Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County

May 6, 2022

Letter of Interest, Director Position

Greetings. This is a letter of interest in a Director position with the Thurston County DRC.

I was on the DRC Board of Directors for two terms in 2000-2010, or thereabouts. I have taken several trainings, including the basic mediation course. I also served as a mediator for the DRC for several years (mostly parenting issues), co-presented at the State mediation conference comparing and contrasting interest-based mediations with legal rights-based mediations, and organized a continuing education seminar in Shelton with Orianna Lewis to introduce Mason County judges and lawyers to the DRC model. As a private general practice lawyer, I participated in dozens of mediations on behalf of my clients, as well. I led the work to establish the Mason County Superior Court’s mandatory mediation rule for civil cases.

I am now retired from the practice of law, as of March of 2021. The primary emphasis in my practice for the past 25 years or so was advice to nonprofits. I currently serve on the Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center Board of Directors, and also volunteer with the Shelton Y. My interests have been aimed primarily at helping non-profits become as efficient and effective as appropriate for them. Currently, I am working on refining work I have done about work plans for the Board and committees, and partnershipping with governmental and other non-governmental agencies.

All of the above is accurate, but it may tend to suggest that I might want to be, shall we say, a bit assertive in Board circumstances. I hope not. Candidly, I think my most helpful asset is the ability to shut up and listen, at least when I can remember.

Although I have not asked any of them, references would include Terry Teale, Orianna Noel Lewis, and Evan Ferber. And as I told Evan when I ran into him the other day, the reason I am applying is simple: when I was doing things with the DRC, the people I was working with were some of the best people I have ever been around. So, it is my selfish interest in absorbing their good will by proximity.

Thank you for considering my interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rob