

Whitney Stark



January 6th, 2025

To: Danielle Trujillo, Court Administrator
Re: Town of Erie, Bid for Municipal Judge

I am submitting this proposal for the position of Municipal Judge. I am currently an assistant municipal court judge for the City of Fort Collins. I preside over a criminal docket every Wednesday and one Thursday afternoon each month. As part of my role, I also serve as the marijuana licensing authority for the City of Fort Collins. I am also a part-time magistrate for Denver County Court where I cover dockets for municipal and state court judges. I regularly preside over municipal court dockets, state criminal dockets, civil dockets and traffic dockets. Prior to these positions, I had my own private practice in Boulder where I handled criminal cases, juvenile cases and domestic relations cases.

My schedule would easily accommodate the docket and trial schedule for Erie's municipal court. My only current standing obligation is a full-day docket every Wednesday, and an afternoon docket on the second Thursday each month. I provide my monthly availability to Denver County Court in advance and they work around my schedule.

I have received extremely positive feedback from the judges, court staff and parties who appear in front of me in Fort Collins and Denver. I truly enjoy presiding over municipal court dockets. It is a wonderful opportunity to interact with the community on a wide range of issues. I would be honored to serve the community of Erie in this position.

I have attached 1) my resume; 2) a proposal for compensation; and 3) a list of references. I look forward to speaking with you further. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone at the contact information above.

Sincerely,

Whitney Stark

Experience

City of Fort Collins

July 2024 - present

Assistant Municipal Court Judge

- Duties include presiding over municipal court dockets, jury trials, court trials, specialty courts, and referee hearings. Cases include criminal, traffic, civil and code hearings.

Denver County Court

September 2023 - present

Magistrate (part-time)

- Duties include setting bond at initial 48-hour first appearance for misdemeanor, felony, and municipal court cases; presiding over dockets for county and municipal court judges in 13 different divisions. Cases include criminal, traffic, civil and specialty courts.

Seventh Judicial District

December 2017 - March 2019

Legal Research Attorney (contract hourly)

- Assisted in researching legal issues for a multi-codefendant homicide case.

The Law Office of Whitney Stark

May 2016 – Present

Owner and Attorney

- Practice areas include criminal defense, dependency and neglect, family law, and civil litigation.

Colorado Public Defender's Office – Colorado Springs

December 2013 – May 2016

Trial Attorney

- Represented clients accused of felonies and misdemeanors; drafted and litigated numerous motions; sat as first chair in over twenty-five jury trials; drafted appellate briefs; supervised interns and new attorneys.

Innocence Project of Texas

September 2009 – August 2010

Director of Communications and Fundraising

- Managed all fundraising efforts; drafted press releases and conducted interviews with press; coordinated case investigations among law students, professors, and volunteer attorneys.

Texas Indigent Defense Commision

August 2007 – September 2009

Grant Administrator

- Managed and administered \$30 million grant program for the State of Texas; assisted counties in developing programs to improve indigent defense and establishing public defenders' offices.

Office of the Governor

December 2004 – August 2007

Criminal Justice Grant Program Specialist

- Served as the State Coordinator for Drug Courts in Texas; assisted counties in setting up specialty court programs such as drug courts and mental health courts; part of a team that managed \$100 million in criminal justice grants.

Pro Bono Work

J-SUP: Boulder Law Center for the Unhoused

July 2017 - November 2021

Volunteer Special Projects/Municipal Court Attorney

- Represented clients in criminal municipal court proceedings; assisted unhoused clients with barriers to housing; drafted grant applications.

Colorado Lawyers' Committee

Spring/Summer 2022

Volunteer Attorney - Helping Resettled Afghans Apply for Asylum

- Worked directly with Afghan families to complete and submit applications for asylum.

Colorado Criminal Defense Institute:

July 2017 - 2018

Volunteer Attorney - Collateral Relief Project.

- I provided pro bono legal services to assist clients in sealing arrest and conviction records, requesting juvenile expungements, and securing judicial orders of collateral relief.

Education

University of Colorado Law School

Juris Doctor

May 2013

University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature

May 2004

Whitney Stark: Proposal for Municipal Judge Contract

My proposal for compensation for municipal judge is:

- 1) \$2,500 per month for Municipal Court services for 2 full day sessions per month.
- 2) \$160 per hour for special or subsequent court sessions; \$160 per hour for required research and trial, motion, and ruling preparation; and \$160 per hour for Local Liquor Licensing Authority services.

References for Whitney Stark

- 1) The Honorable Jill Heuser. Chief Municipal Court Judge for the City of Fort Collins Municipal Court.
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- 2) Patty Netherton. Court Administrator, City of Fort Collins Municipal Court. [REDACTED]
- 3) The Honorable Fran Simonet. Denver County Court Judge. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 4) The Honorable AnnMarie Span, Denver County Court Magistrate. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]