

Mark W. Jane, Attorney at Law

July 6, 2020

Ms. Carrie Sharlow
State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933-2012
csharlow@michbar.org

Re: State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly Clerk

Dear Ms. Sharlow,

I am writing to submit my name for consideration for the position of State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly ("RA") Clerk. Please consider this my Letter of Interest, and my resume is attached as instructed. I am currently a senior attorney with the Butzel Long law firm, working out of the Ann Arbor office. I center my practice in the area of employee benefits and executive compensation, representing employers of all sizes in the sponsorship of retirement and welfare benefit plans. I have almost 15 years of experience counseling companies as to their settlor, administrative, and fiduciary responsibilities.

I have been a long-time active participant with the State Bar of Michigan ("SBM"). I started my service with the SBM in 2009, where I acted as a District 3 representative on the SBM Young Lawyers Section ("YLS") council on behalf of all counties in Michigan outside of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb. My YLS council peers elected me as an officer, where I eventually elevated to the position of Chair for the 2015-2016 bar year. As an officer on the YLS, I had to pleasure to serve in an ex officio capacity for a three year term on the SBM Board of Commissioners. I also have been a member of the SBM Social Media and Website Committee and the SBM Bar Journal Committee. I have also served on the RA on behalf of the 22nd Circuit since April 2018, and have even chaired the SBM RA Nominating and Awards Committee since September 2019.

Moreover, I have served in a leadership capacity at the local bar association level. I have been a member of the Washtenaw County Bar Association ("WCBA") Board of Directors since 2008, culminating in my position as President this past year. My long tenure of service in a wide assortment of leadership roles uniquely positions me to assist the RA as an officer in the years to come, should I be fortunate enough for the RA to elect me as clerk.

Best Regards,



Mark W. Jane

Mark W. Jane, Attorney at Law

EXPERIENCE

Butzel Long/Stevenson Keppelman Associates, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Senior Attorney – Labor and Employment Department (Butzel Long), September 2015 – Present

Associate Attorney (Stevenson Keppelman Associates), October 2014 – September 2015 (due to merger)

Of Counsel (Stevenson Keppelman Associates), September 2012 – March 2013, May 2013 – August 2014

Associate Attorney – Employee Benefits Practice Group (Butzel Long), October 2007 – June 2012

- Counsel clients from a broad spectrum of industries (including automotive retail, manufacturing, health care, municipal, tribal, and non-profit) regarding the administration, maintenance, termination, and fiduciary compliance issues inherent in sponsoring retirement, welfare, and executive compensation plans.
- Design and draft documents (including official plan documents, amendments, restatements, and required disclosures) for a wide array of employee benefit plan packages, such as: profit sharing plans; 401(k) plans; money purchase pension plans; non-profit 457(b) plans; non-profit 403(b) plans; defined benefit plans; comprehensive health and welfare plans; and cafeteria plans.
- Assist group welfare plan administrators with finding workable solutions for dilemmas stemming from various HIPAA portability, COBRA, and ACA dilemmas.
- Analyze retiree health care obligations of private and public employers in both union and non-union contexts and serve as counsel for several retiree medical VEBA administrative boards.
- Provide incisive counsel in order for clients to conduct proper nondiscrimination testing for both qualified retirement and welfare benefit plans, administer proper plan loans, review Qualified Domestic Relations Orders for legal adequacy, ensure compliant claim/appeal review procedures, and negotiate service provider contracts on behalf of plan sponsors fiduciaries and fiduciaries.
- Received favorable IRS determination letters regarding the qualified status of over a dozen retirement plans, resulting in peace of mind for employers and employees that the form of the retirement plans are qualified under the Code and are thus not subject to immediate taxation.
- Obtained compliance statements from the IRS for numerous employers through the IRS' Voluntary Compliance Program, ensuring that the correction of several errors that occurred during the ongoing administration of the retirement plans were approved by the IRS so that the retirement plans would not risk losing tax-qualified status on audit.

Bodman PLC, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contract Attorney – Litigation, March 2013 – May 2013

- Provided research support on a wide array of legal issues in assistance on a complex commercial litigation, including attorney-client privilege, statute of limitations and fiduciary duties under ERISA, and evidentiary obstacles.

Sullivan, Ward, Asher & Patton, P.C., Southfield, Michigan

Associate Attorney – Employment and Employee Benefits Group, November 2006 – September 2007

- Advocated claims in federal court for delinquent or insufficient contributions mandated by collective bargaining agreement on behalf of ERISA multi-employer fringe benefit funds.

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- Researched and advised ERISA multi-employer fringe benefit funds on approving Qualified Domestic Relations Orders.
- Investigated potential service providers, redrafted pension and welfare plans, and reviewed contracts on behalf of ERISA multi-employer fringe benefit funds.

ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Michigan, November 2006

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, December 2006

State Bar of California, May 2008

EDUCATION

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois
Juris Doctor, May 2006, Cum Laude

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Bachelor of Arts, December 2002, High Distinction

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND AFFILIATIONS

Presentations

- The Affordable Care Act, Eight Years Later – A Reset for Employers – Butzel Long Webinar
- Sometimes it Takes a Village...Or a Qualified Medical Child Support Order – Butzel Long Webinar
- HIPAA Update Webinar – It's Time for Your Annual Checkup – Butzel Long Webinar
- Healthcare Reform: Preparing for the Changes – Butzel Long Seminar Series
- Succeed in Your First Year of Law Practice: Institute for Continuing Education

Recognitions

- Associates to Watch – Chambers USA, 2016 – 2020
- Outstanding Young Lawyer – Washtenaw County Bar Association, 2010
- Rising Star – Michigan Super Lawyers, 2009 – 2013, 2015 – 2020

Current and Prior Affiliations

- President (2019-2020) and Director (2008-Present) – Washtenaw County Bar Association
- Commissioner (2014-2017) – State Bar of Michigan
- Representative Assembly (2018-Present), including Chair, Nominating and Awards Committee (2019- Present) – State Bar of Michigan
- Chair (2015-2016) – State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section

From: jocunsb@gmail.com
To: [rep_assembly](#)
Subject: RE: September 17, 2020 Representative Assembly Meeting (Clerk Nominations)
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:29:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[BERNARD_JOCUNS_BIO202.doc](#)
Importance: High

Carrie:

Please find my bio & headshot for nomination of RA Clerk.

Best,

-Bernie

Bernard A. Jocuns
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385 West Nepessing Street
Lapeer, Michigan 48446
(810) 245-8900
Fax: (810) 245-6846
bernard@bernardjocuns.org
www.bernardjocuns.org



Practicing law since 2003, Bernard Jocuns is a trial attorney from Lapeer, Michigan focusing on Criminal Defense & Plaintiff's Personal Injury Litigation. After receiving an Honorable Discharge from the United States Army Bernard received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Pennsylvania State University and Juris Doctor from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Defending clients in numerous Courts throughout the State of Michigan is only his caseload. Bernard is a former President of the Lapeer County Bar Association, an active member of the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly (2013-2019) and is an active member of the following organizations: Chair of the Veterans Committee: Lapeer County Bar Association, A Founding member and Inaugural Chairperson of the Marijuana Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan (Vice President), Michigan Association for Justice, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (lifetime member), Michigan OWI Defense Attorneys, National Lawyers Guild, American Association for Justice, Justice Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party (representing the 10th Congressional District), Lapeer County Historical Society (lifetime member), (Vice-Chair) Lapeer County Democratic Party Executive Committee, Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance, City of Lapeer Zoning Board of Appeals (President), City of Lapeer Income Tax Review Board, Lapeer County Criminal Defense Bar Association (founding member), Veterans of Foreign Wars (Lifetime Member), Iraq Veterans Against the War, American Legion (lifetime member) & NORML Legal Committee (lifetime member).

Bernard is also active in assisting veterans in the Thumb and Lapeer County in particular by volunteering time with various Lapeer County

Veterans Affairs Committees, in addition to offering veterans representation frequently on a “sliding scale” or pro bono. Jocuns is also an author & editor of the *Medicolegal Aspects of Marijuana in Michigan* (Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company). Bernard has also been featured in several stories in the Lapeer County Press including a featured article in “Mugshots”.

In addition to living and working in the City of Lapeer, you may also find Bernard on Solid State Radio, hosting the show: (the Bernard Jocuns) Holy Happy Hour Wednesday's @ 7:00 p.m.

Carrie Sharlow

From: Gerry Mason <gdblues@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Carrie Sharlow
Subject: Fw: Letter of Interest and Biography for Representative Assembly Clerk
Attachments: GerryMasonBio2020.doc

Please accept this letter of interest for applying to be nominated for Representative Assembly Clerk.

I have attached a biography in lieu of resume. If this meets your satisfaction, please advise.

It would be helpful to do a call with you to further discuss this opportunity to serve.

Thank you,

Gerry Mason,
31st Circuit

Attachment

Gerry Mason Biography

May 4, 2020

Gerry Mason, 53, owns a boutique law firm and practices law throughout Michigan. He also consults in the areas of private equity investment, small business, and commercial real estate. Prior to entering private practice in 1998, Mr. Mason worked as a City of Detroit Recorder's Court Law Clerk, as a Macomb County Law Clerk for the Hon. Pat M. Donofrio, and served as a Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Crawford, Roscommon, and Macomb Counties. In 2003, the Sixth Circuit Federal Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Sixth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals admitted Mr. Mason to practice. The United States Supreme Court, Washington DC, admitted Mr. Mason to practice before it in 2006.

Mr. Mason earned his B.A. from The University of Michigan, *Ann Arbor*, in 1991, and graduated from Michigan State University {Detroit} College of Law in 1998 as Class President. While at U of M, Mr. Mason worked as an Assistant to Prof. Raymond Tanter, studied China under Prof. Kenneth Lieberthal, and spent a semester in the former Soviet Union. At law school, he was elected to the Student Bar Association where he served as its Vice President and later President. Mr. Mason was very active in the American Bar Association/Law Student Division. The ABA Law Student Division awarded Mr. Mason its *Bronze Key* in 1997, and its *Silver Key* in 1998.

Mr. Mason served on the Michigan Republican State Committee for over ten years, where he chaired its Communications Committee, served as Financial Counsel, and then served as Vice Chairman for Coalitions from 2005-2009. He has worked on election campaigns since the 1980s including Engler for Governor, and Bush-Quayle '88

and '92¹. In 2004, Mr. Mason received the high honor of being named Bush-Cheney '04 SE Michigan Grassroots Coordinator, after having served as an attorney for Lawyers for Bush in 2000. In 2008, Mr. Mason served as Michigan Grassroots Chairman for Mitt Romney for President and then Michigan Grassroots Co-Chair for McCain-Palin. Mr. Mason also worked closely with US Rep. Candice S. Miller when she represented Michigan's 10th Congressional District. Former Attorney General and GOP candidate for Governor, Mike Cox selected Mr. Mason to serve as his state-wide Cox for Governor Grassroots Chairman in 2010. Mr. Mason served as a bundler for Mitt Romney for President 2012.

Mr. Mason has been married to Patty Chiang Mason for over twenty years; they have three children. Born legally blind, Mr. Mason underwent a series of successful eye surgeries at ages 13 and 25. Mr. Mason was the first person with low vision to be admitted to his law school. In the 1970s, he lived in an orphanage (St. Francis Home for Boys, Detroit) while his parents were divorced; they later re-married. The Mason family attends Colonial Woods Missionary Church.

Mr. Mason began to work at age eight and has worked ever since - founding several businesses. He is currently a Member/Manager with Blue 11 LLC, M&R Capital LLC, and Advisory Board member for American Battery Metals Corporation.

¹ Some other campaign efforts include: Donofrio for Macomb County Circuit Judge, Druzinski for Macomb County Circuit Judge, Chrzanowski for Macomb County Prosecutor. Kaplan for Oakland County Circuit Judge, Kaplan for West Bloomfield Township Trustee, Kelly for District Judge, Donnellon for St. Clair County Sheriff, Calley for Lt. Governor, and Ronna Romney McDaniel for Michigan Republican Party Chair.

Mr. Mason's hobbies include: The University of Michigan Wolverines Football, college football of any kind, politics, foreign affairs², blues music, exercise, and community service. Mr. Mason is Past President (2013-14) of the St. Clair, Michigan, Rotary Club; currently serves on The Salvation Army Port Huron Citadel Advisory Board as Vice Chairman; and also serves on the Mercedes Benz Club of America International Stars Board of Directors for Membership for the Midwest and nationally. Mr. Mason also serves on The State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly where he represents the 31st Judicial Circuit. He also serves on the State Bar of Michigan Character and Fitness, and Special Issues Committees. The Special Issues Committee is currently addressing COVID 19 considerations, and Diversity. The State Bar of Michigan recently recognized Mr. Mason's charity work as part of its Lawyer Helps initiative. Mr. Mason's favorite quote is from Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., "Do not tell a man what to do. Tell him what you need and he will surprise you with his ingenuity."

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² In 1985 Mason lived in West Germany as part of the Lions Club Youth Exchange, and then in 1990, lived in the former Soviet Union as part of The University of Michigan Slavic Language Program. Mr. Mason has also made numerous trips to Asia with his wife who is from Taipei, Taiwan.