WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE: July 10, 2018

DATE: June 27, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: John Slaughter, County Manager
328-2060, jslaughter@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to appoint John Arrascada as Washoe County Public Defender effective August 20, 2018 with an annual salary of $173,576. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The current Public Defender, Jeremy Bosler is retiring from Washoe County effective August 31, 2018. Following a recruitment process for screening and selection of a new Public Defender, approved by the Board in April 2018, this agenda item seeks the Board's appointment of John Arrascada as the Washoe County Public Defender, effective August 20, 2018 with an annual salary of $173,576.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Valued, Engaged Employee Workforce

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 24, 2018, the Board approved a recruitment process for the appointment of a new Washoe County Public Defender that included an Application Review Committee recommendation of the top candidates to the County Manager for consideration; the County Manager oversight of the selection of the final recommended candidate, and negotiation of a recommended annual salary and start date; for the Board to approve and appoint the new Public Defender per Nevada Revised Statute 260.010(5) and Washoe County Code 5.439 and 5.450.

BACKGROUND

The current Public Defender, Jeremy Bosler, tendered his resignation effective August 31, 2018. Per Nevada Revised Statute 260.010(5) and Washoe County Code 5.439 and 5.450, the Public Defender must be filled by appointment by the Board of County Commissioners; the Public Defender serves at the pleasure of the Board.

On April 24, 2018 the Board approved a process for selection of the top candidate including Human Resources advertising the position and reviewing applications for minimum qualifications; ranking of qualified applicants by an Application Review Committee comprised of a diverse group of legal professionals and community members representative of the clientele

of the Public Defender's Office; an interview of the top ranked candidates by the County Manager; and selection of the final recommended candidate by the County Manager.

The following recruitment timeline was used in an effort to respect the Mr. Bosler's request for an overfill period to provide adequate time for training and on-boarding of the newly selected Public Defender:

Job announcement posted: ..... April 27, 2018
Recruitment closed: ..... May 21, 2018
Applications reviewed by Committee: ..... May 22, 2018
County Manager interviews/selection: ..... June 14, 2018
BCC formal appointment: ..... July 10, 2018
Estimated hire date: ..... August 20, 2018

Human Resources advertised the position in the following ways: Washoe County Jobs website; cMail; Washoe County Bar Association website; Nevada State Bar Association website and newsflash; Clark County Bar Association website, law magazine, and newsflash; National Association for Public Defense (NAPD) website; National Attorneys for Criminal Justice (NACJ) website; Boyd Alumni Association website and newsletter; Nevada Department of Employment Training & Rehabilitation (DETR); Governmentjobs.com; and also sent the job announcement to Washoe County District Attorney, Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender, State Public Defender, Federal Public Defender, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and multiple local Criminal Defense Attorneys to send to interested candidates.

Human Resources staff reviewed the applicants and forwarded six (6) qualified candidates to the Application Review Committee for ranking.

Application Review Committee Members

Justin Bustos Washoe County Bar Association Current President	Cotter Conway Washoe County Bar Association Past President / Current PTA President
Vernon "Gene" Leverty State Bar of Nevada	Karin Kreizenbeck State Public Defender
Sylvia Irvin Federal Public Defender –Reno Trial Unit Chief	Roberto Puentes Criminal Defense Lawyer
Leah Wigren Criminal Defense Lawyer	Holly Welborn ACLU Policy Director/Attorney
Patricia Gallimore NAACP - Reno-Sparks Branch President	James Conway Washoe Legal Services - Director

After careful review of qualifications and prior work history, the Application Review Committee ranked qualified applicants based on the following "Ideal Candidate" criteria:

- ✓ Supervisory or management experience
- ✓ Understanding of budget and strategic planning
- ✓ Disciplinary action from the State Bar of Nevada
- ✓ NRS 432B experience (dependency cases)
- ✓ Experience in delinquency cases
- ✓ Both criminal trial and appellate experience

- ✓ Specialty Court experience

The six (6) ranked candidates were interviewed by a panel that included Washoe County Manager John Slaughter, Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas, and Clark County Public Defender Phil Kohn. The County Manager selected John Arrascada and negotiated the annual salary and start date.

Mr. Arrascada is a fourth generation Nevadan and a second generation Nevada attorney. He graduated from Bishop Manogue High School, Boston College and the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Arrascada began his career as a law clerk to the Honorable Peter I. Breen of the Second Judicial District for Nevada. Next, he was a law clerk for the Honorable Procter R. Hug Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. He then served for four years as a Deputy Public Defender. Mr. Arrascada has been in private practice with the law firm of Arrascada and Aramini Ltd., for the past twenty years.

The final step in the recruitment process is Board appointment of the new Public Defender and approval the proposed annual salary and start date recommended by the County Manager.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact related to this agenda item; the full fiscal impact of the new Public Defender will be determined upon final salary negotiation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board appoint John Arrascada as Washoe County Public Defender effective August 20, 2018 with an annual salary of [$173,576].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

Move to appoint John Arrascada as Washoe County Public Defender effective August 20, 2018 with an annual salary of $173,576.