

J. JEFFREY LEWIS, ESQ., M.ED.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Dear Mr. Nick Santoro,

Please consider me for any Marblehead Community Charter School Board/Committee opportunities. I have included my resume for your assessment.

It would be an honor and pleasure to serve the Marblehead Charter School. My daughter Tilly will be entering MCCS this fall as an incoming 4th grader, a fact I am very excited about.

I have practiced as an attorney and as a Guardian ad Litem in many of the counties, courts and school systems in Massachusetts since 2003. During that time I have striven to maintain collegial relations with all of my colleagues, the Justices, and the various collateral agencies including the Department of Children and Families, the school systems I work with, and my clients, and I think I have succeeded.

My work for the last 20 years has primarily involved representing children, parents and guardians in child protection matters involving serious abuse and neglect, domestic violence, substance misuse, physical abuse of children, and mental health. I frequently serve as a guardian ad litem for education, medical treatment, and as an advisor for court-involved juveniles regarding everything from death-benefits to injury litigation. I have had educational signature authority over the special education plans of hundreds and hundreds of children. I've also recently worked as an attorney for a local child care institution that was facing reports of neglect by staff and made recommendations to the board of directors regarding how they could respond and revamp their practices.

After I was honorably discharged as an officer in the U.S. Army, I taught high school in a historically black school in Columbus, Georgia where I was appointed social studies department co-chair, and taught special education in Central Massachusetts. I have served on a variety of committees during my teaching career. Teaching was a rewarding career for me, although I probably spent a little too much time doing mock trials with my classes. I earned a Masters degree and certification in school administration, which has been helpful in my practice.

Although my practice involves a significant amount of trial work, I am more a conciliator by nature, preferring to work closely with families and institutions to craft fair and workable solutions to complicated matters, as opposed to litigation.

I see education as a life-long journey, as opposed to a destination. I believe in process and I believe in hearing people's views. I believe in giving people a helping hand. I accept that my various roles require me to make decisions that impact people's lives, and I try to do so in an ethical and responsible manner, and after listening to the various stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.

My very best,

Jeffrey Lewis

J. JEFFREY LEWIS
25 Rockaway Street
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
774-253-1784

BAR ADMISSION, CERTIFICATION and EDUCATION

MASSACHUSETTS BAR, Admitted, 2002
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, Admitted, 2006
CERTIFIED SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, 1996
CERTIFIED SECONDARY HISTORY TEACHER, Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, 1992

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Boston, Massachusetts
Juris Doctor, 2002
Activities: Massachusetts Legal History, A Journal of the Massachusetts Supreme
Judicial Court Historical Society, Editorial Board, 2000-2002, Fellowship, Juvenile
Justice Center, 2001

TROY UNIVERSITY, Phenix City, Alabama
Master of Science in School Administration, 1996

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY, Worcester, Massachusetts
Bachelor of Arts, History, 1991
Minors: Secondary Education and Military Science-Army Reserve Officer Training
Corps, Commissioned Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

SOLE PRACTITIONER, 2002-Present
Practice specializes in Child Protection Law Litigation and Education Law.
Frequent appointments as a Guardian ad Litem by Courts across the
Commonwealth
Member: Committee for Public Counsel Services, Children and Family Law Trial
Panel, 2003-Present

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

SOUTHERN WORCESTER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE,
Dudley, Massachusetts
High School Special Education Social Studies Teacher, 1999-2003
Responsible for classroom instruction, discipline, and individual education plans.
Wrote curriculum for court-based school program for at-risk students.
Member: Union Collective Bargaining Unit

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YOU, INC., Worcester, Massachusetts

On-Call Social Worker, 2001-2006

Respond to area police departments to provide assessment and foster home placement for juvenile CHINS/status offenders and non-violent delinquents.

DEVEREUX FOUNDATION, Rutland, Massachusetts

High School Special Education Social Studies Teacher, 1998-1999

Chair, Summer Activities Program. Constructed and supervised the schedules of 110 students and 40 teachers and teacher's aides.

G. STANLEY HALL SCHOOL, Worcester, Massachusetts

High School Special Education Teacher, 1996-1997

CARVER HIGH SCHOOL, Columbus, Georgia

Social Studies Teacher, 1992-1996, ***Department Co-Chair***, 1993-1995

Member, School-Based Management Team

Chair, Philosophy and Goals Committee, & Curriculum Committee, Southern Association of Schools and Colleges 10-Year Study

Sponsor, Mock Trial Team, Student Council, International Club, Student Trips to Washington, D.C. and New Orleans, Louisiana

Coach, Varsity and Junior Varsity Baseball

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

UNITED STATES ARMY AND ARMY RESERVE

First Lieutenant, Infantry, 1984-1992

Responsible for the mission accomplishment, training, health, welfare, maintenance and equipment of a 36 soldier organization.

UNITED STATES SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Local Board Member, 2004-Present