



December 19, 2025

Municipality of Princeton
Attn: Sarah Ocicki
400 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
socicki@princetonnj.gov

RE: Proposal for the Public Defender for the Municipality of Princeton - December 2025

Dear Ms. Ocicki:

I am writing to provide my proposal to be considered for the position of Municipal Public Defender for Princeton. Mr. Michael Barrett of the firm Bergman & Barrett, who has been the public defender, informed me that he will be stepping down from the position at the end of this year. I would be glad to apply for the position of municipal public defender for the Princeton Municipal Court.

Following are my responses to the Request for Proposals for the Public Defender for the Municipality of Princeton - December 2025.

1. Name of Respondent and New Jersey attorney ID number:

DOUGLAS HERRING

(NJ Attorney ID 6762008)

2. Copies of professional federal and/or state licenses

Please see attached Supreme Court of New Jersey - Certificate of Good Standing

3. Respondent shall provide a flat rate cost proposal for each regular court session and special court session attended, inclusive of pre- and post-court session preparation and work. A court session is a half day, or any portion thereof.

I would propose to be compensated as the same rate as the prior professional in this position, which I believe was a contract amount of \$600 per court session (one half day), regardless of type, for a total not-to-exceed cost of \$57,500.

4. The address and telephone number of Respondent's principal place of business and all other offices

**Law Office of Douglas Herring
475 Wall Street
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
(609) 256-4098**

5. A description of relevant education

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
Juris Doctor

- Top 20%; Dean's Honor Roll 1995-1996, 1996-1997
- AM JUR AWARD: Advanced Negotiation Techniques (Spring 1997)
- Chief Articles Editor, Loyola of Los Angeles International & Comparative Law
- Published Article on International Pharmaceutical Smuggling
- Trial Advocacy Competition: Finalist 1995 & 1996

Washington University in St. Louis
B.A. Biology & Psychology

6. A statement describing their experience and qualifications as Public Defender, including, but not limited to: Respondent's experience defending parking tickets, Respondent's experience defending offenses in public entities with metered parking, Examples of Respondent's record of success, or significant achievements, servicing public entities.

I have served as Conflict Municipal Public Defender for both Princeton Township and Lawrence Township, providing comprehensive representation to indigent defendants in all phases of municipal proceedings. In addition, I have over a decade of private criminal defense practice and prior prosecutorial service at the municipal, superior, and federal levels.

In my private criminal defense practice and conflict public defender appointments, I have regularly represented clients charged with various traffic violations. I understand that parking violations, while seemingly minor, can have significant impacts on clients and require the same diligent advocacy as any other municipal matter.

I have a record of success and achievements in servicing public entities, as follows:

- **I have been a conflict public defender for both Princeton and Lawrence Townships.**
- **I was a prosecutor for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. I conducted over 100 jury trials during my time as prosecutor, including complex criminal matters and murders.**

7. At least four (4) municipal government references, three (3) of which must have knowledge of Respondent's municipal court and criminal law practice

Susan F. Shapiro
Court Administrator
Municipality of Princeton
400 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 924-5042
sshapiro@princetonnj.gov

Chris Koutsouris
Municipal Prosecutor
Municipality of Princeton
400 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 924-5042
ckoutsouris@princetonnj.gov

Amy Podolski
Court Administrator
West Windsor Court
271 Clarksville Rd.
West Windsor Township, NJ 08550
(609) 799-0915
amy.podolski@njcourts.gov

Margaret Umbro, CMCA
Township of Hopewell Municipal Court, Mercer County, NJ
201 Wash Cross Penn Road
Titusville, NJ 08560
(609) 737-1035
mumbro@hopewelltwp.org

Christopher "Kip" Bateman
Municipal Prosecutor
Municipality of Hillsborough, Montgomery, Manville, & Branchburg
DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C.
15 Mountain Boulevard
Warren, New Jersey 07059
(908) 757-7800
prosecutor@hillsborough-nj.org

8. A statement regarding staffing, including the familiarity and location of key staff, that demonstrates the Respondent's ability to provide services in a timely fashion

I am a full-time criminal defense attorney focused on superior court and municipal court defense. I have structured my firm to deliver prompt, reliable, and continuous legal services through a carefully organized staffing model and well-established administrative systems.

I have a full-time, in-office employee who manages critical administrative functions including case management, calendaring, client communications, discovery coordination, and document preparation.

To further ensure accessibility and responsiveness, the firm employs a professional remote telephone receptionist service that answers all incoming calls both during and outside of normal business hours. This system guarantees that clients, courts, and prosecutors can reach the firm without delay, and that messages are promptly routed to the appropriate personnel.

All key staff are familiar with municipal court procedures, local rules, and the expectations of Princeton Municipal Court. The firm understands the importance of timely responsiveness and has built its practice around meeting these demands consistently.

9. A list of all immediate relatives of Principal(s) of Respondent who are municipal employees or elected officials of the Municipality. For purposes of the above, "immediate relative" means a spouse, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child, stepchild, direct-line aunt or uncle, grandparent, grandchild, and in-laws by reason of relation

NONE

10. A statement declaring whether Respondent or their business organization is now or has been involved in any bankruptcy or re-organization proceedings, or any ethics complaint, in the last ten (10) years (other than in matters for which Respondent or its business organization have served in a representative capacity). If yes, Respondent shall include a statement of explanation

NONE

11. A statement declaring whether the Respondent is interested in being considered for a position as Conflict Public Defender, should the Municipality choose to appoint one to fill in when the Public Defender has a conflict or is otherwise unable to attend a court session, in the event that the Respondent is not selected for the position of Public Defender

Currently appointed as Conflict Public Defender as needed.

12. All forms and certifications required by this Request for Proposals

Please see attached:

- **Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity Language**
- **Political Contribution Disclosure Form**
- **Political Contribution Disclosure Form signed**
- **Business Entity Disclosure Certification**
- **Business Entity Disclosure Certification**
- **Statement of Ownership Disclosure**
- **Disclosure of Investment Activity in Iran**
- **Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia and Belarus**
- **Acknowledgement of Insurance Requirements**
- **Certificate of Liability Insurance**
- **State of New Jersey Business Registration Certificate**

13. Any other information that the interested Respondent deems relevant

Please see attached resume.

Thank you for considering my application. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at DHerring@HerringDefense.com or by phone at (609) 256-4098.

Very truly yours,



DOUGLAS HERRING
Attorney-at-Law

DOUGLAS HERRING

Criminal Defense Attorney – Municipal Public Defender



(609) 256-4098

DHerring@HerringDefense.com

Law Office of Douglas Herring
475 Wall St., Princeton, NJ 08540

Legal Memberships

**Association of Criminal
Defense Lawyers of New
Jersey**

**DUI Defense Lawyers
Association**

**National College for DUI
Defense**

**National Trial Lawyers
Association**

**Mercer County Bar
Association**

Education

**Loyola Law School
Los Angeles**

(Juris Doctor)

Dean's Honor Roll

Chief Articles Editor

**Washington University
in St. Louis**

(B.A. Biology & Psychology)

Relevant Skills

- Municipal court experience
- Litigation
- Conflict resolution
- Certified in field sobriety testing

Community Involvement

- Volunteer EMT
- Newspaper photographer

CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Law Office of Douglas Herring (2014 - present)

- Represented clients in all stages of criminal proceedings, including pre-trial hearings, trial, and post-conviction.
- Conducted legal research, prepare motions, and present persuasive arguments in municipal and superior courts.
- Negotiated hundreds of plea agreements resulting in efficient case resolutions while protecting client rights.
- Maintained timely communication with clients.
- Earned 200+ five-star Google reviews.

CONFLICT MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Princeton Township & Lawrence Township (2018 - present)

- Represented appointed clients in all phases of municipal proceedings, from arraignment through trial and post-resolution.
- Managed high-volume municipal dockets, ensuring cases proceeded efficiently.
- Ensured clear communication with clients for informed decision-making and understanding of legal rights.

ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office (2009 - 2014)

- Investigated, organized, and argued hundreds of cases from initial complaint through sentencing.
- Experienced with case management and negotiations.
- Conducted jury trials including homicides, assault on police officers, and complex embezzlement cases.

ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

United States Attorney's Office (2008 - 2009)

- Effectively researched, investigated, and argued complex cases in Federal court.
- Conducted hearings, trials, and negotiated resolutions.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (1998 - 2007)

- Organized and litigated cases in hundreds of cases in municipal court and superior court.
- Assigned to elite Gang Unit in Compton.
- Over 100 jury trials – including over 20 murders.