



# *City of Apache Junction*

*Home of the Superstition Mountains*

## **Municipal Court**

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6/05/2024

To: Mayor Wilson, Vice-Mayor Schroeder and City Council Members  
From: Hon. A. Douglas LaSota, Presiding Magistrate  
Re: Request for Approval of contract for replacement court appointed attorney

The court currently has two (2) court appointed attorneys on contract- Karen Nicely and Diana Braaten, and a conflict court appointed attorney- Theresa Monica Hunt (also on contract on an as-needed basis getting paid per case).

Ms. Braaten has decided to cut back on her law practice as she moves towards full retirement. She has turned in her notice to the city and the last day on her current contract will be June 30, 2024. Our contract conflict counsel, Ms. Hunt, is willing to take Ms. Braaten's place and become one of our two (2) regular court appointed counsel. Ms. Braaten has agreed to work as our conflict contract court appointed attorney (she can sign a conflict contract with the City Manager).

Thus, Ms. Braaten and Ms. Hunt are doing a simple switch of duties and contracts. There is no additional cost to the city. Ms. Hunt has been working in our court for over one year and is very experienced, so there will be no reduction in the quality of services to those she will represent on criminal cases. She is also a Judge Pro Tem in Wickenburg. Ms. Braaten is a more than capable conflict attorney.

Attached is a copy of Ms. Hunt's Resume/CV and a signed contract. It is respectfully requested that the PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION AND THERESA MONICA HUNT FOR MUNICIPAL COURT CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE be approved and that Judge LaSota be given authority to sign the contract (which was prepared by Joel Stern).

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Hon. A. Douglas LaSota