

Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney Chad M. Enright



CRIMINAL DIVISION

Ione George Chief of Staff Cami Lewis
Felony & Juvenile
Division Chief

Justin Zaug
District & Municipal
Division Chief

Rebecca Graunke Criminal Program Manager

April 11, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Joseph "Joey" Ortiz to express my unreserved recommendation for the At-Large (Young Lawyer) position on the Board of Governors. Joey started with the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office in November 2023 as a brand new attorney. In the time that he has been with the office, Joey has been assigned to the District/Municipal Division prosecuting misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors, which includes working within a restorative justice model that emphasizes avenues of rehabilitation.

Joey brings enthusiasm and energy to his responsibilities as deputy prosecuting attorney. While young and new to the job, Joey regularly demonstrates a willingness to educate himself, to accept constructive criticism, and to learn from mistakes; Joey owns mistakes and uses the experience as a building block, taking what is often only viewed as a negative and turning it into a positive.

Moreover, our office emphasizes seeking out and cultivating different opinions from colleagues because there is always more than one way to accomplish something. Joey thrives in this type of atmosphere, clearly enjoying the process of synthesizing different perspectives into a more complete picture.

Finally, Joey works in an adversarial system where it is easy to become accustomed to an "us" versus "them" mentality. Joey works hard to establish respectful working relationships to allow the parties to freely communicate and have forthright negotiations, which promotes reaching a just resolution.

If chosen for the At-Large (Young Lawyer) position on the Board of Governors, I am confident that Joey will be a splendid trustee, bringing the excitement and energy particular to new attorneys.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (360) 337-4922 or email me at <u>jzaug@kitsap.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Justin B. Zaug Chief, District/Municipal Court Division Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office