

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS
30 South Nevada Avenue, Suite 301
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
719-385-5456
<http://www.coloradosprings.gov>

Received: 12/9/17 12:35 PM

For Official Use Only:

QUAL: _____

DNQ: _____

Experience

Training

Other: _____

BERNS, JASON D
12629 ASSOCIATE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE - PART TIME

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE: ASSOCIATE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE - PART TIME		EXAM ID#: 12629
NAME: (Last, First, Middle) BERNS, JASON D		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: N/A
HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]	ALTERNATE PHONE: [REDACTED]	EMAIL ADDRESS: jdbernslaw@hotmail.com
DRIVER'S LICENSE: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DRIVER'S LICENSE: State: CO Number: [REDACTED]	LEGAL RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

PREFERENCES

PREFERRED SALARY:	ARE YOU WILLING TO RELOCATE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
WHAT TYPE OF JOB ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? Regular	
TYPES OF WORK YOU WILL ACCEPT: Full Time, Part Time, Per Diem	
SHIFTS YOU WILL ACCEPT: Day, Rotating, Weekends	
OBJECTIVE: I am applying for the part time associate Municipal Court Judge posting. It has always been my objective to uphold the law in a dignified and fair manner. As an attorney I have done this and would continue to do so as a Judicial Officer.	

EDUCATION

DATES: From: To: 5/1993	SCHOOL NAME: Widener University School of Law	
LOCATION: (City, State) Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Professional
MAJOR: Juris Doctor	UNITS COMPLETED:	
DATES: From: To: 5/1988	SCHOOL NAME: University of Colorado	
LOCATION: (City, State) Boulder, Colorado	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Bachelor's
MAJOR: History	UNITS COMPLETED:	

WORK EXPERIENCE

DATES: From: 2/2004 To: Present	EMPLOYER: Jason D. Berns, P.C	POSITION TITLE: Respondent Parent's Counsel and GAL
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 720 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER: 719-471-2602	SUPERVISOR: Linda Weinerman - Director of Office of the Child's Representative	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 50	SALARY: \$0.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 1
DUTIES: Contract with state and private cases. Contract with RPC in Defense of parents accused of child protection issues in Dependency & Neglect proceedings in El Paso and Teller counties. Conflict GAL contract with OCR in El Paso and Teller counties. Represent children as GAL in Dependency & Neglect and Delinquency proceedings.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: I would not be leaving entirely but have an interest in being a Judicial Officer.		
DATES: From: 3/2003 To: 1/2004	EMPLOYER: Office of the Guardian ad Litem	POSITION TITLE: Office of the Guardian Ad Litem
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 102 S. Weber St., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903		COMPANY URL:

PHONE NUMBER: 719-633-3411	SUPERVISOR: Debra Campeau - Head Attorney - Office of the Guardian Ad Litem El Paso County	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$0.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Attorney within OCR operated GAL office. Legal representation of children as GAL in Dependency & Neglect and Delinquency proceedings.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Expand practice to include		
DATES: From: 2/2000 To: 1/2003	EMPLOYER: Jason D. Berns, P.C	POSITION TITLE: attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 805 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER:	SUPERVISOR: Jason Berns - Attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$0.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 1
DUTIES: Legal defense of individuals accused of crimes in all courts of Colorado. Contracted Felony and Juvenile divisions with Alternate Defense Counsel.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: I was practicing criminal defense and the had the opportunity to try another area of law I was unfamiliar with. I took the opportunity to change areas of practice.		
DATES: From: 2/1997 To: 1/2000	EMPLOYER: State of Colorado Public Defender's Office	POSITION TITLE: Deputy State Public Defender
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 25 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER: 719-475-1235	SUPERVISOR: Jorge Sierra - Attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$0.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Criminal defense of low income and unemployed individuals. Practice in State District and County courts included felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile caseloads. Caseload included the handling of homicides. Extensive trial experience in all aspects of criminal defense litigation.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: I entered private practice which included a contract as ADC.		
DATES: From: 1/1996 To: 1/1997	EMPLOYER: Kaufman Law Firm	POSITION TITLE: Associate Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) Colorado Springs, Colorado		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER:	SUPERVISOR: Shaun Kaufman - attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$0.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED:
DUTIES: Criminal defense and civil litigation in Federal and State District, County, and Municipal cases. Responsibilities included the recruitment and retention of clients and all aspects of criminal defense and personal injury litigation.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: I left for the training and support available within the Public Defender system.		
DATES: From: 1/1995 To: 12/1996	EMPLOYER: The Honorable Gilbert A. Martinez	POSITION TITLE: Chief Judge, 4th Judicial District
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 270 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER: 719-452-5000	SUPERVISOR: The Honorable Gilbert Martinez - Chief Judge	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$0.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Prepared orders, performed legal research, and handled administrative responsibilities. Duties included the preparation of legal memorandum on criminal and civil issues of law. LEGAL CERTIFICATION State of Colorado Admitted to Bar May 1994 United State District Court, District of Colorado Admitted May 1994		
REASON FOR LEAVING: This was a one year position.		

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

TYPE:
LEGAL CERTIFICATION

LICENSE NUMBER: 24070	ISSUING AGENCY: State of Colorado
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Skills
Nothing Entered For This Section

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Professional Associations American Bar Association Honors & Awards Widener University School of Law - Harrisburg, PA J.D. Awarded May 1993 Honors & Awards University of Colorado - Boulder, CO B.A. Awarded May 1988

REFERENCES		
REFERENCE TYPE: Professional	NAME: Jessica Curtis	POSITION: El Paso County Court
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) [REDACTED]		
EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]		PHONE: [REDACTED]
REFERENCE TYPE: Professional	NAME: Lin Billings-Vela	POSITION: Teller County District Court Judge
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) [REDACTED]		
EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]		PHONE: [REDACTED]
REFERENCE TYPE: Professional	NAME: Rose Roy	POSITION: Office Head Public Defender's Office 4th Judicial District
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) [REDACTED]		
EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]		PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

Agency-Wide Questions

1. **Are you a current or former City employee?**
No
2. **If a former employee, when (enter "NA" if not applicable)?**
NA
3. **Are you 18 years of age or older? (If you are hired, you may be required to submit proof of age.)**
Yes
4. **Where did you first hear about this job opportunity?**
Friend

Job Specific Supplemental Questions

1. **Do you have a Juris Doctorate or Bachelor of Law from an American Bar Association accredited law school?**
Yes
2. **Are you an attorney (in good standing) licensed to practice law in the State of Colorado?**
Yes
3. **Are you a resident of the State of Colorado?**
Yes
4. **Are you a citizen of the United States?**
Yes
5. **Do you have five or more years of experience practicing law in the State of Colorado?**
Yes
6. **Do you have a relative who is employed in the department where you are applying to work?**
No
7. **Are you currently a City of Colorado Springs municipal employee?**
No

8. **By answering "yes" to this question, I understand the following: - My application may not be considered if it is not completed in full, which includes the entire work experience section. - I am to provide information for at least ten (10) years of my employment history (if applicable) under the work experience section of the application. - I am to provide all information requested even if not designated as a required field by NEOGOV's recruiting software. (This software could not be modified by Human Resources to require the completion of all fields.)**
Yes, my application is completed in full.

The following terms were accepted by the applicant upon submitting the online application:

All information contained on the application is subject to verification. I understand that I may be required to verify any and all information given on this application.
 The City of Colorado Springs (City) will conduct background checks including, but not limited to, work references, driving records, criminal background records, and educational attainment.
 I understand an employment offer may be conditioned upon certain checks, including but not limited to, successful completion of a pre-employment alcohol/drug test, any applicable medical examinations, review of work references, and results of the background checks. I understand that specific positions at the City of Colorado Springs may require me to provide evidence of an acceptable driving record. If employed, I agree to provide documentation verifying identity (must include a photograph) and employment eligibility in the U.S. along with any required license(s) or credential(s). I understand that the City participates in the Federal E-Verify program. For more information on this program, I understand that I may contact the Department of Homeland Security at 1-888-464-4218 or the Office of Special Counsel at 1-800-255-7688.
 If employed, I agree to abide by all policies, regulations, and guidelines established by the City of Colorado Springs. When advised, reasonable accommodations will be made in order for an "otherwise qualified applicant" with a disability to participate in any phase of the application/selection process [Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008]. I certify that all the information provided herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree and understand that omissions, misstatements, and falsifications will cause forfeiture on my part of all eligibility to any employment with the City of Colorado Springs and may be cause for rejection of this application, removal of my name from eligibility lists, or discharge from City employment. In addition, I give the City of Colorado Springs the right to investigate and verify any information obtained through the application process. Permission is granted and I release from any and all liability any employer, agency, or individual providing the City of Colorado Springs relevant job related information that will assist in this process.
 I understand that this completed application is the property of the City of Colorado Springs and will not be returned. I understand that I must notify the City's Human Resources office of any changes in my name, address, or phone number.
 By clicking the "Accept" button, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the "Conditions of Consideration for Employment" and certify that every statement I have made in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

This application was submitted by JASON D BERNIS on 12/9/17 12:35 PM

Signature _____

Date _____

JASON BERNS, ESQ.

Work Phone: 719/471-2602 Cell Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: jdbernslaw@hotmail.com

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Jason D. Berns, P.C. – Colorado Springs, CO

Private Practice (2004 – Present)

- Respondent Counsel. Contract with state and private cases. Defense of parents accused of child protection issues in Dependency & Neglect proceedings in El Paso and Teller counties.
- Conflict GAL contract with OCR in El Paso and Teller counties. Represent children as GAL in Dependency & Neglect and Delinquency proceedings.

Office of the Guardian Ad Litem – Colorado Springs, CO

Attorney (2003 – 2004)

- Attorney within OCR operated GAL office.
- Legal representation of children as GAL in Dependency & Neglect and Delinquency proceedings.

Jason D. Berns, P.C. – Colorado Springs, CO

Private Practice (2000 – 2003)

- Legal defense of individuals accused of crimes in all courts of Colorado.
- Contracted Felony and Juvenile divisions with Alternate Defense Counsel.

State of Colorado Public Defender's Office – Colorado Springs, CO

Deputy State Public Defender (1997 – 2000)

- Criminal defense of low income and unemployed individuals.
- Practice in State District and County courts included felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile caseloads.
- Caseload included the handling of homicides.
- Extensive trial experience in all aspects of criminal defense litigation.

Kaufman Law Firm – Colorado Springs, CO

Associate Attorney (1996 – 1997)

- Criminal defense and civil litigation in Federal and State District, County, and Municipal cases.
- Responsibilities included the recruitment and retention of clients and all aspects of criminal defense and personal injury litigation.

The Honorable Gilbert A. Martinez, Chief Judge, 4th Judicial District – Colorado Springs, CO

Law Clerk (1995 – 1996)

- Prepared orders, performed legal research, and handled administrative responsibilities.
- Duties included the preparation of legal memorandum on criminal and civil issues of law.

LEGAL CERTIFICATION

State of Colorado

Admitted to Bar May 1994

United State District Court, District of Colorado

Admitted May 1994

American Bar Association

Member Since January 1994

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law - Harrisburg, PA

J.D. Awarded May 1993

University of Colorado – Boulder, CO

B.A. Awarded May 1988

REFERENCES

Furnished upon request.



FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF COLORADO
270 SOUTH TEJON
P.O. BOX 2980
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901

JAMI VIGIL
MAGISTRATE

PHONE: (719) 452-5401
FAX: (719) 452-5006

May 17, 2017

To whom it may concern,

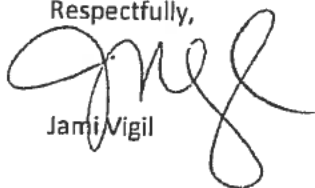
It is my pleasure and honor to write this letter of recommendation in support of Jason Berns for the position of Municipal Court judge. It has been my good fortune to have Mr. Berns appearing multiple times nearly every week in my Division as either Respondent Parent Counsel or Guardian Ad Litem on Dependency and Neglect Cases for the past five and half years. He has appeared on literally hundreds of cases in my Division.

Mr. Berns has proven himself to be an exceptional attorney and I highly recommend him for this position. He serves his clients well not only with his many years of trial court experience and thorough knowledge of the Colorado Children's Code but also with his immense dedication and compassion. He routinely navigates legally complex and quite serious child welfare cases, demonstrating strong problem solving skills. He maintains a consistently calm and professional demeanor and good sense of humor. It is this positive demeanor and reasonableness that have earned him the respect of the Juvenile Court Bench and other professionals involved in these very challenging cases. In addition to being smart, experienced and professional, I have observed him to be genuinely helpful and kind to everyone in my courtroom.

Without reservation I highly recommend Mr. Berns for the position of Municipal Court judge as I believe he has the necessary work ethic, professionalism, demeanor, and intellect. He is a lifelong public servant.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional information. I may be reached directly at 719-452-5400.

Respectfully,


Jami Vigil

Nominating Committee for Associate Municipal Court Judge Opening
224 East Klowa Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

May 18, 2017

To the Nominating Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of my friend, Jason Berns, for the open part-time position of Associate Municipal Court Judge in Colorado Springs. Jason's family and my own have been friends for years, and I have worked alongside Jason when I was a Guardian Ad Litem and he represented parents in child welfare proceedings. Since I know Jason both personally and professionally, I can speak to his qualities from both of these perspectives. Jason is a skilled, caring, even-tempered, and professional attorney who would fit in well with the existing high-quality judicial officers who serve the City of Colorado Springs.

Jason has earned the respect of bench and bar as a patient and kind advocate who is knowledgeable about the law and always exhibits respect. Jason treats everyone with the same amount of respect and concern. This holds true whether he is dealing with a mentally ill parent, an escalated attorney, a complete stranger, the wait staff at a restaurant, a good friend, his own family members, or whomever he is currently interacting with. From the moment of meeting Jason, one can tell that they are dealing with a genuine person. At the same time, Jason has always had a large practice and appears in courtrooms with heavy and congested dockets that contain a high amount of emotion and drama. He is the calm amidst the storm and is able to balance a large caseload in a way that his clients feel well-represented. Jason is a skilled advocate for his clients; yet he presents in a composed and balanced manner that demonstrates he has a demeanor well-suited to the bench.

Through my family's friendship with Jason and his family, I have come to understand Jason as a scrupulously honest, wise, and balanced person. If either of my two young boys were ever to be in a situation where they needed advice or opinions that they could not get from my husband or I, I would confidently direct them to seek insight from Jason as I know that they would be in great hands.

In short, Jason is an extremely capable litigator who takes care to be kind, prepared, and professional regarding his work. He cares deeply about the law and the administration of justice, and would be an asset to the community of Colorado Springs on the municipal bench.

Sincerely,



Jessica Curtis
District Court Magistrate
Fourth Judicial District, State of Colorado



*Fourth Judicial District
Division 1*

District Court Judge
Linda M. Billings Vela

270 South Tejon, PO 2980
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone: (719) 452-5229

May 15, 2017

Municipal Court Nominating Committee
Colorado Springs Municipal Court
224 East Kiowa
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Re: Recommendation for Jason Berns

Dear Judge Kane and Committee Members:


I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Jason Berns for the Municipal Court Judge position. I have known Jason for nearly his entire legal career here in Colorado Springs. He is a well-rounded, knowledgeable attorney whose experience and demeanor will be an asset to the Municipal Court bench.

Jason's experience as an attorney working in civil, criminal defense, guardian ad litem, juvenile delinquency and dependency & neglect matters gives him the depth of knowledge necessary to successfully handle the broad spectrum of case in Municipal Court. He regularly appears in front of me serving as respondent parent counsel and guardian ad litem (for both children and incompetent parents) on our dependency and neglect docket. Based on Jason's skill working across multiple judicial systems, he is one of our "go to" attorneys for more difficult and complicated cases. His trial skills and written motions practice are exemplary. In addition to being an excellent attorney, Jason possesses the requisite demeanor to handle a demanding docket.

Of course judges have to be knowledgeable in the law, efficient case managers, good communicators and diligent in performing their duties. Jason possesses the skills to be successful in those areas. My observation is that demeanor and ensuring procedural fairness in the process is of paramount importance to court participants. Jason's years of experience, common sense and humanity, will ensure that individuals feel that they have been treated fairly.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance in supporting Jason Bern's application to serve as a Municipal Court Judge.

Sincerely,


Lin Billings Vela
District Court Judge