

Valarie A. Hill
8805 W. Dogwood Street
Milwaukee, WI 53224
(414) 371-1261

July 22, 2003

Judiciary and Legislation Committee
c/o City Clerk
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205, City Hall
Milwaukee, WI 53202

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
03 JUL 22 AM 11:55
RONALD D. LEONHARDT
CITY CLERK

To the members of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee:

I am Judicial Court Commissioner Valarie A. Hill and I submit this letter of application for temporary appointment to the forthcoming judicial vacancy in Branch 1 of the Milwaukee Municipal Court.

Currently, I serve in a judicial capacity handling matters in Traffic Court. I have also handled matters in Criminal Intake, Out-of-Custody Intake, Small Claims, Preliminary Hearing, Domestic Violence, and Children's Courts. Serving as a judicial court commissioner has afforded me the opportunity to transition from criminal to juvenile to civil work and from an adversary party to a neutral magistrate. This is a position I am performing well in and have been appointed to annually since July of 1998.

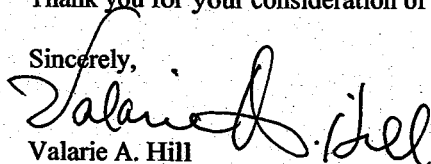
Prior to my appointment as a commissioner, I was employed by the Office of the State Public Defender, serving as a staff attorney and manager. When I left that organization, I was a Deputy First Assistant responsible for the management of a team of 12 attorneys and 3 support staff in addition to handling a caseload which included felony, misdemeanor, and administrative matters. During my tenure at the Public Defender's Office I was a successful, competent, and well liked manager and attorney. I won 15 consecutive jury trials, which is still an office record. I was called upon to serve as a lecturer or faculty member on numerous occasions and at various training functions sponsored by the Public Defender and on one occasion by the Wisconsin State Bar Association. I also have work experience outside of the legal field. I have been employed as a Site Intake Counselor, Community Advocate, and Mental Health Case Manager. These are positions that I held full time while attending law school in the evening.

I am the current president of the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers and hold membership in the Wisconsin Bar Association and National Bar Association. I am actively involved in the Milwaukee community. I recently served as the President of the Board of Directors of Horizon House and a local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. which is the nation's oldest sorority founded by African-American women and whose primary thrust is community service with program initiatives in the areas of education, health, the arts, and economic empowerment. I am an active community volunteer with upcoming volunteer efforts scheduled with the Milwaukee Urban League, United Negro College Fund, and African World Festival. I have installed smoke detectors in homes in conjunction with The American Red Cross; participated in career days, job shadowing, and mentoring for various Milwaukee Public Schools; and volunteered for The American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area, Habitat for Humanity, and other organizations.

The totality of these experiences allow me to bring a solid and diverse background to the position of Municipal Court Judge and will assist me in my strong commitment to the fair administration of justice, thereby allowing me to be a more valuable asset to the citizens of Milwaukee. Thus, I urge your serious consideration of my application for this position. My resume has been included for your review.

Thank you for your consideration of my application. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


Valarie A. Hill

8805 W. Dogwood Street
Milwaukee, WI 53224
Phone (414) 371-1261
Vhill@execpc.com

Valarie A. Hill

Education

1987-1991 The University of Akron, School of Law, Akron, OH
Juris Doctor

1982-1985 The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Bachelor of Arts, Criminology and Criminal Justice

Professional experience

1998-Present Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Milwaukee, WI
Judicial Court Commissioner

Serve in judicial capacity handling family, juvenile, civil and criminal matters in Criminal Intake, Traffic, Small Claims, Preliminary Hearing, Domestic Violence, Out-of-Custody, and Children's Court.

1995-1998 Wisconsin State Public Defender, Milwaukee, WI
Deputy First Assistant State Public Defender

Represented indigent clients in judicial and administrative proceedings. Litigated felony and misdemeanor cases. Responsible for intake and case assignments. Supervised 12 attorneys and 3 support staff. Active member of the Milwaukee Criminal Division Management Team, assisting in establishing and carrying out office policies and procedures, and other duties as assigned by the First Assistant. Participated in agency recruitment, interviewing, and hiring decisions.

1994-1995 Wisconsin State Public Defender, Milwaukee, WI
Senior Assistant State Public Defender

Responsible for managing a caseload of approximately 400 cases per year, providing legal representation at trial level phase of criminal litigation to indigent clients. Aided Deputy First Assistant in the management of a team of 12 attorneys and 3 support staff.

1992-1994 Wisconsin State Public Defender, Milwaukee, WI
Assistant State Public Defender

Responsible for managing a caseload of approximately 400 cases per year, providing legal representation at trial level phase of criminal litigation to indigent clients.

**Additional
professional
activities**

Organizations: Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers (President), Wisconsin Bar Association, National Bar Association.

Lecturer: Guardian Ad Litem Clinic, Marquette Law School, 2001. State Public Defender Conference, Direct Examination, November 1997. State Public Defender Conference, Closing Argument, November 1996. New Attorney Training, February 1996. State Bar of Wisconsin, Midwinter Convention, Young Lawyers Division, Criminal Plea Negotiations, January 1996. New Attorney Training, Plea Negotiations and Sentencing, July 1996; October 1995; July 1994. State Public Defender Conference, Dealing with the Absent Witness, October 1995. American Bar Association, Mock Trials, October 1995. New Attorney Training, Domestic Violence, October 1993. New Attorney Training, Gun cases, September 1992.

Faculty: Trial Skills Seminar, April, 1998; May, 1997; July, 1996

Other: Law Day, Supervising attorney, Marquette Law School Criminal Defense Clinic. Court in School Work Group. New attorney mentor. Co-Chair Regional Training Day. Co-director of Volunteer Intake Intern Program. Wisconsin Association Minority Attorneys, Mock Trial Competition, Attorney-Coach. State Bar Association, Mock Trial Competition, Attorney-Coach; Performance Judge. Law Explorers, Marquette Law School. Moot Court Competition Judge, Marquette Law School.

**Other work
experience**

Case Manager, A New Direction, 1990-1991.
Case Manager, Central Mental Health, 1989-1990.
Community Advocate, Stark County Community Action Agency, 1986-1989.
Site Intake Counselor, Stark County Community Action Agency, 1985-1986.

**Community
activities**

Board Membership/Leadership Positions: Horizon Inc., Immediate Past President, Board of Directors; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Upsilon Mu Omega Chapter, Graduate Member-at-Large, Immediate Past President; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Central Region, Chair, Fact Finding Committee; YMCA/Holton Youth Center, Board of Directors, past member; Massillon Urban League, Past Board Vice Chairperson; Educational Advancement Foundation, Chapter Chairperson

Volunteerism: Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators; America's Black Holocaust Museum; Habitat for Humanity; American Red Cross; American Cancer Society; Milwaukee Public Schools; Girl Scouts; United Negro College Fund; Milwaukee Urban League

Awards/Honors

Wisconsin Association of Minority Attorneys, Merit Award
Staff Award, State Public Defender
Feature Article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*
Exceptional Performance Award, State Public Defender
Performance Recognition Award, State Public Defender
Black Law Student Association, Highest GPA Award
Diamond Jubilee Pearls Service Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Soror of the Year Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Outstanding Leadership Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Keynote Speaker, 2003 Milwaukee County Martin Luther King Day Celebration



Circuit Court

Branch 09

Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, Room 622
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
(414) 278-4517

CHAMBERS OF
LOUIS B. BUTLER, JR.
JUDGE

SAMOTRIA S. BELLAMY
DEPUTY COURT CLERK

JEANNIE VAFIADES
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

July 22, 2003

Ronald D. Leonhardt
Common Council—City Clerk
City Hall
200 E. Wells St.—Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: City of Milwaukee Municipal Judge Position—Valarie Hill

Dear Mr. Leonhardt:

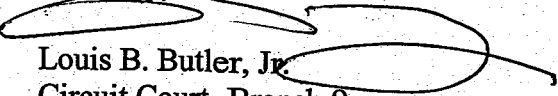
I am writing this unsolicited letter on behalf of Milwaukee County Judicial Court Commissioner Valarie Hill, who has submitted an application to replace the Honorable Vincent Bobot as the Branch 1 Municipal Court Judge. This is an incredibly important appointment, as most people's perception of justice in our society is based on what they see in municipal court. It is also incredibly important because of the role municipal judges have within the community while serving, as well as when we leave the municipal bench. For example, one of the former municipal judges currently sits as the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and is a candidate for appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. One of our former judges serves on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. Three of us have run for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. One is the presiding judge of Children's Court. All of us wield a great deal of influence in the community, and have stellar reputations. It is vitally important that you have accurate information on the candidates so that you can make the best selection possible. It is for these reasons that I am sending this letter on behalf of Commissioner Hill.

I have known Ms. Hill since she was hired by the State Public Defender's Office. As her immediate supervisor, I had an opportunity to see her work first hand. As a trial lawyer, her reputation was excellent. I believe she still holds the record for consecutive victories as a public defender trial attorney, having won fifteen cases in a row. As a court commissioner, she has done an excellent job on behalf of Milwaukee County. You have already had an opportunity to review her credentials, as she was a finalist for appointment to replace me in Branch 2, the seat that was ultimately awarded to Judge Derek Mosley.

Her appointment would also give the Council an opportunity to address the absence of women on the municipal bench, as one has not held office since the 1970's. Of course, no one should be appointed solely because of gender. However, Commissioner Hill has excellent credentials, a good solid record as a judicial officer, and a great deal of community support. She is president of the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers, and the local chapter immediate past-president of a large and prestigious national sorority. I believe that Commissioner Hill is a can't-miss judicial officer, and I strongly support her for consideration by the Council.

Should you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Louis B. Butler, Jr.
Circuit Court, Branch 9

**Additional
professional
activities**

Organizations: Milwaukee Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, Association of Women Lawyers, Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers, Wisconsin Bar Association.

Lecturer: Guardian Ad Litem Clinic, Marquette Law School, 2001. State Public Defender Conference, Direct Examination, November, 1997. State Public Defender Conference, Closing Argument, November, 1996. New Attorney Training, February, 1996. State Bar of Wisconsin, Midwinter Convention, Young Lawyers Division, Criminal Plea Negotiations, January, 1996. New Attorney Training, Plea Negotiations and Sentencing, July, 1996; October, 1995; July, 1994. State Public Defender Conference, Dealing with the Absent Witness, October, 1995. American Bar Association, Mock Trials, October, 1995. New Attorney Training, Domestic Violence, October, 1993. New Attorney Training, Gun cases, September, 1992.

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Case Manager, Central Mental Health, 1989-1990.
Community Advocate, Stark County Community Action Agency, 1986-1989.
Site Intake Counselor, Stark County Community Action Agency, 1985-1986.

**Community
activities**

Horizon Inc., President, Board of Directors
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Upsilon Mu Omega Chapter, President
YMCA/Holton Youth Center, Board of Directors, past member
Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators, Workshop Presenter
America's Black Holocaust Museum, Volunteer
Habitat for Humanity, Volunteer
American Red Cross, Volunteer
Hartford University School, Career Day
Kluge Elementary School, Read Fest
Audubon Middle School, Career Day, Job Shadowing, Best Friends Club
Story Middle School, Career Day, Job Shadowing
Metropolitan High School for the Arts and Technology, Career Day
Siefert Elementary School, Career Week
Samuel Morris Middle School, Career Day
Past Outstanding Young Women of America
American Cancer Society, Volunteer
Girl Scouts of Milwaukee, Volunteer, Career Day
United Negro College Fund Walk/Run, Volunteer
African World Festival, Volunteer
Educational Advancement Foundation, Chapter Chairperson
Milwaukee Urban League Guild
Massillon Urban League, Past Board Vice Chairperson

Awards received

Wisconsin Association of Minority Attorneys, Merit Award
Staff Award, State Public Defender
Feature Article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*
Exceptional Performance Award, State Public Defender
Performance Recognition Award, State Public Defender
Black Law Student Association, Highest GPA Award
Diamond Jubilee Pearls Service Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Soror of the Year Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

References

Available Upon Request