



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

July 7, 2023

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No. <u>230248</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
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To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Confirmation of the Appointment of the Conflict Defender

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body confirm the appointment of Sarah Spain Holt as Conflict Defender, pursuant to the Monroe County/Monroe County Bar Association Plan Regarding the Conflict Defender's Office and Assigned Counsel Program.

A copy of Ms. Holt's resume is enclosed.

The specific legislative action required is to confirm the appointment of Sarah Spain Holt as Conflict Defender, pursuant to the Monroe County/Monroe County Bar Association Plan Regarding the Conflict Defender's Office and Assigned Counsel Program, effective immediately.

The legislative action requested in this referral is not an "Action," as that term is defined in 6 NYCRR § 617.2 (b), and is not subject to review under the State Environment Quality Review Act.

This confirmation will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures in the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

AJB:db

SARAH SPAIN HOLT

Monroe County Conflict Defender's Office Rochester, NY

Special Assistant Conflict Defender I (January 2012- present), *Supervisor, Family Court Section* (September 2017-present)

- provide representation to indigent parents in Monroe County Family Court facing serious allegations of child abuse or neglect and the removal of children from their home;
- represent parties in litigation related to custody and visitation of children, domestic violence, and child support proceedings from filing of petition through trial or settlement of the case;
- extensive litigation practice of motions, hearings, trials, and points of law before various Judges and Referees in Monroe County Family Court, negotiation of settlements with counsel to achieve best outcome for clients
- case oversight and training of attorneys and staff in day to day practice, coordination of case assignments and coverage
- hiring, planning and supervision of program implementing ILS grant funds to provide holistic representation of parents in abuse and neglect cases

E. Stewart Jones, LLP Troy, NY

Associate Attorney (August 2009-July 2011) *Legal Intern* (January 2006-June 2007)

- provided legal counsel and representation to clients charged with misdemeanor and felony crimes in both local and county courts throughout the state.
- represented personal injury and medical malpractice plaintiffs and their families throughout the life of a claim, including initial intake and client counseling, negotiation with insurers, commencement of the action, discovery, motion practice, settlement negotiations, and trial preparation.
- performed research, author briefs, and argue appeals before the Appellate Division, Third Department.

Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department Rochester, NY

Appellate Court Attorney (July 2007- July 2009, September-December 2011)

- drafted preliminary reports analyzing both the law and facts of cases pending on appeal.
- recommended case dispositions to confidential law clerks and Appellate Justices, participated in dialogue between justices on various contested issues of law and fact in assigned cases.
- developed extensive research and writing experience in New York State civil, family, and criminal law.

Empire Justice Center Albany, NY *Legal Intern*

EDUCATION

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL OF UNION UNIVERSITY Albany, NY

Juris Doctor (May 2007)

- *cum laude* (Top 20%); Dean's Scholarship Recipient
- *Albany Law Review* Member (2005-2007)
- *American Inns of Court* (2005-2007); *National Trial Advocacy Team* (January 2007)

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS Worcester, MA

B.A., Political Science and Art History (May 2002)

- Division I Women's Tennis Team (Fall/Spring 1998-2002) *Captain* (2001-2002)
- *Women's Forum*, Habitat for Humanity, Appalachian Service Project, Jesuit Volunteer (2002-2004 Denver, CO)

OTHER

Recipient, *Award for Excellence in Indigent Adult Representation in Family Court*, 2017

Graduate, *The Defenders' Academy* (New York, NY Spring 2019)

- Intensive trial skills training for family and criminal defense attorneys, hosted by the Bronx Defenders

Lawyers for Learning (RCSD volunteer, 2007-2009)

Instructor, CLE, NYSDA and Monroe County Bar Association

- Program topics: Article 10 Primer, Paternity, Practical Considerations in Family Offense Cases