

# PETER K. CLEARY

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

495 S. Main Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 98109

**RE: INTERIM MUNICIPAL COURT  
JUDGE, JOB # 24FEBOO15**

February 12, 2024

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

I am excited to apply for the position of Interim Municipal Court Judge for Department 5. I meet all the posted minimum requirements as I am already on the Las Vegas Municipal Court Alternate Judge Panel. As such, I am a member in good standing of the State Bar of Nevada, can devote full time to the position, and I am a resident of the City of Las Vegas at the same address for more than a decade.

As both a substitute Public Attorney and then as an Alternate Judge I have worked to advance the professional and community respect for the Las Vegas Municipal Court. I have witnessed firsthand the commitment to Justice demonstrated by the staff at all levels of the Court. In addition, I am committed to continuing the amazing work done by the specialty court programs to assist community citizens that need the help that those programs provide. As an Alternate Judge, I already have experience with the Youth Offenders Program in Department 5, and I would work hard to ensure that the program has leadership and consistency until the next Judge is duly elected later this summer or fall.

**Sincerely,**

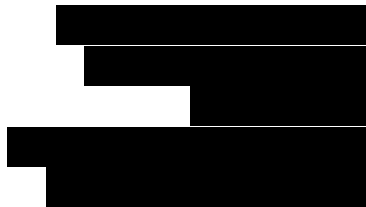
**Peter K. Cleary**

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# Peter K. Cleary

## Attorney at Law

### Contact



### Education

1997 - University of  
North Carolina  
at Charlotte,  
B.A. Political Science

2008 - California Western  
School of Law,  
Juris Doctorate

### Experience

*2011 - present*

**In-House Counsel**  
**Koster Finance, LLC,**  
Las Vegas, NV

Review and enforce consumer finance contracts. Negotiate or litigate all disputes regarding those contracts. Oversee staff of paralegals. Ensure corporate compliance with state and federal laws as they apply to consumer finance agreements, including NRS 604A and the FDCPA.

*2010 – 2020*

**Attorney at Law**  
**The Cleary Law Firm**  
Las Vegas, NV

Private Criminal Defense Attorney. Predominantly represented misdemeanor and non-violent felony clients. Conducted more than 20 bench trials. Participated as co-counsel for two jury trials in federal Court. Successfully appealed a case to the Nevada Supreme Court. Member of the Board of Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice, 2013-2018.

*2021-present*

**Substitute Public Attorney**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

Served as fill in attorney through daily contract work for Peter Bellon in Department 6, and 20. Did daily contract work for Nadine Morton in Department 1 in 2022. In addition, I have appeared occasionally for the firms with contracts in Departments 2, 3 and 4. These daily contracts have led to experience working with Veterans Court, WIN Court, Fresh Start, Mental Health Court, DUI court and the PST program.

### References

References and employment history prior to Law School graduation available upon request

2/14/24

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mark Rouse, and I am applying for the Interim Municipal Court Judge (Department 5) – Interest List. I have been a resident of Las Vegas since 2010, and a practicing attorney in our community since 2011. I know that I have the legal knowledge, experience, and training to be an asset for the Municipal Court.

I realize that this position is on an interim basis and that I am not eligible to run for this open seat. I also acknowledge that the duration of this position may fluctuate depending on the results of the June primary. I have also applied for the open hearing commissioner position, and it is my understanding that in the past hearing commissioner(s) have been utilized to serve as interim municipal court judges.

I've been interested in serving the Las Vegas community as a judicial officer since I first moved to Las Vegas. I moved to Las Vegas to work on judicial campaigns and was fortunate to serve as the first law clerk for the Hon. Nancy Alf (ret.), Eighth Judicial District Court, Department 27, starting in 2011. As a law clerk to a new judicial department, I felt a sense of responsibility to establish a precedent to help the department run as smoothly and efficiently after my service ended. I developed bench briefs for motion hearings the court had twice a week, reviewed and revised incoming orders and drafted proposed orders for matters taken under advisement. I found this position challenging as Dept. 27 was a civil only department, at the time, and I focused my law school career on criminal law. I rose to the challenge of working in a civil only department and devoted myself to learning the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure and Eighth Judicial District Court Local Rules. During my clerkship, I also took three bar exams, becoming a licensed attorney in California, Kentucky, and Nevada.

Since my clerkship, I've devoted my legal career to becoming a successful trial attorney. In my first year of practice, I tried three civil jury trials to a verdict. Two of the cases were for personal injuries, and the third was an insurance defense case, which I first chaired. Subsequently, I've tried three civil short trials on my own, first chaired two civil bench trials, second chaired two personal injury civil jury trials, and second chaired one medical malpractice civil jury trial.

Last year, 2023, was my most successful trial year. I obtained a \$100,000 judgment against the Clark County School District in May in a bench trial for negligent supervision, where my clients previously lost at court mandated arbitration. Approx. two weeks after that trial, I had a motor vehicle collision case where I performed the direct examination of all treating physicians and medical experts, the plaintiff, and some before and after witnesses. We obtained a verdict of approx. \$2.5 million. My last trial of 2023 was in the fall and involved a wrongful death medical malpractice case. I performed the direct examination of all medical experts, cross examined the only defense expert, directed the plaintiff and most before and after witnesses. I also did the punitive damages phase of the trial on my own, cross examined the only witness, made the closing argument and

rebuttal. We obtained a verdict of approx., \$10.9 million, with \$2 million in punitive damages.

After last year, you may be wondering why I would apply for an interim judicial position such as this. The answer is cliché but also straightforward. I'd like to be a judge to serve the community. The interim position is unique in that it gives me the opportunity to have a preview or trial run, of the duties, responsibilities and expectations that serving as an elected judge would entail.

I have a breadth of legal experience having practiced in the areas of criminal defense, prosecution, judicial law clerk, social security disability, insurance defense, commercial litigation, appeals, legal malpractice, employer defense, personal injury, and medical malpractice during my legal career. I am a student of the law, and constantly striving to improve my skills. Approx. two years ago I had only handled one medical malpractice case and now those are most of the cases I litigate. Much like my clerkship when I had never worked in civil law and transitioned from criminal law, I have found in my career that I thrive in challenging myself to develop new skills. I believe I have the right temperament, work ethic, and integrity to serve the city well during this interim period.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mark Rouse*

# Mark A. Rouse

## Education

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, COLLEGE OF LAW, Lexington, KY  
Juris Doctor, May 2010

### Honors

CALI Award- Capital Punishment, Fall 2009

### Activities

Student Government Association, College of Law Senator, 2008-2010

❖ Senate Coordinator, January 2010- May 2010

❖ Graduate Student Committee Chairman, 2009-2010

Production Editor, *Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture & Natural Resources Law*

❖ Editor in Chief's Award for Outstanding Service to the Journal, March 2010

Criminal Law Society, Vice President, 2009-2010

Trial Advocacy Board

❖ Witness on 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team in the KY Intrastate Mock Trial Competition, Fall 2009

❖ Top 5 competitor in UK 1L competition, October 2008

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY, Lexington, KY  
Bachelor of Arts, History with Distinction, *magna cum laude*, 2007

### Honors

Class of 2007 Student Graduation Speaker

Omicron Delta Kappa- Leadership Honorary

President of Phi Alpha Theta- History Honorary

Transylvania Scholar (full scholarship based on merit junior and senior years)

### Activities

Actor in Eight University Theatre Productions

Assistant Producer, *The Brian Lane Show*

Co-Editor-in-Chief, *The Rambler*, Student Newspaper

Kappa Alpha Order

Varsity Cross Country

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, Colchester, England  
Studied British History, Politics and Theatre, Fall 2005

## Experience

BIGHORN LAW, Las Vegas, NV  
Partner, November 2021 – Present

THE702FIRM, Las Vegas, NV  
Partner, March 2021 – November 2021  
Associate Attorney, March 2017 – March 2021

EDWARD M. BERNSTEIN & ASSOCIATES, Las Vegas, NV  
Associate Attorney, April 2014 - March 2017

LIPSON, NEILSON, COLE, SELTZER, GARIN, P.C., Las Vegas, NV  
Associate Attorney, August 2013 - March 2014

PARKER SCHEER LAGOMARSINO, Las Vegas, NV  
Associate Attorney, March 2012 - July 2013

HON. NANCY ALLF, 8<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT 27, DISTRICT COURT, Las Vegas, NV  
Law Clerk, January 2011 - March 2012

NANCY ALLF, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Las Vegas, NV  
Campaign Manager & Law Clerk, August 2010 - December 2010

HON. JAMES ISHMAEL, JR., FAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, Lexington, KY  
Extern, September 2009 - December 2009

CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, Las Vegas, NV  
Intern, May 2009 - July 2009

RURAL DRUG PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
47<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY, Whitesburg, KY  
Law Clerk, May 2008 - August 2008

#### **Bar Admissions**

Admitted to practice in California; Kentucky; Nevada; Arizona; U.S. District Court, District of Nevada; U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, and; the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals

#### **Professional Organizations**

ARIZONA BAR ASSOCIATION  
Member, July 2020 – Present

STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
Member, July 2012 – Present

STATE BAR OF NEVADA  
Reviewer, Nevada Civil Practice Manual (6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2016)  
Publications Committee Member, January 2012 – December 2020  
Member, May 2011 - Present

KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION  
Member, October 2011 - Present

HOWARD D. MCKIBBEN INN OF COURT  
Associate Member, September 2011 – May 2018

CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
Member, July 2011 - Present

NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION  
Law School Committee Member, December 2020 – Present  
Club X Committee Member, June 2017 – May 2021  
Member, July 2011 – Present

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS'  
REPRESENTATIVES  
Sustaining Member, November 2014 - November 2016

**Professional Achievements**

Mountain States Superlawyers, Rising Star, 2015 - present  
Nevada Business Magazine, Legal Elite, 2015 – 2018, 2020-present  
Top 100 - Civil Plaintiffs in Nevada, The National Trial Lawyers, 2015 - present  
Top 40 Under 40 – Civil Plaintiffs in Nevada, The National Trial Lawyers, 2016

**Community Service**

APPALACHIAN RESEARCH AND DEFENSE FUND OF KENTUCKY  
Pro Bono Social Security Disability Attorney, 2016 - 2022

CLARK COUNTY TRUANCY DIVERSION PROGRAM  
Judge, Lawrence Middle School, Fall 2013-March 2014  
Judge, Biltmore Continuation High School, November 2012-May 2013  
Alternate Judge, January 2012-May 2012

**Interests**

Horse Racing, Running, Sports (Raiders, Las Vegas Golden Knights and UK)