


Samuel S. Crano, Esq.



July 21, 2020

Ms. Breanne Potter
Commission Secretary
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 E. William St
Carson City, NV 89701



Re: Utilities Hearing Officer Position

Dear Ms. Potter,

I am writing to express my interest in the Utilities Hearing Officer position announced by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada on July 21, 2020.

I am currently an Assistant Staff Counsel and Acting Staff Counsel, and have been with the Commission since July 2007. As such, I am intimately familiar with practice at the Commission and the laws governing utility regulation.

Previously in my career, I was the Juvenile and Family Court Master in and for the County of Elko, Nevada. In that position, I held Administrative Law hearings, made evidentiary rulings and wrote and issued Recommended Orders.

I believe these experiences combined with the totality of my resume and experience make me a uniquely qualified candidate for the position of Utilities Hearing Officer.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Samuel S. Crano

Samuel S. Crano, Esq.

LICENCES/AFFILIATIONS

- Nevada State Bar, License Number 7664, October 2001 – Present
- Federal District Court, District of Nevada, October 2001 – Present
- NARUC, Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Fall 2013 – Present
- Nevada State Bar – Energy, Utility and Communications Law Section, Member 2012 - Present, Executive Committee 2015 – Present, Vice-Chair 2017 - Present

EDUCATION

- J.D. University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, May 2001
- National Judicial College, Special Court Jurisdiction – Advanced, January 2006

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Staff Counsel, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, August 2010 – Present (Acting Staff Counsel, June 2020 – Present)

- Responsible for all aspects of case preparation and execution from drafting to discovery to testimony review and hearing in a wide range of regulatory topics including water, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications and in a wide range of Docket format including general rate cases, Integrated Resource Plan filings, Demand-Side Management Update filings, Service Territory expansion cases, licensing, miscellaneous tariff change filings, and all other types of Dockets that come before the Public Utilities Commission • Examined Witnesses and defended the testimony of Staff Witnesses • Drafted and responded to Legal Briefs, Petitions, Comments, Motions and other Pleadings • Responsible for Client Communication and Case Origination Procedures • Responsible for development and training of other Assistant Staff Counsel attorneys • Responsible for Communication and successful Negotiations of multi-million dollar cases with Counsel for Utilities and Interveners • Provided Legislative Support, including presenting Legislative Testimony, meeting with individual legislators to informally discuss legislation and negotiating language with other stakeholders • Presentation on and moderation of Continuing Legal Education panels dealing with utility subjects

Administrative Attorney, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, July 2007 – August 2010

- Responsible for Legal Research/Writing, such as, Notices, Procedural Orders, and Final Orders on a variety of matters that were assigned to Commissioner Sam Thompson, and other Commissioners on occasion (Joanne Kelly and Rebecca Wagner) • Also responsible for interacting with Policy Advisors and drafting issue briefs for review of Commissioner

Associate Attorney, Murchison & Cumming/Carraway & Associates, September 2006 – June 2007 (Firm Split in April 2007)

- Associate Attorney in busy Civil Defense Law Firm • Responsible for all aspects of file handling in General Civil Litigation and Construction Defect Defense arenas, including document review in both hard copy and electronic formats for purposes of identifying responsive documents and privileges • Conducted numerous Court Hearings, Mediation Sessions and Settlement Negotiations • Responsible for Client Communication and Case Origination Procedures

Juvenile & Family Court Master, County of Elko, Nevada, August 2005 – September 2006

- Court Hearing Officer Presiding over all Child Support, Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Dependency related cases in Elko County, requiring a wide range of approaches as the child support cases, though highly contested, were more formulaic requiring a balancing of the respective parents' incomes and determination of the amount of support required to make the experience of the children in each home relatively materially equal, while the juvenile delinquency cases, as a proxy for criminal court, were more formal, adhering strictly to a due process standard and higher evidentiary standard than normal Administrative Hearings. The juvenile dependency cases were highly emotionally charged as they dealt with child welfare and potential removal of a child from its home and, therefore, required grave deliberation and a somewhat more delicate examination style • Issued Written Recommendations and Orders based on the cases as outlined above • Responsible for hearing testimony and examining witnesses as necessary to ensure a complete record • Responsible for Issuing Temporary Restraining Orders and Protective Orders • Made evidentiary rulings regarding admissibility of evidence in Administrative Proceedings

Deputy Public Defender, Elko County, NV Public Defender's Office, July 2004 – August 2005

- Responsible for all aspects of Criminal Defense including reviewing discovery, interviewing clients, developing a case theory and participating in trial, often in a highly accelerated fashion
 - Responsible for Legal Research/Writing • Conducted numerous Bench and Jury Trials and Settlement Negotiations • Responsible for Client Communication

Associate Attorney, Robert C. Maddox & Associates, August 2001 – June 2004

- Associate Attorney in Plaintiffs' Construction Defect Law Firm • Responsible for document review, including review of closing and escrow documents for the purpose of identifying litigation potential • Responsible for Legal Research/Writing • Conducted numerous Depositions, Court Hearings, Mediation Sessions and Settlement Negotiations • Responsible for Client Communication and Case Origination Procedures • Appeared, successfully, before the Nevada Supreme Court, *see* 118 Nev. 438, 49 P.3d 647 (2002)

Law Clerk, The Honorable James W. Hardesty, Nevada State District Court, Division Two, May 2001 – July 2001

- Responsible for Legal Research/Writing in General Jurisdiction Court, such as, Summary Judgment Motions, Petitions for Habeas Corpus, and Motions to Dismiss • Also responsible for Drafting Judicial Orders in response to both written motions and oral argument

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Proficient in laws and regulations regarding utility regulation including Chapters 233B, 455, 703, 704, 704B, 705 and 710 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Chapters and the Nevada Administrative Code • Familiar with the case law and regulation of industries such as water, wastewater, electricity, natural gas, IRPs, and telecommunications • Proficient in the use of Application Extender and the Docket Tracker system of the Commission, the use of MS Word, Excel, Word Perfect, Summation, Westlaw, Lexis, Omega, Time Matters, SPSS, Systat and other document management and legal search databases.