

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
DISTRICT I
P.O. Box 1952, Chinle, AZ 86503

ALTON JOE SHEPHERD
VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
DISTRICT II
P.O. Box 994, Ganado, AZ 86505

NELSON DAVIS
SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT III
P.O. Box 428, St. Johns, AZ 85936

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF APACHE COUNTY**

P.O. BOX 428
ST. JOHNS, ARIZONA 85936

TELEPHONE: (928) 337-7503
FACSIMILE: (928) 337-2003




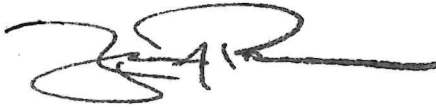
RYAN N. PATTERSON
MANAGER-CLERK
ST. JOHNS, AZ 85936

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING AND AGENDA
OF THE APACHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
December 16, 2024
Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, First Floor
St. Johns, Arizona
1:00 p.m. MST**

1. Discussion, questions and consideration of applicants Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, Devin Brown, and Criss E. Candelaria for appointment to the vacant Office of Apache County Attorney pursuant to A.R.S. §16-230(A)(2).
2. Call to the Public: Individuals may address the Board on any relevant issue for an amount of time determined by the Chairman. At the close of the call to the public, Board members may not respond to any comments but may respond to criticism, ask staff to review a matter or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda.
3. Consideration of action to recess to Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) Personnel matters, applicants for appointment to the vacant Office of Apache County Attorney: Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, Devin Brown, and Criss E. Candelaria and related legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) legal advice.
4. Discussion and possible appointment of candidate to the vacant office of Apache County Attorney pursuant to A.R.S. §16-230(A)(2).

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Apache County Board of Supervisors endeavors to ensure the accessibility of its meetings to all persons with disabilities. If you need accommodation for a meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (928)337-7503, TDD (928)-361-4402 so that accommodation can be arranged. One or more members of the Board of Supervisors may participate telephonically or through video communication.

Posted this 12th day of December, 2024 at 2:45 p.m. by 



Ryan N. Patterson
Clerk of the Board

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APPLICATION FOR APACHE COUNTY ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT

*This form is to be completed by persons wishing to be considered for appointment to the current Apache County Attorney vacancy pursuant to A.R.S. §16-230(A)(2). This application, along with a current resume, must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors **by 5:00 p.m. on December 11, 2024.** (Applicants are not limited to the space provided here for each question.)*

NOTE: Information contained in resume need not be repeated below, but instead can be incorporated by reference.

Full Name: Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren

Office Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Arizona State Bar Number: 036568

Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/11/2024

Address for submission of application and resume by hand-delivery:

Ryan Patterson
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Apache County Administration Building
75 W. Cleveland Street
St Johns, AZ 85936

Or send via attachment to email:
rpatterson@apachecountyaz.gov

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2024

Board of Supervisors
Apache County, AZ

1. Provide a letter of interest describing why you should be appointed as Apache County Attorney.
See attached Letter of Interest.

2. Are you currently a resident of Apache County? If so, how long have you been a resident?
Yes, I have been a permanent resident of Apache County since 2017.

3. List your present and former political party registrations and approximate dates of each.
I have been a member of the democratic party since 2018. I was previously registered as a republican for a brief period when I turned age 18 but I have only voted for democratic candidates.
Applicants are advised that the Board of Supervisors may meet in executive session on one or more occasions to consider and discuss applications for the appointment to the position of Apache County Attorney.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431-03(A)(1), an applicant has the right to demand that any such discussion about the applicant occur at a public meeting rather than in executive session. An applicant must indicate below whether he/she consents to the Board of Supervisors meeting in executive session to discuss the application or whether he/she requires that any discussion of the application be held in a public meeting.

4. Do you agree that your application may be discussed and considered in executive session and, therefore, you waive your right to require the discussion occur in a public meeting?
I waive my right to require the discussion to occur in a public meeting.

5. Do you require that any discussion of your application occur in a public meeting?
No.

Thank you for your application and interest in serving Apache County.

Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren

LICENSES & EDUCATION:

Arizona State Bar Association – Active Member (December 2020 – Present)

Navajo Nation Bar Association – Active (March 2021 – February 2023); Inactive (February 2023 – Present)

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

August 2017 – May 2020

Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law: Juris Doctorate

- Indian Law Certificate

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

September 2013 – May 2017

Bachelor of Arts in Science, Technology, and Society

- Concentration: Environment and Sustainability; Minor: Native American Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Legislative District 7

Arizona House of Representatives

February 2021 – January 2023

- Successfully introduced and passed bills to benefit the constituents of Legislative District 7 (LD7).
- Secured over \$55 million for LD7 and Arizona Tribal Nations in the 2022 Arizona Budget, supporting capital outlay projects, programs, and organizations.
- Secured Arizona ARPA funds for nonprofits and organizations serving LD7 constituents.
- Served on the Transportation Committee and the Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee.
- Vice-Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus.
- Vice-Chair of the Arizona House Ad Hoc Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

FIRST LADY OF THE NAVAJO NATION

Navajo Nation Office of the First Lady

January 2023 – Present

- Represent and advocate for the Navajo Nation at tribal, state, and federal levels.
- Engage in public events to inspire and inform the Navajo public about the administration's vision, goals, and achievements.
- Lead initiatives addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP), youth empowerment, education, and maternal health.

COUNCIL MEMBER

LEGO Foundation Indigenous Global Advisory Council

October 2024 – Present

- Provide recommendations and strategic guidance on Indigenous-focused initiatives.

MEMBER

Arizona Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples State Task Force

May 2023 – October 2024

- Consulted with state, federal, and tribal governments to address the MMIP crisis.
- Compiled and presented annual reports to Governor Katie Hobbs.
- Advocated for systemic change through policy discussions at all levels of government.

MEMBER

Katie Hobbs Administration Transition Team

November 2022 – January 2023

- Advised on key appointments and policy priorities to align with the governor's vision.

HIGHLIGHTED SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Deep expertise in navigating tribal, state, and federal systems to advocate for underserved populations.
- Proven leadership in legislative and advocacy roles, with a focus on justice, equity, and collaboration.
- Strong connections to Apache County through professional service, cultural heritage, and lived experience.
- Exceptional ability to build coalitions and secure solutions for impactful projects.
- Active bar license and experience in legal and policy matters pertinent to the County Attorney's Office.

Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren



December 11, 2024

Apache County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 428
St. Johns, Arizona 85936

Letter of Interest: Apache County Attorney

Yá'át'ééh. My name is Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren. I am of the Mud People Clan, born for the Salt People Clan. My maternal grandfather is of the Ute Red Running into the Water People Clan, and my paternal grandfather is of the Within His Cover People Clan. I come from the Red Mesa community in Apache County, Arizona. In this way, I introduce myself as a proud wife, mother, and Navajo woman. With great humility and respect, I submit my interest in serving as the next Apache County Attorney.

Serving as Apache County Attorney is not merely a career milestone—it is a personal calling rooted in my identity, values, and commitment to justice for all. I am deeply connected to this land and its people, and I am driven by a vision of fairness, transparency, and collaboration that will strengthen our communities and protect our shared future. My vision for the office is centered on three pillars: trust, accountability, and service.

Building Trust and Strengthening Community Engagement

As a dedicated public servant, I recognize that trust between the people and their government is the foundation of a healthy, thriving community. During my tenure as a state representative for this district, I worked tirelessly to secure resources and deliver results for all residents of Apache County—across reservation and non-reservation lines. I listened, collaborated, and found common ground, even in challenging political climates. As Apache County Attorney, I will bring that same commitment to fostering trust by prioritizing transparency and open communication with all communities. I will ensure that the office operates with integrity, fairness, and a deep respect for the diverse cultural values and traditions of our county.

Ensuring Accountability and Justice

Justice must be impartial, equitable, and reflective of the needs of the people it serves. My lived experience of growing up in Apache County has shaped my understanding of the challenges we face and the solutions we need. Whether addressing crime, protecting victims, or advocating for restorative justice practices, I am committed to holding individuals accountable while also seeking opportunities to address the root causes of crime and reduce recidivism. My legal training, combined with my commitment to fairness, equips me to ensure that the prosecutorial decisions made in this office are guided by integrity and a deep sense of responsibility to all residents.

A Vision of Collaborative Leadership

My vision for the Apache County Attorney's Office is one of collaboration—within the office, with law enforcement, and with the communities we serve. I believe in fostering a work environment that supports the professional growth of all staff while holding each other to the highest ethical standards. My leadership will prioritize partnerships with schools, social services, and community organizations to create a proactive approach to addressing public safety and community well-being. Together, we can build a stronger and safer county for future generations.

As a resident of Apache County, I have deep roots in our community. My matrilineal lineage traces back to the Red Mesa community, where my great-grandmother played a pivotal role in shaping our local institutions. Her legacy of selflessness and community service inspires me to give back to this county that has shaped me so profoundly. After completing my education, I chose to return to Apache County as my permanent home—a decision that reflects my unwavering commitment to our people and this land.

Legally, I meet all the qualifications set forth by statute to serve as Apache County Attorney. Beyond meeting the legal requirements, I bring a vision and passion for this role that are unmatched. I hold an active bar license, possess a deep understanding of our local legal and cultural landscapes, and am ready to lead with integrity, fairness, and a collaborative spirit.

In conclusion, I believe I am the best-qualified candidate to serve as Apache County Attorney because of my dedication to public service, my lived experience in our communities, and my vision for a fair, transparent, and inclusive office. I humbly ask for the opportunity to bring my skills, values, and passion for justice to this critical role. Together, we can build a future where every resident feels safe, supported, and valued.

Ahéhee'—thank you for considering my application and for the opportunity to continue serving the people of Apache County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Blackwater-Nygren', written in a cursive style.

Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren

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NOTE: Information contained in resume need not be repeated below, but instead can be incorporated by reference.

Full Name: Devin Brown

Office Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Arizona State Bar Number: 028657

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 12/9/24

Address for submission of application and resume by hand-delivery:

Ryan Patterson
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Apache County Administration Building
75 W. Cleveland Street
St Johns, AZ 85936

Or send via attachment to email:
rpatterson@apachecountyaz.gov

RECEIVED
DEC 11 2024
Board of Supervisors
Apache County, AZ

1. Provide a letter of interest describing why you should be appointed as Apache County Attorney.

See attached

2. Are you currently a resident of Apache County? If so, how long have you been a resident?

see attached

3. List your present and former political party registrations and approximate dates of each.

See attached

Applicants are advised that the Board of Supervisors may meet in executive session on one or more occasions to consider and discuss applications for the appointment to the position of Apache County Attorney.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431-03(A)(1), an applicant has the right to demand that any such discussion about the applicant occur at a public meeting rather than in executive session. An applicant must indicate below whether he/she consents to the Board of Supervisors meeting in executive session to discuss the application or whether he/she requires that any discussion of the application be held in a public meeting.

4. Do you agree that your application may be discussed and considered in executive session and, therefore, you waive your right to require the discussion occur in a public meeting?

see attached

5. Do you require that any discussion of your application occur in a public meeting?

see attached

Thank you for your application and interest in serving Apache County.

December 9, 2024

Letter of Interest for the position of Apache County Attorney

To Supervisors Shirley, Shepherd, and Davis:

I would like to be considered for the position of county attorney. For the reasons explained below, I believe I could provide a good service to Apache County in that role.

My years of working at the county have given me an understanding of the needs of Apache County as an organization. In 2011, I started as a deputy county attorney doing criminal prosecution and advising county departments. I left in 2014, but then returned two years later to be the Community Development Director. The work of Community Development intertwined with the Assessor, Treasurer, Recorder, Engineering, and Health Department. Through that work, I became familiar with the duties and challenges of each of those departments. That position was also very public facing, and I gained experience in the continual public meetings, neighborhood meetings, and daily conversations at the front desk with concerned citizens.

My current position is the public fiduciary where I act as court-appointed legal guardian for the poor and needy that cannot take care of themselves. Because I handle nearly every aspect of the lives of our wards, I have witnessed the challenges of our mentally and physically disabled population, and seen first-hand the poverty in Apache County.

As Community Development Director and Public Fiduciary, I have handled all the legal work for both departments. For Public Fiduciary, that includes drafting legal documents and attending court hearings. Also, I have continued to run my law office on the side during all these years, working in real estate, municipal law, and prosecution for local towns.

During 2016 I worked for Navajo County as a public defender. In that job I worked closely with the county attorney's office and came to appreciate how well their office was managed and how they interfaced with the public. I admired the county attorney, Brad Carlyon, who led from the front by handling cases himself in the Winslow Justice Court. Also, I believe one reason Navajo County ran smoothly was because Brad's office directly helped the various departments by answering legal questions and guiding employees in their duties. I would implement similar practices in Apache County.

With the upheaval and unknowns at the county attorney's office right now, the dozen employees still there are probably keeping one foot out the door. The last thing that

office needs is more contention and limelight. They need quiet stability and a positive work environment. My track record as a manager shows that I can provide that.

Furthermore, my track record as a department head shows that I do not spend tax dollars frivolously. I will do what is needed to keep costs down while still providing essential services.

I have no particular agenda in applying to be the county attorney. I want our community to be safe, our county government to run smoothly, and all the people of Apache County north to south to have the essential services they need to make a living and raise their families.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Devin Brown

Application for County Attorney – items 2 through 5

Resident of Apache County:

I was born and raised in St. Johns, moved away for college, and have been back in St. Johns since 2011.

Present and former political party registrations:

I registered as a Democrat at age 18 and have stayed Democrat my whole life except for a couple months this year when I was registered Independent for a specific purpose explained below.

When the news of Michael Whiting's legal challenges came out in August, there was a worry that if Michael lost his bar license before the election it would leave no one on the ballot for county attorney. After discussing this issue with my fellow attorneys and others in the county, they urged me to change to Independent so I could submit my name as a write-in candidate.

So, I changed to Independent, but that same day I was informed that if I submitted a packet for the election I would have to immediately resign from my current job. I wasn't willing to resign, so I never submitted my name for the election. I then changed back to Democrat in November.

Waiver:

I agree that my application may be discussed in executive session, and waive my right to require the discussion, or any part of it, to occur in a public meeting.

DEVIN BROWN



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Apache County Public Fiduciary August 2019 to present

Act as court-appointed guardian and conservator for incapacitated adults. As guardian, I am responsible for all areas of the lives of the wards, including food, medical care, and housing. I also manage the indigent burial program for the county, and handle the estates of decedents.

Apache County Community Development Director August 2016 to 2020

Managed the Planning and Zoning Department and the Building Safety Department. Enforced zoning and building codes, drafted and amended ordinances and policies, prepared agendas, held P&Z Commission meetings and community meetings, drafted planning documents, and managed the department budget.

Public Defender Dec. 2015 to August 2016

Navajo County Public Defender's Office, Holbrook, AZ

Managed a full load of criminal defense cases.

Lawyer April 2014 to current

Law Office of Devin Brown, St. Johns, AZ

August 2016 to present

Do legal work on a part-time basis, mostly involving real estate, estate planning, and prosecution for the towns of Springerville and Eagar.

April 2014 to Dec. 2015

Ran a general law practice doing mostly criminal law, family law, real estate, and civil litigation. (As required by state law, I closed the law office during the months I worked as a full-time public defender)

Deputy County Attorney Sept. 2011 to April 2014

Apache County Attorney's Office, St. Johns, AZ

Prosecuted juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony criminal cases.

Advised the Public Fiduciary on guardianships, conservatorships, and probate.

Handled the legal process for individuals needing mental health services.

Worked as a law clerk from June to Sept. 2011

Summer jobs during law school:

File Clerk/Office Assistant June – Sept. 2010

Reisman Sorokac Law Office, Las Vegas, NV

Externship with the Regulatory Staff Attorneys Summer 2010

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

Externship with Judge Elizabeth Gonzales Summer 2009
Clark County District Court, Las Vegas, Nevada

Before law school:

Member Services Representative 2008
Vanguard Mutual Fund, Scottsdale, Arizona

Bank Teller 2007
First Credit Union, Chandler, Arizona

EDUCATION

William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas 2008 to 2010

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 2000 to 2006

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NOTE: Information contained in resume need not be repeated below, but instead can be incorporated by reference.

Full Name: Criss Eugene Candalaria

Office Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Arizona State Bar Number: 010179

Signature: Criss E. Candalaria Date: December 5, 2024

Address for submission of application and resume by hand-delivery:

Ryan Patterson
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Apache County Administration Building
75 W. Cleveland Street
St Johns, AZ 85936

Or send via attachment to email:
rpatterson@apachecountyaz.gov

RECEIVED

DEC 09 2024

Board of Supervisors
Apache County, AZ

1. Provide a letter of interest describing why you should be appointed as Apache County Attorney.

2. Are you currently a resident of Apache County? If so, how long have you been a resident?

Yes, I'm currently a resident of Apache County.
I have been a continuous resident since May, 1991

3. List your present and former political party registrations and approximate dates of each.

Democrat since initial registration in late 70s. Became Independent June 2024; Returned to Democrat Party in November 2024
Applicants are advised that the Board of Supervisors may meet in executive session on one or more occasions to consider and discuss applications for the appointment to the position of Apache County Attorney.

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I will conform to the wishes of the majority of applicants as to whether to discuss application publicly or in executive session.

5. Do you require that any discussion of your application occur in a public meeting?

I believe all applicants should have applications discussed in public for the most transparent process and maximum public participation

Thank you for your application and interest in serving Apache County.



Criss Candelaria Law Office, P. C.

Equal Justice

Date: December 5, 2024

Apache County Board of Supervisors,
C/O Ryan Patterson,
Clerk of Apache County Board of Supervisors,
Apache County Administration Bldg,
75 W. Cleveland Street,
St. Johns, Arizona 85936

Re: Letter of Interest, Apache County Attorney Vacancy Position

Sent via: hand-delivery and email

Dear Supervisors:

After reviewing your application, reviewing Arizona State statutes and considering the troubling events surrounding the criminal corruption allegations against the former Apache County Attorney, I ask that you accept my application for the vacancy left from his inability to practice law.

My family has been in Apache County since the last third of the 19th century. Apache County has been my home for the greatest part of my life. I grew up in Springerville, Arizona. My first jobs were here. I learned my work ethic here, in the mountains, on ranches, in corrals and in stores.

I am an Arizona attorney in good standing with the Arizona State Bar Association. Next year, I will attain forty years as an attorney. All of those years, I have been an active criminal law practitioner. Over twenty four years of that time, I have been a prosecutor in various county attorneys' offices in northern Arizona. I was the Apache County Attorney for two terms; over six years of that time. I have conducted thousands of hearings and personally litigated well over 100 jury trials.

In my criminal law experience, I have led prosecution teams in multi-defendant racketeering and conspiracy cases including prosecution and asset forfeiture civil litigation.

Now, in Apache County's time of critical need, I have the skills to investigate and pursue those who misuse the public's trust and resources. I hope to make restitution to those citizens who have been wronged, threatened, disenfranchised and otherwise exploited.

My office has not and will not succumb to intimidation, requests for preferential treatment or engage in lawfare in the administration of equal justice.

As Apache County Attorney, I developed my administrative skills to capitalize on-at times- limited financial resources to enable our people to get the most out of the resources allocated to us. The feedback and thanks I have received from elected and retired county officials for my assistance to them has been gratifying and humbling.

In my private practice, I continued to expand my administrative skills in other areas of law besides just criminal law. This included family law and dependency law. I had numerous trials and thus much pretrial discovery, motion practice and litigation.

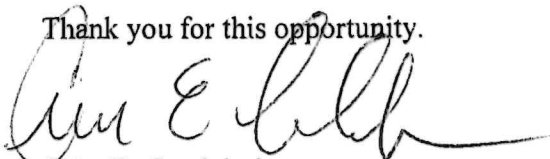
In the area of criminal law, my practice has been as defense counsel. The humanity of criminal defendants that a prosecutor can only dimly see in the courtroom through the filter of their lawyers came into clearer focus when seen through the lens of the circumstances of their lives. The same was true when representing victims of crime and seeing the extent of both their sufferings and that of their families.

I have been assured the assistance of neighboring public officials and their staff to quickly enable me to provide the legal coverage necessary to provide the elected officials all the help they need to conduct their affairs with confidence. I will be able to begin at once.

Although, I have been retired except for pro bono work and the occasional case since 2021, I believe it imperative to now restore integrity to this important public office. Therefore, I submit this letter of interest announcing my availability for the job of Apache County Attorney.

I will submit a resume in a separate email.

Thank you for this opportunity.



Criss E. Candelaria

Criss Candelaria Law Office, P.C.
Criss E. Candelaria
Resident of Concho, Apache
County, Arizona
Since May, 1991

P.O. Box 614
Concho, Az. 85924

Criss E. Candelaria

Current Practice

Owens Criss E. Candelaria Law Office, P.C., since January 2009

Experience

1985-1990 Mohave County Attorney's Office, Kingman, Arizona

Deputy County Attorney

- Juvenile Prosecutor.
- Major Crimes Prosecutor; includes special action & appellate work;
- Extensive trial and motion practice.
- Chief Prosecutor for Mohave Area General Narcotics Enforcement Team (M.A.G.N.E.T.). Prosecuted 1/3 total superior court cases; ½ motion practice.
- Civil Forfeiture Attorney and Prosecutor in Major Drug Conspiracy Case.

1990-2002 Navajo County Attorney's Office, Holbrook, Arizona

Deputy County Attorney

- Major Crimes Prosecutor, extensive trial and motion practice.
- Managed very large felony litigation caseload.

2002-2009 Apache County Attorney's Office, St. Johns, Arizona

Apache County Attorney

- Elected County Prosecutor.
- Efficiently managed 18 persons Law Office.
- Prosecuted complex criminal cases.
- Instructor Constitutional Law and Criminal Law and Procedure at Police Academy.
- President of the Arizona County Attorneys and Sheriffs' Association.
- Member Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council.
- Facilitated prosecution of corruption cases in Apache County.

Criss Candelaria Law Office, P.C. (Retired December 2020 to limited practice)

- Private Practice that includes supervision of associate attorneys, paralegals, investigators and support staff.
- General Litigation Practice in Criminal, Juvenile, Family, Business and Real Estate Law.
- Managing Attorney for the practice including human resources and business operations.
- Accepted court appointments for Juvenile and Adult Criminal defendants and Juvenile Dependency.

Education

- 1973-1977 Round Valley High School
Springerville and Eagar, Arizona
- High School Diploma
- 1977-1981 Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona
- B.A., History with Business Administration, minor.
 - Graduated *cum laude*.
- 1982-1985 Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona
- Juris Doctor Degree

Assets

Litigated combined total of over 120 jury trials as both a prosecutor and defense attorney;
Experienced hardworking criminal litigator, appellate lawyer and victims' rights advocate;
Good client rapport. Experienced civil litigation attorney,
Current law practice includes family, juvenile, criminal, dependency, probate, some real estate and
general litigation.
Eagle Scout Award.

Personal Interests

Singing, Guitar Playing and Providing Religious Education at San Rafael and Saint John the Baptist
Catholic Church in Concho and Saint Johns, Ariz.,
Ranching and stock production, pasture and orchard cultivation and development,
Additional interests: stonemasonry, southwest landscaping, hiking; teaching Constitutional Law to school
children and law enforcement trainees.
Water and soil conservation proponent, maintenance of personal physical health, instructs kids to be good
citizens and good family members.
Founding member and former director of House of Onions Orphanage near Gunter, Andre Pradheshi,
India, tending to the health, educational and spiritual needs of H.I.V. orphaned children.
Elected member of the Concho Elementary School District serving eight years.

November 14, 2024

Apache County Board of Supervisors
PO Box 428
St. Johns, AZ 85936

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to recommend Chriss Candelaria for appointment to the acting County Attorney of Apache County. Mr. Candelaria has already held the position and thereby knows the workings and requirements of the position. While in office, he acted with integrity and with the equal application of the law in mind. He is in good standing with the Arizona Bar, and has served both Apache and Navajo counties as an attorney, giving him ample experience to apply the law fairly and equally in cases he confronts. Again I am recommending the appointment of Chriss Candelaria for appointment to the acting County Attorney of Apache County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jim Staffnik EdD





**NAVAJO
COUNTY
ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE**



Brad Carlyon
County Attorney

P. O. Box 668
Holbrook, AZ 86025-0668
(928) 524-4026
Fax (928) 524-4244

Maxine Tyler
Executive Assistant

Direct Line (928) 524-4019

maxine.tyler@navajocountyaz.gov

November 19, 2024

Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., Chairman
Alton Joe Shepherd, Vice Chairman
Nelson Davis
Apache County Board of Supervisors
Post Office Box 428
St. Johns, Arizona 85936

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Criss Candelaria

Dear Apache County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Criss Candelaria as the Apache County Attorney. I have had the privilege of working with Criss in various capacities, both as his colleague and as an adversary.

During his previous tenure as the Apache County Attorney, I served as his Chief Deputy. This experience afforded me a unique perspective into his leadership style, legal acumen, and dedication to justice. I have also had the opportunity to face Criss as opposing counsel, both as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney. These experiences have solidified my belief in his integrity and competence.

One of Criss's most defining qualities is his unwavering commitment to ethical integrity. In an era where public trust in legal institutions is often challenged, Criss's reputation for honesty and fairness is exemplary. His ability to navigate complex legal issues with a clear moral compass is invaluable.

Criss is a skilled leader who inspires loyalty and respect among his colleagues. He possesses a deep understanding of the law and a keen eye for detail. His ability to effectively manage a diverse caseload and mentor young attorneys is commendable.

Criss' dedication to justice is evident in his tireless pursuit of truth and fairness. He is equally committed to protecting the rights of victims and ensuring that the accused receive a fair trial. His balanced approach to law enforcement and public safety is essential for a thriving community. Moreover, this

dedication to justice will help reestablish the communities' faith in the integrity of the Apache County Attorney's Office.

I am confident that Criss will bring a fresh perspective and renewed energy to the Apache County Attorney's Office. His leadership, experience, and commitment to justice make him the ideal candidate for this position at this time.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to consider my recommendation and appoint Criss Candelaria as the next Apache County Attorney.

Sincerely,



Brad Carlyon
Navajo County Attorney

Apache County Board of Supervisors

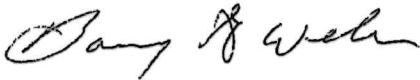
Nov. 17, 2024

It is my privilege to offer a short letter of support for Criss Candelaria to be appointed to an interim or permanent position of Apache County Attorney as may be needed in these difficult times for the elected officials of the County. Having some experience (2012 – 2016) in one of the positions you honorably hold, I understand the difficulties of making these critical decisions that affect so many of our citizens. I thought a brief insight into one of the candidates may be of help to your present challenge.

I have known and worked on local issues with Criss Candelaria over the past decade and have found him to be dedicated to our communities as well as knowledgeable on the needs. I know that Criss will be focused on honest and transparent service to the County because I know it to be his character. Having previous experience in the position that is presently in limbo he could easily hit the ground running and be a great asset to maintain the county budget without needing to go through a tedious learning curve while immediately reducing the burden on the State Attorney General's office and yourselves.

Please consider this short letter to be my support for Mr. Candelaria

Thank you for your service and time



Barry G. Weller

Past Apache County Supervisor District III



CC: Dr. Joe Shirley Jr. joeshirleyjr@co.apache.az.us
Alton Joe Shepherd altonjoeshepherd@co.apache.az.us
Nelson Davis c/o lizcastillo@apachecountyaz.gov
Ryan Patterson ryanpatterson@co.apache.az.us