



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

December 6, 2024

Honorable Members
Providence City Council
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended; Section 8-13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence; and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 31 passed in 1987, I am this day reappointing Paul Ragosta, Esq. of 15 Lotus Place, Providence, RI 02908 as an Associate Judge of the Providence Housing Court, for a term to end January 6, 2028, and respectfully submit the same for your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett P. Smiley".

Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 06 2025

READ

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina L. Martorelli".
CLERK

CURRICULUM VITAE

Paul D. Ragosta
Attorney at Law
1 Turks Head Place, Suite 380
Providence, Rhode island 02903

Personal Profile

Paul D. Ragosta is a lifelong Rhode Island resident. He resides at 15 Lotus Place, Providence, Rhode Island with his wife of 40 years, Debra. He and his wife have two daughters, Sara Ragosta, a financial advisor, and Stefanie Ragosta, a Victims Advocate with the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. He is the son of the late Rhode Island Superior Court Judge Vincent A. Ragosta and Carmela C. Ragosta. Paul D. Ragosta has three brothers, Vincent F. Ragosta, a practicing attorney, Dominic L. Ragosta, a Certified Public Accountant, and Peter J. Ragosta, a Registered Pharmacist.

Education

Paul D. Ragosta is a 1985 graduate of New England Law in Boston, MA, where he earned the degree of Juris Doctor, with Honors. While at New England Law, he received the Distinguished Achievement Award for Academic Excellence, and was ranked number six in academic rank out of the entire first year class.

In 1978, he graduated from Suffolk University, College of Business, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. In 1976, he received an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Community College of Rhode Island.

Paul D. Ragosta is the product of the Providence public school system. In 1974, he graduated from Classical High School, recognized nationally as a leading college preparatory high school.

Bar Admission

Paul D. Ragosta was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in 1985. In 1986, he was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for Rhode Island, and the United States First Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a member of the American Bar Association.

Professional Profile

General

Paul D. Ragosta has been a practicing attorney for 34 years.

Upon graduating Suffolk University College of Business Administration in 1978 with a degree in Accounting, he went to work as an accountant for the Office of Rhode Island General Treasurer. In 1979, he was hired as an auditor for the Office of the Rhode Island Auditor General, where he rose to the position of Senior Auditor. His audit career at the Office of the Auditor General involved the planning and execution of financial, operational and performance audits of state agencies and federal programs administered by the state. In 1985, just prior to his admission to the Rhode Island Bar, Attorney Ragosta assisted the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General in special criminal investigations of white color crime and public corruption. These investigations resulted in the indictment and conviction of major elected and appointed public officials.

While employed full time, Mr. Ragosta attended law school in the evening division of New England Law in Boston, Massachusetts. Upon admission to the Rhode Island Bar in 1985, he was appointed to the part time position of Legal Counsel to the Rhode Island Auditor General, and has continuously served in that position to this date.

Law Practice Overview

Attorney Ragosta has been engaged in the general practice of law for 34 years. He maintains a very active civil law practice at 1 Turks Head Place in the City of Providence. His practice concentrates in civil litigation, real estate law, probate law, contract law, securities broker/dealer and public customer disputes, and business transactions. He also acts as General Counsel to a number of non-profit corporations. Attorney Ragosta appears regularly in both the Rhode Island Superior Court, and the Rhode Island District Court. Attorney Ragosta is recognized as one of the highest volume practitioners in the Rhode Island District Court. In the 2014 conversion by the court to electronic filing, his office was selected by the court administration to submit cases on a test basis and provide feedback to the court prior to opening the system to the entire bar. Attorney Ragosta represents numerous non-profit and for profit owners of affordable housing throughout the State of Rhode Island. He is recognized as an expert by his peers on the federal and state law regulating affordable housing, and has served as a panelist on continuing legal education seminars on this topic. Attorney Ragosta frequently litigates cases at the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights.

Court Appointed Panels

During his career, Attorney Ragosta has qualified to serve on Rhode Island Superior Court panels as a court appointed commissioner for litigated real estate matters, and as

guardian ad litem. He is frequently appointed to serve as guardian ad litem in probate court matters. Early in his career, Attorney Ragosta served as court appointed defense counsel in District Court criminal matters.

Government Experience

Attorney Ragosta has extensive experience in government. Since 1985, he has served on a part-time basis, as Legal Counsel to the Rhode Island Auditor General. He advises the Auditor General and top-level staff on a broad range of government issues. Attorney Ragosta has drafted major legislation relative to the fiscal oversight of state and municipal government. In his capacity as Legal Counsel, Attorney Ragosta has been involved in fiscal recovery plans designed and implemented by the Auditor General for the fiscal recovery of financially distressed municipal governments, including the City of Cranston, and the Town of Johnston. Prior to his appointment as Legal Counsel, he was a senior auditor for that agency, conducting financial, operational, and performance audits of major state agencies, as well as compliance and financial audits of federal programs administered by state government.

In 2008, Attorney Ragosta was appointed to a three-year term as a Commissioner on the Providence Bureau of Licenses. In his capacity as a Commissioner, he presided over cases involving the suspension and/or revocation of liquor licenses.

Institutional Client Representation

Postal Employees Regional Federal Credit Union - Attorney Ragosta has represented the Postal Employees Regional Federal Credit Union as general counsel. In 1990, he guided the credit union through the well known "credit union crisis". With his guidance the credit union re-opened shortly after the Governor ordered the credit unions closed and obtained a federal charter from the National Credit Union Association.

Providence Building, Sanitary, & Educational Association [PBSEA] - For nearly 30 years Attorney Ragosta has served as legal adviser to the Providence Building Sanitary and Educational Association [PBSEA], a non-profit entity that owns Wiggin Village, a major housing community located in the west side of Providence. Wiggin Village is home to over 1,000 residents of the City of Providence, and is nationally recognized as a model affordable housing community. Attorney Ragosta has advised the board on the implementation of major initiatives to improve housing for hundreds of low and moderate-income families, and provide educational opportunities through the Dr. Chase Wiggin Scholarship Fund to residents of Wiggin Village.

Roger Williams Day Care Center - Attorney Ragosta has served as legal adviser to the Roger Williams Day Care Center, a non-profit entity located in the south side of Providence. Roger Williams Day Care Center provides services to a large portion of the minority community in the south side of Providence, and is recognized as one of the highest quality day care centers in the state.

Community Engagement, Professional and Fraternal Organizations

Federal Hill House: Mr. Ragosta is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Hill House, a community social services agency located in the City of Providence. He served on the Board for over 10 years, and is a strong supporter of that organization. As a board member, Mr. Ragosta participated in the oversight of countless social service programs designed to help low and moderate-income individuals and families improve their quality of life. He served as a member of various committees, including the personnel and property committees. On occasion, he donated his legal expertise to the executive director on various operational matters.

National Liver Foundation: Attorney Ragosta has been affiliated with the National Liver Foundation, serving on the committee for the Rhode Island Chapter. He worked closely with former Executive Director of the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Liver Foundation, Barbara DeCesare, on a variety of fund raising activities for the Rhode Island Chapter, helping to raise awareness of liver disease.

Providence Building, Sanitary, and Educational Association: Attorney Ragosta has been a sponsor and supporter of the National Night Out Campaign, a community initiative of the Providence Building, Sanitary, and Educational Association, a non-profit housing entity established to provide affordable housing to the low and moderate income residents of Providence. The campaign is designed to mitigate crime, educate youth, stem criminal drug activity, and improve the quality of life in the community.

Dr. Chase Wiggin Scholarship Program: In the 1890's, Dr. Chase Wiggin established a trust, which created the Dr. Chase Wiggin Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarships to underprivileged youth in the urban core of the City of Providence. These awarded scholarships have helped provide access to a quality education for hundreds of students. Attorney Ragosta has provided pro bono legal services in the administration of the fund for nearly 30 years.

Sons of Italy: Paul D. Ragosta has been a member of the Sons of Italy, an Italian American fraternal organization, for 40 years. The Sons of Italy exists to promote and celebrate Italian culture, diversity among all cultures, ethnic groups, and races. The organization also provides scholarships to young people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.

American Bar Association: Mr. Ragosta is a member of the American Bar Association.

New England Law Alumni Association - Founders Club: Mr. Ragosta has been a member of the New England Law Alumni Association, and the New England Law Founders Club. The mission of the Founders Club is to attract support for law school programs designed to enhance the quality and level of educational opportunities for students through fund raising.

RI Bar Association Committee Membership: Mr. Ragosta has served on the on the Rhode Island District Court Bench/Bar Committee, and the Government Lawyers Committee.

Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants: Attorney Ragosta is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accounts, a non-profit entity whose mission is to advocate and promote the accounting profession, as well as economic opportunity for businesses and individuals in Rhode Island. The entity also advocates and promotes financial literacy for the citizens of Rhode Island. The society engages in a number of philanthropic activities, including the funding and award of educational scholarships in conjunction with the Rhode Island Foundation. As a past Board Member, Attorney Ragosta was active in promoting professional development and collaboration between the membership of the Rhode Island Bar Association and the accounting profession through the society's Professional Affiliate Member Program.

Philanthropic Activity: Mr. Ragosta has supported numerous charitable and philanthropic organizations, rendering both financial support, and participation in organizational events and initiatives. These organizations include: National Liver Foundation, Crossroads Rhode Island, Rhode Island Black Business Association, Rhode Island Legal Services, St. Jude's, Muscular Dystrophy Association, MS Society, National Heart Association, Federal Hill House, and Rhode Island Special Olympics.

Judicial Nominations

In 2007, 2008, and 2015, Attorney Ragosta was nominated by the RI Judicial Nominating Commission to serve as a judge on the Rhode Island District Court. In December 2009, the Judicial Nominating Commission again submitted his name to the Governor for appointment to the Rhode Island Superior Court.