



City of Annapolis
Office of the Mayor
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

Mayor@annapolis.gov • 410-263-7997 • Fax 410-216-9284 • TDD use MD Relay or 711 • www.annapolis.gov

Boards and Commissions Application

Personal information

Name India Ochs

Address 50 Greystone Ct Unit B

City Annapolis ST MD Zip 21403

Phones Home 443-994-4740 Other _____

E-mail ilochs@yahoo.com

Statement of interest – Why should you be appointed to this board/commission?

I believe I would be an asset to the Annapolis Education Commission (AEC) for Ward 5 because I bring over 30 years of experience and knowledge on educational and youth issues, including advocating for Annapolis schools since I was a student at Hillsmere Elementary. My lifelong passion for supporting public education has allowed me to see both the successes and flaws within our Annapolis schools over the last four decades as a student, parent, and advocate, a perspective I believe uniquely provides insight on how best to support our students, families, and teachers within the Annapolis cluster. In addition, I would help strengthen AEC's voice on education issues, including my ability to look at situations in a fair and objective manner based on the facts and circumstances, help in resolving conflicts and miscommunication, and consider new ideas and viewpoints that may vary from my own.

I also bring a strong background in good governance/collaborating with government officials, formally starting at age 16 as the county's Chief Student Legislative Coordinator from 1991-1993. Since then, my experiences have ranged from testifying before the United Nations and the Organization of American States on human rights issues, to interacting with Congressional staff personnel, to developing work/life/wellness projects with State Department senior leadership, to advocating locally on educational issues at Board of Education and County Council meetings.

Are you a resident of the City of Annapolis? Yes No

Are you an employee of the City of Annapolis? Yes No
If yes, please state your job title, department & duties.

Do you do business with the City of Annapolis? Yes No
If yes, please detail.

Are you currently serving on any city boards or commissions? Yes No
If yes, please list board(s).

Work experience (titles and duties)

US Department of State: Senior Compliance Officer July 2011 — Present
Investigates potential violations of Exchange Visitor Program regulations; Supervises team of compliance officers.

Pretrial Justice Institute: Senior Project Associate March 2007 — December 2010
Supervised a national online help desk related to juvenile justice issues; drafted and edited monthly electronic mailings on pretrial and juvenile justice issues to over 2000 recipients; developed outreach material and organized workshops.

The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights: Legal Officer April 2004 — June 2006
Developed legal materials related to education, slavery, labor, discrimination, children, corporate social responsibility, constitutional reform, and other human rights issues; established and coordinated pro bono network; arranged and participated in speaking engagements at universities; organized and assisted in fundraising and outreach; recruited and supervised interns; and organized staff retreats and workshops.

Common Senses, Inc.: Program Director/AmeriCorps VISTA August 2002- August 2003
Incorporated new nonprofit organization; created and facilitated programs; recruited participants and volunteers; developed website; and organized public awareness workshops, trainings and sports clinics.

Pan Am 103/Lockerbie Trial Victims' Families Project; Research Assistant April 2000- May 2002
Summarized daily court transcripts for posting on secure victimsfamilies website.

Guilford County, North Carolina: Guardian Ad Litem December 1997-Aug. 1999
Advocated for clients in foster care; interviewed all parties associated in cases and obtained educational, health, mental, and criminal records on clients and parents.

Educational background (certificates, diplomas, degrees, seminars, etc)

Syracuse University College of Law
Juris Doctor, Certificate in Family Law and Social Policy, May 2002

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Masters of Public Affairs, Certificate in Nonprofit Management, May 1999
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/ Bachelor of Arts in History, May 1996

Advanced Course on International Human Rights Law - Abo Academy, Turku, Finland, August 2005.

Other experience (volunteer experience, memberships etc)**Current Volunteer:**

- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 23-03, Annapolis, MD; Flotilla Staff Officer Communications (2006-2018); Flotilla Staff Officer Diversity (2013-Present)
- Hillsmere Elementary School PTA; President (July 2016- June 2018); Advocacy Chair (July 2017-Present)
- Communication First; Chair (June 2019-Present)
- U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Co-chair Work/Life/Wellness Committee (2012-Present)

Memberships:

- Anne Arundel County NAACP
- Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis/Anne Arundel County

Past Volunteer:

- Biden's Policy Committee: Education Civil Rights Subcommittee
- United States Society for Augmented and Alternative Communication; President (January 2010-December 2012)
- International Society for Augmented and Alternative Communication; Vice President (October 2012-September 2016)
- Common Senses (Co-founder, Board of Director President 2003-2008)

References

Name Jessica Pachler Phone 410-916-5500

Address 506 President St Annapolis, MD 21403


Name Amy Britt Phone 814-573-5163

Address 600 River Birch Ct Odenton, MD 21113

Name Lily Cox Phone 503-970-8687

Address 1358 Blackwalnut Court Annapolis, MD 21403

Appointees are subject to the provisions of the City of Annapolis Ethics Code, Annapolis City Code Chapter 2.08. Appointees are strongly encouraged to review this Code and contact the City of Annapolis Office of Law and/or City of Annapolis Ethics Commission with all inquiries.

Signature  Date December 9, 2020

E-mail electronically completed form to boards@annapolis.gov. Paper copies may be faxed to 410-216-8284 or mailed to the Mayor's Office address above, attention Boards and Commissions Coordinator.

India L. Ochs

50 GREYSTONE CT. UNIT B ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403, USA

PHONE 1-443-994-4740 E-MAIL ilocho@yahoo.com

SUMMARY

Attorney with extensive advocacy experience, including international human rights, juvenile justice, education, and disability issues. Work history includes regulating exchange visitor programs, coordinating legal projects for human rights activists, representing children in foster care, and establishing and running a nonprofit organization. Demonstrated ability to tackle any issue from inception to conclusion, analyzing to determine end solution from various viewpoints. Skilled at delivering effective oral and written products to diverse audiences in accordance with fluctuating deadlines. Licensed to practice law in Maryland. Certified contracting officer representative.

EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of State

Washington, DC

Senior Compliance Officer

July 2011 – Present

Investigated potential violations of Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) regulations; reviewed and drafted data reports on exchange visitor participants; supervised public email account; lead drafter of office procedures and protocols; managed internal SharePoint websites; supervised team of compliance officers.

- Supervised team of four compliance officers, assigning and advising on cases, editing and clearing documents, and overseeing schedules, leave, and telework. Served as Acting Office Director when needed.
- Investigated complaints against designated EVP sponsors, including conducting on-site reviews, researching and analyzing program files and SEVIS reports, and drafting notices of intent, leading to sanctions against sponsors based on violations endangering the health, safety and welfare of exchange visitors.
- Led over 30 compliance reviews of EVP sponsors designated in the au pair, camp counselor, college and university student, intern, professor, research scholar, secondary school student, short term scholar, summer work travel, teacher, and trainee categories.
- Analyzed over 4,000 emails/year related to EVP inquiries and complaints from potential and current participants, sponsors, and the general public, and developed procedures and check points to ensure legally accurate information, which resulted in expediting responses to inquirers within 24-48 hours, and eliminating misinformation and errors made previously.
- Co-chaired the ECA Work/Life/Wellness Committee since 2013, the Department's first bureau-level committee focused on work/life/wellness issues.

Pretrial Justice Institute

Washington, DC

Senior Project Associate

March 2007 – December 2010

Supervised a national online help desk related to juvenile justice issues; researched and reviewed local, state and national policies, procedures, data reports, and publications for distribution on the help desk, drafted and edited monthly electronic mailings on pretrial and juvenile justice issues to over 2000 recipients; reviewed and prepared legal papers for office and other organizations; developed outreach material and organized workshops.

- Developed and supervised the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Help Desk, including direct contact with 100+ JDAI sites when supervising quarterly reviews, resulting in more expansive and accessible content for the only national helpdesk supporting juvenile detention reform issues.
- Created one-page fact-sheets for judges, district attorneys, public defenders, police, and site coordinators, which allowed each demographic to have increased awareness of position-specific juvenile detention issues.
- Investigated and identified inconsistencies in the organization's legal status, which resulted in successfully reinstating its incorporation status, acquiring a new business name, and properly updating all federal and local nonprofit records.

Office of the Public Defender

Annapolis, MD

Intern

November 2006 – March 2007

Researched and drafted memoranda on criminal law in Maryland related to murder, burglary, double jeopardy, speedy trials, death qualifying juries, offensive collateral estoppel, constitutional right to a fair hearing, malicious destruction, restitution by juveniles, handgun laws & legislative intent, juvenile detention & reasonable efforts, and expert witnesses in district court.

Representative Stephen F. Lynch (MA – 9th District)

Washington, DC

Intern

October 2006 – March 2007

Researched and drafted memoranda used by senior staff for public inquiries and pending bills related to military amputees, Iraq Study Group, identity theft, national service, free trade agreements, hearing aids, Medicare, overseas call centers, and drug treatment programs; performed daily office tasks.

The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights

Washington, DC

Legal Officer

April 2004 – June 2006

Developed legal materials related to education, slavery, labor, discrimination, children, corporate social responsibility, constitutional reform, and other human rights issues; established and coordinated pro bono network; arranged and participated in speaking engagements at universities; organized and assisted in fundraising and outreach; recruited and supervised interns; and organized staff retreats and workshops.

- Researched, drafted, and edited legal documents, reports and fact sheets, including seven amicus briefs and petitions for US Courts, UN agencies and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).
- Represented office at the 2004 session of the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in Geneva, delivering oral and written testimony on the status of migrant workers and slavery in US fields, and collaborated with staff and partners on organizing two general hearings before the IACHR, which led to a settlement between migrant workers and a fast-food corporation after a 4-year boycott.
- Initiated partnerships with legal counsel and academia to provide support for domestic and international human rights projects, which resulted in the establishment of a pro bono network comprised of 150 legal professionals from firms, universities and organizations, including collaboration with over 50 contacts providing direct support to specific legal projects.

Common Senses, Inc.

Baltimore, MD

Program Director/AmeriCorps VISTA

August 2002- August 2003

Incorporated new nonprofit organization; created and facilitated programs; recruited participants and volunteers; developed website; and organized public awareness workshops, trainings and sports clinics.

- Researched and prepared legal documentation for incorporation and IRS status within the first week of work, which resulted in establishing bylaws, business plan, and non-profit status within three months.
- Researched and drafted grant proposals to support a start-up organization uniting youth with and without sensory disabilities through athletic and service learning activities, which resulted in securing \$8000 from four funding organizations, sustaining the programs for another calendar year.
- Created and facilitated athletic, social and service-learning programs for youth, which included the establishment of an eight-week goal ball league, Sports Day at the Maryland School for the Blind, a pilot PGA golf clinic, Bingo Nights at Baltimore City public housing locations, weekly workshops for 5th graders at the Maryland School for the Deaf, and a five-day summer camp for seeing and visually impaired youth.

Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. - Metropolitan Office

Riverdale, MD

Law Clerk

May 2001-Aug 2001, Dec 2001

Represented clients at administrative hearings; researched and drafted legal memos and motions for a variety of public interest law issues; interviewed clients; created community outreach handbooks.

- Represented clients at three Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and unemployment hearings, including winning an appeal in a Child SSI case that had been rejected for action by four senior attorneys.
- Interviewed clients, counseled witnesses on upcoming hearing procedures, and researched and drafted memoranda, pre-hearing briefs, affidavits and other motions for a variety of issues in public benefits,

housing, bankruptcy, consumer, domestic, ADA, and elder law, which resulted in securing desired outcomes on 80% of the 15 cases led or collaborated on.

- Investigated elder law issues which led to the creation of three client-orientated handbooks which simplified issues regarding living wills, nursing home rights, and health care decision-making.

**Pan Am 103/Lockerbie Trial Victims' Families Project
Research Assistant**

Syracuse, NY
April 2000- May 2002

Summarized daily court transcripts for posting on secure victims' families website; maintained list of witnesses and their testimony; researched media reports of trial and observed trial from closed circuit location; researched media and the courts in the UK, televised trials in USA and internationally, and political trials in Libya.

- Drafted summaries of daily court transcripts for the trial, resulting in compressing approximately 250 pages of testimony into two page summary posted on victims families' web site 24 hours after testimony delivered.

**Guilford County, North Carolina
Guardian Ad Litem**

Greensboro, NC
Dec. 1997-Aug. 1999

Advocated for clients in foster care; interviewed all parties associated in cases and obtained educational, health, mental, and criminal records on clients and parents; performed on-site visits to clients' foster homes, schools and parents' homes; coordinated with parent to gain stable housing, employment, job training, and benefits.

- Delivered fact-based written reports and oral testimony for court, providing independent recommendations on best interests of the client, resulting in adapted safety equipment to ensure the home was safe for clients.
- Interviewed parents, caretakers, social workers, mental health workers and other related parties and participated in bimonthly group meetings, resulting in negotiations of plans to reunite clients with family.

EDUCATION

Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, New York

Juris Doctor, Certificate in Family Law and Social Policy, May 2002

- Honors:** Outstanding Graduate Award for Meritorious Service to the College of Law
High A in Trial Practice
Dean's List
United States Law Week Award (Most Academic Progress)

- Activities:** President- Class of 2002
Teacher- Street Law Course at Fabius-Pompey High School

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina

Masters of Public Affairs, Certificate in Nonprofit Management, May 1999

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/ Bachelor of Arts in History, May 1996

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- "Becoming an Exceptional ACC Leader: Inspiration from 15 augmentative and alternative communication champions" Pending Spring 2021 Publication, Co-Author
- "Stop the Violence Against People with Disabilities!: An International Resource" February 2014, Co-Author
- Pretrial Reporter Special Editions 2009 and 2010 Guest Editor

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS:

- **Biden Disability Policy Committee, Volunteer Member (July 2020 – November 2020)**
- **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 23-03, Annapolis, MD Flotilla Staff Officer Diversity (2013 – Present)**
- **Hillmere Elementary School Parent Teacher Association President (July 2016- June 2018)**
- **Communication First Chair (June 2019-Present)**

SKILLS & INTERESTS:

Expert in SEVIS, Lexis, Microsoft Office Suite, SharePoint, Adobe Acrobat, Website Design.

Interests include: American History, Public Speaking, Teaching, Soccer, Boxing, Traveling, Rowing.