

City of Asheville
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Application Form

APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND SEVERAL MEETINGS OF A BOARD PRIOR TO APPLYING AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD

Name of board or commission(s): City Council

Your name: Esther Elizabeth Manheimer Home Phone #: 828-225-1899

Street address: 22 Warwick Pl. City: Asheville Zip Code: 28804

Mailing address (if different): 11 N. Market Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Employer: The Van Winkle Law Firm

Your position: Attorney Office Phone #: 828-258-2991

Resident of City County _____ Race _____ * Sex F * Age 37 *

Are you a United States Citizen (circle one)? Yes or No

Residence location (check one): Central _____ North South _____ East _____ West _____

How did you become aware of the opening? _____ Webpage _____ Current Volunteer _____ eNews _____
Government Channel Newspaper Radio _____ Organization _____ Agenda Other _____

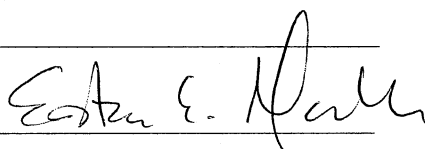
Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving (use additional sheets if necessary). Expertise: Legal _____ Technical Fundraising Community Contacts
 Business Management (Financial) Business Management (Operational) Public Speaking

Please see attached.

Return to:

Maggie Burleson, City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5601
Fax #: 259-5499

Signature: 

Date: 11/26/08

E-Mail: emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com

Fax #: 828-257-2773

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

ESTHER MANHEIMER

22 Warwick Place • Asheville, NC 28804 • Telephone: Home (828) 225-1899; Work (828) 258-2991

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Juris Doctor, May 1998; Master of Public Administration, May 1997

1994-95 Robert House Scholarship Recipient

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, May, 1993

cum laude, 3.7 GPA

HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Semester study abroad program (Spring, 1992)

Western North Carolina Jewish Federation Scholarship Recipient

EXPERIENCE

VAN WINKLE, BUCK, WALL STARNES & DAVIS, P.A.

Attorney, July 2002-Present

Represent clients in land use matters including zoning, variances, and conditional use permits, historical resource commission permits, and other land use regulatory requirements concerning developers, business owners, and homeowners. Represent landowners in legal disputes stemming from encroachments, easements, boundary lines, and environmental, contract, covenant, and title matters. Support homeowners'/propertyowners' association boards with regard to enforcement of restrictions and redrafting of covenants and by-laws.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, RESEARCH DIVISION

Attorney, September 1998-July 2002

Counsel to the House Judiciary II Committee, House Local Government II Committee, House Public Utilities Committee, House Legislative Redistricting Committee, Senate Commerce Committee, House Legislative Redistricting and the Legislative Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service in North Carolina (Electric Deregulation). Draft legislation and amendments. Research legal and policy issues regarding legislation and advise legislators regarding same. Work with lobbyists, state department liaisons, and citizen groups to rewrite proposed legislation. Present proposed legislation and other research to Committees and produce committee reports.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BILL DRAFTING DIVISION

Research Assistant, May 1998-August 1998

Research legal issues and write memoranda regarding proposed legislation. Attend committee hearings and House and Senate sessions.

VAN WINKLE, BUCK, WALL, STARNES & DAVIS, P.A.

Legal Clerk, May 1997-August 1997

Research and prepare legal memoranda on issues pertaining to corporate law, trusts and estates, personal injury litigation, insurance defense, and other areas of law. Draft pleadings and assist with ongoing litigation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, CONSUMER PROTECTION

Legal Clerk, August 1996-April 1997

Research and prepare legal memoranda on issues related to unfair and deceptive trade practices. Assist with unfair and deceptive trade practice lawsuits brought by the Attorney General's Office.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Legal Clerk / Planning Technician, May 1996-August 1996

Research legal and policy issues regarding proposed ordinances and resolutions, specifically zoning ordinances. Draft ordinances and resolutions. Prepare and present an annexation proposal to the city council. Research federal legislation pertaining to communications tower regulations. Compile data on communications tower zoning ordinances from around the State and the nation. Prepare a legal guide on communications tower zoning ordinances for use by Asheville and other Western North Carolina cities and counties. Invited to present the communications tower zoning guide at a conference for city and county planners.

MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Program Director, May 1995-August 1995

Assist in developing a newly created non-profit organization formed by the Director of the Madison County Department of Social Services. Organize community workshops, coordinate publicity for events, design advertisements, counsel clients, and act as liaison to the board.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Volunteer Coordinator, November 1993-June 1994

Recruit, train, and coordinate volunteers to deliver meals to recipients. Maintain contact with newspaper, radio, and television stations to advertise volunteer recruitment. Maintain computer records, and aid in fund raising efforts and financial management.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF ASHEVILLE

Board Member, January 2004-Present; President, January 2007-January 2008

PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES

Co-Chair of the Annual Campaign, November 2007

Pro bono attorney providing services to indigent clients, 2005-present

Recipient of the 2007 28th Judicial District Bar Association William Thorp Pro Bono Service Award

CITY OF ASHEVILLE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Board Member, May 2008-present

1. What motivates you to apply for this position?

Having moved to Asheville in 1988, I have observed Asheville flourish into a vibrant, diverse community. I care deeply about the people of Asheville and in seeing this City continue to experience controlled, smart growth. I am encouraged by the increased number of greenways, improved parks, and the promotion of urban corridors.

In the last few years, I have enjoyed being involved in the community through serving on the City of Asheville's Board of Adjustment and serving as president of the Asheville Jewish Community Center, where two of my three sons attend school. Being appointed to City Council would allow me to continue to serve Asheville.

The Asheville citizenry need to trust that their City Council consists of folks who understand not only citizen concerns but also understand the functioning and running of a local government. I hope to bring to Council my educational and professional experience with local governments and the law. As a land use attorney, and a former legislative attorney, I have come to understand the workings of local governments. As a City Council member, my job would be to listen to the citizens and determine how to address their concerns through the operation of City government.

2. Where do you fall on the conservative-liberal spectrum in terms of fiscal and social policy?

During my career in the public sector and now the private sector, I have grown to appreciate public entities that operate as if they are in private business in terms of economic efficiency and customer service orientation. The number of City services offered should not be increased or decreased, however the services that are offered (water, sewer, transportation, etc.) must be managed and executed without waste. And, the experience of each citizen must be one of high-level customer service. While I consider myself a moderate democrat, these standards are expected and appreciated across the conservative/liberal spectrum.

3. In your eyes, what should be the top 2 or 3 priorities our City Council should be focused on in the upcoming year and why?

The overarching impact of the national economic downturn is obviously having a negative effect on Asheville's businesses and Asheville's citizens. The City must examine what initiatives or policy changes it can implement to blunt the impact of the downturn. Specifically, Council must consider not raising property taxes, encouraging public/private partnerships resulting in job growth, and continuing the promotion of affordable housing.

4. What do you consider the most crucial problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?

The Asheville water system and the need for a workable agreement with Buncombe County are at the forefront of items demanding attention. As an attorney, I dedicate much of my time searching for creative solutions to resolve complex problems. This work requires that I examine problems from different perspectives, gaining an understanding of each person's concerns to find a solution that works for everyone involved. I look forward to the opportunity to work together to find a resolution to the water issue that would allow our citizens to see lower water bills and a reliable water system with the use of sound fiscal management of the City's water fund.

5. 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be financially tough for the City. What will be your top funding priorities and what would you like to see reduced to balance the budget?

The projected budget shortfall for the remainder of this year and for next year demand across-the-board cuts to the City's budget. However, the City must continue to prioritize basic needs such as capital improvements to the water system and promoting affordable housing. Without these continuing improvements, the City jeopardizes providing some of the basic elements needed to sustain our community.

The City must also continue to fund infrastructure improvements to downtown that facilitate growth for local businesses such as increased parking. Without a thriving downtown, tourism may suffer causing businesses to close and jobs to be lost.

Asheville has a history of weathering economic downturns well. Council must guide the City through this storm with strategic and thoughtful planning.