

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 7:50:39 AM

Board and Commission Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title	Mr.
First Name	Jason
Last Name	Smith
Today's Date	1/4/2022
Street Address	1720 Iowa Street
City	Bellingham
Zip	98229
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	3606843062
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	jason@northcountypd.org

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force/Law &

Committee	Justice Council
Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Position:	Health and Social Service Provider
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 2
4. Are you a US citizen?	Yes
5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission?	No
8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I am the owner and Managing Attorney of North County Public Defense, PLLC. North County Public Defense (NCPD) is the public defender for the Cities of Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Sumas and Lynden Washington.

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

Attached

9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

As the owner and managing attorney of North County Public Defense (NCPD) I oversee 5 attorneys and 2 paralegals as well as an investigator. NCPD represents indigent defendants charged with misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor criminal offenses in Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Lynden and Sumas Municipal Courts. NCPD also represents indigent defendants charged with felony level offenses in Whatcom County Superior Court.

I believe I could add a ground level perspective pertaining to incarceration prevention and reduction. I have practiced as a criminal defense attorney for nearly 8 years, represented thousands of individuals facing criminal charges as both a public defender and a private defense attorney.

I graduated from MSU Law with a Juris Doctor and have spent my entire career practicing criminal defense in Whatcom County and Western Washington. I am the attorney mentor for Blaine High School (my alma mater) Teen Court, a division of Whatcom County Juvenile Court.

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

I would like to serve on the incarceration reduction and prevention task force because I want to bring the municipal court public defense perspective to the conversation. I seek to gain greater knowledge of how we, the citizens of Whatcom County, are working to change the criminal justice system. I have a lot of ideas about potential programs, court calendars, hearings, diversions and alternative courts that I would like to discuss.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Jessica Marx, NCPD Senior Paralegal: 360-684-3062

Rajeev Majumdar, City of Blaine Prosecuting Attorney: 360-332-7000

Ryan Anderson, City of Bellingham Prosecuting Attorney: 360-778-8290

Signature of applicant:

Jason Ans. Smith

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, Washington

(Section Break)

Jason Anstruther Smith (WSBA #46615)

1720 Iowa Street
Bellingham, WA 98229

(360) 684-3062
jason@northcountypd.org

Education

Michigan State University College of Law

Juris Doctor Cum Laude

East Lansing, MI

May 2013

- GPA 3.25.
- Jurisprudence Award: Applied Evidence.

Washington State University

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Pullman, WA

May 2010

- GPA 3.2.
- Pre-Law Club Member.

Legal Experience

North County Public Defense, PLLC

Owner & Managing Attorney

- North County Public Defense (NCPD) currently holds the public defense contracts for the Cities of Bellingham, Blaine, Everson and Sumas, Washington.
- Represent indigent clients charged with misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor criminal charges.
- Represent indigent clients charged with felony offenses in Whatcom County Superior Court
- Legal research, drafting motions, conducting testimonial hearings, and trial advocacy on numerous District and Superior Court cases.
- Manage a large staff including five attorneys, four paralegals and one investigator.

Bellingham Municipal Court

Judge Pro-Tem

Bellingham, Wa

May 2018- December 2021

- Adjudicate misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases as well as traffic and parking infractions.

Law Offices of Ziad Youssef, PLLC

Supervising Attorney

Bellingham, WA

February 2014- July 2020

- Represent hundreds of clients in misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, and felony cases.
- Represent thousands of clients cited with numerous traffic infractions ranging from speeding to dog at large.
- Appear for and represent clients in the District Courts of Whatcom Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and King County; as well as Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish County Superior Court.
- Legal research, drafting motions, conducting testimonial hearings, and trial advocacy on numerous District Court matters such as Assault, DUI, and Negligent Driving.
- Manage a large staff including two attorneys and eight paralegals.

Jason Anstruther Smith (WSBA #46615)

1720 Iowa Street
Bellingham, WA 98229

(360) 684-3062
jason@northcountypd.org

Whatcom County Public Defender's Office

Attorney Volunteer

Bellingham, WA

January 2014- February 2014

- Managed 15 active cases.
- Appeared on behalf of clients in Whatcom County District Court.
- Researched, drafted motions and argued cases on numerous District Court matters such as Assault 4th Degree DV, DUI, DWLS, and Negligent Driving.

Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office

Appellate Intern

Ann Arbor, MI

March 2012-April 2013

- Wrote appellate briefs for felony cases including murder, criminal sexual conduct (CSC), larceny, parental termination, domestic violence, driving while intoxicated (DUI) and felony weapons charges.
- Researched relevant case law concerning above issues while simultaneously synthesizing voluminous case law into cogent appellate briefs outlining the People's position on same.
- Drafted successful briefs opposing applications for leave to appeal on murder convictions including a murder involving domestic violence, parental termination, (DUI) and *United States v Jones* electronic tracking device issues.