



PETER B. BRAUTIGAM
MARIBETH CONWAY
JANELLA KAMAI
COLLEEN KNIX
CHRISTOPHER P. LAUER
COLE M. LINDEMANN
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ROBERT L. MANLEY
CHARLES F. SCHUETZE

VIA US MAIL/EMAIL: wwmasmc@anchorageak.gov

August 8, 2022

Anchorage Assembly
c/o Municipal Clerk
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650

To Whom it may concern:


I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Mario Bird for the position of Municipal Attorney. I have known Mr. Bird for many years personally and professionally and know he will make a good Municipal attorney. I have worked with Mr. Bird in complex legal matters and estate administrations, and I found him courteous, fair, knowledgeable, and reasonable. I believe that he would do an excellent job as City Attorney. I highly recommend him for this position.

By way of background: I have practiced law in Anchorage for over 37 years in the areas of tax law, wills, trusts, simple and complex estate planning, and T&E administration. I was born and raised here in Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Manley & Brautigam P.C.

By:



Peter B. Brautigam

PBB/mp





August 8, 2022

Re: *Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Mario Bird's Confirmation as Anchorage Municipal Attorney*

To Whom It May Concern:

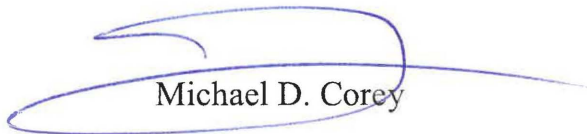
The purpose of this correspondence is to recommend that Mario Bird be confirmed as our Anchorage Municipal Attorney. Over the last two years, I have had the privilege of serving as co-counsel with Mr. Bird. Over the course of that time, I have had ample opportunity to observe Mr. Bird's competence and demeanor. I base my observations on my work alongside Mr. Bird and my experience as a member of the Alaska Bar Association since 1985.

With Mr. Bird serving as Municipal Attorney, Anchorage can rest assured that we will be well represented. He is always thoughtful in his commentary. His arguments are always based on sage interpretation of the law and common sense. He is always polite and respectful when addressing colleagues, opponents and the court. He is always a zealous advocate, combining his resolve with compassionate respect toward all persons involved. I believe he is perfect for this position.

Please join me in my support of Mr. Bird's confirmation as Anchorage's Municipal Attorney. I am confident that he is worthy of the position and will prove your support justified.

Best Regards,

JERMAIN DUNNAGAN & OWENS, P.C.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Corey", with a large, sweeping underline.

Michael D. Corey

Edward Miner

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Mario Bird

I have known and worked with Mario Bird for many, many years. He and I were co-owner/shareholders of Ross, Miner & Bird, P.C. for five years. Prior to that he was an associate with the firm.

During all these years I learned that Mario possesses many fine traits:

- **Trustworthy and conscientious.** If Mario takes on a task you can trust that he will diligently see it through.
- **Legally skilled.** Mario has an analytical mind which is well-suited to in-depth legal analysis.
- **Courteous and thoughtful.** Mario is an empathic listener who will listen and digest the views of others before making a decision.
- **Cheerful and good-humored.** Practicing law often involves tension and confrontation. Mario doesn't avoid the tension or confrontation, but he handles it with good humor.
- **Active in his church and community.** Mario plays an active, leadership role in his church
- **A solid family man.** Mario is committed to raising a fine family. I have observed him with his wife and children on many occasions and his conduct has always been exemplary.

I unhesitatingly recommend Mario Bird to serve as Municipal Attorney. [REDACTED]

Date: August 8, 2022

Sincerely,

Edward Miner

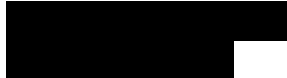
Edward Miner

“If our friendship encourages others to appreciate that some very good people have ideas with which we disagree, and that, despite differences, people of goodwill can pull together for the well-being of the institutions we serve and our country, I will be overjoyed, as I am confident Justice Scalia would be.”

– Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

August 9, 2022.

From: Paul S. Morin



To: The Anchorage Assembly

Greetings,

I am submitting this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Mario Bird regarding his confirmation as Mayor Bronson’s appointee for Municipal Attorney.

I know Mr. Bird both personally and professionally. Growing up, he was a dear family friend, and remains so to this day. Professionally, he is a fellow attorney. Given our personal and professional interactions, I would like to share with you what I know about Mr. Bird’s character, his qualities, and how he practices law. In turn, I hope this information proves useful in the course of your deliberations concerning his confirmation.

When it comes to Mr. Bird as a person, it must be observed that he is a man of integrity. This is to say that he will not do something simply for the sake of prevailing. It is a thematic thread that runs throughout the course of everything Mr. Bird does and believes, and it is one that I have witnessed firsthand on multiple occasions. For him, life is more than just a game of means and ends. Instead, he cares about doing the right thing, going about it the right way, and accomplishing it for the right reasons. Though it is true that any given person may not agree on what the right thing, the right way, or the right reasons may in fact be for any given endeavor, Mr. Bird is someone who genuinely desires to “get it right” when it comes to these three areas of moral calculus, and he is someone who expends a considerable amount of time and energy to do so. In terms of public service, the Assembly can rest assured that Mr. Bird will make a point of being transparent, forthright, and honest in his dealings as a public servant. Additionally, the benefit of allowing Mr. Bird to serve as Municipal Attorney exists not only in what he himself can bring to the position, but extends to the positive impact he will have upon those with whom he interacts, works, and serves. His practiced form of integrity can help guide and instruct the present administration, and no doubt for the better.

In terms of Mr. Bird's practice as an attorney, he stands out among his peers insofar as he takes seriously his duty to represent clients zealously. Importantly, and to his credit, Mr. Bird is able to be zealous without being a zealot. Unfortunately, too many attorneys today do not understand the difference between zealous representation and unreasonable zealotry, especially when it comes to litigation. Mr. Bird understands this difference and, from what I know and have seen of his practice, avoids the pitfall of zealotry. No doubt meaningful representation requires an active, energetic, and determined advocate. However, by the same token, meaningful representation requires a measured approach to conflict, a reasoned evaluation of the circumstances, and a sound (if not outright tempered), use of the vast array of tactical procedural tools at one's disposal. From what I have seen, Mr. Bird is a practitioner who embodies all of these qualities, and it is for these reasons that I identify him as a legal advocate who is zealous while simultaneously not a zealot.

Furthermore, Mr. Bird is someone who will actually take the time to stop and listen. This may come as some surprise given the publicity surrounding his personal beliefs and some of the legal causes he sees fit to champion, but those who actually speak to, interact with, and know Mr. Bird, will tell you that he is someone who makes a point of engaging in meaningful and constructive dialogue. Despite our friendship, I must confess that I do not share in all of Mr. Bird's beliefs, and I do not agree with all of his public policy stances. Yet, notwithstanding our differences, I know that I am always able to engage in a constructive conversation with Mr. Bird, and that he will actually take the time to listen to what I have to say. He may not be persuaded by what I have to say, or otherwise change his mind, but he listens. He cares to know what I think and why I think the way I do. This is a quality lacking in much of today's public discourse, and indeed, a quality lacking in many of those who presently serve in public office. Mr. Bird possesses this quality, and I am confident it will serve the Municipality well should the Assembly see fit to confirm his appointment.

Finally, when it comes to Mr. Bird's practical experience as a litigator, I encourage the Assembly to read the Alaska Supreme Court's reported opinion: *Bohn v. Providence Health Servs. – Wash.*, 484 P.3d 584 (Alaska 2021). In this matter, Mr. Bird successfully appealed a summary judgment decision involving a legal issue of first impression. Mr. Bird not only successfully argued the primary issue raised on appeal, but received a unanimous decision as authored by Justice Carney. If you take the time to review this matter's recorded oral argument session (as archived by the Alaska Gavel-to-Gavel Supreme Court channel), you can hear then-Chief Justice Bolger compliment both Mr. Bird and his opposing counsel, acknowledges how both attorneys presented "wonderful argument and briefing" on the matter. But perhaps more importantly, Mr. Bird's client was not a corporation, a special interests group, or a person of fame or fortune. Rather, Mr. Bird's client was just an every-day Alaskan resident who found himself in an extraordinary situation, and who needed an advocate to represent him despite the formidable prospect of fighting an uphill legal battle against a prominent, well-resourced opponent. If Mr. Bird was able to

fight and succeed on behalf of someone who no doubt (and under the circumstances), constituted one of “the least of these,” then one should be confident that Mr. Bird will bring the same effort, focus, and skill in representing the Municipality and its many residents.

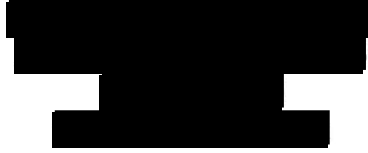
It is with these thoughts and comments that I commend Mr. Mario Bird to the Assembly for confirmation.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Morin



ANNE HELZER
HELZER LAW LLC



August 5, 2022

To the Members of the Assembly
Municipality of Anchorage

In Re: *APPLICATION OF MARIO L. BIRD*

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with sincere pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Mario L. Bird and his appointment as City Attorney for the Municipality of Anchorage.

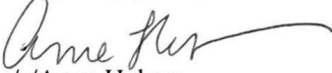
I am a 14-year resident and attorney in Anchorage, Alaska. I have been representing clients all over Alaska in various personal and business matters since 2009. In addition to being an attorney and law firm owner, I have served four years as Chair of the Alaska Public Offices Commission (both as a commissioner and as a hearing officer), as an appointed attorney for the State Victim's Compensation Board, and as a Board Member (and past president) for the Anchorage Bar Association. I also hold a master's degree in Education and a bachelor's degree in literature.

I have known Mario Bird for over 13 years when he was a teacher at Holy Rosary Academy in Anchorage. Holy Rosary Academy is Alaska's only "classical" school where students are tasked to reach extraordinary standards of academic excellence. As a teacher, I observed Mario Bird lead students in the virtues of mutual respect, dignity of all persons and hard work. In addition to teaching, Mario sang with me in a choir where I learned of his great talent for music. Mario has conducted several choirs in Anchorage.

Mario worked for 10 years as a private practice attorney and most recently as a solo attorney in his own practice. At all times, Mario Bird was willing to apply his knowledge of the law to help those in need. Most recently, Mario and I had the pleasure of providing legal representation to a 98-year-old Anchorage resident who needed help. Although the case was an extremely complex breach of contract, specific performance and property damage case - which included an eight-day trial - Mario Bird's experience and dedication resulted in a favorable outcome.

I commend Mayor Bronson for appointing a born and raised Alaskan like Mario Bird into a leadership role with the Municipality. Mario is one of the most conscientious and professional people I know. He is also a truly good person. I have no hesitation recommending Mario Bird. Kindly contact me should you have any additional questions.

Very truly yours,



/s/Anne Helzer





CURTIS PATTESON LLC

ATTORNEY AT LAW

August 9, 2022

To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation for Mario Bird to support his application as the Anchorage Municipal Attorney. Mario is an excellent attorney and has a deep passion for the practice of law. Mario has been involved with nine appeals to the Alaska Supreme Court, a 9th Circuit appeal, and petition for cert before the United States Supreme Court. As an attorney, Mario has practiced in family law, probate, guardianship, wills, civil litigation, appeals, and constitutional law.

I have had direct professional experience with Mario as a family law attorney in Anchorage, Alaska as well as through our children's mutual participation in Trail Life USA. Mario has been involved in numerous family law cases and has had the opportunity to be involved with some of these cases from initial consultation through both the trial and appellate level. His superior research skills have benefitted him as well as his excellent analytical skills. Mario has demonstrated his ability to process large volumes of information quickly and formulate an effective strategy for each of his cases. Mario is very personable and easily gains the trust of clients with whom he works.

In Fletcher v. Fletcher, 433 P.3d 1148 (Alaska 2018) Mario was able to successfully argue that the Trial Court inappropriately divided the marital state and so the case was remanded for a more equitable division of the marital estate. In Bulger-Post v. Post, S-15013 (2015) Mario successfully argued for that the determination of an award of permanent spousal support may be appropriate.

Mario's impresses me as an attorney who demonstrates exception professional competence and has significant knowledge of the skills required to excel as an attorney. Mario is very aware of the ethics necessary to be an effective attorney and holds himself to a higher standard than most of the attorneys I encounter. His experience makes him well suited for the position as municipal attorney.

Overall, Mario exhibits the qualities of an attorney who would be capable of assisting the Municipality of Anchorage in reducing the possibility of mistakes that could create problems or cause damaging lawsuits against the Municipality. He is an intelligent, well-rounded, and grounded individual who challenges himself and actively seeks new opportunities and experiences. He has the determination, maturity, and intelligence to succeed in any endeavor and always maintains a positive attitude. His personal

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August 9, 2022

achievements show that he is committed to the practice of law and will work hard to achieve his goals. Mario Bird would truly be a superior addition to the Municipality of Anchorage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis W. Patteson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Curtis W. Patteson