

Mary M. Meyer

From: Megan Mikolajczyk [megan.mikolajczyk@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 22, 2012 5:06 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Application for City Council Seat
Attachments: Megan N Mikolajczyk.pdf

To Whom it May Concern:

I am excited to submit my application for the open seat on the Lincoln City Council. I understand that this is a short term position, which is appealing to me since I want to continue to gain knowledge and experience in the Lincoln community without necessarily having to wage a full-out campaign this May. While I am not opposed to running for a city-wide council seat in the future, my current primary concern is gaining valuable experience while also being able to assist my fellow Lincolnites as best as I am able.

As my resume highlights, I strive to better the community around me as often as possible. I emphasize pro bono and reduced fee cases in my law practice, particularly focusing on those types of demographics within Lincoln and the surrounding areas who may be considered most vulnerable; domestic abuse victims, elders, vulnerable adults, and those living below poverty level. I volunteer in a variety of organizations whose mission is aligned with my own goals and morals. I have a very strong altruism streak that runs through my entire spirit, a quality I find imperative to serving the community in a public office position.

I really hope to be seriously considered for this position. What I lack in age and experience I more than make up for in energy, creativity, civic-mindedness and drive. I really look forward to hearing from all of you in the near future. Should you have any questions regarding my application, please let me know.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday weekend with your loved ones.

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Sincerely,

Megan N. Mikolajczyk, Esq.

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Megan N. Mikolajczyk

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EDUCATION

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

August 2008 - May 2011

- College of Law: **JURIS DOCTOR – top 50% of class**

University of Wisconsin - Madison

August 2004 – May 2008

- Bachelor of Science: **ANTHROPOLOGY**
- Bachelor of Science: **POLITICAL SCIENCE**
- Concentration Certificate: **CELTIC STUDIES**

National University of Ireland – Galway

January 2007- June 2007

- Visiting Student

EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

Partner and President: Kirk & Mikolajczyk Law Offices

November 2011 – Present

- Manage accounting and business affairs of an emerging law firm, including drafting tax and business entity forms, setting up and managing bank accounts, marketing and generating a client base, serving as a spokesperson for our firm within the Lincoln community
- Counsel and represent clients on a variety of issues relating to Elder Law, LGBT Law, Wills and Estates, Family Law, and Guardianships and Conservatorships, and basic Litigation while also focusing on maintaining a healthy level of Volunteer Lawyer Project cases (pro bono and reduced fee), particularly focused on domestic abuse victims
- Supervise all employees, including administrative support, law clerks, and legal interns within the pro bono program partnership founded by our firm and the UNL College of Law

Mentor to the Highly Gifted: Lincoln Public Schools

November 2011 – Present

- Design curriculum for a middle school student in the area of Social Studies which engages the student and encourages use of critical thinking skills, creativity and exploring interesting ideas at a more in-depth level
- Encourage the student to embrace and further develop intellectual gifts while also focusing on social and emotional development
- Evaluate student performance and work towards achieving substantial educational goals set by the school board, student, parents and mentor

Certified Senior Law Clerk: Glen D. Witte P.C. L.L.O.

November 2009 - August 2011

- Draft a variety of trust agreements, guardianship appointments and terminations, wills, power of attorney documents, real estate agreements, and discovery for litigation
- Represent clients in a range of legal activities, including depositions, hearings and trials
- Present seminars for various Nebraska communities on the importance of Asset Protection and Estate Planning, explaining such topics as estate planning-related taxes, the importance of drafting a will, who will benefit from creating a trust, how to obtain a reverse mortgage, and the process of imposing guardianships and conservatorships

President: *Environmental and Agricultural Law Society*

September 2008 – May 2011

- Organize meetings and events for membership and professionals in the community, including the annual Spring Career Panel and debates on current environmental and agricultural issues, such as panels on recent 8th Circuit oral arguments concerning water disputes
- Moderate legal conferences concerning environmental or agricultural issues for attorneys and other professionals
- Oversee that all officer and member responsibilities are met, including law school recycling, the spring t-shirt fundraisers, payment of dues, advertisement of upcoming events, and creating new ways for EALS to be involved in the Lincoln community

Extern: *Mosaic, Inc.*

January 2011- May 2011

- Research areas of law relating to Medicare and Medicaid, disabilities, taxation, employment regulations and state probate laws
- Create comprehensive graphs to display variations in statutes throughout geographic regions in which Mosaic is currently active
- Observe and integrate ethical considerations and responsibilities expected of non-profit attorneys or other officers

Program Coordinator: *Community Legal Education Program*

January 2009 – May 2011

- Manage law student and elementary teacher relationships and matches to ensure a quality experience for the volunteers and the participating classrooms
- Teach elementary students about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights using fun and innovative learning strategies
- Serve as the liaison for teachers to give feedback about the program, voice concerns or compliments and participate in the program again in future years

HONORS & ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors – Community Action of Lancaster County	2012 - Present
Policy Council – Head Start/Early Head Start; Executive Position	2012 - Present
Executive Board Director of Arts - Women’s Club Heritage League	2012 - Present
GAP Class Think Tank Member – Nebraska State Bar Association	2012 - Present
Member – Nebraska State Bar Association	2012 - Present
Volunteer – Lancaster County Democrats	2012 - Present
Volunteer – Nebraskans for Civic Reform Election Day Team	2012 - Present
Tutor – High School Math, English, Biology	2011 - Present
Assistant Coach - Lincoln Lutheran High School Cross Country	2010 - 2012
CLEP Instructor	2009 - 2011
Top 25% of UNL Law Class, Third Year	2010 - 2011
CALI Award (Best in Class) – Water Law and Policy	2011
Mediation Competition Participant	2011
President - Law School Democrats	2008 - 2010
Top 21% of UNL Law Class, Second Year	2009 - 2010
Big Sister- Heartland Big Brothers/Big Sisters	2009 - 2010
CALI Award (Best in Class) – Entertainment Law	2009
Client Counseling Competition	2009
Dean’s List - University of Wisconsin	2006 - 2008