



City of Apache Junction

Home of the Superstition Mountains

Municipal Court

8/01/2024

To: Mayor Wilson, Vice-Mayor Schroeder and City Council Members
From: Hon. A. Douglas LaSota, Presiding Magistrate
Re: Judicial Assistant- Request for Approval of Contract

We engaged in a state-wide selection process to recruit for the position of Judicial Assistant (FT). The interview team consisted of Regan Appelo (Court Administrator) and Elvia Carino (Court Management Analyst, former Court Administrator for Tucson Consolidated Justice Courts). They selected for interview and interviewed the top candidates for the position. The selection process yielded an outstanding individual for the position, who is also a long-time resident of Apache Junction.

The choice for the position by the selection Committee and approved for hire by Judge LaSota is Christine (Chris) Reynolds. She left her prior position at a huge decrease in pay to work in Apache Junction for the Municipal Court. She has now worked at the Court for over 2 years and has been rotated through learning all positions at the Court. She helped me establish the Homeless and Mental Health Court and has served ever since as the Court Coordinator for this specialty court, which has been extremely successful. She has also served as a Civil Traffic Hearing Officer after successfully attending and completing the Supreme Court training and certification program. She has been the Hearing Officer on over 50 contested hearings on civil traffic matters while Judge LaSota has been in the other courtroom handling misdemeanor cases. She has also nearly completed the Arizona Court Supervisor Program and is starting the Arizona Court Manager program this year. She worked for 13 years for McKesson (a major international corporation) as an Operations Supervisor. She also has many years of experience at other companies in significant roles. Chris has also received over one year of Judicial Assistant training at the Court.

She was clearly the top choice. She rated an almost perfect selection score on the city rating scale and scored an average of more than double the score of the next highest candidate. Ms. Reynolds is well suited to be an outstanding representative of the City of Apache Junction and our Municipal Court. Attached is the final contract and the Memo from Regan Appelo regarding the selection process.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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