

To the City Manager:

I write to place my name in consideration for appointment to one of the seats on the Ethics Board of the City Court of New Rochelle. You may recall that we met during a recent NewRoAR meeting.

I have an unblemished record as an attorney in good standing in state and federal courts for 43 years, concentrating in business contract and employment law litigation, mostly in New York City. I also have many years of experience as an arbitrator, both in New Rochelle City Court small claims part and in mandatory ADR parts of NYC Civil Court. I have spent much of the past year counseling a trustee on a nearby municipal board regarding certain ethics inquiries, which has led me to immerse myself in New York State law relating to suspected or alleged conflicts of interest in the context of municipal government.

Another important qualification is 30 years of life experience as an involved resident of both the suburban north end and of the heart of downtown New Rochelle. My community engagement has extended to all parts of the City as a volunteer and as a public official, running the gamut from elected County Legislator to New Rochelle FC travel soccer coach.

During six years in the County Legislature, I chaired the Committee on Law & Major Contracts, which has oversight regarding the progress and settlements of major litigation involving the County; and the Committee on Labor & Housing, being instrumental in passing new laws on tenants' right to counsel in certain landlord/tenant cases, on day laborers' recourse against wage-withholding contractors and on immigrants' protection from non-judicial warrants. Other important new laws in which I was instrumental in drafting, as the most senior lawyer member of the Legislation Committee, included the Co-op Disclosure Act, the Women's Clinic Access Act and a revamp of the County's Code of Ethics. Also, I was on the County Task Force for Police Reform and Re-Imagining, many of whose recommendations did not get as far with the County as they have now with City of New Rochelle, but my proposal for mobile mental health response units has been adopted countywide.

A couple of other things bear addressing with regard to the NR Ethics Board. Code Section 33-9(A) provides for 3 Board Members with 5-year terms, "one such term expiring each year."

With only 3 members and each having a 5-year term, the expiration of one per year is a mathematical impossibility, but this also puts in my mind the difficulty

of the small size of the Board, where, as here, there have been several recent recusals by the City Clerk, who is likely to have frequent interactions with many people who would be subject to ethics complaints. Actually, that could be true for any City employee on the Board, automatically reducing the number of members participating on a case down to two, or even just one.

It would make good sense to expand the size to 5 members — most nearby municipalities appear to have either 5 or 7 — in order to actually have one term expire each year and to avoid the potential that recusals (and absences) might unfairly put the burden of an investigation and decision on too small a number of individuals. Finally, my reading of Code 33-9(D) is that the City Clerk is not required to be a Member of the Board, but rather just the Clerk of the Board.

Please note that I have been a registered as a member of the Working Families Party since December 2023.

It would be my honor and great privilege to resume serving the people of the city that I love in an official capacity. Thank you for considering my application and please let me know of any additional information you require.

Respectfully submitted,  
Damon Maher

## DAMON R. MAHER

### PUBLIC OFFICE

2018 - 2023

Westchester County Board of Legislators: County Legislator for Dist. 10 (Tuckahoe, Eastchester and parts of New Rochelle)  
Chair of Committee on Labor and Housing; Vice Chairman of Budget and Appropriations and co-chairman of its Labor Subcommittee.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1982 - Present

**LEVY DAVIS & MAHER LLP:** Managing Partner in Manhattan Law firm concentrating in commercial litigation; business Receivables collections; and enforcement of wage and hour claims for low-wage employees (minimum wage, overtime, tip pooling); admitted to New York State and local federal bars.

1980 - 1982

**HART & HUME:** Associate in law firm concentrating in building construction litigation and professional malpractice defense.

1979 - 1980

**W. R. GRACE & CO.:** Law Clerk in real estate division of corporate legal department, analyzing and drafting retail shopping center leases.

1977 - 1978

**FOX GLYNN & MELAMED:** Law Clerk in office suite of several law firms, doing legal research, drafting and mail-room management.

### EDUCATION

1980

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, J.D., top 25% of class (member, Fordham Urban Law Journal; author, *Maintenance and Repairs of Cooperative Apartments: Rights and Remedies of Tenant-Shareholders*).

1977

YALE UNIVERSITY, B.A., in Russian and Eastern European studies.

1973

ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC H.S., White Plains, NY, Valedictorian.

### HISTORY OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

- New Rochelle Public Library (Elected trustee 2014-2017; facilitated resolution of sensitive Personnel Committee matters including new Collective Bargaining Agreement as Chair of Personnel Committee; revised numerous Library policies and procedures as Policy Committee Chair; researched and contacted various counsel for potential representation re RDRXR project and drafted November 2016 *Proposed NRPL Redevelopment Principles* for negotiation with any developers).
- New Rochelle Bar Association (former Board member; Chair of Nominating Committee; volunteer arbitrator in New Rochelle City Court; increased scholarship award pool).

- NewRo Runners (former Vice President; 2012 Founders Award Winner; 2014 Most Improved Award; 2016 Runner of the year; Paine to Paine Trail Half Marathon and North Avenue Mile volunteer committees benefitting Hope Community Services, NR Campership Fund and My Sisters Place).
- New Rochelle Democratic Committee (former CD 6 Council District Leader).
- New Rochelle Cares/Aging in Place (former Board member).
- NewRo Against Racism (original member; collaborated in successful effort to have New Rochelle City Council adopt Youth/Police Initiative and My Brother's Keeper).
- Westchester-Putnam Working Families Party (Endorsements interview panel).
- Yale Alumni Fund (current class agent and former Board member; Chairman's Award winner).
- Adoptive Parents Committee, Legislative group (lobbied successfully for birth-mother medical insurance, positive adoption language and adoptive rights for same-sex partners).
- Bethesda Baptist Church Food Pantry (volunteer).
- Bicyclist Alliance of Northern New Rochelle ("BANNeR").
- Coalition for Mutual Respect/Inter-Religious Council of New Rochelle
- Commercial Law League of America.
- Giving Circle of Lower Westchester (Grant Committee member for local soup kitchens & food pantries).
- Grandpas United (volunteer projects)
- Holy Family Church (parishioner)
- John Adams Owners, Inc. (former Finance sub-committee member)
- NAACP/New Rochelle
- New York Democratic Lawyers Council (protecting voters' rights)
- New York State Bar Association, General practice section member
- New York Road Runners
- New Rochelle Snow Angels (shoveling volunteer)
- Temple Israel of New Rochelle Community Garden (volunteer benefitting Hope Soup Kitchen)
- Transportation Alternatives (bicycle advocate)
- Unstoppable Striders (running coach)
- Westchester Foster Families (former board member)
- Westchester Jewish Basketball League (former coach)
- Yale Big Brothers/Big Sisters (former mentor and Exec. Director)
- Youth Baseball of New Rochelle (former coach)
- Youth Basketball of New Rochelle (former coach)
- Youth Soccer of New Rochelle/New Rochelle F.C. (Former head coach and Vice Pres. of travel team board; worked with public officials on development of new fields and facilities)

**PERSONAL:** Life-long Westchester County resident, in New Rochelle since 1994 with wife, Deborah Levy Maher, who is a local Certified Financial Planner professional and Vice President of the Inter-Religious Coalition of New Rochelle; and three now-grown children who all attended New Rochelle public schools pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Avid runner, cyclist and kayaker, with many regional age-group race awards.