Maricopa County Board of Supervisors  
301 West Jefferson, 10th Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  

September 18, 2019  

RE: Application to be appointed Maricopa County Attorney  

Dear Sirs:  

I am submitting my application to be appointed as Maricopa County Attorney. As you know, I currently am filling in given Mr. Montgomery’s appointment. I look forward to continuing my 27 year career at the County Attorney’s Office and look forward to a strong working relationship with the Board.  

I am grateful for the opportunities I have had at the county, and would be honored to serve as County Attorney for all of the people of Maricopa County.  

Sincerely,  

Rachel H. Mitchell
APPLICATION FOR MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT

This form is to be completed by persons wishing to be considered for appointment to the current Maricopa County Attorney vacancy. This application, along with a current resume, must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors by 5:00 p.m. on September 18, 2019. (Applicants are not limited to the space provided here for each question.)

NOTE: Information contained in resume need not be repeated below, but instead can be incorporated by reference.

Full Name: Rachel H. Mitchell

Office Address: 301 West Jefferson, 8th Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85003

Email: MitchelR@mcao.maricopa.gov

Telephone: (602) 506-3800

Arizona State Bar Number: 014560

Signature: [Signature] Date: 9/17/19

Address for submission of application and resume by hand-delivery:

Fran McCarroll
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Maricopa County Administration Building
301 West Jefferson St., 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Or send via facsimile: (602) 506-6402 (Attention: Fran McCarroll)

Or send via attachment to email: ClerkBoard@Maricopa.gov
1. In 200 words or less, describe why you should be appointed as Maricopa County Attorney.

I have spent my career serving at every level in the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office: As intern, law clerk, line attorney, bureau chief, division chief, and now chief deputy. I have learned much at each level, and each has prepared me to take this next step. I have a deep appreciation for the incredible capabilities of the office and its people: to serve the community, work with other professionals and community partners, and to seek justice. These are not just lofty concepts to me; they are what I have done throughout my career.

My knowledge of the inner workings of the office has given me a vision for the office: One in which the attorneys are assisted by staff to do the work they came to do: lawyering in pursuit of justice. This is the fiscally responsible way to structure the office. I envision an office that participates in the discussion of evidence-based criminal justice reform, while honoring the goal of government: protection of its citizens.

I also am keenly aware of the relationship that must exist between MCAO and the Board of Supervisors. The relationship must be built on trust and reflect mutual respect with both bodies having an appreciation for fiscal responsibility.

I would be honored to receive this appointment.

2. If appointed as Maricopa County Attorney, will you run in the 2020 election to serve a subsequent term?

Yes. I will run even if I am not appointed.

3. Are you currently a resident of Maricopa County? If so, how long have you been a resident?

Yes. 51 years.

4. List your present and former political party registrations and approximate dates of each.

Republican – October 1985 to present.

5. List names and locations of schools attended (college, advanced degrees, and law), dates attended, and degrees.

Arizona State University College of Law, 1989-1992, JD.

Grand Canyon University (Double Major: Public Administration with an emphasis in Finance/Accounting, Justice Studies), 1986-1989, BS.

Arizona State University, 1985 (first semester of undergrad).
6. List the name and location of all employers, professional firms, corporations, or partnerships of which you have been a member for the last 10 years.

Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, 1992-present.

United States Senate Judiciary Committee, September/October 2018.

I occasionally receive honoraria for one-time trainings. The organization that I most frequently teach for is Prevent Child Abuse, Arizona, which has been chosen by the Arizona Governor’s Office to coordinate trainings using federal Children’s Justice Act funds.

7. If you performed military service, please indicate the date and type of discharge. If anything other than honorable discharge, explain.

I have not served in the military.

8. List and describe your involvement with any non-profit organizations, either as a member of the board or any volunteer work.

I am on the board of ACFAN (Arizona Child & Family Advocacy Network). This is a non-profit organization that provides support, training and guidance to all advocacy centers in Arizona and their professionals who coordinate services and respond to family violence and sexual assault. The network was created to support communities seeking to establish and improve advocacy centers and current advocacy programs to better serve abused and neglected children and their families.

I am a member of Scottsdale Bible Church. I play in the orchestra and serve on the Minor and Vulnerable Adult Safeguard Committee. The purpose of the latter is to ensure that the church is following best practices in screening workers and volunteers, providing a safe and monitored environment, and scheduling effective training for staff and others.

I also am a percussionist in the Phoenix Praise Symphony. This is a symphony comprised of Valley church musicians who perform concerts and donate all proceeds to various charities.

9. List and describe any community service work that you would like to bring to the Board’s attention.

I recently was appointed by Gov. Doug Ducey to co-chair (along with Sen. Paul Boyer) the Justice for Victims of Child Sex Abuse Task Force. This is a bipartisan effort to recommend reforms for laws to advance justice for the citizens of Arizona.

I serve on the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission’s Children’s Justice Committee.
I regularly work with churches, schools, and other organizations on how to create a safe environment for children. I routinely teach on my own time and decline compensation on the mandatory reporting law, how to protect children, how parents can talk to their children, etc.

I do a significant amount of teaching for prosecutors, law enforcement, child protection workers, et cetera. The vast majority of the teaching is not compensated and often is on my own time. For a list of organizations that I have taught for, please refer to my cv.

10. List all courts in which you have been admitted to the practice of law, including the dates of admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies, which require special admission to practice.

  Arizona Supreme Court, October 1992 – present.

11. Have you ever been denied admission to the bar of any state due to failure to pass the character and fitness screening? If so, explain.

   No.

12. Describe the nature of your present law practice, listing the major areas of law in which you practice and the percentage each constitutes to your total practice.

   I have been the Chief Deputy for the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office since July 2019. I oversee approximately 340 prosecutors and 50 civil attorneys. 60% of my work concerns criminal law matters. 40% concerns civil law matters. These duties also include oversight of a $110 million budget as well as almost 1,000 employees.

13. List other areas of law in which you have practiced.

   Prior to becoming Chief Deputy, I was the Special Victims Division Chief where I oversaw five bureaus (family violence east and west; sex crimes east and west; auto theft). I oversaw approximately 50 attorneys and an additional 50 staff.

   Prior to being promoted to Division Chief, I was a bureau chief who oversaw sex crimes (child and adult victims). I also was bureau chief over the Southeast Facility’s Major Crimes Bureau (sex crimes, family violence, and gang and repeat offenders bureaus).

   My background is as a prosecutor, primarily in the areas of crimes against children (physical and sexual abuse), adult sexual assault, and domestic violence. I have been specializing in these areas for over 23 years. I also have been in a general prosecution bureau, the preliminary hearing bureau, and worked as a law clerk.
14. Indicate any specialties for which you have applied for certification by the State Bar of Arizona and the results of such applications.

I have not applied to be certified as a specialist. It is not common for prosecutors to do so.

15. Have you represented clients in litigation in Federal or Arizona trial courts? If so, state:

The approximate number of cases in which you appeared before:

Federal Courts: 0
State Courts of Record: Hundreds
Municipal/Justice Courts: Hundreds (justice courts)

The approximate number of those cases in which you were:

Sole Counsel: 80+%  
Chief Counsel: 15%  
Associate Counsel: <5%

The approximate percentage of those cases which have been:

Civil: 0%  
Criminal: 100%

The approximate number of cases you have taken to trial:

Court: 10  
Jury: 65-70

16. Have you practiced in the Federal or Arizona appellate courts?

In the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, interlocutory (pre-conviction) appeals are not handled by the trial attorney, they are handled by the appeals bureau. Most post-conviction appeals are handled by the Attorney General. While I have not been the attorney of record for an appeal, I have been very involved in drafting the arguments of many cases. The appeals briefs are written building upon the motions I have filed as the trial attorney. I also have been consulted by a number of appellate attorneys on appellate issues and have been a panelist on mock arguments for upcoming oral arguments.
The approximate number of your appeals which have been

Civil: 0%
Criminal: 100%

The approximate number of matters in which you appeared: N/A.

As counsel of record on the brief: AZ: _____ US: _____
Personally in oral argument: AZ: _____ US: _____

17. Describe your experience with administration of large organizations, including, but not limited, to the following areas: (1) finance; (2) procurement, public and private; (3) information technology; (4) budget (include amount); (5) human resources (include number of employees); and (6) describe any additional supervisory experience.

My experience stems from working at the county attorney’s office. The following describes my experience with each of the above within MCAO:

The county attorney’s office has a $110 million budget that I currently oversee.

Prior to becoming chief deputy I was the SAKI project director. The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative is a Bureau of Justice Assistance program to ensure the testing of untested sexual assault kits. There were four grants worth over $5 million. I took over management of the first two, and then applied for and received two additional grants for $2.7 million. This is a multi-year project that involves securing the services of outside laboratories through the procurement process, maintaining MOUs with county law enforcement agencies (because MCAO is not responsible for testing sex assault kits), overseeing staff, and holding county-wide trainings in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults. As an outgrowth of this effort, we are entering an MOU with New Life Center, which received additional STOP grant funding for training the rest of the State.

As Sex Crimes Bureau Chief and Special Victims Division Chief, I negotiated and oversaw contracts with the following entities: Phoenix Children’s Hospital, HonorHealth, St. Joseph’s Hospital, and Childhelp USA. These entities provide medical and forensic interviewing expertise in child physical and sexual abuse cases, as well as adult sexual assault. I also started contracting with independent forensic interviewers so that we could provide Spanish-speaking interviewers to children who are reporting physical and sexual abuse and the witnessing of violence.

I have been a supervisor/manager since 2000 and have supervised an increasing number of employees. As the sex crimes bureau chief, 22 attorneys reported directly to me, along with support staff leads. As division chief, I managed a division of 50 attorneys and approximately 50 support staff. As chief deputy, I manage the entire county attorney’s office which includes about 340 prosecutors, 50 civil attorneys, 55 investigators (most of whom are sworn law
enforcement), and over 400 additional staff. The county attorney’s office has an Information Technology department which I also oversee.

I have handled a wide variety of human resources issues including hiring, termination, promotion, evaluation of employees, progressive discipline, and FMLA matters. I have sought the advice and worked closely with attorneys in the civil division and HR personnel on a number of these matters.

18. Describe any additional professional experience you would like to bring to the Board’s attention.

I was a reporter at the Arizona Capitol Times from 1988-89. This gave me insight into media relations. I also became very familiar with the legislative process.

Because of this and my expertise in sex crimes and crimes against children, my office has designated me one of its lobbyists and has called me to write legislation. My efforts include the following pieces of legislation:

- Revisions to the mandatory reporting law (re child abuse)
- Revisions to child sexual abuse statutes
- Sexual Extortion bill
- Voyeurism bill

I also have been consulted by a number of elected officials on potential and pending legislation.

19. List and describe any litigation concerning your practice of law, including mediation, arbitration, negotiated settlement, and/or malpractice claim you referred to your insurance carrier.

There has been none.

20. List anything in your law practice or personal dealings that either does or may create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest with the statutory duties and professional obligations of the Maricopa County Attorney. (Note: “conflict of interest” is to be defined by Arizona Supreme Court Rule 42 and A.R.S. § 38-501 et seq.)

N/A.

21. Are you currently involved in any way in a matter adverse to Maricopa County? Note: “Maricopa County” is defined as Maricopa County, its elected officials, its “constituents” (as defined in the Ethical Rules), its related districts (e.g. Stadium, Flood, Library), and its administrators.

No.
22. Have you ever been the subject of a bar complaint or charge in any jurisdiction in which you have ever practiced law? If so, describe the allegations and set forth the disposition of the bar complaint or charge.

I have never had to file a response to a Bar complaint but have received 3:

1. I prosecuted a police officer for sexually abusing 3 women in his custody (State v. Matt Driver). He was convicted after trial and sentenced to prison. His mother-in-law then claimed that I had suborned perjury from the witnesses against the defendant.

2. A DOC inmate claimed that I was covering up a sexual assault by a deputy county attorney. This was a false claim; there was no such assault. I am happy to discuss this situation in more detail if requested.

3. A California lawyer filed a complaint concerning my work in the Kavanaugh confirmation hearings. He cited no specific ethical rules, but he said that he was making an “abuse of power” complaint. I am happy to discuss the situation or provide the complaint if requested.

23. Has a disciplinary complaint ever been filed against you by any professional licensing or regulatory body in any jurisdiction in which you have ever practiced law? If so, describe the allegations and set forth the disposition of the disciplinary complaint.

No.

24. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a crime, including misdemeanors and felonies? If so, please identify the date you were charged, the jurisdiction in which the alleged crime occurred, the alleged charge(s), and the final disposition.

No.

25. Within the last five years, have you failed to meet any deadline imposed by a court order or received notice that you have not complied with the substantive requirements of any business or contractual arrangement? If so, explain in full.

No.

26. Do you have any financial interests that might conflict with your practice as Maricopa County Attorney? If so, explain.

No.
27. Describe your social media presence (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.). Do you have current or past social media content posted to or in any way associated with any of your accounts that could negatively affect your image or the image of Maricopa County or that are in conflict with the mission and values of the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office?

I have a Facebook account and a Twitter account. Nothing I post is in anyway negative about my employment or something that could embarrass the county. The only work-related matters I post are on my Twitter account. These are tweets touting accomplishments and the fine work of the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office employees.

I am happy to allow someone to review my accounts.

28. List the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of no more than three references who are familiar with your professional activities, who would recommend you as qualified to serve as County Attorney, and who you agree can be contacted to discuss same.

   Michael Bailey  (available on request)
   Greg McKay
   Peter Gentala  PGentala@Childhelp.org

29. List the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of three lawyers with whom you have continuously dealt on substantive matters as adversaries in the last five years, and who you agree can be contacted to discuss same.

   Tracey Westerhausen  WesterhausenT@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov  (602) 329-5900
   Barry Mitchell  Barry@MSCCLaw.com  (602) 300-2113
   Al Morrison

30. Attach any additional statement that you wish to be considered by the Committee and the Board of Supervisors.

   See attached.

Applicants are advised that a review committee may meet in executive session on one or more occasions to consider and discuss applications for the appointment to the position of Maricopa County Attorney. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431-03(A)(1), an applicant has the right to demand that any such discussion about the applicant occur at a public meeting rather than in executive session. An applicant must indicate below whether he/she consents to the committee meeting in executive session to discuss the application or whether he/she requires that any discussion of the application be held in a public meeting.
31. Do you agree that your application may be discussed and considered in executive session and, therefore, you waive your right to require the discussion occur in a public meeting?

Yes, I agree.

32. Do you require that any discussion of your application occur in a public meeting?

No.

33. Do you consent to a financial and general background check? Yes.

If so, additional paperwork will be sent to you regarding releases for those investigations.

Thank you for your application and interest in serving Maricopa County.
Leadership

I have read reviews of MCAO on an employment website. I also have met with the division chief who chaired a committee to increase employee retention. I also have read that committee’s report and recommendations. I was one of the managers named by attorneys as being effective, approachable, etc. I will address the concerns such as the following:

- Attorneys are doing excessive amounts of data entry. Mr. Montgomery successfully led MCAO toward becoming a paperless office. The next step of this process must be to have the appropriate employees doing specific work. For example, attorneys, the highest paid employees, should not be spending substantial periods of time entering data. Addressing this next step in the process will improve morale and be fiscally responsible.

- Appropriate supervisors should be chosen and must be held accountable to effectively train and mentor those they supervise. This includes all employees within MCAO, not just attorneys.

These are not only people-smart, they are fiscally responsible. Attrition is costly. Attrition also results in less-experienced prosecutors handling complex cases.

We also most prioritize the core goals of the county attorney’s office: to do justice and to serve the community by ensuring its safety. Programs and expenditures must be measured against these core

Reform

In the upcoming year, one of the primary issues that will arise is criminal justice reform. Done right, reform will improve our society and the outcomes of the criminal justice system. Done wrong, it will impact our safety and quality of life, property values, and the success of businesses. One need look no farther than other cities that have confused mere leniency with true reform.

True reform is evidence-based. Research-guided prosecution is not a new concept to me. In the sex crimes bureaus, our approach is research-backed. In every case we evaluate risk factors as well as resiliency factors. We understand that risk is a critical factor to consider. The risk factors that we apply are based on extensive research. We frequently request risk assessments (aka “psychosexual evaluations”) prior to making plea offers in certain types of offenses: young offenders, those charged with possessing images of child sexual abuse, and others.

There is no doubt that many ideas will be explored in the upcoming years. It is critical for the county attorney to have a seat at the table. That person must 1) be thoroughly versed in the criminal justice system; 2) have a solid ability to evaluate research; and 3) have an established and respected track record.

Many years ago I developed MCAO’s Parenting Skills Diversion Program. This program is for parents who engage in excessive discipline of children. This program is not for parents who are deliberately cruel or cause significant injury. The goal is to equip the parents with appropriate parenting skills.
In recent months I have developed a Domestic Violence Excessive Response Diversion Program. This program is for a person who is historically the victim who responds in a legally unjustified way to the person who has been the historic abuser. To saddle such a person with a felony conviction will hamper his or her ability to leave the relationship because it will be harder for that person to get a job to support him/herself.

Both of the above programs require the accused to go through a treatment program that is research-backed. We track the effectiveness of the programs.

duties.

Mission

I love the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. It has given me the opportunity to grow as a professional and to help so many of society’s most vulnerable victims. I recently had the privilege to welcome a class of new prosecutors. I told them that we have the greatest job description: To do justice. But it takes an experienced prosecutor who has seen a continuum of cases to know where a particular case falls on that continuum. I have prosecuted people who have committed crimes that are simply unimaginable. Most offenders are not at this end of the continuum. I know that.

But some are. One of the most memorable cases I prosecuted involved a girl who was sexually abused and mentally tortured by her stepfather for 10 years. Even after she escaped, he stalked her and tormented those who took her in. During the 10 years of abuse, he threatened her that she would spend eternity away from her loved ones if she told. As the abuse wore on, she told me that she began to think that Hell may not be such a bad place. We asked the jury in closing, “What kind of a man leaves a child with no hope of Heaven, and no fear of Hell?” He was convicted and received life in prison. I will never forget what the victim said to me: “You saved my life”. She is now a college graduate, happily married, and teaches English in another country.

This is what the people of the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office can do: save lives and make a difference. I would be honored to lead them in these efforts.
RACHEL MITCHELL
Chief Deputy
Maricopa County Attorney’s Office
301 West Jefferson, 8TH Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
(602) 506-8556

EDUCATION

Arizona State University, College of Law
Juris Doctor, May 1992

Grand Canyon University
Bachelor of Science, Public Administration (Finance/Accounting emphasis) and Justice Studies
May 1989
Summa Cum Laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

Arizona State Bar, October 1992

United States District Court, District of Arizona, December 1992

EMPLOYMENT

Maricopa County Attorney’s Office
Phoenix, Arizona - Deputy County Attorney, February 1993 to present.

- Chief Deputy – Oversee the office (both civil and criminal divisions) including policy making, case filing and case disposition approvals, personnel matters, and budget oversight. In the absence of the county attorney, responsible for approving filing of notice of intent to seek the death penalty, wiretaps, and directing civil litigation that impacts the office.

- Division Chief, Special Victims Division – Manage a division consisting of two sex crimes bureaus, two family violence bureaus (which includes child physical abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse) and auto theft. Serve on various child crimes, sexual assault and domestic violence related committees. Develop and review related legislation. July 2017 – present.

- Bureau Chief, Sex Crimes – Supervise unit specializing in the prosecution of sex-related felonies, including child molestation, adult sexual assault, cold cases, child prostitution, and computer-related sexual offenses. Draft and testify on related legislation. Developed training program for sex crimes prosecutors in the office. January 2005 – July 2017 (In August 2014, the bureau was split into two bureaus, east and west).
Rachel Mitchell - Page 2

-Bureau Chief, Major Crimes Bureau A, Southeast Division (Sex Crimes/Family Violence) - Supervised unit specializing in the prosecution of felonies including child molestation, adult sexual assault, child physical abuse/neglect, elder abuse, stalking, and domestic violence. September 2000 – January 2005. (Eventually during this period also supervised the Gang and Repeat Offender Bureau).


-Attorney in Preliminary Hearing Bureaus (Downtown and Westside) - Prosecuted felonies, including aggravated assaults, domestic violence, and drug violations, at the preliminary hearing level, March 1993 to February 1994.

United State Senate Judiciary Committee

Grand Canyon University

Arizona Capitol Times

RECURRING TEACHING AND SPEAKING

Have trained on criminal justice issues, including crimes against children and adult sexual assaults for the following organizations since 1996 (specific topics, dates and locations available upon request):

- Arizona Peace Officers and Standards Training Board
- US Army (taught JAG officers on how to prosecute child abuse cases)
- Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
- National District Attorney’s Association
- Arizona Governor’s Office
- Prevent Child Abuse, Arizona
- Department of Corrections (on Prison Rape Elimination Act)
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix
- Churches of multiple denominations across Arizona, including nationally-viewed webinar for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention on how to protect children
- Arizona Prosecuting Attorney’s Advisory Council
- Children’s Alliance of Montana & Montana Department of Justice
- Oregon Department of Justice
- Arizona Psychological Association
SELECTED TRAININGS ATTENDED


CHADWICK CENTER, “31ST Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment,” San Diego, California,


COMMITTEES

Justice for Victims of Child Sex Abuse Task Force co-chair, 2019 – present.


Maricopa County Attorney’s Office Capital Review Committee, 2014 - present.


Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Planning Meetings participant (prosecutor representative in national group formed to develop training for judges and prosecutors), 2007.


2006 Statewide Sexual Assault Conference Planning Committee member, 2006.


Sexual Assault Protocol Committee (Maricopa County), 2001.

Sexual Assault Kit Revision Committees, 1999 and 2001.

**HONORS, SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

David R. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award

Prosecutor of the Year
Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, 2006.

Outstanding Child Abuse Legal Professional Award for Excellence
Arizona Children’s Justice Task Force, 2006

Phoenix Police Chief’s Unit Award for work on A.M. Rapist Task Force, Dec. 19, 2005.

*State v. LeBrun* (priest who molested young boys; received 111 year sentence), Nov. 29, 2005.

*State v. Rimer* (man who, under guise of polygamy, “married” and molested his second wife’s 11 year old daughter; received 159 year sentence), July 2005.

Outstanding Arizona Sexual Assault Prosecutor of the Year, 2003
Presented by the Governor’s Office and Attorney General’s Office

Crystal Apple Award, 2003
Presented by the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office for In-House Teaching

Distinguished Service Medal, 2003
Presented by the Maricopa County Attorney
Operation: Broken Oath (Investigation and prosecution of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix; indicted eight priests and entered into agreement with Diocese requiring admission of wrongdoing and victim compensation), September 25, 2003.

State v. Gutierrez (man who drove despite having recurrent epileptic seizures and collided with a police officer who sustained massive burn injuries; received 12 year sentence), September 26, 2002.

State v. Ruelas (school counselor who molested students; received 175 year sentence), July 25, 2001.

Major Crimes Division Attorney of the Year
Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, 1999.

Victim/Witness Division of the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office for work with Kids in Court Program, April 20, 1998.

Revised 9/1/2019
September 12, 2019

To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Rachel Mitchell as Appointed County Attorney. My relationship with Ms. Mitchell is a professional one as I worked under her in the Sex Crimes Bureau, however she has also offered guidance, mentorship, and leadership in an area of law that can be sensitive, delicate, and emotionally trying. Ms. Mitchell has always handled this unique area of law with candor, grace, and wisdom, and she has passed on her expertise to countless attorneys throughout her leadership role at Maricopa County Attorney’s Office.

Ms. Mitchell’s leadership skills reach the pillar of excellence. Over the course of her career Ms. Mitchell has trained countless attorneys in their journey through prosecuting sex crimes. Not only has she had to teach attorneys about sex crimes specific statutes, case law, policy guidelines, and trial and litigation, but she also teaches victim behavioral characteristics, the psychological aspects of sex offenders, the sensitive area of testimony of small children, and so much more it would be impossible to put into one letter. Throughout my career at Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, I went to three out-of-state conferences for international sex crimes trainings. It became evident to me that the training I had received at Maricopa County was unparalleled regarding the prosecution of sex crimes, and this was all because of Ms. Mitchell and the training she bestowed onto us.

The contacts and resources that Ms. Mitchell has at her fingertips is unparalleled, as demonstrated by her being asked by the US Supreme Court to participate in questioning of a victim. She a national phenomenon, and the access this grants the county is invaluable.

I can’t imagine another human being that is more capable of stepping in to fill the role of Appointed County Attorney than Ms. Mitchell. I can’t think of anyone that would offer better leadership skills, guidance, or more trial experience to lead the office. 27-years of experience shows Ms. Mitchell’s commitment to this community. She has shown through her actions that she is dedicated to pursuing justice for the citizens of Maricopa County and would transition flawlessly into this role.

Please feel free to contact with me for any more information, or questions/concerns.

Sincerely,

Alexis Lindquist
Fran McCarroll (COB)

From: Blanca Caballero (AQP)
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Fran McCarroll (COB)
Subject: FW: County Attorney

Recommendation for Rachel Mitchell.

-----Original Message-----
From: Christine Davis [mailto: District3@maricopa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:31 AM
To: District 3 <District3@maricopa.gov>
Subject: County Attorney

I am writing to recommend Rachel Mitchell for Interim County Attorney. I have known Rachel for more than 15 years, in her capacity as my supervisor, mentor, colleague, and friend. Rachel is thoughtful, fair, and focused as both a prosecutor and an attorney manager. Her listening skills, humility, experience, and wisdom make her a highly effective leader, in an otherwise ego/power forward profession. She also has extensive expertise both as a trial attorney and as an administrator at MCAO, having faithfully served her entire legal career there. The Board and MCAO will be well served by her appointment and I know she is committed to running a strong campaign to continue her service to the employees of MCAO and the citizens of Maricopa County. I strongly support her appointment as Interim and would be happy to answer any questions or concerns by email, phone, or in person. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Davis
Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

September 10, 2019

Chairman Bill Gates
Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: Rachel Mitchell's appointment

Dear Chairman Gates:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Rachel Mitchell to the position of Maricopa County Attorney. I have known Ms. Mitchell since 2012 when I was a legal intern at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO). Since my internship in 2012, I went on to work at MCAO for 4 years before I left to begin my current position as Rules Attorney at the Arizona House of Representatives.

In my time knowing Ms. Mitchell, I have had nothing but the utmost respect for her work ethic and character. She is not only a powerfully effective attorney, but she is also an exceptional individual. During my time at MCAO, I prosecuted cases under Ms. Mitchell in the Sex Crimes Division both with her as Bureau Chief and then as Division Chief. There is not a name in the prosecution of these types of cases in Arizona more renowned than Ms. Mitchell's, and it is well deserved. She has dedicated her career to becoming an advocate for the victims and citizens of this state. She not only has extensive trial experience but teaching experience as well. This hands-on trial experience is invaluable to the position of County Attorney. Someone with years and countless hours of actual experience in the trenches of prosecution is just the person that should lead the charge for justice in Maricopa County. Ms. Mitchell has the ability to see the nuances of fairness and justice and to know when cases should be brought to trial and what that will actually entail. She understands the complexities of statutes, plea negotiations, and the rules of evidence. She also has the ability to see all sides of an issue and to remain bold and steadfast in her decision making.

I also know that she has been an integral part of the interaction between MCAO and the state legislative process. She has been involved in both drafting new legislation and working to amend existing law when changes were necessary. Ms. Mitchell understands the importance of the legislative process and she has been a successful part of implementing changes in state statute. This experience should not be overlooked. One should not underestimate the role that the Maricopa County Attorney plays in the legislative process. With the largest county and the largest prosecutorial presence in the state, the voice of the Maricopa County Attorney at the legislature is well respected and often sought after. This manner of influence should not be given to just anyone. Ms. Mitchell has had experience testifying before both the Senate and the House, answering questions, and providing feedback about pending legislation, such as the mandatory reporting statute, sexual conduct with a minor statute and child sex trafficking statutes. It is rare to find an individual who has not only worked to draft state statutes but has also prosecuted under those statutory requirements in court; Ms. Mitchell is such an individual.

It is with great honor and respect both for Ms. Mitchell and for the position of Maricopa County Attorney that I strongly recommend Ms. Mitchell for the position.

Sincerely,

Krystle Fernandez

[Signature]
Date: 9/11/2019

Bill Gates
Board Chairman
Board of Supervisors
301 West Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85033

Dear Chairman Gates,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to recommend Rachel Mitchell to be appointed County Attorney. I have had the honor of interacting with and consulting with Rachel in a professional capacity during her time as a bureau chief and division chief at the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. I have always been impressed by her professionalism and ability to be a critical thinker.

As Maricopa County moves towards criminal justice reform, having someone with Rachel’s experience as a prosecutor and ability to discern between effective plans for reform and ineffective plans is imperative. She understands the importance of criminal justice reform being guided by research rather than emotionally driven. Rachel truly believes that justice is about doing the right thing, based on the law, for all parties involved, and not about winning or losing a case. Rachel views individuals who have been charged with a crime, as individuals, and approaches their cases based on the evidence and nuances of their specific cases. She does not believe all “offenders” are the same nor does she believe that all “offenders” need to be incarcerated. I have witnessed her balance justice for victims and accountability for the individual charged, while always keeping community safety as a priority.

Her temperament allows her to remain professional in highly adversarial situations. In the face of opposition, she has shown an ability to truly hear all sides of a situation, remain respectful of all involved, and articulate her position in a clear and concise manner. Her awareness of research and professional experience allows her to be a persuasive communicator even to those who initially may oppose her position. These skills will allow her to navigate the upcoming criminal justice reform, as well as, lead the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office.

Without hesitation, I confidently recommend Rachel Mitchell to be appointed County Attorney. If you have any questions, please contact me at 602-449-8586.

Sincerely,

Tina Garby, Psy.D
Forensic & Clinical Psychologist
September 8, 2019

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Chairman William Gates
Vice-Chairman Clint Hickman
Supervisor Jack Sellars
Supervisor Steve Chucri
Supervisor Steve Gallardo
301 W. Jefferson St. 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing this letter of support for Rachel Mitchell as interim Maricopa County Attorney. As a 30-year retired law enforcement supervisor I have known Rachel over the last 15 years in both a professional and personal capacity. During this time, she has proven to be an intelligent, objective, and dedicated prosecutor who consistently demonstrated to be an exceptional leader. I was proud to work with her on some of the most complicated criminal cases in Maricopa County. Rachel is a dedicated public servant both inside the County Attorney’s office and outside in our community.

Ms. Mitchells record as a prosecutor and even more as a citizen of Maricopa County, makes her the top choice to replace William Montgomery. I fully believe she has the knowledge, skills, and ability to successfully complete the task of County Attorney and faithfully serve the citizens of Maricopa County. I would be happy to speak with any of you about Rachel.

Respectfully,

Jim Markey, M.ED
Phoenix Police Department (retired)
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
September 9, 2019

Honorable Clint Hickman
District 4 Supervisor
Maricopa County Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson St. 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Clint:

I hope you are doing well. It has been some time since we last spoke.

The reason for my letter is I would like to recommend that you vote to appoint Rachel Mitchell as the new Maricopa County Attorney when it is time to make that selection.

Rachel has such an outstanding reputation and such varied experiences as a respected prosecutor that I believe she would be an outstanding asset to the county and would do an exceptional job.

I really do not know how you could find someone more qualified to fill this vacancy.

I hope that you would agree with me and support her appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Myers
September 13, 2019

Bill Gates, Chairman
Board of Supervisors, District 3
301 W Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Mr. Gates,

My name is Ruben Ortega, a former Police Chief of Phoenix, Arizona. I write this letter in support of Rachel Mitchell who has applied to be considered, and hopefully appointed, by the Board to be Maricopa County Attorney to finish Bill Montgomery’s current term in that position.

During the selection process, I am convinced you will find few, if any, who can surpass Rachel’s qualifications to be our next County Attorney. Rachel has been an accomplished prosecutor and top manager for 27 years in the County Attorney’s office. She currently is acting County Attorney while the process for your selection is underway. She is recognized both in the State and nationally as an outstanding prosecutor in both criminal and civil litigation, and as an instructor to jurists, other attorneys, members of law enforcement, and military groups. Additionally, her awards and recognitions are too numerous to mention.

Rachel is keenly aware of the two major responsibilities of her office: the successful prosecution of criminal cases; and, the representation of civil legal services to the Board and the County. Regarding the first responsibility, it is crucial that the County Attorney’s Office establish solid relationships with local law enforcement agencies and their leadership. Rachel has shown that she is capable of achieving this accord. Additionally, she is also committed to bringing a positive, respectful and professional attitude in serving County government.

When it comes to fiscal financial matters for her office, you will find her to be a team player, understanding the vast needs of other County departments. That is not to say she will not strongly make a case for her office financial requirements.

Rachel enjoys the respect of the vast majority of prosecutors and employees in the County Attorney’s Office—a critical component to moving the mission of the office forward, while maintaining the respect of the public she services.

A provision for my support was a promise from her that should she not be selected for this position, that she will still run for the office of Maricopa County Attorney in 2020. She committed to do so. She will be a very difficult candidate to defeat in that future race.
For the continuation of an efficient and accomplished County Attorney Office, please select Rachel Mitchell as the interim County Attorney.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Ruben B. Ortega
Phoenix Police Chief, retired

CC:
Clint Hickman, Vice-Chairman, District 4
Jack Sellers, District 1
Steve Chucri, District 2
Steve Gallardo, District 5
September 11, 2019

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson Rd., 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: Ms. Rachel Mitchell, JD, for Maricopa County Attorney

Dear Sirs;

It is my privilege to strongly support Ms. Rachel Mitchell for Maricopa County Attorney. I have worked with her since 2001 when I became active in the medical care and protection of vulnerable and abused children. She is an unwavering advocate for vulnerable children and adults in our County. She was a leader in developing our Child Abuse Investigations protocol in Maricopa County which is now a model for the rest of Arizona. She teaches frequently around our State on skills for forensic interviewing for Law Enforcement and Department of Child Safety personnel. She has been invited to teach around the United States, including with the FBI, to bring her successful techniques of interviewing and prosecuting child crimes to the rest of the nation.

I had numerous opportunities to testify in trials with Ms. Mitchell and her colleagues. In one memorable case she led the prosecution of a sex offender who had committed his crimes in three different states. The other two states were unable to achieve convictions, but with her tenacity and attention to detail, she was able to lead the prosecution to a successful conviction. The perpetrator is now serving the rest of his life in prison based on the number and severity of his offenses against his adopted children. Ms. Mitchell is a pleasure to watch in a courtroom as she determinedly and with wit and intelligence pursues her objective: justice.

Ms. Mitchell also has a long list of community service as she gives her time and talent to organizations that work to understand and prevent child abuse. I have worked with her with Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, with the Arizona ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Coalition and with the Children’s Justice Task Force of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission. She is kind and generous with her leadership skills, and always inspires those of us working with her to work harder and smarter. In her personal life she serves her church community, and lucky audiences of the holiday concerts, by performing the tympani in the orchestra. What a beautiful talent!

Most importantly, a particular skill of Ms. Mitchell’s is her empathy for victims and the vulnerable while relentlessly pursuing justice. She is unfailingly kind, but she doesn’t shirk from being strong and direct to achieve justice. This was on display recently on the national stage in her work with the Nominations Investigative Counsel for US Senate Judiciary Committee in the (then Judge) Brett Kavanaugh hearing.

Thank you for your attention to detail in confirming our next Maricopa County Attorney. When you have talked with Rachel Mitchell, evaluated her invaluable contributions to our County and have seen that she has the wit, intelligence and passion to fight for justice for everyone in our County, you will see that she is your best choice for our next Maricopa County Attorney.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Leslie D Quinn, MD, Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Child Abuse Pediatrician (Retired)
Commissioner, Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission, Governor’s Office of Youth Faith and Family
September 13, 2019

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Steve Gallardo
301 W. Jefferson St. 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Mr. Gallardo,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Ms. Rachel Mitchell as interim county attorney. As a forensic nurse examiner, I have been fortunate to work with Rachel over the last 15 years in a professional capacity. In addition to our professional relationship, I am honored to also know her in a personal capacity. During the time I have known her, she has proven to be an intelligent, objective, and dedicated prosecutor and an exceptional leader. Rachel is a devoted public servant both inside the County Attorney’s office and outside in our community.

In addition, I have not only attended speaking engagements and trainings that Ms. Mitchell has given, but also have spoken alongside her. She is a dynamic speaker and she seems to effortlessly engage and adapt to her audience. She makes each attendee feel as if she is speaking directly to him or her. Professionals and community members seek her knowledge and expertise which she willingly provides. Her numerous awards and recognitions reinforce the respect and appreciation her peers, superiors and the community have for her wisdom, skills and knowledge.

Ms. Mitchell’s record as a prosecutor, and even more as a citizen of Maricopa County, makes her an excellent choice to fill the vacancy left by Bill Montgomery. I fully believe she has the knowledge, skills, and ability to successfully complete the task of County Attorney and faithfully serve the citizens of Maricopa County.

I am happy to speak with you about Rachel should you your desire.

Respectfully,

Karyn Rasile RN BSN MAEd, AFN-BC, SANE-A
Forensic Nurse Consultant
Phoenix, AZ
September 9, 2019

Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85033

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We are writing in support of Rachel Mitchell, acting Maricopa County Attorney, to follow in the footsteps of former Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery. We have the unique position of witnessing her daily devotion to children as she is one of the partners who makes up the multidisciplinary team at our Childhelp Children’s Center of AZ. She is dedicated to keeping at-risk youth safe and would offer an excellent continuation of Bill’s leadership; a legacy of love.

Rachel has first-chaired over 60 felony jury trials and worked extensively in the areas of prosecution of sexual offenses against children (molestation, child sex trafficking, Internet predators, and child pornography). She teaches nationally about the sexual and physical abuse of children, including her work instructing JAG officers how to prosecute child abuse cases for the US Army as a Pentagon consultant.

She co-chairs Governor Doug Ducey’s Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force, is a member of AZ Child and Family Advocacy Network’s executive board and serves on the AZ Human Trafficking Council and Juvenile Justice Commission’s Committee on Children’s Justice. Her many awards include: MCAO’s Prosecutor of the Year and Outstanding Child Abuse Legal Professional Award for Excellence by the AZ Children’s Justice Task Force. Her career has been committed to justice for children.

We love that in her spare time, she volunteers in the community benefitting local charities that supplement school lunch programs and helping faith-based organizations with trainings to ensure their places of worship are safe for children. She has trained every priest in the Diocese of Phoenix regarding measures to protect boys and girls in body, mind and spirit.

Thank you for your consideration of Rachel Mitchell for Maricopa County Attorney; a true champion for children.

For the love of a child,

Sara O’Meara
Co-Founder, Chairman & CEO

Yvonne Fedderson
Co-Founder, Vice Chairman & President
September 10, 2019

Board of Supervisors
301 West Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85033

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I write in enthusiastic support of Rachel Mitchell’s appointment as County Attorney of Maricopa County.

I have known Rachel Mitchell for approximately 13 years. I first got to know Rachel through my position as a Senior Attorney at the National District Attorneys Association’s National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse. Rachel was a highly regarded faculty member for NDAA and I could always count on her to volunteer her time to provide professional and informative trainings to our nation’s child abuse prosecutors and allied professionals. Rachel always received rave reviews from the people she trained. In addition, Rachel was always available to offer a helping hand to assist prosecutors with technical assistance questions and trial strategy.

In my present position as a Senior Attorney at the Association of Prosecuting Attorney’s Child Abuse Prosecution Project, Rachel continues to graciously volunteer her time to speak at APA’s national conferences. In my interactions with Rachel, she has impressed me as an ethical and conscientious person and prosecutor. She truly believes in justice and has worked tirelessly throughout her career to protect society’s most vulnerable population—our children.

Rachel has the ability to connect with people. She has a keen intellect as well as a great sense of humor. She has a national reputation as an effective prosecutor and tremendous public speaker and consummate professional.

In summary, I wholeheartedly support Rachel Mitchell for County Attorney. She would well serve the people of Maricopa County. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me at 508-868-1501.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Sawicki
Senior Attorney
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Child Abuse Prosecution Project
September 7, 2019

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson, Floor 10
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Attn: Chairman Bill Gates

Re: Rachel Mitchel

Dear Mr. Gates,

I am submitting this letter to you in support of Rachel Mitchel who is being considered for the Interim County Attorney position.

I have known and worked with Rachel for over 24 years since she was a young prosecutor in the Sex/Child Crimes Unit of the County Attorney’s Office. She worked closely with my unit at the Mesa Police Department and was one of many prosecutors who helped develop and coordinate the Mesa Center Against Family Violence. Mesa’s center was one of the first centers in the nation for multidisciplinary investigations of crimes involving sexual assaults, physical/sexual abuse of children, and domestic violence.

Rachel was a key component in the success of the advocacy center model which now includes over 750 advocacy centers across the nation. She helped facilitate the multi-agency coordination of these crimes which ultimately led to increased prosecutions and a reduced trauma to victims. She also led multiple agencies in the development of the Maricopa County Sexual Assault/Child Crimes protocols which has been a model across the nation for other jurisdictions.

Throughout her dedication and work, I have had the honor to have served with her on multiple committees and trainings since I retired from the police department. She continues to be an asset to my police academy as a resource as we train new officers for the future.

Beside the fact she is a person of incredible integrity and dedication, what I love about her is she is approachable, she puts others first, and she will make time to help anyone, anytime.
I hope the Board seriously considers Rachel for the interim position for the County Attorney’s Office. No doubt she would be an excellent choice!

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Jon Terpay, Director
Chandler/Gilbert Community College
Law Enforcement Training Academy
7360 E. Tahoe, Mesa, AZ 85212-0908
480.988.8756 Office
480.988.8259 Fax
jonathan.terpay@cgc.edu

cc: Vice Chairman Clint Hickman
    Jack Sellers
    Steve Churcri
    Steve Gallardo
Fran McCarroll (COB)

From: Blanca Caballero (AQD)
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 3:07 PM
To: Fran McCarroll (COB)
Subject: FW: County Attorney appointment

Recommendation for Rachel Mitchell below.

Blanca Caballero
Deputy Chief of Staff (acting) – Chairman Bill Gates, District 3 Maricopa County
301 W. Jefferson Street | 10th floor | Phoenix, AZ 85003
Phone: (602) 506-7349 | Main Line: (602) 506-7562
Email: Blanca.Caballero@maricopa.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: d s [mailto:][redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:35 PM
To: District 3 <District3@maricopa.gov>
Subject: County Attorney appointment

Sorry to bother you Mr. Gates, I know you’re a very busy person. I have been a law-enforcement officer for 39 years. I am still active. I wanted to send you a recommendation for county attorney appointment until next election. Rachel Mitchell would be my choice. I have had many cases with her involvement over the years and she is an excellent attorney and representative of Maricopa County. I believe her to be very ethical and again in my opinion, the best person for the job. Thank you for your time and I do appreciate the job you are doing also. Dan Snodgrass

Sent from my iPhone
September 22, 2019

Dear Sirs,

I’m writing in support of appointing Ms. Rachel Mitchell for County Attorney. I have known Rachel since 2000, when she was the Sex Crimes Bureau Chief and I was a therapist at Childhelp Children’s Center of Arizona. I invited her to a meeting of therapists who worked with not only victims, but also with those who had sexually offended. I was immediately impressed by her effective communication style and unique ability to comprehend both sides of the issue. These meetings were rather challenging and had never before been attended by any legal professionals, certainly not prosecutors. These meetings were created in an effort to improve services to families dealing with trauma and abuse. Rachel expressed compassion and concern for all involved in these cases, while maintaining a stance of serving justice for the victims and providing treatment to those who offended, along with holding them accountable.

Rachel is a part of the faculty responsible for training multidisciplinary team members (law enforcement, child protection workers, medical, school and counseling professionals, as well as attorneys) across Arizona on a wide range of topics regarding legal issues and victims of abuse. She has been integral in developing protocols for the handling of cases of sexual assault and child sexual abuse. She has also made it a priority to have bilingual forensic interviewers conducting interviews of some of our most vulnerable victims, who may otherwise not see justice. These protocols and ensuring the most qualified and highly trained professionals are available to victims ensures these most challenging cases successfully proceed through the justice system. Her professionalism and dedication are clearly demonstrated as she willingly and eagerly lends help to any professional requesting it. Her wisdom, skills and vast knowledge are sought from across the state, as well as the nation, which she freely gives via consultation and training to professionals and community members. This sharing promotes other communities’ abilities to provide well-informed services to victims and their families on a much broader scale.
Rachel has efficiently and effectively managed a staff of legal professionals and support staff, to include Division Chiefs, Bureau Chiefs, Assistant Bureau Chiefs, Attorneys, Paralegals and Legal Secretaries, who work with some of the most complicated, heart-wrenching cases. These same managerial skills afford her the unique ability to mediate meetings involving multidisciplinary team members who often times have similar goals, but have diverse mindsets on how to reach those goals.

Rachel is well respected among her peers and myriad community members. Acknowledgement of her efforts has been routinely demonstrated by the numerous nominations and awards she has received. These awards highlight her diligent efforts to provide justice for victims and their families. They have been given to her by the Governor and Attorney General’s Offices, as well as local law enforcement and the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, not to mention the Arizona Children’s Justice Task Force, which was comprised of various professionals knowledgeable about child abuse.

Rachel’s ability to balance the workload with her hobbies (to include playing in her church orchestra) has allowed her to continue managing an intense workload successfully and proficiently. Her commitment to serving others is obvious from the first time you meet Rachel and I feel certain she would be a true asset as the County Attorney. Her knowledge, along with her superior reasoning abilities, will serve our county with the respect and wisdom it demands.

Respectfully,

Christina Schopen, LPC, PLLC
September 23, 2019

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
County Attorney Selection Committee
301 West Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Members of the Board and Committee:

I write in support of Rachel Mitchell for Maricopa County Attorney. I have known Ms. Mitchell professionally and personally for the past 22 years. Her professionalism, dedication to the community, and moral standing are beyond compare.

Ms. Mitchell stands out among the applicants in several respects. First, she has the broadest criminal justice experience of any of the candidates. In her 27 years as a prosecutor, she has worked as a line attorney, a bureau chief, a division chief, and chief deputy. Her institutional knowledge of MCAO, and of the criminal justice system in general, is unparalleled.

Secondly, Ms. Mitchell has the expertise to navigate the criminal justice reform issues that are expected to dominate the upcoming election cycle. She understands that effective and fair reform must be based on research and evidence, rather than on uninformed emotion. She has researched, drafted, advised, and testified about numerous pieces of legislation. These skills will be invaluable in successfully addressing reform.

Thirdly, Ms. Mitchell possesses the highest moral and ethical standards of anyone I have ever met. She applies the law without regard to a suspect’s position in the community or their personal connections. She has personally prosecuted police officers, clergy, teachers, and coaches. Conversely, she recognizes that a prosecutor’s first responsibility is not simply to convict upon the merest hint of accusation, but to do justice. She will always do the right thing, even in the face of criticism and even when it is to her own personal detriment.

I believe that Ms. Mitchell has the personal presence, experience, drive and community support necessary to carry the 2020 election. I cannot recommend her highly enough, and would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeanine M. Sorrentino, Esq.
September 25, 2019

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson St. #10
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Clerkboard@maricopa.gov

Dear Board of Supervisors:

It is my pleasure to recommend Rachel Mitchell for the position of Maricopa County Attorney. Rachel has proven herself to be an exceptional leader and would serve Maricopa County well.

Rachel has established herself as a tremendous prosecutor, leader, and advocate for victims of crime in her long and respected career at Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. She is highly regarded by leaders in her field throughout the state and beyond.

As a Deputy County Attorney in Coconino County Attorney’s Office, supervising our specialty court programs and handling a felony prosecution caseload, I have been fortunate to get to know Rachel over the past decade and have witnessed first-hand Rachel’s remarkable leadership qualities that makes her well-suited for this position. Rachel has been a trusted mentor to me throughout my career as a prosecutor. I know I can always count on Rachel to provide thoughtful insight and sound advice, even in the most stressful circumstances. Her intelligence and experience are second to none.

Rachel’s record over nearly three decades at Maricopa County Attorney’s Office proves that she is tough as nails. But what I respect most about Rachel is her heart. She has spent her career fighting to protect and help the most vulnerable in our society. Rachel is passionate about this work because she truly cares. She cares about victims, she cares about her colleagues, she cares about the rule of law and just outcomes, and she cares about the community that she has promised to protect and serve. This level of care is clear in the way she lives her life and the way she performs her work.

In addition to her work at Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, she spends countless hours educating the public and training prosecutors and law enforcement across the state, to help facilitate a safer community for all citizens.

Rachel possesses the strong character, experience, and calm demeanor needed for this valuable position. She is an exceptional person and exceptional candidate for this position.

Feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions. I’m happy to discuss my recommendation further.

Sincerely,

Stacy Krueger
Deputy County Attorney
Coconino County Attorney’s Office
#(928)679-8226 – work; [REDACTED]
From: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors - COBX
To: Amy Gabaldon (COB)
Subject: FW: Appointment of the Maricopa County Attorney
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 10:35:18 AM

From: terryanddunner
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 7:17 AM
To: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors - COBX <clerkboard@maricopa.gov>
Subject: Appointment of the Maricopa County Attorney

To whom it may concern

I am writing you as a citizen and employee of Maricopa County. I have worked with Rachel Mitchell for over 10 years and I feel she would be a great asset, as County Attorney, to the citizens and employees of Maricopa County. Rachel Mitchell's actions clearly shows her passion for standing up and protecting those who can't stand up and protect themselves.

Rachel Mitchell is very detailed-oriented with all that she does, including monitoring expenses that our office incurs for forensic exams. She administers and monitors the contracts for forensic interviewers and forensic nurse examiners. so that the office runs more efficiently. This will result in savings to the taxpayers.

Our office has gone through many changes over the past few years, Rachel has a clear understanding of the office procedures and knows what tasks are being done by each level of employee. I feel Rachel sees and understands what procedures are misdirected and she will redirect them appropriately so that the office runs more efficiently. This will result in taxpayer savings.

I strongly feel that there is no candidate that could come close in offering what she has to offer as Maricopa County Attorney.

Sincerely, Terry Pederson

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S10+.
September 20, 2019

Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
301 West Jefferson Street, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

To whom it may concern:

Re: Recommendation of Ms. Rachel Mitchell for Maricopa County Attorney

I have known Ms. Rachel Mitchell for more than twenty-two years and confidently affirm she possesses all qualities and experience to be our Maricopa County Attorney. I have been a Phoenix Police Officer for thirty-four years and am currently the Assistant Police Chief over the North Patrol Division. Ms. Mitchell and I have repeatedly crossed paths during our professional careers. I have worked closely with and around Ms. Mitchell throughout every rank of policing while Ms. Mitchell held various positions and leadership roles within the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

Ms. Mitchell is highly recognized throughout local, state and national communities as an extremely knowledgeable, fair, competent and noble prosecutor and public official who is dedicated to justice. Ms. Mitchell is always available to provide consult, guidance and training to police personnel, medical professionals, educators, advocacy groups, faith-based groups, attorneys and many others. She has extremely high expectations of herself and is always willing to help others. She encourages and inspires everyone who meets her to be better than they were the previous day.

Ms. Mitchell is dedicated to her family, her church, our community and her law career. She is also involved in numerous community organizations and somehow makes the time to volunteer as a band member with her church to perform at events across the valley. Ms. Mitchell takes time away from her family and personal life to provide legal consultation. Her abilities to successfully manage the intense pressures of her position and still devote so much of herself to others is amazing and admirable.

Ms. Mitchell embodies all essential qualities and characteristics vital to the position of Maricopa County Attorney. Ms. Mitchell is a dedicated leader who values diversity, teamwork and inclusion. I proudly recommend Ms. Rachel Mitchell for the position of Maricopa County Attorney. She is an exemplary person and professional who will provide the best possible service to the citizens of Maricopa County.

It is difficult to portray Ms. Mitchell's genuine character, determination, work ethic and impeccable professionalism solely in written words. I am available to provide additional insight if necessary.

Sincerely,

Mary Roberts
September 25, 2019

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
301 West Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: Rachel Mitchell’s Appointment

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am writing this letter in support of candidate Ms. Rachel Mitchell for County Attorney. I have known Ms. Mitchell for 15 years. Ms. Mitchell was a supervisor and mentor during my time with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office.

When I first transferred to the Sex Crimes Division, Ms. Mitchell was preparing for State v. Joseph Cervantez Briceno. The defendant was a former priest with the Catholic Church and part of the Operation Broken Oath investigation. Ms. Mitchell invited me as her second chair for trial, which I gratefully accepted. During that time, I observed Ms. Mitchell from both a legal and a human perspective. In trial, Ms. Mitchell was unflappable, regardless of the spoken and unspoken pressures swirling about. In working with the victims, Ms. Mitchell was kind, compassionate and always available for questions/concerns. One positive outcome that came from Operation Broken Oath, was that Ms. Mitchell took the opportunity to rebuild bridges and relationships with the Phoenix Diocese. Over many years, she has continued to maintain that bridge by providing guidance and trainings to the Phoenix Diocese and the Catholic Schools of Phoenix.

Ms. Mitchell has spent her entire career dedicated to the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. She is extremely passionate about justice and her community. Over the years, Ms. Mitchell has continuously put the needs of the community and children ahead of herself and her family. On Christmas Day, 2009, a 5 year old child was kidnapped from her front yard. She was out in front of her home, playing with her sister and a man scooped her up and threw her through the passenger window of his vehicle, speeding away. Ms. Mitchell was the first person Phoenix Police called and she dropped everything to be of assistance and on site with Law Enforcement and the family. The child was molested, but she was rescued approximately 7 hours later. Although Ms. Mitchell was a Bureau Chief, she personally handled the case from December 25, 2009 to resolution. (State v. Larry Ladwig).

Although I am no longer with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, Ms. Mitchell and I are still in regular contact. One quiet characteristic Ms. Mitchell possesses, that has remained a constant since I have known her, is balance. Ms. Mitchell has always evaluated all surrounding factors in order to arrive at what a just result would be. As she
will tell you, "If you are not looking at all sides of the issue, you are neither balanced nor effective."

Although I am no longer with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, Ms. Mitchell and I are still in regular contact. One quiet characteristic Ms. Mitchell possesses, that has remained constant since I have known her, is balance. Ms. Mitchell has consistently looked at all surrounding factors in arriving at what is just result would be. As she would tell you, "if you are not looking at all sides of the issue, you are neither balanced or effective." Criminal justice reform is a significant topic at the forefront in today’s society. Ms. Mitchell has ideas on how to address this area moving forward. Weighing what is just, is a core value of Ms. Mitchell’s being. Some examples are approving juvenile defendants for sex offender treatment over aggressive prosecution and speaking to the Arizona Legislature about a bill that would allow individuals convicted of certain sex offenses to petition the Court to discharge the sex offender registration requirement (upon turning 35).

Please feel free to contact me should you like to discuss Ms. Mitchell’s qualifications and experience further. I would be happy to expand upon my recommendation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Andrus
COO/CFO
Hye Tech Network & Security Solutions, LLC