## **ERNEST MUELLER**

badgeratlaw@gmail.com

F.S. 119.071(4)(d)2.w.

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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 aovernment.

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
  - o RPOs
  - o 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.

Email: <u>badgeratlaw@gmail.com</u>
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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 Juris Doctor

1996

# 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