

Memorandum

Office of the County Executive Michaelian Office Building

July 7, 2022

TO:

Hon. Catherine Borgia, Chair

Hon. Nancy Barr, Vice Chair

Hon. Christopher Johnson, Majority Leader Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM:

George Latimer /

Westchester County Executive

RE:

Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: RES - Appointment of

Assigned Counsel Administrator - Pulver.

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators July 11, 2022 Agenda.

Attached herewith is a Resolution appointing Sheralyn Pulver as the Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for July 11, 2022 "blue sheet" calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



George Latimer County Executive

July 8, 2022

Westchester County Board of Legislators 800 Michaelian Office Building White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

In accordance with Section 186.61 of the Laws of Westchester County and at the request of the Assigned Counsel Board of Directors, transmitted herewith for your approval is a resolution to confirm the appointment, effective August 8, 2022, for a term to expire on August 7, 2026, of Sheralyn Pulver as the Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel.

The Board of Directors has made a thorough review of Sheralyn Pulver's credentials and experience, and have determined that her appointment as Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel is in the best interests of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel, generally. I wholeheartedly approve the appointment of Sheralyn Pulver as Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel.

Therefore, I most respectfully recommend and urge your Honorable Board to confirm the attached resolution authorizing the appointment, effective August 8, 2022, for a term to expire on August 7, 2026, of Sheralyn Pulver as Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel.

mensa

County Executive

GL/SDK/nn



George Latimer County Executive

July 8, 2022

Sheralyn Pulver 144B Heritage Hills Somers, New York 10589

Dear Ms. Pulver:

On behalf of the Assigned Counsel Board of Directors and with the approval of County Executive George Latimer, it is my pleasure to appoint you as the Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel, effective August 8, 2022, for a term to expire on August 7, 2026. Please be advised that while this appointment authorizes you to immediately assume the duties and responsibilities of said office, your appointment as Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel is subject to confirmation by the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Once confirmed by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, you will serve in that position for a four (4) year term.

As you know, the Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel is responsible for administering the policies, regulations and standards for the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel to ensure that all indigent persons are provided with quality legal representation in matters in both the Criminal and Family Courts in Westchester County.

Pending your confirmation by the Board of Legislators and in accordance with New York State law, you must take and file an oath of office in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk. Please be advised that your failure to take and file such an oath within thirty days of the date of this appointment letter, or within thirty days after the commencement of your term of office, will result in the office of Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel being deemed vacant. If you have any questions with regard to these legal requirements, please contact the County Attorney.

I look forward to working with you.

Wendy Marie Weathers

Chair, Assigned Counsel Board of Directors

WW/SDK/nn

Sincerely

Sheralyn Pulver 144B Heritage Hills Drive Somers, New York 10589 SPulverLaw@gmail.com (914) 260-5024

EDUCATION

Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY J.D., 1984
Admitted to New York State Bar, 1985

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada B.A., 1981

EXPERIENCE

Westchester County Department of Probation, White Plains, NY

Chief Administrator

7/2018-Present

Formulate and implement policies and procedures to promote the highest level of professionalism by probation officers, adapt to evolving trends in criminal justice policy, and to ensure conformity to State standards for probation supervision. Oversee fiscal operations of a large county department, including preparation of annual budget, grants and contracts management, routine review of revenues and expenditures to keep within budgetary constraints and ensure compliance with State reimbursement rules. Direct training and professional development to further the use of best practices. Supervise and develop policies for pretrial services to carry out State bail-reform legislation and to enhance equity of access to appropriate pre-trial release resources for people accused of crimes, including development of electronic monitoring program pursuant to State law. Manage all human resources functions for the department, including payroll, time and leave, EEO and ADA compliance, and day-to-day resolution of personnel grievances, and serve as management representative on the department's Labor-Management Committee. Serve as primary liaison to Criminal Justice Advisory Board and Probation Advisory Board. Collaborate with State and local courts, and other county departments, including Office of Community Mental Health, District Attorney's Office, County Attorney's Office, Department of Health and Office of People with Disabilities, to address legislative changes and improve existing county-wide criminal justice policies, including the development of a new treatment court, and ensure compliance with the law and county policy. Revamped internship program for undergraduate students focusing on the purpose and benefits of community supervision, the role of probation in the broader context of the justice system and to increase the visibility of the department

Westchester County Police Reform and Reimagining Task Force, White Plains, NY Staff Liaison 8/2020-1/2021

Led inquiry into issues of police accountability and public confidence in law enforcement by a working group composed of members of the law enforcement, legal and activist communities. Facilitated and focused discussions and built consensus on recommendations to be submitted to

the Task Force. Conducted research on relevant issues, drafted preliminary reports and authored the final report on recommended police accountability measures on behalf of the Task Force.

Legal Aid Society of Westchester County. White Plains, NY

Senior Counsel/Region Chief/Diversion Coordinator

3/1986-7/2018

Provided holistic representation to marginalized clients involved in the criminal justice system at all stages from arraignment through disposition. Advocated for and advised clients on a wide variety of intersecting issues, including opiate dependence, domestic violence, immigration, employment, education, housing and public benefits, with the aim of preventing recidivism and collateral consequences of court-involvement. Established office protocols designed to enhance quality of representation and the use of best practices. Performed administrative functions and supervised teams of attorneys engaged in traditional criminal practice and Problem-Solving Court representation. Regularly trained junior attorneys through lectures, small-group discussions and simulations on client interviewing, counseling, case preparation and strategy, use of social science research, and emerging issues in criminal justice policy. Coordinated with the Department of Probation. Offices of the County Attorney and the District Attorney, the Office of Court Administration and other public agencies to establish and effectively administer Problem-Solving Courts to benefit adolescents and the drug dependent. Formulated and reviewed general office policies, conducted cost/benefit analysis of health insurance options as a member of the Management Team. Drafted policy statements favoring enhanced availability of opiate treatment services in terms of taxpayer savings and improved outcomes.

Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, Inc., Mount Vernon, NY

Vice President/Member, Board of Directors

5/2013-3/2018

Planning and Personnel Committees

Oversaw administrative and fiscal matters for unique alternative-to-incarceration program for court-involved young men in Westehester. Established performance criteria for the executive director and conducted performance reviews. Established protocols for dispute resolution, served as ombudsman to resolve disputes among staff and served as liaison between program participants and the executive director. Interviewed potential directors, presided over board and committee meetings, drafted expansion proposal and participated in investigation of possible merger. Lobbied County and State Legislatures to pass Raise the Age legislation and to increase awareness of and support for court-involved youth, including through expansion of educational opportunities, community-based treatment options, re-entry services, support for families, and financial support for providers. Conducted workshops with residents on legal and civil rights, community empowerment and civies. Partnered with Probation Department to conduct workshops on challenges of re-entry.

Monroe College, Bronx, NY

Adjunct Professor, School of Criminal Justice

Spring 2015

Taught survey class on criminal law, policy and jurisprudence. Conducted lectures using Socratic method, and simulated appellate argument, focusing on legal reasoning, public speaking, and substantive criminal law.

Office of the Kings County District Attorney, Brooklyn, NY

Assistant District Attorney

8/1984-3/1986

Prosecuted criminal cases at all stages from investigation through trial in New York City Criminal Court and Supreme Court. Criminal Term. Provided formal legal opinions to members of the New York City Police Department regarding criminal law and procedure, and the Constitutional rights of suspects.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Westchester Women's Bar Association -

Liaison to WBASNY Criminal Justice Committee

Westchester County Bar Association -

Criminal Justice Committee Section

Access to Justice Committee, 9th J.D. -

Immigrant Rights & Right to Counsel in Eviction

Subcommittees

CLEs/Community Outreach

How the Faith Based Community Can Help the Formerly Incarcerated, Peekskill, October 2017 The Need for Sound Implementation of Raise the Age and the Impact of the Opiate Crisis on

Communities of Color. LHVPAN and Theodore Young Community Center, Greenburgh. September 2017

Panel Discussion on Diversion & the Drug Court Model. New York State Bar Association, May 2017

Crime and the Adolescent Brain: Neuroscience and the Criminal Courts, Westchester County Medical Center.

March 2017

The Adolescent Brain and the Criminal Justice System: Raise the Age—A No Brainer, Black Bar Association, March 2017

Need to Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility in New York, New Rochelle Bar Association, October 2016

Mitigating the Collateral Consequences Attendant to Chemical Dependence and Justice Involvement, Legal Aid Society, October 2016

A Conversation About Chemical Dependence, the Criminal Court and Beyond, WVOX Radio, June 2016

Voting Rights and Voter Registration for the Formerly Incarcerated, Grace Baptist Church Reentry Symposium. Mount Vernon. April 2016

Not Necessarily Objective History of New York's Drug Laws. Pace University School of Law. November 2015

The Adolescent in the Criminal Justice System, Pace University School of Law, October 2015 Sealing Orders, Conditional Sealing and Certificates of Relief: A Re-entry Workshop, Grace Baptist Church Reentry Fair, Mount Vernon, August 2015

Lectures on the Constitution, Schools throughout Westchester, 2013-2018

RESOLUTION - 2022

TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the Assigned Counsel Board of Directors, with the approval of the County Executive, having appointed Sheralyn Pulver as the Assigned Counsel Administrator of the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel, effective August 8, 2022 for a term to expire on August 7, 2026, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Westchester County Charter, as amended, and subject to the confirmation of this Board; it is

RESOLVED, that said appointment be and is hereby confirmed.

Dated:

, 2022

White Plains, New York