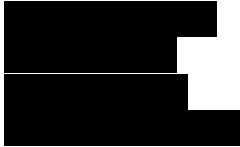


January 20, 2025

Christopher C. Drouth Jr.



Dear Members of the Common Council,

I respectfully submit my application for appointment as Interim Municipal Judge for the City of Waukesha. I do so with deep respect for the legacy of Judge Steve Wimmer. I would be honored to serve the City during this interim period with the same integrity, professionalism, and commitment.

I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident, a resident of Waukesha, and an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Wisconsin with more than twenty years of courtroom and judicially focused experience. Throughout my career, I have appeared regularly before state and federal courts, handling contested hearings, evidentiary matters, motion practice, and appellate advocacy. My practice has required the fair application of law, careful consideration of facts, and respect for all parties; principles that align closely with the responsibilities of the Municipal Court.

Currently, I serve as Managing Attorney for a multi-state bankruptcy department, where I oversee legal strategy, compliance, and attorney performance across twenty jurisdictions. Previously, I served for over sixteen years as a Partner at Gray & Associates, LLP, where I led litigation teams, argued precedent-setting appellate matters, and advised institutional clients on complex legal issues. These roles required sound judgment, decisiveness, impartiality, and the ability to manage a high-volume case load efficiently; all skills directly transferable to the Municipal Court.

Early in my career, I had the privilege of serving as a Judicial Intern for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals under the Honorable Patricia Curley, an experience that shaped my appreciation for judicial restraint, procedural fairness, and clear decision-making. I also served as a Prosecutor's Clinic Intern with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, providing firsthand exposure to municipal and ordinance-level enforcement and courtroom practice.

I am particularly drawn to the Municipal Court's role in ensuring fair, respectful, and efficient resolution of non-criminal matters that directly affect residents' daily lives. If appointed, I would approach this position with a calm demeanor, attentiveness to litigants and a firm but fair application of the law. I am well-prepared to step into this role immediately and serve effectively for the duration of the interim term.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the City of Waukesha. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with the Common Council on February 3, 2026, and to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher C. Drout Jr.

Attorney at Law

A block of four solid black horizontal bars of varying lengths, representing a redacted signature.

**Christopher C. Drout Jr.**

Managing Attorney | Strategic Legal Counsel | Business-Minded Problem Solver

Waukesha, WI | [REDACTED]

LinkedIn URL: [www.linkedin.com/in/christopher-drout-45622a256](https://www.linkedin.com/in/christopher-drout-45622a256)

**Executive Profile**

Strategic and business-focused attorney with 20+ years of experience leading litigation, appellate advocacy, and compliance matters for financial institutions and corporations. Proven ability to translate complex legal issues into actionable business solutions, deliver courtroom victories, and guide organizations through regulatory challenges. Recognized thought leader, frequent national speaker, and trusted advisor with a reputation for integrity, precision, and results.

**Core Competencies**

Litigation & Appellate Advocacy | Contracts & Negotiations | Regulatory Compliance | Bankruptcy & Real Estate Law | Risk Management & Strategy | Mentorship

**Professional Experience**

**Halliday, Watkins & Mann, PC - Waukesha, WI | September 2025 - Present**

Managing Bankruptcy Attorney

- Serve as trusted legal advisor to national financial institutions on compliance, bankruptcy, and litigation strategies.
- Promoted after 1 month to manage a multi-state bankruptcy department spanning 20 states, overseeing case strategy, workflow, compliance, and attorney/staff performance.
- Coordinating the integration of an acquired law firm into existing practice, aligning processes, case management systems, and staff workflows to ensure a seamless transition.
  - Represent clients with motions for relief from the automatic stay, drafting proof of claims, objections to confirmation of plans, complex matters including consumer law, real estate, and contract disputes.

- Direct and mentor attorneys/staff, ensuring strict compliance and risk management protocols.

**Gray & Associates, L.L.P. — New Berlin, WI | February 2009 – September 2025**

Partner-Attorney

- Elevated to Partner through consistent delivery of superior results and leadership.
- Secured precedent-setting appellate win: PNC Bank, N.A. v. Bierbrauer (2013 WI App 11).
- Serve as trusted legal advisor to national financial institutions on compliance, bankruptcy, and litigation strategies.
- Lead bankruptcy legal department handling motions for relief from the automatic stay, drafting proof of claims, objections to confirmation of plans, complex matters including consumer law, real estate, contract disputes, and appellate litigation.
- Direct and mentor attorneys/staff, ensuring strict compliance and risk management protocols.
- Author and speaker for USFN and national industry conferences.
- Appointed to the Western District Bankruptcy Court Local Rules Committee, shaping local federal practice.

**Miller & Miller Law Office — Milwaukee, WI | 2007 – 2009**

Associate Attorney

- Built and managed a book of clientele, specializing in consumer law, real estate, bankruptcy, and contract litigation.
- Represented clients in court proceedings, handled civil adversary cases, drafted briefs and legal pleadings, and conducted discovery and depositions.
- Successfully negotiated settlements and managed litigation strategy in various bankruptcy and contract disputes.

**Macey & Aleman / Legal Helpers — Milwaukee, WI | 2004 – 2007**

Associate Attorney

- Directed operations across multiple offices and supervised attorneys.

- Represented clients in bankruptcy matters before Eastern & Western District courts.
- Trained new attorneys, managed account receivables, demonstrated leadership and operation oversight in a fast-paced, high-volume environment.

## **Education**

### **Marquette University Law School (2001-2004)**

- Juris Doctor
- Judicial Intern, Wisconsin Court of Appeals (Hon. Patricia Curley)
- Prosecutor's Clinic Intern, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

### **University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh (1997-2001)**

- Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice

## **Memberships & Licenses**

- Wisconsin State Bar Law License
- Eastern Federal District Court of Wisconsin
- Western Federal District Court of Wisconsin
- Central Federal District Court of Illinois
- Northern Federal District Court of Illinois
- Southern Federal District Court of Illinois
- District Court of Colorado
- Mortgage Bankers Association
- Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditor Rights Section
- Western District Bankruptcy Court Local Rules Committee

## **Speaking Engagements & Publications**

- Invited Speaker & Panelist – Bankruptcy Litigation and Mediation, PHH Mortgage USFN Seminar, (August 2012) (New Jersey)
- Invited Speaker & Panelist – Bankruptcy Hot Topics, Flagstar Bank USFN Seminar, (May

2013) (Michigan)

- Invited Speaker & Panelist – Wisconsin Foreclosures, Bank of America USFN Seminar, (June 2013) (Texas)
- USFN Article Author – Wisconsin: Appellate Court Upholds Summary Judgment to Lender (January 2, 2013).
- Invited Speaker & Panelist – Mortgage Issues in Chapter 13, New RESPA Regulations, Mediation and Cramdown, Ninth Annual Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditor's Rights Section Educational CLE (March 2014)(Wisconsin)
- Invited Presenter – Federal Bankruptcy Law and Wisconsin Foreclosure Law, MGIC Investment Corporation (November 2016) (Wisconsin)
- Invited Presenter - Federal Bankruptcy Law and Wisconsin Foreclosure Law, Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Association (February 2017) (Wisconsin)
- Invited Speaker & Panelist – Life After HAMP, Overview, Alternative Loss Mitigation Options, Effect on the MMM Program, Necessity of Extension of HAMP in Current Environment, Use of Mortgage Servicing Rules in Loss Mitigation, Twelfth Annual Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditor's Rights Section Educational CLE (March 2017)(Wisconsin)
- Invited Speaker & Panelist – Chapter 13 Finish Line: discharge, plan completion, post confirmation issues, payment suspensions, post-petition mortgage issues, Fourteenth Annual Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditor's Rights Section Educational CLE (March 2019) (Wisconsin)
- Invited Speaker & Panelist – Bankruptcy Law – Motion for Relief from the Automatic Stay and Chapter 7 Report and Discharge, USFN Seminar (April 2019)(Texas)
- USFN Article Author – Wisconsin Ruling Highlights the Importance of Complying with Bankruptcy Rule 3002.1 (May 1, 2025).