

GEOFFREY A. SCHOOS

SUMMARY

Attorney with a unique combination of legal, educational, and business experience. Also an experienced political campaign manager and public policy analyst, and have managed and coordinated several campaigns for the state Senate. Have achieved excellent results through the use of analytical, communication, research, advocacy and planning and coordination skills. Have consistently exhibited a capacity for hard work, compassion for others and good humor in stressful situations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Law

- Participated in and contributed to the development and implementation of legislation to improve conditions in low-income housing, and to provide consumer protection to individual homeowners.
- Revised search and arrest procedures for a county sheriff's department to conform and comply with federal and state constitutional requirements.
- Provided pro bono legal services to a non-profit organization on a variety of issues, including the possible merger with another similar non-profit organization.

Public Service

- Managed winning campaigns for the State Senate; coordinated all campaign activities, researched public policy issues, wrote copy for campaign brochures and participated in their layouts, wrote and approved press releases and editorials.
- Wrote several opinion/editorial articles devoted to the issues of municipal finance, voting procedures, and the issue of "pretext" in employment discrimination cases, which was published in *Massachusetts Lawyer's Weekly*.
- Organized and led a neighborhood council which was formed to address health, education and housing issues in a low-income area.
- Currently mentoring a 12-year old child who, because of an unstable home life, needs the support and the consistency of an adult figure in his life.
- Organized low-income residents to change discriminatory practices in local school system.
- Served as Chairperson of a Democratic Senate District Committee.
- Managed a state Senate campaign for sixteen years. Worked on other political campaigns for over 35 years. Ran for the Democratic Party nomination for Congress from the Second Congressional District in 1980.

Education

- Mobilized resources to expand social studies curriculum in a public high school to include courses in political science/government and economics. These offerings were for high school juniors and seniors.
- Organized and coached a high school forensic team, members of which won state championships in their individual categories and were nationally recognized for their forensic skills. One member earned a full scholarship to a university in Boston.
- Presented programs to high school students regarding domestic violence and sexual abuse issues. Presented other programs concerning constitutional issues.
- Led an internal departmental committee that self-evaluated a high school social studies department in preparation for a state's evaluation of the school's social studies program and subsequent decision for accreditation.
- Collaborated with other education professional in a high school English department to develop and implement the first interdepartmental student-centered project in the high school.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY, Warwick, RI 2008-present

Incorporator and President, providing services to low and modest income individuals and families, encompassing a wide range of civil law issues ranging from housing issues to end-of-life planning. Additionally, the Center provides a variety of legal supports to entrepreneurs seeking to start their own businesses, including the drafting and filing of incorporation documents, governance documents (e.g. bylaws, conflict of interest statements/policies), as well as assistance on permitting, leases, contracts, and employment policies. The Center is instrumental in aiding other non-profit organizations in their efforts to attain non-profit corporation status, attain charitable status from the IRS, and develop appropriate governance documents and policies. From time to time, the Center submits policy proposals to the relevant governmental entity.

COLUMNIST, CRANSTON HERALD, Cranston, RI 2006-present

Write a column for a local Cranston weekly newspaper regarding a variety of national, state and local political and legal issues.

GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW, Cranston, RI 1998-2008

Solo Practitioner

Handle a variety of legal issues including estate planning, Medicaid applications and appeal, review of contracts, family issues (custody and protective orders), closings, consumer protection, employment discrimination issues, Fourth Amendment Constitutional issues, special education and other education related issues. Review protocols and procedures of law enforcement agency. Experience in mediation and practice before state administrative agencies.

LEXIS-NEXIS CORPORATION, Dayton, OH 2000-2005

Senior Case Law Editor

Wrote, edited, and reviewed annotations to state statutes and case law summaries for state cases. Participated in the development and implementation of the team's core values. Mentored other team members.

GRAFTON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, Grafton, MA 1984-1997

Revitalized and taught courses in United States history, economics, law, government and political science. Selected to lead department's self-evaluation process for school accreditation. Coached teams of students in extra-curricular activities and school academic programs; some of whom won state championships, placed eighth in the national competition and earned scholarships to Suffolk University.

SHEPPARD HILL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Dudley, MA 1983-1984

One-year position teaching United States history and remedial mathematics. Participated in curriculum development and revision to conform to local and state mandates.

ST. DUNSTAN'S DAY SCHOOL, Providence, RI 1982-1983

One-year per diem substitute teacher. Taught a variety of courses and developed curriculum to meet state and school guidelines.

METROPOLITAN AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE COMPANY, Warwick, RI 1977-1982

Changed the way of doing business and reduced costs by analyzing workflow and procedures. Translated and published complex technical and legal information in clear and concise manner for user departments. Partnered with legal professionals to write new company materials that complied with changing state laws and regulations. Acted as consultant to division managers regarding the budgeting process. Proposed and implemented cost effective measure that increased profits.

CRANSTON COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, Cranston, RI 1972-1974

Community organizer focusing on housing and education issues. Manager of a neighborhood center, which served as a referral and provider of a variety of programs ranging from youth oriented programs, to fair housing advocacy, to health referrals, elder programs, and support to the neighborhood council and CCAP's Board of Director's.

AFFILIATIONS

RHODE ISLAND MENTORING PARTNERSHIP – Chairperson of the Board of Directors – July 2009 to present. Prior to becoming Chair, was Vice Chairperson, Board of Directors and legal counsel to the Board and to the Partnership.

INSTITUTE FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE – Senior Legal Advisor to the Institute's Advisory Board.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION – Member

RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITIES FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY – Member of legislative policy advisory council.

NETOPEAN CLUB – Member of this business oriented organization.

MEN UNITED RHODE ISLAND – Chair of the Board of Directors of this agency dedicated to delivering services and providing referrals to concerns related to men in Rhode Island's core cities, particularly in the areas of employment, health issues, and family maintenance issues.

SOLACE (FORMERLY THE SOUTH PROVIDENCE SELF-HELP CENTER) – Board member, 2009 to present. Assist in all facets of Board development, legal compliance, development and implementation of governance procedures, and development of programs primarily directed toward low-income kids and families living in distressed communities.

EDUCATION

JD, New England School of Law, Boston, MA

BA, Political Science, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

Graduate courses, Public Administration, University of Rhode Island, Providence, RI

CERTIFICATIONS

Discrimination Prevention/Diversity Training, MCAD Certified

Disability Discrimination Training, MCAD Certified

Discrimination Prevention Training Program, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Boston, MA

Certification, Secondary Social Studies, State of Rhode Island

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association, Rhode Island Bar Association

LICENSES

Admitted to the Bar in:

- Rhode Island
- Massachusetts
- Federal District – Rhode Island