

City of Ann Arbor
Attn: City Council
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear City Council:

My name is Brent Eliason and I am a resident of Ann Arbor in Ward 1. I have lived, studied, and worked in Ann Arbor since 2011 when I came here for law school. Since moving to this city my life has changed a lot. I got married in 2013. I graduated with a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 2014. My wife Laura and I had our first child, David, in 2015. Then just a few months ago, Laura and I bought a house in Ann Arbor. We have chosen to settle down here in Ann Arbor.

I love Ann Arbor! Like many people I love the fun and welcoming environment of Ann Arbor, but the city is also changing fast and important decisions need to be made. I would be honored to serve on the city council representing my new neighbors. I think my background working in numerous government offices, including at a local level, and my legal knowledge make me an excellent candidate to fill this position. If selected, I would work hard to study each and every issue facing the council and to consult with stakeholders, experts, and fellow council members, so that I could make informed decisions on behalf of and for the benefit of the city residents whom I would represent. I would also strive to reach out to residents of the first ward to both introduce myself and get to know them better as much as possible, which would be especially important given that I would have been appointed rather than elected.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brent Eliason

WORK EXPERIENCE

Media Analyst April 2015 - Present
Bulletin Intelligence Ann Arbor, MI

- Review news articles for stories and mentions relevant to clients' general and specific interests
- Prepare news summaries and briefings tailored to meet client specifications regarding content, formatting, and precision
- Worked with colleagues to assemble, edit, and review large briefings

Attorney Associate May 2014 – April 2015
University of Michigan Office of General Counsel Ann Arbor, MI

- Filed complaint against vendor that breached contract with university department leading to successful settlement benefiting department
- Created contingency charts explaining proper procedure based on variable factors to help University personnel responsible for compliance with certain employment laws
- Wrote memoranda on tort defenses that barred civil claims brought against university leading to the suits' dismissal saving university tens of thousands of dollars in potential litigation expenses
- Reviewed current and proposed university policies to ensure compatibility with employment laws and regulations

Student Attorney/Supervisor May 2012 – December 2013
Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project Ann Arbor, MI

- Questioned clients and their former employers at administrative hearings disproving allegations of employee misconduct
- Managed intake for new unemployment cases by conducting phone and in-person interviews so that cases could be prioritized based on legal deadlines
- Presented oral argument in state circuit court winning my client a remand to receive a fair hearing
- Drafted legal briefs for clients winning them their unemployment benefits back providing them with much needed financial support during transitional periods in their lives
- Led successful student campaign to create an Unemployment Clinic program at University of Michigan Law School that launched in Fall 2014

Legal Intern Summer 2013
Executive Office for United States Trustees Washington, DC

- Wrote case summaries for quarterly reports sent to field offices to update trial attorneys on legal developments in consumer bankruptcy and creditor abuse
- Prepared memorandum on First Amendment issues in church bankruptcies to ensure that U.S. Trustee assigned to prominent case would act within constitutional boundaries

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School May 2014
Juris Doctor

- Michigan Law School Dean's Scholarship
- Transactional Lab – served as project team leader to draft commercial contract for National Public Radio (NPR)

Brigham Young University April 2009
Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics

- Major combined biology, computer science, and statistics for genomic and genetic research
- Secretary of Bioinformatics Research Group (BiRG) – student-led organization that matched programmers with professors who needed research assistance
- Completed internships with Provo City Attorney's Office and Utah County Attorney's Office