



2019 APR 30 PM 3:39
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

APR 30 2019

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and in accordance with section 601 of the District of the Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-606.01) I am pleased to nominate the following person:

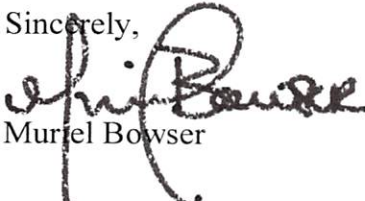
Ms. Dionna Lewis
3958 Blain Street NE
Washington, DC 20019
(Ward 7)

for appointment as a member of the Office of Employee Appeals, replacing Vera Abbott, for a term to end April 6, 2025.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To confirm the appointment of Ms. Dionna Lewis to the Office of Employee Appeals.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Office of Employee Appeals Dionna Lewis Confirmation Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Ms. Dionna Lewis
3958 Blaine Street NE
Washington, DC 20019
(Ward 7)

as a member of the Office of Employee Appeals, established by section 601 of the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-606.01), replacing Vera Abbott, for a term to end April 6, 2025.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

DIONNA MARIA LEWIS

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

DISTRICT LEGAL GROUP, P.C., Washington, D.C.

Managing Partner, November 2018 to Present

- ◆ Represent and counsel clients from case initiation to conclusion in trial, administrative hearings, and mediation, before state and federal courts, tribunals, and administrative agencies in federal and state employment and personnel matters, contract disputes, and business litigation claims, including the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, D.C. Superior Court, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Merit Systems Protection Board, Office of Special Counsel, and the D.C. Office of Human Rights. Federal and state law matters include employment discrimination, labor and wage disputes, labor union disputes, whistleblower retaliation, OSHA and FLSA violations, breach of contract, civil rights matters, sexual harassment claims, inspector general investigations, FOIA requests, and wrongful termination.
- ◆ Advise small businesses and non-profit organizations on corporate formations, employment and personnel matters, state law compliance, and fiduciary duties. Draft, review, and negotiate contracts, partnership and dissolution agreements, separation agreements, non-competition agreements, severance packages, and employment policies and handbooks.
- ◆ Manage the day-to-day operations, accounting, business development, and marketing of the firm. Oversee work of law clerks, administrative staff, and a part-time attorney.

ALAN LESCHT AND ASSOCIATES, P.C., Washington, D.C.

Senior Counsel, May 2018 to October 2018

- ◆ Represented and counseled clients in employment and civil rights matter as first-chair in trial, administrative hearings, settlement conferences, and mediation, before state and federal courts, tribunals, and administrative agencies.
- ◆ Single plaintiff litigation experience included matters arising under federal and state law claims involving employment discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, wage violations, equal pay violations, disability claims, breach of contract, adverse actions, personnel matters, civil service and merit systems violations, and wrongful termination. Settled cases through informal negotiations and written demand letters.
- ◆ Drafted and negotiated business contracts, non-competition agreements, and severance packages.

TULLY RINCKEY PLLC, Washington, D.C.

Senior Associate, Labor & Employment Practice Group, December 2016 to May 2018

- ◆ Represented and counseled clients as first- and second-chair in trial, administrative hearings, and mediation, before state and federal courts, tribunals, and administrative agencies, including the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (*pro hac*), Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Merit Systems Protection Board, and Office of Special Counsel.
- ◆ Single-plaintiff civil litigation experience included matters arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Equal Pay Act, Whistleblower Protection Act, National Labor Relations Act, and state law and federal claims involving personnel matters, reductions-in-force, wage disputes, breach of contract, breach of employment agreement, and wrongful termination.
- ◆ Drafted opening brief and reply on behalf of Partner for Appellant in Age Discrimination Employment Act (ADEA) matter in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit which was granted oral argument. Successfully drafted oppositions to dispositive motions for matters in federal court and administrative tribunals concerning claims of sex, age, race, and disability discrimination, and retaliation.
- ◆ Conducted all pretrial case preparation efforts, including gathering evidence, preparing witnesses, developing litigation strategies, preparing and responding to discovery motions, managing discovery, and

preparing all materials and witnesses needed for depositions, hearings, and/or trial. Conducted and defended depositions, propounded and responded to written discovery, drafted and responded to pleadings, dispositive motions, summary judgment motions, and appeal briefs. Settled cases through informal negotiations and written demand letters. Reviewed and edited work of junior Associates.

D.C. BOARD OF ELECTIONS, Washington, D.C.

Board Member, January 2016 to Present

- ◆ Member of a three-member board that oversees the operations of the District of Columbia Board of Elections and its administration of elections. Duties include conducting monthly public hearings; conducting petition challenge hearings; certifying nominating petitions and election results; reviewing legal drafts and positions papers; and adjudicating campaign-related claims within the Board's purview.

FAY LAW GROUP PLLC, Washington, D.C.

Senior Associate, January 2015 to December 2016

- ◆ Represented and counseled Plaintiff and Defense clients as first- and second-chair in trial, administrative hearings, internal investigations, Office of the Inspector General investigations, and mediation, before state and federal courts and administrative agencies, including U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (*pro hac*), Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Special Counsel, Office of Inspector General, and Merit Systems Protection Board.
- ◆ Single and multi-plaintiff complex civil litigation experience included matters arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Whistleblower Protection Act, Equal Pay Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Employment Retirement Income Security Act. Represented and counseled clients in state claims involving employment discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, breach of employment agreement, breach of contract, wrongful termination, personal injury claims, and civil torts.
- ◆ Defense-sided experience included representing Liberty Mutual Insurance (Auto) as First Chair in a subrogation case in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, where the jury returned a verdict limiting the company's exposure to \$10,000 in the face of a \$75,000 Plaintiff demand.
- ◆ Conducted depositions, issued and responded to discovery requests, and drafted dispositive motions and oppositions. Settled cases through informal negotiations and written demand letters. Drafted and negotiated business contracts, non-competition agreements, and severance packages. Reviewed and revised company employment policies and handbooks.

THE HONORABLE JOHN F. MCCABE, D.C. SUPERIOR COURT, Washington, D.C.

Judicial Law Clerk, Criminal Division, Felony II, December 2013 - December 2014

- ◆ Prepared daily court calendars. Reviewed incoming motions and made recommendations on pleadings filed with the court. Drafted judicial orders and opinions. Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda on complex or novel issues. Advised the judge on case matters and upcoming hearings. Observed court proceedings and bench conferences. Drafted and edited jury instructions. Facilitated communication between the judge, attorneys, and courthouse staff.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU, Washington, D.C.

Counsel, Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity, April 2012 - December 2013

Law Clerk, Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity, November 2011 - March 2012

- ◆ Investigated fair lending risks and violations at some of the nation's largest financial institutions under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. Advised senior counsel and field examiners on fair lending risks, regulatory issues, and pattern and practice violations. Collaborated with economists on the analysis and interpretation of transactional testing data and disparate impact variables. Pursued remediation for harmed consumers through supervision and enforcement actions.

EDUCATION

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Washington, D.C., LL.M. in Litigation, May 2012

DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Des Moines, IA, Juris Doctor, May 2011

Honors & Distinctions: Fall 2010 Dean's List; Public Service Certificate; Blackstone Inn of Court

Moot Court: Regional Semi-Finalists, Drake Law Arbitration Team

Activities: Student Bar Association; International Law Studies in Nantes, France

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Charlottesville, VA, Bachelor of Arts, May 2008

Double Major: Philosophy and History

Honors & Distinctions: UVA Honor Council; Luther P. Jackson Advisory Board; OAAA Peer Advisor

Study Abroad: Semester at Sea - Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, Egypt, Turkey, Croatia, and Spain

LICENSURE & BAR ADMISSIONS

- ◆ *Admitted*, District of Columbia
- ◆ *Admitted*, Maryland
- ◆ *Admitted*, United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- ◆ *Admitted*, United States District Court for the District of Maryland

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- ◆ *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star," (2019)
- ◆ Presidential Service Award, National Bar Association, (2018)
- ◆ Ronda F. Williams "Professionalism Award," National Bar Association, (2016)
- ◆ "Young Lawyer of the Year," Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, (2015)
- ◆ Featured in the March/April 2015 American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's editorial, "The Affiliate: Spotlight on Leadership: Professional Involvement at the National and Local Levels," (2015)
- ◆ Named "Top 40 Under 40 Trailblazer," National Bar Association, (2014)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- ◆ General Counsel, Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, (2018 – present)
- ◆ Vice Chair, Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, (2017 – present)
- ◆ Board Member, Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association, (2017 – present)
- ◆ Chief of Staff to President Juan Thomas, National Bar Association, (2017 – 2018)
- ◆ Board Member, Washington Bar Association Education Foundation, (2016 – present)
- ◆ Public Service Director, American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, (2016 – 2017)
- ◆ Deputy Chief of Staff to President Kevin Judd, National Bar Association, (2016 – 2017)
- ◆ Chair, Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, (2015 – 2016)
- ◆ Vice Director of Diversity Team, American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (2015 – 2016)
- ◆ Regional Director, Region XII, National Bar Association (2014 – 2015)
- ◆ National Membership Chair, National Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (2013 – 2014)
- ◆ Litigation Forum Co-Chair, Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (2013 – 2015)
- ◆ Professional Development Chair, Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (2013 – 2014)
- ◆ Board Member, Greater Washington Area Chapter of the Women Lawyers Division (2012 – 2014)
- ◆ Mentor, Thurgood Marshall Academy, (2012 – 2015)



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Dionna Lewis



Dionna Lewis, Esq. is a Founding Partner of the District Legal Group, PLLC and a former member of the Board of Elections.

Ms. Lewis manages a docket of nationwide and local cases, in all areas of labor and employment law, contract litigation, and risk mitigation for small businesses. As a trial attorney, Ms. Lewis represents clients as first- and second-chair in trial, administrative hearings, and mediation. Ms. Lewis was formerly Senior Counsel at Alan Lescht and Associates, Senior Associate at Tully Rinckey PLLC, and a Senior Associate at the Fay Law Group PLLC. Prior to founding the District Legal Group, she managed an active litigation docket of nationwide and local cases, in all areas of labor and employment law, civil litigation, and civil rights claims. Ms.

Lewis litigates before state courts, federal courts, and administrative agencies, including the D.C. Superior Court, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (pro hac), Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Special Counsel, Merit Systems Protection Board, and D.C. Office of Human Rights. She litigates in matters arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Whistleblower Protection Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Equal Pay Act, and state claims involving employment discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, breach of employment agreement, breach of contract, wrongful termination, and employment torts.

A Ward 7 resident, Ms. Lewis received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and History from the University of Virginia, a Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School, and a Master of Laws in Litigation from George Washington University Law School.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Alana Intrieri, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: April 25, 2019
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolution nominating Dionna Lewis as a member to the Office of Employee Appeals

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish