

**County Council of Howard County, Maryland**

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 4


**RESOLUTION NO. 25 - 2019**

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

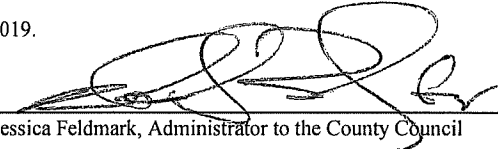
A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Nicolas Orechwa to the Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board.

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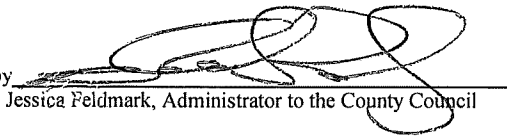
Introduced and read first time on March 4, 2019.

By order   
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on March 18, 2019.

By order   
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments \_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_, Withdrawn \_\_\_\_ by the County Council on April 1, 2019.

Certified by   
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.



**NICOLAS ORECHWA**

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**EDUCATION**

B.A., The University of Iowa, 1997  
J.D., Loyola University of New Orleans, 2001

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**BAR ADMISSIONS**

Maryland 2005  
Louisiana 2001  
District of Columbia 2006

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**CAREER EXPERIENCE**

Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings

*February 2017 - present*

- Administrative Law Judge appointed by the Chief Administrative Law Judge
- Conduct full evidentiary hearings on appeals of decisions from over thirty Maryland agencies, boards and commissions (e.g. MVA, DHR, Board of Physicians, Maryland Real Estate Commission etc), Involuntary Inpatient Admissions to Psychiatric Hospitals and Forced Medication, State Employee Discipline, Termination and Grievance, Environmental Enforcement and Permit Appeals, Special Education Due Process Hearings etc.
- Drafting and issue written decisions within statutorily set time frames; review and rule on various pre-trial motions and conducting pre-trial conferences.
- Serve as a mediator in various matters including, but not limited to foreclosure and special education cases.

Brodsky, Renehan, Pearlstein, & Bouquet Chtd., Gaithersburg, Maryland

*July 2006 – January 2017*

- Partner, January 2015 to present. Associate, July 2006 – December 2014.
- Litigated domestic relations and other cases in nine Maryland counties and the District of Columbia. Handled numerous trials, motions hearings, and depositions as lead counsel or solo counsel with significant experience handling high net worth cases. Handled a three and a half day financial merits case solo and obtained a 1.8 million dollar monetary award for the client.
- Represented clients in Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases as well as clients subject to child abuse and neglect (CAN) findings by a local Department of Social Services (DSS).
- Worked with expert witnesses in several cases including but not limited to experts in business valuation, asset valuation, real property valuation, investment returns, as well as medical and psychological experts.
- Briefed and argued three appeals in the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, obtaining positive results in all three.
- Represented clients at numerous settlement conferences, mediations, and court ordered alternative dispute resolution (ADR) sessions, and negotiated settlements with opposing counsel. Drafted numerous settlement agreements and consent orders on behalf of clients.
- Assisted clients with ancillary matters including, but not limited to foreclosure matters and bankruptcy matters.
- Partner assigned by firm to monitor and handle bankruptcy matters where the firm is a creditor.

United States Navy and Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals (NMCCA), Washington, D.C.

*September 2005 – July 2006*

- Contractor with Lockheed Martin responsible for assisting the NMCCA panel judges in the briefing of trial records, legal research, and the drafting of appellate opinions.

- Contractor with Lockheed Martin responsible for assisting in the preparation of a response to a subpoena *duces tecum* by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

- Assistant District Attorney in the Juvenile, Magistrate, Felony Trials, and Appellate Divisions.
- In the Felony Trials Division, the office promoted me to Senior Assistant where I bore responsibility for the entire docket in one section of court and the supervision of one Junior Assistant. I tried approximately 30 jury trials in the Felony Trials Division.
- Reported case: *State v. Genter* 872 So.2d 552 (La. App. 4 Cir 2004)

### **MEDIATION/ADR TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

- Successfully Completed 40 Hour Basic Mediation Course with Joyce Mitchell and Ellen Kandell. (2011)
- Successfully Completed 20 Hour Mediation Training for Financial Matters in Domestic Cases with Barbara Williams. (2012)
- Regularly attend continuing education trainings for mediators.
- Former Settlement Conference Attorney and Mediator with the Maryland District Court ADR program (January 2014 – present). Completed eight hour training and have successfully mediated and facilitated multiple settlements as a neutral in large claim cases in District Court on the day of trial. Those cases include, but are not limited to landlord/tenant cases and lender/creditor cases.
- Former ADR attorney appointed by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County to the roster of attorneys who facilitate Domestic Relations cases concerning financial issues.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Article: The Maryland Food Supplement and Temporary Cash Assistance Programs: A Basic Overview. September 2016, *Maryland State Bar Association Family Law Advocate*.
- Article: Handling Appeals of Abuse and Neglect Findings by the Maryland Department of Social Services before the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH): A Basic Primer. December 2015, *Maryland State Bar Association Family Law Advocate*.
- Article: An Alternative Response by CPS April 2013, *Maryland State Bar Association Family Law News*.
- Case Note: *McClanahan v. Washington County Department of Social Services* October 2014, *Maryland State Bar Association Family Law Advocate*.
- Case Note: *Lasater v. Guttman* April 2011, *Maryland State Bar Association Family Law News*.
- Case Note: *Henriquez Redux* September 2010, *Maryland State Bar Association Family Law News*.
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### **ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

- Active member Administrative Law Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association 2015 - present. Assist with section matters including CLE and Pro Bono initiatives.
- Former Section Council Member 2016 to 2019 – Maryland State Bar Association Family Law Section. Co-Editor of the *Maryland State Bar Association Family Law Advocate*.
- Former Member Board of Directors 2016 - 2017, Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center.
- Former Commissioner with the Montgomery County Cable Compliance Commission (October 2015 to April 2018): Reviewed subscriber complaints concerning cable or broadband service and if necessary, conducted hearings pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act of the Montgomery County Code (MCC).
- Former member of the Montgomery County Citizens' Review Panel for Children (January 2013 until September 2015): Reviewed policy and made recommendations to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services concerning child welfare matters. Issues included foster parent training and housing for youth transitioning out of foster care.

- Associate Montgomery County Inns of Court 2013-2014.
- Former mentor for new attorneys through the Montgomery County Bar Association.
- Former Pro Bono Mentor and Attorney for Catholic Charities Legal Network.

#### **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- Named a “Rising Star” by Maryland Super Lawyers for 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Nicolas Orechwa Prepared Written Testimony 3-18-19

Good evening. Almost <sup>two years</sup> ~~one year~~ ago today, my Wife and I relocated from Montgomery County to Howard County. When I was a resident of Montgomery County I served on one county board and one county commission. I served first on the Montgomery County Citizen's Review Panel for Children. I then served on the Montgomery County Cable Compliance Commission. I enjoyed my service and would like to continue and serve Howard County. My Wife and I are long time pet owners, and I am a former volunteer with a shelter in Montgomery County. If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Howard County Animal Matters Hearing Board.

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