

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

CITY OF WARWICK



RHODE ISLAND

**FRANK J. PICOZZI
MAYOR**

January 27, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE STEPHEN P. MCALLISTER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
AND
THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE WARWICK CITY COUNCIL:

Pursuant to the City Ordinance
City of Warwick, Chapter 42 Sec. 42-2,

Entitled

“MUNICIPAL COURT”

I hereby appoint the following person as Judge of the Warwick Municipal Court:

KELLY A. McELROY
27 North Street
Warwick, RI 02886
Ward 8

Term to Expire October 1, 2024

I hereby submit this appointment for your advice and consent.



Frank J. Picozzi
Mayor

1-27-22

Date

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City of Warwick

Municipal Court Judge

September 2019 – present

- Preside over court cases, manage court dockets, and perform judicial duties in accordance with the City Charter and Code of Ordinances, and state and federal laws.
- Hear and determine cases involving violations of and requirements of the City Charter and Code of Ordinances, such as those relating to traffic, minimum housing and housing maintenance, and animals.

State of Rhode Island General Assembly

May 2017 – present

Legal Counsel to Chairman of the House Committee on Municipal Government

Legal Counsel to Chairman of the House Committee on Conduct

Legislative Council

Legal Counsel to Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance

- Advise the chairman, committee members, and fiscal staff on legislative matters, deliver presentations during open hearings, and assist in the development of policy positions and legislative initiatives for the committee.
- Draft bills and amendments as directed by the chairman, monitor legislative developments, and recommend strategies and tactics on bills and amendments.
- Assist in preparation of talking points for chairman for committee hearings and Senate floor sessions and in preparation of witness lists and drafting of questions for witnesses for committee hearings.
- Meet with public interest groups and constituents related to committee business; act as liaison with other committees, General Assembly staff, state officers, government agencies, and outside interest and advocacy groups.
- Research and draft legislation for all members of the General Assembly and advise on matters pending or coming before the legislature

Solo Practitioner

May 2017 - present

Provide legal representation throughout Rhode Island involving criminal, civil, and family law, such as criminal defense, divorce, child custody, and landlord/tenant disputes.

Plum Pointe Wealth Management

In-house Legal Counsel

May 2017 – present

- Draft and review contracts and provide additional transactional support related to clients and business partners.
- Provide counsel and advice as to regulatory issues, business acquisitions, and corporate strategy.
- Draft correspondence to clients and business partners.

Rhode Island Office of Attorney General

February 2000 – May 2017

Special Assistant Attorney General

Government Litigation Attorney

May 2011 – May 2017

- Defended state agencies, employees, and officials in litigation of matters involving employment matters, tort claims, and constitutional violations; managed all stages of litigation of caseload from inception until conclusion, including discovery, mediation and settlement conferences, and, if necessary, trial in the RI Superior Court, the RI Supreme Court, RI Family Court, and the US District Court.
- Represented the Director of the RI Department of Human Services in class action lawsuit filed in federal court in response to implementation of the failed UHIP (food stamps/SNAP benefits) computer system

- Represented the Governor and Treasurer in multi-case litigation arising from the passage of the RI Retirement Securities Act of 2011 (RIRSA), which resulted in class action settlement.
- Monitored, engaged, and testified before the General Assembly regarding critical legislative developments affecting the transfer, sale, and use of firearms; represented the Department of Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) in lawsuits in both the RI Supreme and Superior Courts.
- Assisted in the defense of the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (RIDPUC) in action brought by several taxicab companies seeking declaratory and injunctive relief against Uber Technologies, Inc.

Criminal Division Prosecutor
Senior Trial Attorney

February 2000 - May 2011

- Conducted felony jury trials and bench trials, arraignments, plea negotiations, sentencing hearings, probation violation hearings, and bail hearing, in District and Superior Court, handled related Family Court proceedings, as well as appellate arguments before the RI Supreme Court.
- Presented capital cases involving murder, sexual assault, child molestation, robbery, and other particularly sensitive investigations before the Grand Jury.
- Worked closely with state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies developing case investigations, determining appropriate charges, and coordinating cooperation agreements.
- Constantly monitored changes in statutory law and case law in order to effectively prosecute matters and accurately advise and counsel local and state police departments.
- Attorney General Liaison to Providence Police Dept., District 4 and to the West Warwick Police Dept.
- **Newport County Office Chief Prosecutor** August 2008-January 2010
Responsible for management of Newport County Office; supervised prosecutors and staff while maintaining full active caseload; oversaw prosecution of all felonies in Newport County.
- **Narcotics/Organized Crime Unit** January 2003 – February 2004
Responsible for the prosecution of cases involving felony narcotics possession and trafficking offenses and firearms offenses; Presented capital cases, including sensitive drug case investigations to grand jury.
- **District Court Unit** February 2000 – February 2002
Responsible for the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses including DUI and domestic assaults; Conducted bench trials, conferences, plea negotiations, violation and bail hearings; Conducted Breathalyzer Refusal trials at Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal (R.I.T.T.); Researched and provided national statistics and information to assist the Attorney General's Office in representing its opposing position before the Legislature with regard to new Grand Jury bill; Supervised interns and law students.

Rhode Island Supreme Court Law Clerk Pool

February 1998 – February 2000

Judicial Clerk, Analyzed cases, performed research, and prepared extensive memoranda and recommendations for submission to judges in Superior Court, District Court, Family Court, and Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal (formerly Rhode Island Administrative Adjudication Court) on various issues in civil and criminal law and procedure, including matters pertaining to Zoning Law and appeals from regulatory agencies, Insurance Law, Divorce Law, and Medical Malpractice; Maintained sole management of weekly Providence County Civil Motion Calendar; Oversaw interns and law students.

Law Office of K. Joseph Shekarchi, Warwick, Rhode Island

August 1996 - February 1998

Law Clerk/Title Examiner, Performed title searches and abstracted probate records to determine quality of real property title; Prepared reports on title for lending institutions; Prepared paperwork for closing proceedings; Conducted research and developed various legal issues in pending cases.

The Hon. Mary M. Lisi, United States District Court Judge
United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island

September 1997 – December 1997

Judicial Intern, Conducted legal research and prepared and submitted memoranda to judge; Attended pre-trial conferences and trial proceedings over which Judge presided; Attended oral arguments regarding application

Revolution Prep, Boston, MA
Instructor and Private Tutor in SAT prep

August 2006 – 2008

Huntington Learning Center, East Greenwich, RI
Instructor and Private Tutor

April 2006 – 2007

BAR ADMISSIONS

Rhode Island

June 1998

Massachusetts

May 1999

U.S. District Court for District of Rhode Island

February 1999

1st Circuit Court of Appeals

November 2016

EDUCATION

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

J.D. awarded December 1997

Bristol, Rhode Island

University of Palermo School of Law; Summer Institute in International Law
Buenos Aires, Argentina

June 1997 - July 1997

Pepperdine University School of Law; Winter Intensive Program
Strauss Institute for Mediation and Dispute Resolution
Malibu, California

December 1996 - January 1997

BOSTON COLLEGE, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

B.A. awarded May 1994

Double Major: B.A., Philosophy & B.A., Psychology

Activities: Volunteer fellowship program at Bay State Correctional Institute and
Concord Farm Prison

Flinders University of South Australia - Semester of Study Abroad
Adelaide, South Australia

February 1993 - July 1993

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Faculty member of trial advocacy training (in conjunction with the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) and the U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership) to host Mexican prosecutors in Providence
- Volunteer Mediator, Roger Williams University School of Law Mediation Competition
- Volunteer Mock Trial Judge, Roger Williams University School of Law Mock Trial Competition
- Volunteer Moot Court Judge, Roger Williams University School of Law Moot Court Competition
- Volunteer Moot Court Judge, University of Massachusetts School of Law at Dartmouth Moot Court
- Meeting Street School Telethon
- Reading Day, Warwick Public Schools
- Mock trial coach – Gorton Junior High School, Warwick, RI
- Volunteer hockey coach – Edgewood, Cranston, RI
- Rocky Hill School Parent Teacher League
- Former member, Rhode Island Inns of Court