



November 5, 2022

(Via upload to the appointments portal and by email to Appointments@eog.myflorida.com)

TO: Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
Governor's Appointments Office
The Capitol Building
Lower Level, Suite LL-10
Tallahassee FL 32399-0001

RE: Application for Appointment to St. Johns County Commission, District 3

Dear Governor DeSantis:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit to you and your office of appointments my application for appointment to the St. Johns County Commission, District 3. In my capacity as Mayor of St. Augustine Beach, FL, I worked with Commissioner Paul Waldron on numerous occasions over the years, including on the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council. Commissioner Waldron was a wonderfully kind and considerate individual and an esteemed community leader. The only regret I have in this application is that it comes on the heels of his passing, however, it would be my honor to succeed to his seat. It has been a joy and pleasure to serve the county community as a mayor, vice mayor and city commissioner and I look forward to representing the broader interests of this wonderful county as a county commissioner.

As a part of my application package, I have included:

- the completed application;
- my updated curriculum vitae; and,
- an Exhibit "A" which collectively answers the two narrative questions posed in Section 4 of the application.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to me at your convenience; the best way to reach me is by cell phone at (904) 687-1492. Election day being right around the corner, I wish you continued success on election Tuesday!

Sincerely,

/s/ Undine C. George

Undine C. George, Esq.

Signed electronically for expediency



Appointments Questionnaire

The information from this questionnaire will be used by the Governor's office and, where applicable, The Florida Senate in considering action on your confirmation. The questionnaire **MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL**. Answer "none" or "not applicable" where appropriate. **Please type or print in black ink.**

November 5, 2022

Date Completed

Name: MS. UNDINE GEORGE CELESTE (Maiden: PAWLOWSKI)
MR./MRS./MS./DR. FIRST LAST MIDDLE/MAIDEN

Section 1- General Information

List all your places of residence for the last ten (10) years.

Address	City & State	Dates: From / To
9 C STREET	ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLORIDA	MARCH, 2010 / CURRENT

List all your former and current residences outside of Florida that you have maintained at any time during adulthood

Address	City & State	Dates: From / To
40 WILLIAMS STREET	BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	FEB.2001/NOV.2004
203 SOUTH STREET	WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS	1999/2000 (approx)
7 DUDLEY ROAD	RAYMOND, NEW HAMPSHIRE	1998/1999 (approx)
73 MONTEBELLO ROAD	BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	1996/1998 (approx)

Have you ever been arrested, charged, or indicted for violation of any federal, state, county, or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance? (Exclude traffic violations for which a fine or civil penalty of \$150 or less was paid.) Yes No

If "Yes" give details:

Date	Place	Nature	Disposition
Feb.13, 2020;	A1A South, St. Augustine, FL;	traffic citation;	dismissed

Section 2- Education and Background

High School: Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Bethesda, MD
 (Name) (Location)

Year Graduated: 1995

List all postsecondary education institutions attended:

Name	Dates	Degree Received
SUFFOLK UNIV. LAW SCHOOL;	AUG. 2002 - MAY 2005	JURIS DOCTOR, CUM LAUDE
also received a CERTIFICATE OF CONCENTRATION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW		
FL COASTAL SCHOOL OF LAW	Spring Semester 2004	N/A (visiting student)
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY	JAN.2000 - DEC.2000	Bachelor of Science in Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude
MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART	AUG.1995 - MAY 1998	N/A (transferred)

Are you or have you ever been a member of the armed forces of the United States? Yes No

If "Yes" List:

Dates of service: _____

Branch or component: _____

Date & type of discharge: _____

Concerning your current employer and for all of your employment during the last ten years, list your employer's name, business address, type of business, occupation or job title, and period(s) of employment.

Employer's Name & Location	Type of Business	Occupation Title	Period
City of St. Augustine Beach	FL Municipality	City Commissioner	Elected Nov. 2010-current
ANASTASIA LAW, P.L.	Law Firm	Senior Atty./Owner	July 2010 - current
Historic Coast Realty, Inc.	Real Estate Company	Sales Associate	April 2016 - current

Have you ever been employed by any state, district, or local governmental agency in Florida?

Yes No

If "Yes", identify the position(s), the name(s) of the employing agency, and the period(s) of employment:

Position	Employing Agency	Period of Employment
MAYOR, VICE MAYOR & COMMISSIONER	CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH	ELECTED NOV.2010-CURRENT

Do you currently hold an office or position (appointive, civil service, or other) with the federal or any foreign government? Yes No

If "Yes", please list:

Have you ever been elected or appointed to any public office in this state? Yes No

If "Yes", state the office title, dates in office, level of government (city, county, district, state, federal), and whether you were elected or appointed (if appointed, by whom):

Office Title	Dates in Office	Level of Government	Election or Appointment
MAYOR, VICE MAYOR & COMMISSIONER;		Elected Nov. 2011-current;	City of St. Augustine Beach; Election
Board Member;	Dec. 2017-2020;	Tourist Development Council of St. Johns County;	Appt. by SJCBOCC
Chair, Vice Chair & Member;	Nov. 2006-2010;	Comp. Planning & Zoning, St. Aug. Bch.;	Appt. by City Commission

If your service was on an appointed board(s), committee(s), or council(s):

- (1) How frequently were meetings scheduled: at least monthly
- (2) If you missed any of the regularly scheduled meetings, state the number of meetings you attended, the number you missed, and the reasons(s) for your absence(s).

Meetings Attended	Meetings Missed	Reason for Absence
SAB Commission (2011-2022); 260 regular, special & workshop meetings;	7 missed;	death, zoom failure, flight delay; etc.
SAB P/Z/B (2006 - 2010); 69 regular, special & workshops attended	8 absences total	various reasons: scheduling conflict, family, illness &/or out of state obligations.
SJC Tourist Dev. Council; 23 meetings total;	6 meetings missed;	various: work conflicts (trials), connection issues, travel.

Has probable cause ever been found that you were in violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, F.S.? Yes No

If "Yes" give details:

Date	Nature of Violation	Disposition

Have you ever been suspended from any office by the Governor of the State of Florida?

Yes No

If "Yes", list:

Title of Office: _____

Reason for suspension: _____

Date of suspension: _____

Result: Reinstated Removed Resigned

Have you previously been appointed to any office that required confirmation by the Florida Senate?
Yes No

If "Yes", list:

(1) Title of Office: _____

(2) Term of Appointment: _____

(3) Confirmation Result: _____

Have you ever been refused a fidelity, surety, performance, or other bond? Yes No

If "Yes", explain:

License/Certificate	Title/Number	Date Issued	Issuing Authority	Disciplinary Action/Date

Section 3- Possible Conflicts of Interest

Have you, or businesses of which you have been an owner, officer, or employee, held any contractual or other direct dealings during the last four (4) years with any state or local governmental agency in Florida, including the office or agency to which you have been appointed or are seeking appointment?

Yes No

If "Yes", explain:

Name of Business	Your Relationship to Business	Business Relationship to Agency

Have members of your immediate family (spouse, child, parents(s), siblings(s)), or businesses of which members of your immediate family have been owners, officers, or employees, held any contractual or other direct dealings during the last four (4) years with any state or local governmental agency in Florida, including the office or agency to which you have been appointed or are seeking appointment?

Yes No

If "Yes", explain:

Name of Business	Relationship to You	Relationship to Business	Business Relationship to Agency

Have you ever been a registered lobbyist or have you lobbied at any level of government at any time during the past five (5) years? Yes No

(1) Did you receive any compensation other than reimbursement for expenses? Yes No

(2) Name of agency or entity you lobbied and the principal(s) you represented:

Agency Lobbied

Principal Represented

Are there any possible conflicts of interest that could affect your ability to serve as a gubernatorial appointee?

None.

If you agree, please type or write your initials for each of the following statements:

(1) If appointed, I agree to follow, as applicable to the position, Florida's public records and open meeting laws. UCG

(2) If appointed, I agree to follow, as applicable to the position, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, F.S. UCG

Section 4- References and Experience

State your experiences and interests or elements of your personal history that qualify you for this appointment:

Please see attached Exhibit "A".

Please list specifically any degree(s), professional certification(s), or designations(s) related to the subject matter of this appointment:

Juris Doctor, Cum Laude from Suffolk University Law School, 2005.

Advanced Institute for Municipal Elected Officials, Florida League of Cities.

Please see attached curriculum vitae for additional information

Please list any awards or recognitions you have received relating to the subject matter of this appointment:

Please see attached curriculum vitae.

Please identify all association memberships and offices (including any business, professional, occupational, civic, or fraternal organizations) you have held or hold relating in the last 10 years:

Name of the Association	Role	Dates of Membership
Please see attached curriculum vitae.		

Do you know of any reason why you will not be able to attend fully to the duties of the office or position to which you have been or will be appointed? Yes No

If "Yes", explain:

List three persons who have known you well within the past five (5) years. Include a current telephone number. Exclude your relatives and members of the Florida Senate.

Name	Organization	Phone Number
Robert Hardwick	Sheriff of St. Johns County, Florida	(904) 626-0655
Andrew Morgan	Vice Chair, Florida's 7th Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission	(904) 382-9897
Henry Dean	Chair & Commissioner, St. Johns County, Florida, District 5	(904) 814-0175

In the following space, please explain why you want to serve as a gubernatorial appointee and share anything else that you think may be helpful:

Please see attached Exhibit "A".

Section 5- Certification and Signature

I understand that any appointment tendered to me will be contingent upon the results of a background investigation, and I am aware that withholding information or making false statements on this application may be the basis for non-appointment by the Executive Office of the Governor and criminal penalties. I agree to these conditions, and I declare that I have read the foregoing application and any attachments and the facts stated within them are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

By checking this box and typing my name below I am electronically signing my application and understand that an electronic signature has the same force and effect as a written signature.

/s/ Undine C. George _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name Suffix

Please save this document to upload with your board application.

If you have any questions, please call (850) 717-9243 or email Appointments@eog.myflorida.com



Curriculum Vitæ: Undine C. George, Esq.
9 C Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080
undinec@gmail.com
cell: (904) 687-1492 office: (904) 236-6243

CURRENT POSITIONS

City of St. Augustine Beach, FL

City Commissioner, Seat 3, Nov. 2, 2010 – current (four consecutive elected terms).

Mayor, Dec. 4, 2017 – January 6, 2020 (two consecutive terms).

Vice Mayor, Dec. 7, 2015 – Dec. 4, 2017 (two consecutive terms).

Responsible for listening to and identifying citizen's needs and troubleshooting solutions; representing constituents in all aspects of City government; legislative responsibilities include the creation, evaluation and implementation of policy, informed by constituents, through ordinances, resolutions and staff direction; administrative tasks including oversight for compliance with county, state, federal and agency regulations; delegation of tasks to department heads and advisory boards; intergovernmental coordination; overseeing and approving City's annual budget (approx. \$9.5 million in total fund revenues, FY2022), awarding bids; hiring and firing the City Manager and Chief of Police; make appointments to the Planning/Zoning, Code Enforcement, Sustainability and Environmental Planning Advisory Committee, and other special committees; appellate/quasi-judicial review of decisions and recommendations from Planning Board; engage in research, public outreach and coordination with multiple community organizations, citizen groups, civic associations, political, cultural, nonprofit groups, schools, religious organizations and charities.

Anastasia Law, P.L., St. Augustine Beach, FL; www.AnastasiaLaw.net

Senior Attorney and Managing Member, Jan. 2010 – current.

Owner and manager of a multi-attorney law firm. Seventeen years experience as civil law attorney, with a focus in real estate, estates, trusts, probate and trust administration, civil litigation and bankruptcy. Anastasia Law represents clients with: animal law; bankruptcy; civil and commercial litigation; contracts; corporations; estate planning and asset protection planning; probate, estates and trusts; real estate; property management; and veteran's claims. Proficient in all aspects of office management and case management, client advising, negotiation, alternative dispute resolution, strategic analysis, document preparation, motion drafting, case law, statute and municipal ordinance research, trial preparation, argumentation, etc.

LICENSES TO PRACTICE LAW

- *United States Supreme Court*
- *U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida*
- *U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida*
- *U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims*
- *State of Florida Supreme Court and State Courts*

Historic Coast Realty, Inc., St. Augustine, FL; www.HistoricCoastRealty.com

Realtor & Sales Associate, April 2016 - current.

Primary purpose of this license is to support this business and work with my mother who is the licensed Broker and owner. Additionally, it serves as a referral base to complement my law practice clients' needs, and assisting owners, buyers and sellers of real estate in all aspects of property management, purchasing and selling real estate.

EDUCATION

Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2005

International Law Concentration Certificate *with Distinction*, May 2005

Concentration G.P.A.: 4.0

Concentration Thesis: *Bifurcated Human Rights? The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights (ICESCR) Hierarchies as a Global Woman's Problem.*

Class Rank: Top 11% (039/343)

G.P.A.: 3.42

Honors: *Best Legal Memorandum/Brief Award*, First Year LPS, Spring 2003

Dean's List 2003-2004 and 2004-2005

Trustee Merit Scholarship recipient 2002-2003 and 2004-2005

Phi Delta Phi, Rehnquist Inn, International Legal Fraternity, Spring 2005

Activities: *Moot Court/Mock Trial Competition*, Fall 2004

International Law Students Association, member

Women's Law Student Association, member

Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, FL

Juris Doctor Visiting Student, Spring, 2004

Class Rank: Top 10%

G.P.A.: 3.67

Honors: *Deans Scholar's List*

Co-Recipient, Best Overall Advocate, Trial Practice Workshop Competition

Suffolk University, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston, MA

Bachelor of Science in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, February 2001

Class Rank: Top 3%

G.P.A.: 3.95

Honors: *Rosalie Warren Prize in Philosophy*, Spring 2000

Suffolk University Philosophy Book Prize, Spring 2000

Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy National Honors Society)

Delta Alpha Pi, National Honors Society

Dean's High Honors List 5/5 semesters

Junior of the Year nomination, Spring 2000

Activities: *President, Philosophy Society*, Spring 2000 thru Fall 2000

President, Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy National Honors Society at Suffolk University), Spring 2000 thru Fall 2000

Secretary Elect, Council of Presidents, Fall 2000

Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA

Candidate for Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting and Art History, 1995-1998

G.P.A.: 3.53

Honors: *Charette & Massachusetts College of Art Alumni Auction Award*, 1997

Washington Metropolitan Scholastic Arts & the Corcoran Institute and Museum Gold Key Award Recipient, 1994

Dean's High Honor List 5/6 semesters

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association Conference, Sept. 2018 & 2019.

Advanced Institute for Municipal Elected Officials, Florida League of Cities, courses I-III, completed in 2016.

Florida League of Cities University Ethics Education, every year as statutorily required.

Governor's Open Records and Sunshine Law Conference, 2007.

Florida Continuing Legal Education, to maintain license to practice law, ongoing since 2005.

Leadership St. Johns Class of 2016, leadership program produced by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, 2015-2016.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Tourist Development Council of St. Johns County, FL

Member of the Board, Dec. 2017 - 2020.

Appointed by the St. Johns County Commission to be voting member liaison to the City of St. Augustine Beach, FL. TDC is a statutory board tasked to make recommendations to the County Commission for the administration and use of tourist development tax revenues (*see* §125.0104, Fla. Stat.). Approx. \$12 million was collected in FY2019. Responsibilities include receiving and integrating public comment for cooperative strategic planning, creating and implementing TDC Ordinance goals and policy priorities, and assisting in identifying community needs. TDC funding supports arts, culture and heritage grants for programs and destination marketing.

St. Johns River Community College, St. Augustine, FL

Guest Lecturer, Spring, 2017; Fall, 2016; Spring, 2016; Fall, 2015; Spring, 2015, Fall, 2014.

Design curriculum, present material and lecture for introductory higher-education level class on estate planning, secured transactions, bankruptcy and finance to college students.

City of St. Augustine Beach, FL

Chairman, Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board, November 2009 -2010;

Vice Chairman, November 2007 - 2009;

Member 2006-2010.

Quasi-judicial and legislative responsibilities including plans and application review and decision making, evaluation and compliance with comprehensive plan and local, county, state and federal regulations, drafting of ordinances, policy and law, including goals and objectives, community and land use planning, coordinate with, oversee and delegate to staff and advisory committees. Chair and Vice-Chair positions elected by the seven-member board, responsibilities of Chair include acting as liaison to City Commission and other Boards, ensuring procedural consistency and orderly flow of the meetings, managing rules and public and board comment, approving agendas, orders and meeting minutes.

Artful Living Studios & Gallery, Boston, MA

Manager/Creator/Oil Painter Artist, April 1997 - February 2003.

Successfully designed, constructed and managed 4,000 sq ft commercial property housing studios for eleven artists, a woodshop and gallery. General managerial responsibilities provided experience in writing and actualizing business proposals, budget planning, negotiating and drafting of leases, advertising strategies and public relations. Organized over twenty public art exhibits; planning, advertising, catering, setting up, hiring, closing.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Anastasia Law Partners, P.L. / Law Offices of Robert Grier, PA, St. Augustine, FL

Attorney at Law, December 2009 – July 2010.

Civil practice concentrating on legal issues related to real estate and contracts especially association representation, foreclosure defense, litigation, boundary disputes, as well as trust and estate planning matters.

Undine C. Pawlowski, Esq. (Self-Employment), St. Augustine, FL

Attorney at Law, October 2005 – December 2009.

General civil law, concentrating in family law, wills and trusts, real property and landlord tenant matters, contracts, civil litigation, misdemeanors and ordinance violation appeals. Responsible for all aspects of file management, case law and statute research, drafting motions, orders and memorandum, contracts and waivers, trust accounting and correspondence; working and mentoring with other counsel.

James S. Cooper, Esq., Boston, MA

Legal/Office Assistant, May 2001 – July 2002.

Drafted general legal documents and correspondence in the areas of real estate, labor law arbitration; managed multiple residential properties, organized property repairs, drafted leases, screened tenant credit reports, documented rental income and oversaw payroll.

Dr. Tamar Frankel, Esq., Boston University School of Law

Research Assistant for legal book project, March – June 2002.

Edited general manuscript, drafted and developed text; researched and checked references; integrated sources and footnotes. Work was for a project then titled “Beloved Confidence Artists” and later was contribution to publish under title The Ponzi Scheme Puzzle: A History and Analysis of Con Artists and Victims (Oxford University Press, 2012).

HONORS & SPEECHES

February, 2020. **Enterprising Women’s Leadership Institute, Inc.’s Honoree for EMLIE’s International Women’s Day Celebration.** As a part of EWLI’s International Women’s Day program, I was be recognized and thanked for my leadership as a woman making a difference in our community.

November, 2019. **FL Mosquito Control Association**, honoree and opening remarks speaker; Embassy Suites Hotel at St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

Spetmber, 2018. **St. Johns Association for Women Lawyers**, panel member, “Women and Politics: I ran and won...You can too!” Panel presentation by the three female Mayors in St. Johns County, approved by the Florida Bar for continuing legal education credits; Columbia Restaurant, St. Augustine, Florida.

November, 2011. **Quota International, Inc., St. Augustine Chapter**, honoree and speaker; World Golf Village Renaissance Conference Center.

2011-current, various opening remarks or speaker as Mayor, Vice Mayor or City Commissioner at city sponsored events. **Veterans Day Ceremony; Ron Parker Memorial** (to honor fallen deputy of St. Augustine Beach Police Department and other service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our safety); **Arbor Day Celebration; New Years Eve Celebration and Countdown**; St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AFFILIATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

Board of Directors, Friends of the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuary Research Reserve, Member since being elected by the Board in December 2021.

Fraternal Order of the Elks, St. Augustine Lodge # 829, Fourth generation Elk Member and Volunteer, since 2010.

Rotary Club of St. Augustine, Rotary International, District 6970, Charter #639, Club #4382; member since August 2015.

105.5 WYRE, on-air hostess of Public Service Radio Program “Wired into Community”; interview local charities, non-profits, and government agencies, 2012 and 2013 (*station was sold*).

Learn to Read, St. Johns County, “Kiss the Pig” fundraiser candidate 2011, 2014, 2016.

Second Annual Dancing Stars of St. Johns County, 2015 (*2022 invitation regretfully declined*).

Numerous other volunteering with community and legal aid organizations.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

St. Johns Association for Women Lawyers, President Elect, 2017-2019 (*I voluntarily resigned from the Presidency due to my being Mayor of St. Augustine Beach in that same year*); Chapter Representative, 2015-2017; Founding Member, 2015.

St. Johns County Bar Association, President, 2010-2011; Vice-President, 2009-2010; Secretary, 2008-2009; Member since 2005.

Phi Delta Phi, Rehnquist Inn, International Legal Fraternity, inducted 2005.

The Federalist Society, member October 2020.

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, periodic liaison for the City of St. Augustine Beach, since 2011.

Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association, liaison for the City of St. Augustine Beach, since 2017.

St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau, liaison for the City of St. Augustine Beach, 2016-2017.

Economic Development Council of St. Johns County, liaison for the City of St. Augustine Beach, 2011-2015.

ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS' REFERENCES

Jeremiah Blocker; (352) 362-9317;

Commissioner, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners; St. Johns County, Florida; elected to St. Johns County Commission in 2018.

Henry Dean; (904) 814-0175;

Chair & Commissioner, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners; St. Johns County, Florida; elected to St. Johns County Commission in 2016 and re-elected in 2020.

Robert A. Hardwick; (904) 626-0655;

Sheriff, St. Johns County, Florida; elected to first four year term in November 2020; Former Chief of Police, City of St. Augustine Beach; appointed by City Commission of St. Augustine Beach, Florida, 2013-2020.

Andrew Morgan, Esq.; (904) 382-9897;

Equity Partner, Canan Law, 1030 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32084; Vice Chairman, Seventh Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission; reappointed by Gov. DeSantis for a term ending July 1, 2026.

Donald Samora; (727) 224-1253;

Mayor & Commissioner, St. Augustine Beach City Commission; appointed in December, 2017, elected in 2018 and re-elected to second four year term in June 2022.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Paul J. Cappiello, Esq.; (904) 207-1621;

Attorney, Paul J. Cappiello, P.A., 1301 Plantation Island Drive South Suite 302B, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

Rob Cook, Esq.; (305) 619-1876;

Attorney, Rob Cook, P.A., 904 Anastasia Blvd.; Suite A. St. Augustine, FL 32080.

Cheryl McCray, Esq.; (904) 814-2182, (904) 290-5678;

Attorney, 1301 Plantation Island Dr. S, Suite 302B St. Augustine, FL 32080.

Alyssa C. Shorstein, Esq.; (904) 814-7891;

Attorney, Law Office of Shorstein & Lee, 305 Kingsley Lake Dr #701, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

Megan Wall, Esq.; (904) 827-9921;

Managing Attorney, St. Johns County Legal Aid, 222 San Marco Ave # A, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Application for Governor DeSantis' Appointment to St. Johns County Commission, District 3

EXHIBIT "A"

As shown on my application, I am objectively well qualified to be appointed as St. Johns County Commissioner, for District 3. I currently hold the elected position of City Commissioner, seat 3, for the City of St. Augustine Beach, Florida, which city is fully located within St. Johns County. I have a proven track record as an elected official, having succeeded in four consecutive election cycles over the immediate past twelve years. While holding elected office, I achieved the respect and support of my constituents and commissioner colleagues and was appointed to the position of Vice Mayor, for two terms, then Mayor, for two terms. As a city commissioner, I continued to expand my contributions to our community by organizing town hall meetings to hear from constituents, by attending educational conferences, by volunteering with numerous community service organizations and generally giving 200% to the position. In this role I have also had the opportunity to serve on county wide boards, such as the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and, as a liaison for the city, the St. Johns County Visitors and Convention Bureau.

In addition to being a current seated commissioner, I am a small business owner and an attorney. After graduating law school at the top of my class, I received my license to practice law in Florida in 2005 and have since built a successful multi-attorney practice in St. Augustine Beach, on Anastasia Island, called Anastasia Law, P.L. Although my undergraduate college degree is in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, I also spent three years as a fine arts major, in oil painting, prior to studying philosophy. I believe the innate creativity that first drew me to art college and the critical thinking skills that were honed from studying philosophy and law ideally situated me for becoming a community leader. The creativity welcomes different perspectives, encourages an exchange of ideas and active listening, while the critical reasoning skills ensure logic and objectivity. As a state governor would know, it is a key characteristic of a good leader to be able to engage in critical thinking and active listening of the concerns of your constituents. I believe my success as an elected official and as a lawyer lies in that characteristic.

I did not start out with the professional goal of becoming involved in politics, however my academic interests and moral calling led me down this path. My family worked hard, my mother, in particular, to send me to a private catholic high school, outside Washington, D.C. That Sacred Heart pedagogy instilled in me five pillars of wisdom. Among them are faith, intellect, community, personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom, and social awareness which compels one to action. These moral pillars compelled me to act when I saw that there was a need within my community for volunteers to serve at the city level. Some may call it "dharma" or a divine "calling", sometimes I jokingly say, "I stepped in it." I saw a need within my community; I knew I had the skills and the drive to do an excellent job to fill that need, so I was compelled to act.

Today, I am motivated to apply for this position because I am ready to take the skills I have developed in my service as a city commissioner to the next level, and the county commission is the logical next step of service to take. I truly enjoy the work of a commissioner. As a student of law and philosophy I enjoy the deliberative and cooperative process of crafting legislation. It is, for me, more intellectually fulfilling than the practice of law. In fact, prior to Commissioner Waldron's passing, I was already planning to run for his seat on the county commission in the

Application for Governor DeSantis' Appointment to St. Johns County Commission, District 3

EXHIBIT "A"

2024 election cycle; and, if appointed, I will seek election in 2024. It was well known that he was not planning to seek re-election; he and I had initial conversations about my intentions prior to his final illness. I currently reside within District 5, however I am qualified to take office for District 3 because I own numerous properties across St. Johns County and three of those homes are in District 3. Residency within District 3 will be easy to establish in one of my three homes and I am already well aware of the unique community needs of District 3. District 3 is the immediate neighbor of St. Augustine Beach; it occupies half of Anastasia Island so it already is a part of the community I have served for the last twelve years. Moreover, my awareness of the needs of District 3 are not limited to those needs of the island, I also own homes on the mainland, in the middle of District 3, and on the north side. I have repeatedly been encouraged to seek other District seats and I declined doing so because I did not have legitimate ties to those Districts, which was right and just. In this case, however, I have personal ties and personal knowledge of many of the issues facing District 3 and stand ready to hear the other concerns of my neighbors.

Additionally, I have the time to fulfill the responsibilities of the office. As the owner of the law firm where I currently work, I would be able to immediately reduce my workload as an attorney to accommodate the additional time needed to give the county commission my full-time focus. Coincidentally, I made significant changes to my workload in September and October of this year, by reducing my active client list and making needed preparations to hire another attorney, so I am already well poised to take on the county responsibilities.

Most importantly, I have the love and support of a broad base of family and friends who live in St. Johns County to support this endeavor. My husband and I met at City Hall, he too was a City Commissioner and Mayor of St. Augustine Beach. We were married nearly nine years ago at the St. Augustine Cathedral Basilica; his uncle, Father Bob, officiated our wedding mass to nearly 300 guests from the community. My husband understands and fully supports the rigors of public office. I am also extremely blessed to have both of my healthy parents living in St. Johns County; my mother lives in District 3 and my father lives in District 5. My brother and his four children currently live in San Diego, CA where he served with the Navy as a nuclear engineer and is hoping to move to our county, but it has not happened yet. Within my nuclear family, we are each strong and independent thinkers; and we, more often than not, don't always agree. Collectively, my family has helped me develop the strength of self that affords me peace and joy in knowing that others have the right to their own opinion, and that there is always something to learn from other opinions. Like my diverse family, we have forged a rich tapestry of friends throughout this county of fellow business owners, public officials, teachers, first responders and volunteers of various organizations that make up the paradise that is St. Johns County. Unequivocally, I believe I have the inter-personal resources needed to achieve success in representing the people of this county.