

Contact Information

* Name

Graham Butler

* Home Address*

31 Woodland Dr., Staunton, VA 24401

*You must be registered to vote in the City of Staunton. You can determine this by checking your voter card or by calling the Voter Registration Office at 540.332.3840.

Phone

[REDACTED]

Mobile Phone

[REDACTED]

* Email

[REDACTED]

Qualifications

* **How long have you resided in the Commonwealth of Virginia?**

Since August of 2004 when I started law school at Washington & Lee..

* **How long have you resided in the City of Staunton?**

Since Thanksgiving of 2008.

Have you ever been elected or appointed as an Officer or Commissioner for the City of Staunton?

No

* **Please indicate why you are interested in serving on City Council:**

I am at a point in my life where I am able to give back to my community. I am on the Board of Directors for the Valley Mission. I was looking at other ways to be involved. This term for City Council is perfect because it will allow me to give back and to serve publicly/politically for a short term. I will be able to see if politics is something I want to pursue. I am a Republican historically, but have found that I have no home. The party left me a long time ago. I would be a Democrat, but end up banging my head on much of the Party's interests. I am a Centrist, and I think that is something this City Council may need. Another reason I am interested in the Council, is because of the Courthouse debacle. How in the heck did Staunton let the Augusta Courthouse leave. There were so many things that could have been done. I was surprised that the City Council appeared to be indifferent. It is a financial and cultural loss. Staunton is home.

* **Please indicate areas of your experience and knowledge that you see as important for consideration of your application for appointment:**

I have been a lawyer for the past 14 years in Staunton and the western region of the Commonwealth. I am used to process and public hearings. I have also learned how to compromise for the greater good. My job inherently means that I fix problems. Most people do not realize that 96% of civil cases never go to trial because they are settled. Most of what I do is mediating issues, compromising, and working with all types of personalities. I have been in high stakes mediation with seven (7) to 10 other lawyers all pushing their own agenda. Despite the settlement rate, I have still tried hundreds of trials throughout the Commonwealth.

* **Please list any relevant leadership skills or educational training:**

When I first came to Staunton, I worked for Timberlake, Smith, Thomas & Moses (TSTM). I was exposed to all types of law at TSTM especially local issues. Since 2014, I hung my own shingle as The Butler Law Firm, PC. Therefore, I have been a small business owner in Staunton for some time. As my resume indicates, I have always been in leadership positions and have been very active in any community of which I have been a part. I was the Sustainability/Recycling coordinator for Duke University. This entails the knowledge of the waste industry, but there was also an outreach part of my job to the students and to the Durham Community. In College, I was very active in the community doing things such as tutoring kids and working on outreach activities. I am on the Board of Directors for The Valley Mission. Wherever I have been, even in Iraq, I have held leadership positions. I attended Rhodes College (BA), Duke University (MTS), and Washington & Lee University School of Law (JD). I also attended The John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare at Ft. Bragg, NC.

Indicate if you are attaching additional information pertinent to this application.

Attachments are provided

Attachment

curriculum vitae1.pdf

* **Digital Signature**

Graham S. Butler

* **Date and Time**

01/24/2023 8:21 PM

Be advised that upon submission, this application and supporting documents become a public document and will be published by the City of Staunton.

GRAHAM SEBREN BUTLER

P.O Box 2218
Staunton, VA. 24402-2218

TELEPHONE [REDACTED]
EMAIL: [REDACTED]
www.TheButlerLawFirmPC.com

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Washington & Lee University School of Law - Juris Doctor
Duke University - Master of Theological Studies, *magna cum laude*
Rhodes College - Bachelor of Arts
John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare, Ft. Bragg, NC. Top 10%

WORK EXPERIENCE

Attorney – The Butler Law Firm, P.C. – Staunton, VA. 2014 – Present.

Operate a veteran-owned law firm specializing in civil litigation defense throughout the western part of Virginia. Martindale Hubbell – *AV Preeminent Rating*. Virginia Business Magazine – *Legal Elite - Civil Litigation*. Coordinate, strategize, and communicate with nationally renowned insurance companies to defend their insureds against property and personal injury claims. Work with clients to guide them through the litigation process and draft various pleadings. Coordinate with medical experts to obtain opinions and prepare them for trial. Prepare clients for depositions and trial testimony. Tried hundreds of cases before a jury or the bench. Mediate, arbitrate, or negotiate settlements to finalize claims. Negotiate and draft settlement agreements and releases.

Attorney - Timberlake, Smith, Thomas & Moses, P.C. - Staunton, VA. 2008 – 2013.

Tried over 100 cases and negotiated countless settlements. Primarily practiced insurance defense litigation. Developed relationships with individuals and corporate clients. Other experience includes Family Law, Debtor/Creditor disputes, Landlord/Tenant actions, and minor criminal (traffic & misdemeanors) offenses.

U. S. Army Special Operations Forces - USACAPOC – Fort Bragg, NC, Iraq. 2001 -2005.

Member of a small 10-man CAT-A team that conducted various combat missions during the invasion of Iraq and the taking of Baghdad in April, 2003. Awarded two (2) Bronze Stars (one with “V” device for heroism and valor) for actions in combat. Later in the deployment, served on a General Officer’s staff monitoring news outlets in the Middle East and was a part of the General’s personal security detail as he travelled Iraq and other areas in the middle east. Trained soldiers at Ft. Bragg about the new combat theater and force protection techniques.

Recycling/Sustainability Coordinator - Duke University - Durham, NC. 1996 – 2001. Planned and implemented educational forums and conferences. Managed eight (8) employees and 10 students in an effort to further Duke’s “greening” efforts. Built a nationally recognized sustainability program and transformed various environmental practices at Duke University.

Oncology Recreation Therapy – Duke University Hospital – Durham, NC 1992-1994.

Worked with long-term patients on the oncology ward while in school. Befriended, provided outlets, and comforted patients and their families who faced ultimate challenges.

ACTIVITIES & AWARDS

Attorney at Law

Virginia Business Magazine – *Legal Elite – Civil Litigation (2022)*; Martindale Hubbell – *AV Preeminent Rating*; Virginia Super Lawyers - Rising Star, 2013-2019; Augusta County Bar Association – President, President Elect, Vice President, 2011-2014; Augusta County Bar Association - Courthouse Planning Committee, 2014-2017; Chair and active member, Augusta County Bar Association Judicial Endorsements Committee, 2011-2016. Valley Mission – Board of Directors (2023).

United States Army - USASOC, USACAPOC

Two (2) Bronze Stars (one with a “V” device for exceptional valor and heroism) for actions in combat during the 2003 invasion of Iraq and Battle of Baghdad. Also awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Graduated in the top 10% at *John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare*, Ft. Bragg, NC.

Washington & Lee University School of Law

Elected by classmates to give the invocation at graduation. The Environmental Law Society (officer), The Federalist Society, The American Constitution Society.

Duke University

Recipient of the Duke Scholarship - Top academic achiever in the M.T.S program; Recipient of the Duke University 2002 Presidential Award; Resident Advisor 1992-1994.

Rhodes College

Honor Council (3 yrs.) - tried and sentenced violators of the Honor Code; Kinney Community Service Program; Kids Count Organization of Memphis; Board of Trustees Faculty and Curriculum Committee; Rhodes Rugby Club.

AFFILIATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Valley Mission Shelter – Staunton, Board of Directors
- The Virginia State Bar
- The Augusta County Bar Association
- The Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
- The American Legion
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- The National Veteran Owned Business Association
- Veterans and Military Business Owners Association