 - 1999

- Defended State of Florida, its agencies, and employees in civil lawsuits, including Title VII, ADA, Section 1983, torts, writs of mandamus and prohibition, and bankruptcy adversarial proceedings;
- Argued motions in state trial courts and engaged in oral argument in state appeals courts;
- Managed large caseload with clients throughout Central Florida.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING SPECIAL MAGISTRATE

- Town of Redington Beach
- Town of Redington Shores

BAR & COURT ADMITTANCE

- Admitted to Florida Bar
- Admitted Wisconsin Bar (*Inactive*)
- Admitted to Middle District of Florida, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR & LECTURER

- Thomas Cooley Law School, Adjunct Professor** 2019 - Present
- Prepare course materials and instruct course title: **Local Government Law.**
- Stetson Law School, Guest Lecturer** 2001 - 2017
- Prepared materials and instructed as guest lecturer for **Local Government Law.**
- CLE Guest Lecturer on Code Enforcement Topics** 2012 - Present

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI 1996
Juris Doctor

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 1990
Bachelor of Science, Management Information Systems
Concentration in Production and Operations Management

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Programming Analyst

Martin Marietta Specialty Components (formerly GE), Largo, FL 1990 - 1992

- Obtained Security Clearance which was a key requirement for assignment;
- Selected in the Information Systems Management Program (ISMP) which included technical and leadership training;
 - *Completed internships in Engineering, Computer Services, and Manufacturing*

Analyst, IBM, Tampa, FL 1988 - 1990

- Academic part-time employee program for the Global Services organization located in Tampa.

MILITARY HISTORY

U.S. Coast Guard 1979 - 1987