



# COUNTY OF KENOSHA

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jim Kreuser, County Executive

1010 – 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Third Floor

Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

(262) 653-2600

Fax: (262) 653-2817

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSAL

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT 2021/22-26

#### RE: KENOSHA COUNTY RACIAL & ETHNIC EQUITY COMMISSION

TO THE HONORABLE KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Placing special trust in his/her/their judgment and based upon his/her/their qualifications, I hereby submit to the Honorable Kenosha County Board of Supervisors for its review and approval the name of

Bradden Backer  
Kenosha, WI 53144

to serve on the Kenosha County Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission beginning immediately upon confirmation of the County Board and continuing until the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 2023 or until a successor is appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors.

Bradden Backer will serve without pay.

Bradden Backer will be filling a vacancy on the Commission.

Respectfully submitted this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.

Jim Kreuser

Kenosha County Executive

COUNTY OF KENOSHA  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JIM KREUSER

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
KENOSHA COUNTY RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUITY COMMISSION**

(Please type or print)

Name: BRADDEN CRAIG BACKER  
First Middle Last

Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address if above less than 5 years: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: BACKER EMPLOYMENT LAW, \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Title

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address Preference: Business ☐ Residence ☐

Email Address: Brad@backer.law

Do you or have you done business with any part of Kenosha County Government in the past 5 years? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please attach a detailed document.

Applicant's race/ethnicity (Optional):

Caucasian

*(Note: Per the County Board resolution creating the commission, the makeup of the commission should, at a minimum, reflect the diverse racial and ethnic makeup of Kenosha County as determined by the most recent census information with at all times five of the seven non-County Board commissioners representing racial and ethnic minorities in Kenosha County.)*

**Affiliations:** List affiliations in all service groups, public service organizations, social or charitable groups, labor, business or professional organization, and indicate if it was a board or staff affiliation.

Wisconsin State Bar, member and formerly on Employment Law Section Board; Milwaukee Jewish Federation, former officer and Board Member; Hillel of UW-Madison, former member of Board and officer

\*If more space is needed, please attach another sheet.

Kenosha County Racial Equity Commission  
Appointment Application - Page 2

Special Interests: Indicate organizations or activities in which you have a special interest but may not have been actively involved.

---

---

---

Nominee's Supervisory District \_\_\_\_\_

Governmental Services: List services with any governmental unit.

---

---

Personal Statement: Please indicate why you believe you would be a valuable addition to the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission.

I believe that Kenosha County is at a critical crossroads in the process of identifying and implementing actions to respond to inequities due to race, national origin and ancestry. Indeed, in my view the need for governmental action in this regard is critical and overdue. Although I have no certainty about solutions and welcome the opportunity to join community members in a search for them, I have no doubt that these equity problems exist and demand individual and community responses.

My wife, Dena Feingold and I, are lifelong Wisconsin residents and have made our home in Somers for more than three decades. Together, we have worked to improve our understanding, consciousness and empathy concerning matters of race, national origin and other legally protected characteristics, while being mindful of the our limited understanding given that we are white.

Since 1981, I have served as an attorney focusing on employment law matters, generally, and civil rights in particular. I hope that as an advocate for and counselor of both employees and employers in such matters, my professional training and experience may be of value to the community as a member of this commission.

\*If more space is needed, please attach another sheet.

Conflict Of Interest: It would be inappropriate for you, as a current or prospective appointee, to have a member of your immediate family directly involved with any action that may come under the inquiry or advice of the appointed board, commission, or committee. A committee member declared in conflict would be prohibited from voting on any motion where "direct involvement" had been declared and may result in embarrassment to you and/or Kenosha County.

Bradden C. Backer

Signature of Nominee

6/29/21

Date

Please return, **along with your resume**, to: Kenosha County Executive  
1010 – 56th Street  
Kenosha, WI 53140

**BRADDEN C. BACKER** works at Backer Employment Law, LLC in southeast Wisconsin. He provides both employers and employees with advice and representation concerning a full range of employment matters and civil rights concerns. In addition, he has served as an independent investigator of harassment and a wide variety of other employment-related complaints and issues. Since 2012, Brad also has served as a mediator in a variety of employment/ business disputes, assisting the parties in resolving most of these matters without additional litigation.

Brad was selected as a "Wisconsin Top Lawyer"/ "Super Lawyer," a designation limited to five percent of Wisconsin attorneys, in a statewide vote of his peers since 2005 -- every year the designation was awarded in Wisconsin. He also was included in editions of "Best Lawyers in America," beginning in 2008 for his work in employment law for work representing both Management and individuals. In 2016 and 2018, he was named a "Lawyer of the Year" by the Wisconsin edition of "Best Lawyers" magazine for his representation of individuals in employment matters. He has been named a "Top Rated Labor & Employment" lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell for many consecutive years.

A frequent speaker at seminars and universities on employment issues, he is a co-author of the Wisconsin State Bar's three-volume *Wisconsin Employment Law* treatise and *Hiring and Firing in Wisconsin*, the latter an award-winning publication. Brad is co-author of *Wisconsin Courts Struggle with Geography in Non-Solicitation Agreements*, and *ADA and WFEA: Differing Disability Protection*. He is the author of *The Scope of Wisconsin's Privacy Statute*, and *New Directions in Wisconsin Restrictive Covenant Law After "Star Direct,"* all articles published in "The Wisconsin Lawyer."

After completing his undergraduate degree in medieval European history, Phi Beta Kappa, at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1978, Brad learned that this degree was extremely interesting, but useless if he was interested in food and shelter. Lacking a clear direction in life, he chose to pursue an education in law, graduating from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1981, where he also was selected to the Order of the Coif, served as a judicial intern to the late Hon. Thomas E. Fairchild of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and was an author and editor on *The Wisconsin Law Review*. After graduation, he served as a clerk to the late Hon. John D. Butzner, Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Brad and his wife, Rabbi Dena Feingold, have lived in Kenosha for over thirty years. They have two children of whom they are extremely proud.

-----  
(For Office Use Only)  
-----

Appointed To: Kenosha County Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission  
Commission/Committee/Board

Term: Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ Ending \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed by the Kenosha County Board on: \_\_\_\_\_

New Appointment ☒

Reappointment ☐

Previous Terms: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_