

PUEBLO LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Application for Board of Directors

Name: Michelle A. Chostner

Home Address: [REDACTED] Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Place of Employment: 10th Judicial District

Work Address: [REDACTED] Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED] Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Please use additional paper to complete the questions below with additional information or to provide resume.

1. Describe the basis of your qualifications? List any financial, management, fundraising or other relevant background you may have. Please See Attached

2. Please list your areas of accomplishment that could assist the mission of the Pueblo Library Foundation Board. Attached

3. Explain why you are interested in being appointed to Pueblo Library Foundation Board.

Attached

4. List any other information that might be useful in consideration for your appointment to the Pueblo Library Foundation Board. Attached

5. List any civic or community boards or commissions on which you currently serve.

Attached

PERSONAL INFORMATION: *(optional)*

SPOUSE'S NAME: Kyle McCarthy

Signature of Applicant

Date Submitted

Please return this form to:

Pueblo Library Foundation
Attn: Nick Potter
100 E. Abriendo Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004

Contact information:

(719) 562-5605
Nick.Potter@pueblolibrary.org

MICHELLE A. CHOSTNER

EDUCATION

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, Colorado
Juris Doctor, May 2008

- Special Awards:
 - Am.Jur. Award - Trial Practice
 - Hoffman Cup – moot trial quarterfinalist
 - ABA travelling trial team

University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Anthropology, May 2004

- Summa Cum Laude with Distinction
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Honor's Thesis: "*Colorado Young Offenders-Level of Supervision Inventory: Predictive Utility, Validity, and Equity.*"

EXPERIENCE

District Court Judge, 10th Judicial District, April 2023-Present
Presiding District Court Judge over Domestic Relations and Civil Litigation.

- Presiding Judge over domestic relations cases, including divorce, allocation of parental responsibilities, and child support enforcement, and all district court civil litigation.
- Coordinator of domestic relations best practices trainings for the Pueblo County domestic relations bar.
- Currently serve on Judicial Education Committee for Domestic Relations judges.

Magistrate, 10th Judicial District, September 2021-April 2023
Presiding Magistrate over truancy, traffic infractions, small claims, name changes, foreclosure proceedings, and probate (formal estates).

- Presiding Magistrate over truancy docket, which includes handling all District 60 truancy cases for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Hold weekly staffings and reviews with attorneys, community advocates, Guardian Ad Litems, Respondent Counsel, Social Services, and mental health providers.
 - Helped coordinate and lead multi-disciplinary truancy summit aimed at connecting families with community resources to assist with school attendance.
- Presiding Magistrate over infraction docket. Responsibilities include advising defendants of rights with regards to traffic infractions and civil infractions, accepting plea offers, and conducting final hearings. Final hearings involve a trial to the court with testimony and evidence from law enforcement personnel.
- Presiding Magistrate over small claims docket. Responsibilities include handling all

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stages of lawsuit with pro se litigants, including advisements of rights, mediation, and trial. Court is responsible for taking testimony and evidence and reaching either oral or written conclusions of law based on trial.

- Assisted Judge O'Shea with probate docket, including ruling on Petitions for Appointment of Personal Representatives in formal probate cases, deciding will contests, and other litigation with regards to the administration of formal estates.

Senior Deputy District Attorney, May 2016-September 2021

Office of the District Attorney, 10th Judicial District, Colorado

- Awarded Prosecutor of the Year by the Colorado District Attorney's Council, 2017.
- Responsibilities included managing and training county court deputies, overseeing the prosecution of all misdemeanor cases, including filing of all cases, plea recommendations, and trial strategies.
- Assigned as first chair prosecutor in homicides, sex assaults, and other major cases while managing county court attorneys.
- Conducted trainings with law enforcement, forensic interviewers, and medical professionals.
- Taught multiple courses and seminars at COVA (Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance), CDAC (Colorado District Attorneys' Council), the Pueblo County Child Advocacy Center, and for various law enforcement agencies.
- Collaborated with multi-disciplinary teams to include the Child Advocacy Center, Social Services, law enforcement, and mental health professionals to service children and families in need.
- Prosecuted over 100 jury trials since becoming a Deputy District Attorney in 2008.

Associate Attorney, Kendra Oyen, LLC, May 2015-May 2016

Deputy Public Administrator

- Assisted in the administration of estates as a Deputy Public Administrator of Pueblo County.
- Opened both informal and formal estates.
- Conducted meeting with clients, heirs, and devisees of estates.

Deputy District Attorney, November 2014 – May 2015

Office of the District Attorney, 1st Judicial District, Colorado

- Assigned to district court and responsible for prosecuting felony cases at all stages of litigation, including sexual assault cases and homicides.
- Assigned to wire-tap investigations and co-lead prosecutor.
- Conducted Grand Jury proceedings.

Deputy District Attorney, January 2013-November 2014

Office of the District Attorney, 18th Judicial District, Colorado

- Recruited as a member of the newly elected District Attorney's team.
- Assignments included juvenile, Special Victim's Unit, and County Court Supervisor.
- Handled all stages of litigation through trial.

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- Supervision of 11 county court attorneys including: conducting/leading trainings, co-chairing trials, and assisting in attorney reviews.
- Developed intern program to train 6 law students to handle the First Appearance Center in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.
- Taught courses at the Colorado District Attorneys' Council Trial Techniques course:
 - "Prosecuting Domestic Violence Cases With Recanting Victims", March 2013
 - "Demonstrative Evidence", October 2013
- Taught course on child-hearsay at Sungate Child Advocacy Center.

Deputy District Attorney, November 2008-January 2013

Office of the District Attorney, 17th Judicial District, Colorado

- Prosecuted criminal cases at the misdemeanor, juvenile, and district court levels
- Participated in all stages of litigation, from plea negotiations through jury trial.
- During assignment to juvenile division, assigned deputy responsible for prosecuting all sexual assault cases (from filing through trial).
- Participated in the Connections Board, a screening panel responsible for determining appropriate sentences for juvenile offenders.
- Taught juvenile sentencing class at the Colorado District Attorneys Conference in 2011.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Pueblo Child Advocacy Center, board member (2015-2021)
- Pueblo Zoo, board member (2015-2018)
- Received 40 Under 40 Award
- Leadership Pueblo class of 2017

