

Co-Chair
Charleta B. Tavares
Assistant Minority Leader
15th Senate District



Co-Chair
William G. Batchelder, Speaker
69th House District

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Organization and Administration Committee
DATE: Thursday, July 10, 2014
TIME: 9:30am
ROOM: Statehouse Room 116, Columbus, Ohio 43215

- Counsel to the Commission Recommendation*
- Communications Director Recommendation*

***Possible Vote**

The Chairman respectfully requests all testifying parties to submit an electronic copy of written testimony to ocmc@ocmc.ohio.gov by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. OR bring 25 copies to committee on Thursday.

Cc: Commission Members
Speaker's Office
Senate President's Office
Senate Minority Leader's Office
House Minority Leader's Office
House & Senate Caucus Staff
House Clerk & Committee Clerk
Senate Clerk

House Assistant Majority Floor Leader's Office
Senate Assistant Majority Floor Leader's Office
House & Senate Legislative & Policy Directors
Legislative Information Office
Press Room
Legislative Service Commission

Organization and Administration Committee
Mark Wagoner, Chair
July 10, 2014

Chair Wagoner called the meeting of the Organization and Administration Committee to order at 9:40am. A quorum was present.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved without objection.

The Chair called Executive Director Steven Hollon and gave a recommendation for the Legal Counsel position. He recommended Shari O'Neill. Senator Tavares moved that the committee recommend Ms. O'Neill to the Full Commission, and Speaker Kurfess seconded. The vote was unanimous 6-0. Ms. O'Neill will begin working on July 28, 2014.

Executive Director Hollon also recommended Shaunte Russell for the Communications Director position. Speaker Batchelder moved that the committee recommend Ms. Russell to the Full Commission, and Commissioner Brooks seconded. The vote was unanimous 6-0. Ms. Russell will begin working on August 18, 2014.

Chair Wagoner asked Executive Director Hollon about the budget and Mr. Hollon responded that they are on budget.

Without any further business before the committee, adjourned at 9:48am.

CHAIR

SECRETARY

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15th Senate District



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OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

To: Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Members
FROM: Mark Wagoner, Chair of the Organization and Administration Committee
DATE: July 10, 2014
RE: Communications Director Recommendation

The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Organization and Administration Committee recommends that the Commission hire Shaunte Russell for the position of Communications Director and that the Commission Co-Chairs negotiate the terms of compensation for Ms. Russell within the confines of the Commission's appropriation.

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OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

To: Organization and Administration Committee
FROM: Hiring Working Group
DATE: July 10, 2014
RE: Communications Director Recommendation

The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Hiring Working group recommends that the Commission hire Shaunte Russell as the Communications Director for the Commission and that the Commission Co-Chairs negotiate the terms of compensation for Ms. Russell within the confines of the Commission's appropriation.

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

STATE OF OHIO
careers@ohio.gov
Columbus, Ohio 43215
800-409-1205
<http://careers.ohio.gov/>

Russell, Shaunte
03 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Received: 4/20/14 9:29 PM

For Official Use Only:

QUAL: _____

DNQ: _____

Experience

Training

Other: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR		EXAM ID#: 03
NAME: (Last, First, Middle) Russell, Shaunte		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: N/A
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 3225 Garvin Rd, Dayton, Ohio 45405		
HOME PHONE: (937) 430-0288	ALTERNATE PHONE: (937) 567-1099	EMAIL ADDRESS: shaunte_r@hotmail.com
DRIVER'S LICENSE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DRIVER'S LICENSE: State: OH	LEGAL RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

PREFERENCES

PREFERRED SALARY: \$20.00 per hour; \$40,000.00 per year	ARE YOU WILLING TO RELOCATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
WHAT TYPE OF JOB ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? Regular	
TYPES OF WORK YOU WILL ACCEPT:	
SHIFTS YOU WILL ACCEPT: Day, Evening, Night, Rotating, Weekends, On Call (as needed)	
OBJECTIVE: To obtain a position working in the fields of special events, marketing, communication, public relations, or media relations.	

EDUCATION

DATES: From: 9/2004 To: 6/2007	SCHOOL NAME: Wright State University	DEGREE RECEIVED: Master's
LOCATION:(City, State) Dayton, Ohio	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNITS COMPLETED: 8 - Quarter
MAJOR: English: Composition and Rhetoric		
DATES: From: 9/2002 To: 8/2003	SCHOOL NAME: University of Cincinnati	DEGREE RECEIVED: Bachelor's
LOCATION:(City, State) Dayton, Ohio	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNITS COMPLETED: 5 - Quarter
MAJOR: English		
DATES: From: 9/1997 To: 12/2001	SCHOOL NAME: University of Cincinnati	DEGREE RECEIVED: Bachelor's
LOCATION:(City, State) Cincinnati, Ohio	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNITS COMPLETED: 17 - Quarter
MAJOR: Communication: Public Relations		
DATES:	SCHOOL NAME: Colonel White High school	DEGREE RECEIVED: High School Diploma
LOCATION:(City, State) Dayton, Ohio	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

WORK EXPERIENCE

DATES: From: 8/2013 To: Present	EMPLOYER: Sinclair Community College	POSITION TITLE: Adjunct Faculty - English
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 444 Third St, Dayton, Ohio 45402		COMPANY URL: www.sinclair.edu
PHONE NUMBER: (937) 512-3000	SUPERVISOR: Aaron Moyer - Assistant Professor	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 6	SALARY: \$1,550.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Responsible for teaching courses in English Composition and Business Communications while demonstrating a thorough and accurate knowledge of the discipline and interpreting and evaluating theories in English.		

REASON FOR LEAVING: Currently Employed		
DATES: From: 5/2011 To: 8/2013	EMPLOYER: Central State University	POSITION TITLE: Manager of Conference and Event Services
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 1400 Brush Row Rd, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384		COMPANY URL: www.centralstate.edu
PHONE NUMBER: (937) 376-6011	SUPERVISOR: Harlan Henderson - Director of Business Services and Capitol Developm	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$3,500.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 2
DUTIES: Appointed to build new conference and event services department by planning, leading and implementing marketing efforts to include strategic communication, branding, advertising, and promotion; negotiating vendor contracts, scheduling events, disseminating press releases, overseeing departmental budget, monitoring expenditures, preparing and evaluating reports; delivery sales presentations, and buying media.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: New position		
DATES: From: 6/2008 To: 5/2011	EMPLOYER: Central State University	POSITION TITLE: Event Planner and Communications Coordinator
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 1400 Brush Row Rd, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384		COMPANY URL: www.centralstate.edu
PHONE NUMBER: (937) 376-6011	SUPERVISOR: Francine Robinson - Director of Public Relations	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$3,300.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 2
DUTIES: Planned, coordinated, and executed all university events for Central State University and Central State University – Dayton; negotiated contracts with vendors, provided operational support and executed logistics (event design, facility selection, menu planning, transportation arrangements, production and box office along with front of the house/back of the house management, and audio/visual equipment) for meetings and events, managed event budgets and event-related expenses, supervised student interns, acted as primary copyeditor for University magazine, editor-in-chief of Inside Central State newsletter, and producer for Inside CSU radio show; wrote statements, speeches and presentations; wrote and disseminated press releases, pitched and wrote articles; managed social media, assisted in crisis communication, created brochures and publications; negotiated media buys, built and maintained positive relationships with the media and served as spokesperson when necessary; and assisted in the development and maintenance of the university's marketing plan.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Promoted		
DATES: From: 9/2006 To: 1/2008	EMPLOYER: Wright State University	POSITION TITLE: Program Assistant
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 3460 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, Ohio 45431		COMPANY URL: www.wright.edu
PHONE NUMBER: (937) 376-4524	SUPERVISOR: Amber Vlasnik - Director of the Women's Center	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 25	SALARY: \$1,500.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 4
DUTIES: Coordinated all aspects of programming for the WSU's Women's Center including: program design, implementation, supervision, maintained center website, planned women's month activities, supervised volunteers and interns; handled outreach and marketing efforts; developed publicity plans, and acted as spokesperson when necessary.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Full Time Position		

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

Nothing Entered For This Section

Skills**OFFICE SKILLS:**Typing:65
Data Entry:0**OTHER SKILLS:**Microsoft Office Suite - Expert - 10 years and 0 months
Adobe Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator) - Skilled - 5 years and 0 months
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) - Expert - 8 years and 0 months**LANGUAGE(S):****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Nothing Entered For This Section

REFERENCES

Nothing Entered For This Section

Agency-Wide Questions

1. **Please indicate your county of residence.**
Montgomery County
2. **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS - In the area below, briefly describe the experience, education, training and other factors that qualify you for the position or examination for which you are applying. Refer to the Minimum Qualifications and any position-specific qualifications posted for this position or examination.**
Experience with strategic communications, public relations, media relations. social media, and acting as a spokesperson. Manages internal communications to include newsletters, promotions, publications, etc.
3. **Please list below the specific course work areas at the high school level or beyond relevant to the position or examination for which you are applying. Also indicate the number of courses you have successfully completed in each area. NOTE: A transcript may not be substituted for this section, although you may be required to submit a transcript.**
Technical and Professional Writing
Business Writing
Desktop Publishing
Intro to Public Relations
Communication Theory
Intro to Media Relations
Rhetoric
Advance Public Relations
Rhetorical Theory
Presentations
4. **Are you a current State of Ohio employee?**
No, I'm not a State of Ohio employee
5. **If you are a current State of Ohio employee, please provide your eight (8) digit, OAKS State of Ohio User ID number. If you are not a current State of Ohio employee, please type N/A.**
N/A
6. **If you are not a current State of Ohio employee, have you ever been employed by the State of Ohio? (If you are a current State of Ohio employee, please select N/A.)**
No
7. **If you were previously employed by the State of Ohio, please choose one of the following:**
N/A - Current state employee OR not previously employed by the State of Ohio.
8. **If you were previously employed by the State of Ohio, have you ever plead guilty or been convicted of a misdemeanor, for violation of Ohio Revised Code 1347.15 (H)(1) and/or (H)(2) – Access rules for confidential personal information?**
N/A
9. **Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (A felony conviction may not automatically exclude you from consideration.)**
10. **If you answered Yes to the previous question, please give date(s) of conviction(s) and explain. If you answered No, please type N/A.**
N/A
11. **How did you become aware of this employment or examination opportunity?**
GovernmentJobs.com

Job Specific Supplemental Questions**1. Do you have a bachelor's degree?**

Yes

2. Do you have a master's degree?

Yes

3. If you have a master's degree, please indicate the area of study below. If you do not have this degree, please type N/A.English: Composition and Rhetoric

The following terms were accepted by the applicant upon submitting the online application:

I certify that the answers I have made to all of the questions in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if this application is not completed in its entirety, it will not be processed and I will be automatically disqualified. I understand that I am responsible for the correctness of this application. I also understand that a background check may be required prior to employment and that, in accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Program, drug testing may be required. I waive all provisions of law forbidding colleges or universities which I attended, or past employers, from disclosing any information which they acquired relevant to my employment. I consent that they may disclose such information to the Human Resources Division, Department of Administrative Services, and/or the agency that holds the vacancy for which I am applying and to appropriate officials for recruitment purposes. I understand that any offer of employment is conditional upon proof of legal authorization to work in the United States as required by the Immigration Reform and Control Act.

This application was submitted by Shaunte Russell on 4/20/14 9:29 PM

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15th Senate District



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OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

To: Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Members
FROM: Mark Wagoner, Chair of the Organization and Administration Committee
DATE: July 10, 2014
RE: Counsel to the Commission Recommendation

The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Organization and Administration Committee recommends that the Commission hire Shari O'Neill for the position of Legal Counsel and that the Commission Co-Chairs negotiate the terms of compensation for Ms. O'Neill within the confines of the Commission's appropriation.

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OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

To: Organization and Administration Committee
FROM: Hiring Working Group
DATE: July 10, 2014
RE: Counsel to the Commission Recommendation

The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Hiring Working group recommends that the Commission hire Shari O'Neill as the Counsel to the Commission and that the Commission Co-Chairs negotiate the terms of compensation for Ms. O'Neill within the confines of the Commission's appropriation.

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION



STATE OF OHIO
careers@ohio.gov
Columbus, Ohio 43215
<http://careers.ohio.gov/>

O'Neill, Shari Winget
02 COUNSEL TO THE COMMISSION

Received: 4/22/14 3:18 PM

For Official Use Only:

QUAL: _____

DNQ: _____

Experience

Training

Other: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE: COUNSEL TO THE COMMISSION		EXAM ID#: 02
NAME: (Last, First, Middle) O'Neill, Shari Winget		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: N/A
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 1012 Greythorne Pl, Gahanna, Ohio 43230		
HOME PHONE: (614) 478-7416	ALTERNATE PHONE: (614)406-4869	EMAIL ADDRESS: mnsoneill@gmail.com
DRIVER'S LICENSE: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DRIVER'S LICENSE: State: OH	LEGAL RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

PREFERENCES

PREFERRED SALARY: \$65,000.00 per year	ARE YOU WILLING TO RELOCATE?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
WHAT TYPE OF JOB ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?: Regular	
TYPES OF WORK YOU WILL ACCEPT:	
SHIFTS YOU WILL ACCEPT: Day	
OBJECTIVE: I am seeking a position assisting the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission that will allow me to utilize my extensive experience as a legal researcher and writer.	

EDUCATION

DATES: From: 9/1986 To: 5/1989	SCHOOL NAME: University of Cincinnati College of Law	DEGREE RECEIVED: Professional
LOCATION:(City, State) Cincinnati, Ohio	DID YOU GRADUATE?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNITS COMPLETED:
MAJOR: Law		
DATES: From: 9/1983 To: 6/1985	SCHOOL NAME: University of Cincinnati	DEGREE RECEIVED: Master's
LOCATION:(City, State) Cincinnati, Ohio	DID YOU GRADUATE?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNITS COMPLETED:
MAJOR: English Literature		
DATES: From: 9/1979 To: 6/1983	SCHOOL NAME: University of Cincinnati	DEGREE RECEIVED: Bachelor's
LOCATION:(City, State) Cincinnati, Ohio	DID YOU GRADUATE?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNITS COMPLETED:
MAJOR: English Literature		

WORK EXPERIENCE

DATES: From: 1/2006 To: Present	EMPLOYER: Colley Shroyer & Abraham	POSITION TITLE: Staff Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 536 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER: (614) 228-6453	SUPERVISOR: Dan Abraham - Partner	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$4,800.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Researching and writing trial and appellate briefs, memoranda, jurisdictional motions, discovery, and jury instructions. Analyzing and formulating legal issues and litigation strategies for prosecuting and defending cases. In this role, I have participated in all aspects of trial and appellate preparation.		

REASON FOR LEAVING: I view the Constitutional Modernization Commission's advertised position as an opportunity to apply my research and writing skills to a unique and important project that would serve our state.		
DATES: From: 3/2008 To: 9/2011	EMPLOYER: Law Office of Jeffrey Sams	POSITION TITLE: Staff Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code)		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER:	SUPERVISOR: Jeffrey Sams - Attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 8	SALARY: \$240.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Researched and prepared pleadings and legal memoranda on topics related to probate law, consumer law, debtor/creditor issues, and contract law, including construction, real estate, and lease contracts.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Job duties at Colley Shroyer & Abraham increased, requiring me to devote full time to that firm.		
DATES: From: 8/2002 To: 8/2005	EMPLOYER: 10th District Ohio Court of Appeals	POSITION TITLE: Judicial Law Clerk
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State, Zip Code) 373 South High Street, 24th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215		COMPANY URL:
PHONE NUMBER:	SUPERVISOR: Jack Kuhlman - Court Administrator	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$4,500.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: I was at the 10th District from 1991 to 1994, as well as from 2002 to 2005, taking off time in between to be at home with my children. I also clerked at the 12th District Court of Appeals from 1989 to 1991 for Judge Richard N. Koehler. At the 10th District, I assisted Judges Donna Bowman, Dana Deshler, Peggy Bryant, and Judith French. As a result, I have nearly 7 years experience preparing legal research and drafting appellate decisions on a wide variety of legal topics, including appeals from the Ohio Court of Claims.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: For family reasons needed to scale back to part time employment.		

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

TYPE: Ohio Bar Admission	
LICENSE NUMBER: 0042504	ISSUING AGENCY: Supreme Court of Ohio

Skills

OFFICE SKILLS: Typing:60 Data Entry:0
OTHER SKILLS:
LANGUAGE(S):

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information Law School Activities: Editor: College of Law yearbook, newspaper, and newsletter. Honor Council member. Externship with Judge William O. Bertelsman (E.D. Ky.). Student Assistant to Associate Dean Barbara Watts
Additional Information Undergraduate Activities and Honors: Copy Editor for the student newspaper (News Record), Dean's List, Ricking and Morgan Departmental Merit Scholarships, English Club
Personal St. Matthew School, Gahanna, School Advisory Board, President (2009-2011); Various Volunteer Positions for Home and School Association. Current Member Adult Choir, Church of the Resurrection, New Albany, Ohio.
Honors & Awards University of Cincinnati, BA with High Honors in English Literature
Honors & Awards Copy Editor for the student newspaper (News Record), Dean's List, Ricking and Morgan Departmental Merit Scholarships, English Club President
Professional Memberships Member, Columbus Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Franklin County.

REFERENCES

Nothing Entered For This Section

Agency-Wide Questions

1. Please indicate your county of residence.

Franklin County

2. **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS - In the area below, briefly describe the experience, education, training and other factors that qualify you for the position or examination for which you are applying. Refer to the Minimum Qualifications and any position-specific qualifications posted for this position or examination.**

I have extensive experience conducting legal research and drafting decisions in a judicial setting, experience with legal research and writing in a private law firm setting, and providing legal opinions and advising on legal subjects on a daily basis.

3. **Please list below the specific course work areas at the high school level or beyond relevant to the position or examination for which you are applying. Also indicate the number of courses you have successfully completed in each area. NOTE: A transcript may not be substituted for this section, although you may be required to submit a transcript.**

I have a Juris Doctorate, and so have all the law school course work connected with that. In addition, I have both a Master's and a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature, so am an experienced writer and comprehensive reader.

4. **Are you a current State of Ohio employee?**

No, I'm not a State of Ohio employee

5. **If you are a current State of Ohio employee, please provide your eight (8) digit, OAKS State of Ohio User ID number. If you are not a current State of Ohio employee, please type N/A.**

N/A

6. **If you are not a current State of Ohio employee, have you ever been employed by the State of Ohio? (If you are a current State of Ohio employee, please select N/A.)**

Yes

7. **If you were previously employed by the State of Ohio, please choose one of the following:**

Employment ended on or after 12-01-2004.

8. **If you were previously employed by the State of Ohio, have you ever plead guilty or been convicted of a misdemeanor, for violation of Ohio Revised Code 1347.15 (H)(1) and/or (H)(2) - Access rules for confidential personal information?**

No

9. **Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (A felony conviction may not automatically exclude you from consideration.)**

No

10. **If you answered Yes to the previous question, please give date(s) of conviction(s) and explain. If you answered No, please type N/A.**

N/A

11. **How did you become aware of this employment or examination opportunity?**

State of Ohio Employee Referral

Job Specific Supplemental Questions

1. **Have you been admitted to the Ohio Bar to practice law?**
Yes
 2. **How many years of relevant experience do you have?**
5+ years
-

The following terms were accepted by the applicant upon submitting the online application:

I certify that the answers I have made to all of the questions in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if this application is not completed in its entirety, it will not be processed and I will be automatically disqualified. I understand that I am responsible for the correctness of this application. I also understand that a background check may be required prior to employment and that, in accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Program, drug testing may be required. I waive all provisions of law forbidding colleges or universities which I attended, or past employers, from disclosing any information which they acquired relevant to my employment. I consent that they may disclose such information to the Human Resources Division, Department of Administrative Services, and/or the agency that holds the vacancy for which I am applying and to appropriate officials for recruitment purposes. I understand that any offer of employment is conditional upon proof of legal authorization to work in the United States as required by the Immigration Reform and Control Act.

This application was submitted by Shari Winget O'Neill on 4/22/14 3:18 PM

Shari Winget O'Neill
1012 Greythorne Pl.
Gahanna, OH 43230
(614) 478-7416 (h); 406-4869 (c)
msoneill@columbus.rr.com

April 22, 2014

Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

RE: Counsel to the Commission

Dear Members of the Commission,

I write to submit my formal application for the position of Counsel to the Commission for the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission. As my experience and qualifications meet your requirements, I hope you will consider me a candidate for this position.

After obtaining my J.D. and being admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1989, I served as an appellate judicial clerk for both the Twelfth and Tenth appellate districts, where I researched and drafted decisions dealing with constitutional and administrative law issues, as well as learning and writing about nearly every topic covered by the Ohio Revised Code. I have about 7 years' experience in those courts, having worked at the Twelfth from 1989 to 1991 before moving to Columbus and working at the Tenth from 1991 to 1994. After several years at home with my children, I was fortunate to return to the Tenth District from 2002 to 2005 to continue clerking. It was a smooth transition for me to come back to the job I knew and enjoyed, but I also wanted to return because clerking allowed me to use my writing skills in a legal setting, and satisfied my interest in public service.

In 2005, I expanded my career by accepting my current position as a staff attorney at a personal injury firm here in Columbus, where my experience in litigation and my acquaintance with tort law have made me a valuable resource for the other attorneys at the firm. Here, I have gained a new perspective by writing as an advocate in the private sector. When I heard about the opportunity to assist the Commission, however, I recognized it as a chance to use my skills to serve our state in a unique way and to help make Ohio legal history. Few attorneys get that type of opportunity during their careers. I would be honored to be one of those attorneys.

Allow me to indicate how my background meets your requirements:

- **Excellent writing skills for a variety of audiences; general understanding and knowledge of constitutional law, with some familiarity with the Ohio Constitution, knowledge in legal research methods and legal writing, ability to understand, interpret, and apply laws, rules, and procedures applicable to operations of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, ability to organize and interpret extensive variety of legal material in books, journals or legal documents.**

As my resume indicates, my many years experience as an appellate judicial clerk means I have researched and drafted literally hundreds of judicial decisions for two different appellate courts on all topics in Ohio law. This often involved going beyond cases cited in the briefs, Ohio statutes, or Ohio case precedent, to research the law in other states, to determine what trends were developing in law and policy, and to seek out legal journals and treatises that might shed light on difficult questions, some of which involved federal and state constitutional issues.

In my current position, which I have held since 2006, I have drafted appellate briefs to several state appellate courts and the Sixth Circuit, as well as to the Ohio Supreme Court. I also have drafted memoranda and motions to state common pleas courts and to federal district courts. In addition, I frequently research and draft correspondence, discovery, and in-house memoranda for the firm on emerging trends, new rulings that will affect the attorneys' practice, or important legislative enactments. I am confident that my experience will allow me to effectively address any legal question that should come my way.

My writing history also includes having written articles for my college newspaper, writing judicial biographies for the Tenth District Court of Appeals, and writing memoranda relating to my service as a board member and president of our school's advisory board. During my tenure on the school board I performed an extensive edit of the board's constitution, bringing it in line with changes that had occurred at the school.

- **Excellent analytic, strategic, and research skills, creativity, versatility, and flexibility; policy development and management.**

The hallmarks of a personal injury litigation practice are creativity, versatility, and flexibility. In my current position, I have learned never to give up trying to find a solution to some very difficult problems. By applying analytic, strategic, and research skills, I have helped to obtain positive outcomes for clients where many other attorneys would have given up. In addition, some of the issues I have worked on involved statutes that have had little or no judicial review, forcing me to craft persuasive and novel arguments by extrapolating from other areas of the law, or consulting other states' similar legislative enactments and case law. You will see examples of these instances in my writing samples.

My job frequently involves monitoring and responding to motions on multiple cases simultaneously, keeping track of the status of each case, and making sure all deadlines are met. While as a staff attorney I do not have the authority to direct the progress of the case, I do have enormous responsibility in keeping things moving through the pipeline, and in helping the attorneys keep track of events and develop strategies in their cases. After 8 years at the firm, I am now adept at time management, multi-tasking, and effective communication.

- **Organizational skills; and the ability to deal with diverse interests and to coordinate work effectively with other entities; ability to deal with large number of variables and determine specific course of action.**

It might seem like the job of a "back room" lawyer at a busy firm doesn't involve accommodating diverse interests, managing multiple variables, and formulating strategies for action, but at a small firm it is "all hands on deck" much of the time. I have been fortunate in that my employers not only need my input, but value it, and they regularly rely on me to help solve logistical problems, brainstorm case strategies, come up with novel solutions, and otherwise participate in steering the ship.

For instance, we currently are dealing with complex litigation involving multiple medical negligence lawsuits—being handled by my firm and others—against a single physician and the hospital system at which he performed surgery. The sheer number of related cases has created challenges in nearly every stage of the litigation, from drafting the complaint, to determining how to streamline the progress of the cases through the court system, to composing the discovery questions, to assembling the medical records, and so on. I have been involved in each of these tasks, and have helped my employers determine how best to move forward. The phrase "large number of variables" definitely describes this type of litigation, and I have learned to look at these cases as a puzzle that needs to be solved, rather than as an impossible situation.

- **Ability to handle sensitive contacts with government officials, adverse parties and/or the general public.**

At the court, the judges' rulings were confidential until their written decisions were released. In my current role at the law firm, I am always mindful of client confidentiality and attorney work-product issues that arise. I expect the work of the Commission to require this same level of discretion, and I am prepared to accept that responsibility. I also recognize and would respect the need to respect the integrity of the legislative process.

Adding my extensive experience as an appellate judicial clerk working on cases involving all areas of Ohio to the knowledge I have gained as an advocate at a private law firm, it is clear that I can offer a broad perspective on Ohio law, and can do so with the research ability and the communication skills the Commission requires. I hope you will consider me for this position and look forward to meeting you to discuss my application.

Yours truly,

Shari L. O'Neill

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Shari Winget O'Neill
1012 Greythorne Pl.
Gahanna, OH 43230
(614) 478-7416 (h); 406-4869 (c)
mnsoneill@columbus.rr.com

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE Admitted to Ohio Bar.

EMPLOYMENT

Staff Attorney, Colley Shroyer & Abraham, LPA.
(2006-present)

Researching and writing trial and appellate briefs, memoranda, jurisdictional motions, discovery, and jury instructions. Analyzing and formulating legal issues and litigation strategies for prosecuting and defending cases. In this role, I have participated in all aspects of trial and appellate preparation.

Staff Attorney, Law Office of Jeffrey B. Sams, LLC.
(2008-2011, part-time)

Researched and prepared pleadings and legal memoranda on topics related to probate law, consumer law, debtor/creditor issues, and contract law, including construction, real estate, and lease contracts.

Judicial Law Clerk, Court of Appeals of Ohio, Tenth and Twelfth Appellate Districts.
(Various, seven years' total)

Assisted Judges Donna Bowman, Richard N. Koehler, Dana Deshler, Peggy Bryant, and Judith French. Prepared legal research and drafted appellate decisions on a wide variety of legal topics, including appeals from the Ohio Court of Claims.

EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati College of Law, JD.

Editor: College of Law yearbook, newspaper, and newsletter. Honor Council member.
Externship with Judge William O. Bertelsman (E.D. Ky.). Student Assistant to Associate Dean Barbara Watts.

University of Cincinnati, MA in English Literature.

University of Cincinnati, BA with High Honors in English Literature.

Copy Editor for the student newspaper (*News Record*), Dean's List, Ricking and Morgan Departmental Merit Scholarships, English Club President.

PERSONAL

St. Matthew School, Gahanna, School Advisory Board (2006-2011), President (2009-2011);
Various Volunteer Positions for Home and School Association.

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany, Adult Choir.

REFERENCES

Hon. Donna Bowman, 234 E. Columbus Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43206, (614) 443-6652.
dbowma@columbus.rr.com

Daniel N. Abraham, David I. Shroyer, Colley Shroyer & Abraham, LPA,
536 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, (614) 228-6453.

Eleni A. Drakatos, Yacobozzi Drakatos, LLC, 1243 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43206,
(614) 443-2800 (work), (614) 738-6300 (cell).

Ohio House Representative Anne Gonzales, 77 S. High Street, 13th Floor, Columbus, Ohio,
43215, (614) 466-4847.