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Criminal Justice Section

October 20, 2015

CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN  
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Chief of Staff  
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Solicitor General

STATE OF COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Susie Walton Chair Person  
Task Force for Mental Illness  
In the Criminal Justice System

Dear Chair Person Walton

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cynthia J. Kowert, who is applying to become a member of the Task Force for Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System.

Cynthia is the Assistant Deputy for the Criminal Justice Section of the Attorney General's Office. In this capacity, she is the number two person for the Criminal Justice Section and is responsible for supervision of our First Assistant AG's and three Criminal Justice Units. She also participates in and is a member of numerous committees and handles several special projects.

Cynthia has a long and distinguished career as a litigator. She spent almost 19 years with the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District as a prosecutor. She was Chief of Felony Units, the Juvenile Unit and Child Victim's Unit at different times during her tenure at the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

There have been numerous times when Cynthia has dealt with cases involving individuals who were incompetent to stand trial or the issue of sanity was raised. She is very cognizant of the role mental health issues play in our Criminal Justice System and how mental health issues can effect people's lives.

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Cynthia is a motivated, reliable and responsible attorney who would be a great asset to your team. I highly recommend her for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Turner", written over a horizontal line.

Scott Turner, Deputy Attorney General,  
Criminal Justice Section  
Attorney General's Office, State of Colorado  
1300 Broadway, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Denver, CO 80203

**Resume**  
**Cynthia J. Kowert**  
**Attorney at Law**

**Work Experience**

**June 8, 2015 – Present:** Assistant Deputy AG for the Criminal Justice Section. Number two position in the Criminal Justice Section of the Attorney General's Office. Management and personnel responsibilities along with a small case load.

**July 16, 2012 – June 8, 2015:** Assistant Attorney General in the Financial Fraud Unit of the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Case load included mostly insurance fraud with some securities fraud cases.

**January 1, 2012 to July 15, 2012:** Law Practice, solo practitioner, family and criminal law.

**July 12, 1993 to December 31, 2011:** Served as a prosecutor with the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office, Adams and Broomfield Counties. Positions included:

- County Court Deputy DA
- Juvenile Court Deputy DA
- District Court (felony) Deputy DA
- Child Victim Unit Deputy DA
- Chief Trial Deputy for County Court
- Chief Trial Deputy for District Court
- Chief Trial Deputy for the Child Victim Unit and Juvenile Court
- Assistant District Attorney

**February 1992 to July 1993:** Deputy DA in the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Grand County, handled felonies, juvenile, and county court cases simultaneously.

**June 1990 to January 1992:** Deputy State Public Defender. Handled a county, juvenile and then felony case load.

**February 1983 to March 1987:** United States Air Force Officer, Military Police.

**Prosecution Experience**

1. As a criminal prosecutor I handled over 100 jury trials including several first and second degree murder cases, physical and sexual assaults on children, financial crimes, drug offenses and many others.
2. I have handled numerous cases involving mental health issues, including competency and insanity.

### **Management Experience**

1. In my experience as a Chief Trial Deputy and Assistant District Attorney I managed attorneys from the county court level to the chief trial deputy level. I was in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for almost 19 years and spent approximately 10 of those years managing people.
2. Managed a Flight (approximately 40 people) in the United States Military

### **Educational Experience**

1. Webster Groves high School, Webster Groves, MO: 1973 to 1976, graduated - H/S diploma.
2. Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, August 1977 to May 1980.
3. Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX, August 1980 to December 1982, B.S. in Government, Magna Cum Laude.
4. University of Denver School of Law: September, 1987 to December, 1989, Juris Doctor, top 25% class rank.

### **Licenses**

1. Licensed to practice law in Colorado since May 1990
2. Licensed to practice in United States Federal Court in 2015.

### **Teaching/Training**

- Taught a one-hour lecture on the admission of evidence at trial to Insurance Fraud Investigators – February 2015.
- Along with a colleague, taught a 1.5 hour training on worker's compensation law to public and private investigators - July 2014.
- Along with another attorney, taught a four hour constitutional law training session to the Colorado State Patrol, focusing on searches of dwellings and vehicles - February, 2014.
- Taught a two hour training session on custodial interrogation to members of the Division of Insurance (DOI) - 2013
- Six times I taught a two hour class on vehicle searches for the Adams County Sheriff's Police Academy. I did this twice a year for three years - 2008, 2009, 2010.
- Taught a one-hour training on the Victim's rights Act - 2005.
- Taught a one-hour training for prosecutors on closing arguments - 2004.
- Taught a one-hour training for prosecutors on expert witnesses - 2002.
- Taught a two-hour search and seizure class to the Thornton Polic Department - 1999.
- Taught a two-hour session on the legislative up-date to members of the Northglenn Police Department – May 1996.

### **Community Involvement**

1. Access Housing Board of Directors: March 2009 to April 2011.
2. Was on the Board for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) program though St. Anthony's Hospital from 2004 to 2008.
3. Served on the Adams County Domestic Violence Task Force from 2003 to 2005.
4. Served on the Sexual Assault Task Force for Adams County from 1998 to 2000.
5. Served on the selection committee for the Victim Rights Week Award winners from Adams and Broomfield Counties four times in the 2000's.
6. Organized, directed and facilitated the high School Mock Trail Competition for Adams and Broomfield Counties in February of 2009 and 2010.

## Summary

I would be proud to serve as a member of the Task Force for Mental Illness and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to do so.