

ELIZABETH K. BARAJAS [REDACTED]

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Judge Amanda Bailhache
City of Erie
645 Holbrook Street
PO Box 750
Erie, CO 80516

To Whom It May Concern:

I discovered the Associate Municipal Judge position through the Colorado Municipal League listserv. It is with great enthusiasm that I offer my resume for your consideration.

Presently, I am a prosecutor with thirteen years of experience seeking an opportunity to gain judicial experience at the municipal level. My professional pursuits have developed those qualities I know will translate well to this position: diligence, empathy, leadership, and integrity. I have prosecuted countless traffic, misdemeanor, felony, and code offenses with the Eighth Judicial District Attorney's Office and with the Thornton City Attorney's office. I am comfortable with handling a large caseload and providing careful consideration to an individual's circumstances to ensure consistent and equal access to justice.

I have presided over appeals as a hearing officer for the City of Englewood in cases involving ejection notices from city property. This experience would lend well to my ability to meet the needs of this position.

My experiences have also given me insight into the unique needs that come with serving the public at the municipal level – having held a long-time active role developing our local homeless outreach, our juvenile criminal justice alternatives, and providing caselaw updates and legal opinions to various municipal departments.

I am confident I will be a positive addition to your team. I look forward to discussing my qualifications with you in a personal interview. A copy of my resume and cover letter is attached. If you have questions or require additional information, feel free to contact me by phone at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,


Elizabeth K. Barajas

Enclosures

ELIZABETH K. BARAJAS



EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SCHOOL OF LAW

Graduated May 2012

- Top quartile graduate GPA
- ABA National Trial Team Member 2011-2012
- CALI Award (Trial Lab), Pro-Bono Award Recipient
- President, Criminal Law Association 2010-2011

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduated December 2006

- B.A. in Biology, Minor in Business
- Student Ambassador, Admissions

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

THORNTON CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

June 2018-Present

Senior Assistant City Attorney

- Served as lead prosecutor; managed trial docket; prepared and tried over a hundred trials; prepared and argued multiple successful appeals against the Court and defendants.
- Participated in creating Thornton's Fresh Start Court, a specialty court to resolve cases for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Conducted training seminars to municipal employees, law enforcement personnel, and code enforcement personnel, concerning collection of evidence, witness testimony, caselaw updates regarding for obstruction, unlawful use of force, and the application of the First and Fourth Amendments.
- Served as legal advisor for marijuana licensing and for the Liquor Licensing Authority, which involved reviewing applications, litigating license suspensions, and drafting ordinance changes to comply with state law.
- Advised concerning the drafting, amending, or updating of various municipal ordinances, including traffic codes, marijuana licensing codes, provisions for restitution, and criminal code provisions; researched and drafted legal memoranda on various topics related to legality and enforceability of municipal ordinances.
- Advised municipal court regarding updates to court procedures and compliance with state law, including processes involving procedures for deferred judgments, adjudication of traffic infractions, best practices for juvenile record expungements, etc.
- Participated in creating Thornton's Empowerment Expo, a monthly exposition aimed toward providing unhoused individuals access to essential resources, e.g., mental health services, substance abuse support, and job training.
- Responsible for training for all new prosecutors and legal support staff; prepared and updated training manuals and procedural guides.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

September 2013-June 2018

Deputy District Attorney

- Prosecuted thousands of misdemeanor and felony cases, including traffic offenses, assaults, domestic violence, and theft; negotiated case dispositions with defense counsel.
- Developed extensive trial and trial preparation skills, including counseling victims, supervising investigators, preparing witnesses, ensuring compliance with VRA and Rule 16 disclosure requirements, and motions practice.
- Participated in hundreds of delinquency and D&N proceedings, including diversion programming, adjudications, temporary custody orders, out-of-home placements, direct filings, and DYS

commitments; developed multi-party case management plans involving school resource officers, DHS/CPS, guardian ad litem, and community and youth advocates; developed programming for juvenile drug-court participants, victims of sex trafficking, and high-risk female youth.

- Drafted and responded to pretrial motions, including bond setting and modification, no contact order modifications, detention hearing requests, discovery requests, proffer agreements, SO deregistration, records expungement, restitution, and 404(b) and other evidentiary suppressions.
- Responded to writs of *habeas corpus*, presentence confinement, resentencing, and Uniform Mandatory Disposition of Detainer Act requests; modified criminal, juvenile, and misdemeanor offenses and filings.
- Advised law enforcement agencies on issues related to juvenile delinquency, DUI, and domestic violence investigatory techniques; conducted presentations to law enforcement on updated legislation.

SPECIAL COUNSEL

August 2012-January 2013

Contract Attorney

- Analyzed mortgage and foreclosure documents on behalf of regulatory agency to evaluate banking practices during 2007-2010 which allegedly led to financial harm of borrowers.
- Developed protocols used by document review personnel to evaluate mortgage and foreclosure documents and to assess whether financial harm occurred to borrowers.
- Trained new document review personnel on document review protocols.

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE-S.D. OHIO

January 2012-May 2012

Law Clerk

- Prosecuted misdemeanor offenses occurring at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
- Negotiated plea agreements with the Federal Public Defender's office.
- Performed legal research and drafted legal memoranda, including EEOC and FLSA violations, indictments, jury instructions, and trial briefs regarding various criminal offenses.
- Observed pre-trial conferences, evidentiary hearings, sentencing, and pleas.
- Prepared witnesses to give testimony at trial.

OTHER

- Englewood Hearing Officer (Ejection/Exclusion hearings)
- Volunteer: Lawyers Teaching for a Change; Latinos in Action 2024; The Delores Project; High School Mock Trial Competition scoring panelist: 2020-2026
- 2023 Colorado Municipal League Prosecutor Bootcamp Presenter
- Current Colorado Municipal League Prosecutor Listserv Lead host
- Enjoy running, hiking, karaoke, traveling abroad, karting, and cooking