

September 12, 2024

Judicial Selection Committee
c/o Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board
Via email

Dear Judicial Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the opening for Justice of the Peace (JP) in Precinct 3, Benson Justice Court. I am a registered Republican and have been active in the Cochise County Republican Committee, including serving as a Precinct #24 Committeeman. My diverse background in law, business, and leadership has prepared me to bring a unique perspective to the bench, particularly in serving the everyday legal needs of my community.

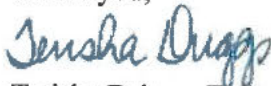
Becoming a JP offers several meaningful opportunities that align with my commitment to public service and core values of fairness, integrity, and access to justice for all. One of the key reasons I aspire to become a Justice of the Peace is the opportunity to directly serve and support my local community. My husband grew up in Cochise County and we made it our home in 2016. Throughout my career, I have worked with clients from diverse backgrounds, addressing legal issues ranging from estate planning to landlord-tenant disputes. This has given me a strong appreciation for how the law impacts individuals in their daily lives. As a JP, I would have the privilege of presiding over matters that are essential to my community's well-being.

I have extensive experience in managing a significant caseload and recognize the importance of efficiency within the judicial system. I understand that many cases that come before a JP require not only legal knowledge but also compassion, patience, and the ability to listen. I would strive to be efficient and businesslike while being patient and deliberate.

I have a strong combination of organizational, leadership, budgeting, and communication skills that equip me to handle the administrative tasks required by this position. My ability to manage detailed records in both legal and business contexts will allow me to handle the administrative demands of the JP role with accuracy and efficiency.

I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss how my experience and qualifications make me a strong fit for this position. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,



Terisha Driggs, Esq.



Terisha Driggs, Esq. (R)

Skills

- Experienced public speaker
- Event and meeting planning
- Managerial accounting
- Mediation
- Fundraising for non-profits
- Farming and Ranching

Awards & Honors

- CALI award for highest grade in employment law
- American FFA Degree
- Partners in Advocacy Leadership, Class 8
- Highest distinction; Pro Bono legal service
- United Food Bank Hunger Hero
- 2021 Excellence in Victim Advocacy; Prosecutor Award

Work History

Deputy County Attorney (Attorney IV) Bisbee, AZ 2017-Current
Cochise County Attorney's Office

- Justice Courts: law & motion coverage, JP3 conflict cases, preliminary hearings, bench trials, extraditions
- Manage felony caseload, including serious offenses (homicide, dangerous crimes against children, drug sales, sex crimes)
- Supervise paralegal/legal secretary work
- Jury trials, motion practice, research, case charging, work with victims
- Knowledgeable of Arizona Court Rules, Code of Judicial Conduct, and Rules of Professional Conduct

Staff Attorney Bisbee, AZ 2016 - 2017
Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.

- Practice civil law for low-income individuals
- Order of Protection hearings in justice and superior courts
- Practiced family law: divorce, child custody, guardianships, contested hearings and trials
- Landlord-tenant and other housing disputes
- Supervise paralegal work

Attorney Gilbert and Saint David, AZ 2014-2016
Driggs Legal & Management Services, PLLC

- Conducted legal research and drafted guidance opinions
- Practice in landlord – tenant disputes, DUI, and family law/child custody cases
- Experienced in transactional work including creating contracts, promissory notes, leases
- Practice in estate planning, creating wills, trusts, medical directives

Director of Operations Gilbert, AZ 2008-2016
Morrison Family Companies

- Review and draft legal documents including trusts, sales, operating and purchase agreements, employment, special use, and lease contracts; draft promissory notes, security agreements and UCC filings
- Manage companies and trusts. Including a cattle ranch, an art gallery, three land holding partnerships, and four trusts (including a Charitable Lead Annuity Trust) to include managing multimillion-dollar budget.
- Managed all aspects of accounting practices including QuickBooks data entry, inventory tracking and training
- Supervise all company employees
- Filed federal and state withholding taxes and reports, and unemployment taxes and reports
- Mediate intercompany disputes and negotiate solutions

Business Analyst Phoenix, AZ 2007-2008
Advanced Food System Technologies

- Managed team of programmers and support staff for proprietary enterprise resource planning (ERP) software
- Managed and tracked customer issues and assured appropriate assignment, completion and billing in a timely manner
- Human Resource functions including interviewing and training new support staff
- Tested new ERP systems and supported developers in creating products to fit customer needs
- Trained customers to use ERP software system online and with on-site training
- Wrote employee handbook and training guide for new analysts as well as end user documentation

Education

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ

Juris Doctorate, GPA 3.0, May 2014

Activities: Women Law Students' Association / Arizona Women Lawyers Association
Inter-American Sustainable Development Law Moot Court Competition (Bogota, Colombia)
Member of Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity
Research Assistant for Professor Tsosie (Indian Law)
Environmental Law Society, 2012 – 2013 President

Morrison School of Agribusiness & Resource Management, Arizona State University

Mesa, AZ

Master of Science in Agribusiness, GPA: 4.0, December 2005

Activities: Graduate Teaching Assistant – Four Semesters
Market Research Lab
Lectured class

Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness (Food Science), Magna Cum Laude, December 2003

Honors: Dean's Honor List
Excellence in Leadership Award

Activities: Golden Key International Honour Society
Sigma Alpha Lambda

Leadership & Volunteer Experience

- **Future Farmers of America (FFA)** – Received American FFA Degree, Served as Arizona State FFA Vice President, Summer camp counselor and director, Career Development Event volunteer, volunteer with local FFA chapter
- **Project CENTRL (Center for Rural Leadership)** – Class 20 graduate, Past Chair for the Alumni Council, Organized alumni outreach campaign, Chairman of Class 20 Graduation Committee, teach Parliamentary Procedure to participants
 - *Wrote and was awarded a grant from the Neely Foundation in the amount of \$25,000*
- **Arizona Cattle Growers Association** – Past Vice Chairman of the Young Cattleman's Initiative
- **Arizona Farm Bureau** – Beef Advisory Committee, Young Farmer and Rancher – Maricopa County Chairperson 2015-2016, 2013 Discussion Meet State Winner and Sweet Sixteen National Finalist, Graduate Partners in Advocacy Leadership Class 8, 2017 Excellence in Agriculture national finalist, Water Policy Committee, Pima County Farm Bureau Board member 2017-2023, help develop policy to help farmer and ranchers, coordinated fundraising events including a dinner, a 5 k race, and silent auction since 2014
- **Graduate and Professional Student Association** – Supreme Court Justice
- **Cochise County Republican Committee:** Precinct 24 Committeeman, volunteer, Lincoln Day Dinner silent auction coordinator
- **Saint David Heritage & Cultural Society:** Current secretary, assist with fundraising activities and community events

Professional Memberships & Experiences

- American Agricultural Law Association • Arizona Women Lawyers Association • Arizona Water Law CLE
- American Bar Association • **Arizona State Bar License #032294, admitted 7/14/2015**
- Governor's Drought Task Force (Department of Water Resources)
- Continuing Legal Education Institute
- Food Safety Task Force (Department of Agriculture)
- Kyl Center for Water Policy (Adjudication Sub-committee)
- Saint David Irrigation District Board member (elected position) 2017-2020
- **Publication:** Driggs, T., Morrison R., "Virtue Ethics and Sustainability Policies." Drake Journal of Agricultural Law. Volume 12, No. 1, Spring 2007. P 147-162.

References available upon request.