

Ralph A. Peterson, Esquire  
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July 28, 2023

City Attorney's Office  
c/o Assistant City Attorneys  
City of Pensacola  
City Hall (lobby)  
222 West Main Street  
Pensacola, FL 32502

**Via Hand Delivery**

Re: Letter of Interest-Special Magistrate Services for City of Pensacola

Dear Ladies:

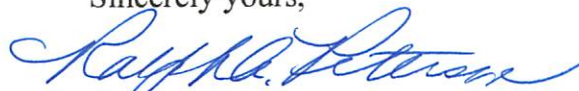
This letter will serve as my expression of my interest in being selected and engaged by the City of Pensacola to serve as a Special Magistrate for conducting Code Enforcement and other administrative law quasi-judicial hearings and proceedings requiring special magistrate services pursuant to Chapter 162, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 13, City of Pensacola Code of Ordinances.

I became a member of the Florida Bar in September, 1980, and am still an active licensed member of the Florida Bar in good standing. As explained in my enclosed Statement of Qualifications, I have more than four decades of experience practicing law and have gained extensive experience and expertise in courtroom and administrative hearings and proceedings as a civil trial lawyer in litigation and appeals. I have held a specialization certification from the Florida Bar in labor and employment law, which practice includes trial court, appellate court, and administrative law tribunal experience. I have served as an arbitrator through the National Arbitration Forum in proceedings involving commercial, business, construction, and labor and employment law. At all times during this active law practice, I have complied with and continue to comply with the codes of ethics and professional responsibility of the State, City, The Florida Bar, and the numerous courts in which I am admitted.

I am not an employee of the City of Pensacola and do not hold any other office with the City of Pensacola government. While I am semi-retired from my former law firm partnership, I still have an active law practice representing clients, so I am very sensitive to issues that may arise from conflicts of interest and will continue to endeavor to avoid them. My semi-retirement status also provides me additional time to be readily available to serve and meet the demand and needs of the City for special magistrate services for its administrative and quasi-judicial hearings and proceedings.

Your consideration of my submittals for providing special magistrate services is appreciated. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to inquire.

Sincerely yours,

  
Ralph A. Peterson

Enclosure: Statement of Qualifications

## **STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Ralph A. Peterson  
Attorney at Law  
1466 Tiger Lake Drive  
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563-5706  
(850) 982-3642  
raplaw@me.com

I am a licensed attorney in the State of Florida (Bar No. 303021), with over 4 decades of broad and deep experience and expertise in state and federal civil trial litigation, administrative proceedings, arbitrations, and appeals in tort, commercial, corporate, construction, property, products liability, toxic mass torts, restrictive agreements, government administrative and regulatory law, and labor and employment matters and disputes. I was a Florida Bar Certified Labor and Employment Law Specialist (2001-2021) and an arbitrator with the National Arbitration Forum in the legal areas of commercial, business, construction, and labor and employment law.

During the period of 1990-1994, I was appointed by Florida's Governor to serve as a Governing Board Member of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD). I was elected and served as the Chair of the NFWFMD Governing Board from 1991 through 1994, presiding over Governing Board meetings as well as administrative hearings and proceedings brought before the NFWFMD.

### **Experience**

*June 1982-December 2021*

Senior Attorney and Partner and Chair of Labor & Employment Law Group •  
Beggs & Lane RLLP • Pensacola, Florida

*April 1980-May 1982*

Law Clerk • Office of the U. S. Magistrate Judge • United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida (Legal assistance, research, and counsel to the magistrate judge and district judges in civil and criminal trials and proceedings, along with judicial appeals and review of federal and state governmental administrative and regulatory hearings and proceedings, especially pertaining to constitutional, substantive and procedural due process compliance issues.)

*May 1973-June 1977*

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy (Submarine Force-Special Warfare)

### **Education**

*March 1980*

Juris Doctor with Honors • College of Law, Florida State University • Tallahassee, Florida

*June-December 1973*

U.S. Naval Submarine School • New London, Connecticut

*May 1973*

Bachelor of Science (Computer Science & Electrical Engineering) • Cornell University • Ithaca, New York

The following is a list of the federal and state administrative agencies and departments before whom I have appeared and represented clients in government administrative law proceedings and hearings:

**State of Florida:**

- Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH)
- Florida Commission on Human Relations (FCHR)
- Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC)
- Department of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR)
- Department of Children & Families (DCF)
- Florida Cabinet
- Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)/Unemployment Compensation (UC) Division
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Ethics Commission
- Health Department (DOH)
- Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA)
- Boards of Licensing and Regulation (Physicians, Nurses, and Building Contractors)
- Public Service Commission (utilities' ratemaking and regulatory matters)
- Department of Revenue
- Escambia County Civil Service Board (CSB)
- Santa Rosa Island Authority (SRIA)

**Federal:**

- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)--Civil Rights Division; Parole Commission; Office of Attorney General
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB)
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
- U.S. Department of Labor
  - Wage & Hour Division (WHD)
  - Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)
  - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- Air Force Department
- Navy Department
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS)
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- Social Security Administration (disability and retirement administrative proceedings and judicial review)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Civil Rights and Discrimination Division) (HUD)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

The following is a list of the state and federal courts in which I am actively admitted (in all of the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, one or more of the cases brought in the particular federal court involved appeals or judicial review of administrative law proceedings and rulings or were matters that required exhaustion of administrative remedies before the court's jurisdiction could be invoked):

- Florida, The Florida Bar (*1980* including the Florida Supreme Court, the First District Court of Appeals, and all state circuit and county courts)
- U.S. District Court, N.D. Fla. (*1980*)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Cir. (*1981*)
- U.S. Supreme Court (*1988*)
- U.S. District Court, C.D. Ill. (*2005*)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Cir. (*2008*)
- U.S. District Court, M.D. Fla. (*2010*)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Cir. (*2011*)
- U.S. District Court, S.D. Fla. (*2013*)

  
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