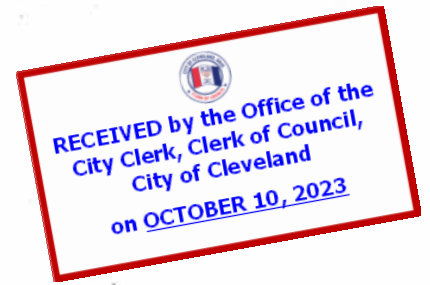




City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Office of the Mayor
Cleveland City Hall
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 202
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216/664-3990 • Fax 216/420-8766
www.clevelandohio.gov



October 6, 2023

Honorable Blaine Griffin
President, Cleveland City Council
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Honorable Joseph Jones
Chair, Mayor's Appointment Committee
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Council President Griffin & Chair Jones ..

Included below are the names and term ending dates of the Mayor's nominations to be considered at an upcoming meeting of Cleveland City Council's Mayoral appointments Committee

City Planning Commission

Isabella McKnight – New Appointment, Completing a Term Ending 8/01/2029

Additionally, resumes and/or biographies are attached for the candidates. Any additional questions can be directed to Ryan Puente, Chief Government Affairs Officer, at (216) 664-3544 or via email at rpunkte@clevelandoh.gov.

Sincerely,

Justin M. Bibb
Mayor, City of Cleveland

Isabella McKnight

Cleveland, Ohio 44102

EDUCATION

CSU College of Law and Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio

Juris Doctor, summa cum laude (GPA: 3.95/4.00, Class Salutatorian), December 2021

Master of Urban Planning and Development (GPA: 3.95/4.00), December 2021

- Dean's Leadership Fellow (2018-2021) and Executive Board Secretary (2020-2021 Term)
- *Cleveland State Law Review* Associate, 2019-2020 and Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Team, 2019-2020
- CALI "High A" Awards in 8 law courses and first place winner of Fall 2021 Levin College Real Estate Tournament
- Bar Admission: Ohio

Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Studies, May 2015

- John F. Oberlin Scholar
- Concentration in Sustainable Communities; Minor in Religious Studies
- Danish Institute for Study Abroad, European Models for Sustainable Development, Spring 2014
- Oberlin Drama at Grafton, teaching assistant, drama class for inmates, June 2013-August 2015

SELECT EXPERIENCE

Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP, Cleveland, Ohio

Associate Attorney, March 2022-Present

- As a Real Estate and Environmental associate at this AMLaw 150 firm, assist partners in representing clients in commercial real estate transactions and a variety of land use and environmental compliance matters
- Represented clients in over 50 commercial real estate acquisitions and dispositions, including performing extensive property diligence review, drafting complex legal documents, and negotiating deal terms
- Helped clients acquire and structure debt and equity to develop over \$750M worth of commercial real estate, focusing in the affordable and workforce housing, luxury multifamily, and industrial sectors
- Assist clients in navigating land use matters with local municipalities
- Review environmental testing and reporting in transactional contexts to ensure regulatory compliance and advise clients on legal issues related to environmental conditions on real property
- Advise on real estate, land use, and environmental compliance matters for other practice areas at the firm

Cleveland 2030 District, Cleveland, Ohio

Program Manager, December 2015-December 2021

- Oversaw programming, data analysis, and metrics reporting for this local chapter of an international NGO working to address the climate impact of commercial real estate
- Tracked the energy usage, water usage, and commuting patterns for over 65 million square feet of participating commercial building space in Cleveland, and designed, created, and presented over 200 confidential building performance reports annually to analyze those metrics
- Collaborated with commercial building owners on strategies to reduce their environmental footprint, achieving a 31% District-wide reduction in energy use in 2021
- Worked closely with the City of Cleveland's Mayor's Office of Sustainability to advise on energy policy and climate action planning
- As metrics committee chair, managed volunteers, chaired monthly meetings, and collaborated with local stakeholders to set Cleveland-specific baselines
- Secured over \$600,000 in funding through grant writing and other fundraising
- Developed marketing materials and annual progress reports, ran social media, helped organize monthly educational and networking events

Center for Economic Development, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio

Graduate Assistant, January 2021-December 2021

- Co-authored research papers on the contribution of cooperatives to Ohio's economy and on the impact of the GM plant closure on economic development in Youngstown, Ohio
- Assisted with research, metrics, literature review, and development of studies on race and gender discrimination in Paycheck Protection Program loan distributions, the impact of COVID-19 on hiring in manufacturing sectors, and the economic health of minority seniors in Ohio

U.S. District Court, N.D. Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio

Extern to the Honorable Judge Dan A. Polster, Spring 2021

- Drafted portions of opinions in civil and criminal matters, including civil rights disputes
- Assisted law clerks in conducting legal research, drafting, and tracking the factual and procedural history of complex litigation matters
- Observed legal proceedings, including civil mediations, case management conferences, and criminal hearings

Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Blank Fellow and Research Assistant to Professor Rumi Shammin, June 2014-May 2015

- Compiled an inventory of sustainability initiatives in Northeast Ohio to assist coordination of environmental efforts among local sustainability leaders
- Created an ESRI ArcGIS database and maps of alternative food sources in Cleveland, Ohio
- Presented research at the International Society for Ecological Economics 2016 Conference and the 2014 Oberlin College Celebration of Undergraduate Research