Application for Inclusion on the DOA Roster of Dispute Resolution Providers for Local Governments

Division of Intergovernmental Relations
Municipal Boundary Review
101 E. Wilson Street, 10th Floor
Madison, WI 53702-0001

608-266-0683 Fax: 608-267-6917
george.hall@wisconsin.gov
www.doa.state.wi.us/municipalboundaryreview

Wisconsin Department of Administration

Instructions: Completion of this form is required for inclusion on the Department of Administration's list of dispute resolution professionals, located online at www.doa.state.wi.us/municipalboundaryreview, and maintained pursuant to s. 66.0217(6)(b) Wis. Stats. This list is not a certification program – completion of this form is the only requirement for inclusion on the list. Inclusion on this list does not represent an endorsement by the Department, nor is the Department responsible for the accuracy of the information provided by persons appearing on this list. Responses are to be completed within the boxes provided, although you may supplement your answers with up to four pages of additional material. Please mail or fax your completed form to the address above.

Office use only:

DEPT OF ADMINISTRATION
JUN - 5 2008
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Name: Michael R. Christopher

Address: 2 E. Mifflin Street Madison, WI 53703

Business or Organization: Dewitt Ross & Stevens

Phone: (608) 255-8891

Fax: (608) 252-9243

Email: mrc@dewitt.ross.com

Web Site: www@dewittross.com
~~mrc@dewittross.com~~

Dispute Resolution Training, Education, Teaching and Presentations:
List any dispute resolution training or certifications received and the training provider. List any publications in journals or periodicals and presentations on dispute resolution given to associations or other organized groups, or affiliation with academic or other institutions providing dispute resolution training.

I have been an Attorney in Madison in active practice for 36 years. I have mediated and advocated for parties who were involved in mediation or arbitration in dozens of cases over the years. I am an active member of the Dane County Mediation Panel and have mediated cases involving land disputes, personal injury cases and other civil disputes. Last fall. I was a speaker at A seminar sponsored by the State Bar entitled "The Nuts and Bolts of Administrative Practice." For a number of years in my capacity as Legal Counsel for the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association, I presented on various subjects involving the legal issues involving land use disputes, particularly as to annexation issues.

Experience

Briefly describe your experience working with disputes involving municipalities or other public/private sector entities involving issue areas such as engineering and public works, municipal contracts, intergovernmental agreements, boundaries, land use, environmental problems, neighborhood disputes, personnel or workplace, or other comparable intra- or intergovernmental disputes.

In addition to my response, above my bio on my firm's website provides examples of my relevant experience as an experienced land use lawyer and as a former local elected official in Madison. In my professional experience, there are two matters that are worth noting. First, as the Attorney for the City of Fitchburg, I was quite involved in the City of Madison, Town of Madison, City of Fitchburg Boundary Agreement in 2002-3. This was the first municipal cooperative agreement in the State that will result in a town voluntarily dissolving itself There have been a number of other similar cooperative agreements that have been negotiated but the Agreement that I was quite involved in was a model. Second, my position as Legal Counsel for WAPA for five years was extremely relevant. As part of my responsbilities, I reported on legal and legislative decisions which directly affected all the land use and municipal topics referred to above.

Please identify whether you may have particular subject matter expertise in any of the following areas: ☒ Business/Corporate, ☒ Community/Neighborhood , ☒ Contracts, ☒ Employment/Workplace; ☐ Labor Union/Management, ☐ Health Care, ☒ Civil Engineering/Public Works; ☒ Environmental; ☒ Municipal Finance

Memberships

List memberships in any professional dispute resolution or related associations, or affiliation with public or private sector mediation providers such as county dispute resolution centers.

Dane County Mediation Panel

Are you familiar with and willing to abide by the code of ethics adopted by any of the associations of which you may be a member?
☒ Yes ☐ No If "no" please explain: _____

Availability

Indicate your willingness to travel, as well as potential limitations on availability based on time of day or year.

☐ Willing to travel within __ miles of your place of residence or business.

☒ Willing to travel throughout the state

Other limitations: none

Fee Requirements

Arranging for the payment of any required professional fees is the responsibility of the parties. Describe your fee schedule, including expense reimbursement or cancellation fees, if any.

My fee is based on the number of hours I devote to the mediation. My normal hourly mediation rate is $250 but that hourly rate can vary depending on a number of factors, including the nature of the dispute, the complexity of the matter and the urgency of a resolution.

I represent that all information provided me in this application is true and correct:

Michael R. Christopher

Signature of applicant

July 5, 2008

Date