

To my brothers and sisters of local 3315-

Thank you for considering me for a position on the board of our great union as an executive at large. I accepted the nomination because I believe in what the union stands for and want to be a part of it in a more active way. I apologize for not being present to accept in person as I am currently home with my 3 month old on paternity leave.

For those of you who don't know me, my path to the office was atypical. I clerked for the office throughout law school (2008-2011) and when I passed the bar back in 2011, there was no job for me due to the economy/budget/whatever. It took me a little over 5 years to get into the office as I wasn't hired until July 2016. During those years I was a Public Defender in another county (Winnebago). The most important thing I bring to the table from that experience is that I worked in a non-union office and I know firsthand how precious collective bargaining is. I've experienced forced transfers, arbitrarily not receiving a raise because there is "no money" despite moving from a misdemeanor caseload to a felony one, and the threat of termination without notice. I never intend to go back to those conditions.

The challenges did not stop upon joining the office. I got a lay-off notice back in 2017, a mere 2 months before my wedding. I trusted in the union and the process, I made the calls, spoke at the hearings, and together, we prevailed. This process further solidified the value of the union in my mind and inspired me further to become more active in our local.

I believe with my unique journey to get into the office as well as the adversity I faced since becoming a member allows me to give a distinctive and seasoned voice to the board. I will also add that I am out in the suburbs and know many attorneys at the other suburban courthouses and can help give them voice as well.

It took me nearly 8 years to get a job here and I have every intention in staying with this office for many years to come. If you have any reservations about me or my work, I encourage you to speak to current and past courtroom partners, current and past supervisors and chiefs, and even judges and state's attorneys.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joshua B. Nathan  
Assistant Public Defender