

DONALD A. DRISDELL

51 Standish Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

EXPERIENCE

City of Cambridge--Deputy City Solicitor. January 1987 – Present

In 1987 I assumed the newly-created position of Deputy City Solicitor with responsibility for supervising all operations of the City Law Department. My duties have included management of an increase in staffing levels from two full time lawyers to eight full time lawyers, coordination of a 90% reduction in the number of cases referred to outside counsel, development of an office management program that includes specializations among staff, computerization of many office functions, and training on legal issues for staff of various city departments to improve risk analysis and control. Accomplishments during this period have included assisting in: responding to Scheme Z, responding to the loss of rent control, major rezoning efforts, affordable housing initiatives, creation of the Cambridge Public Health Commission, cable television franchise transfers and renewals, traffic and truck issues, local elections and re-counts, and others. During this period I directly supervised the growth of the office into a full service in-house legal department that provides advice and legal counsel to all City departments, officials, boards, and commissions on the broad array of municipal law issues.

City of Cambridge--Legal Counsel. February 1986 - December 1986

I managed a caseload of between 50 and 100 cases through all stages of litigation and administrative process, with full responsibility for an active caseload including personal injuries, land use and zoning, employment law, civil rights, and contract cases.

Massachusetts Department of Social Services. January 1981 - January 1986

I began as Assistant Regional Counsel responsible for litigation from filing to trial of child custody cases and adoption petitions. The position primarily involved trial work in many district, superior, and probate courts with a particular emphasis on medical and psychological expert testimony. In 1984 I was promoted to Deputy Divisional Counsel, responsible for a half-caseload, supervision and management of five full-time attorneys, and legal advice to administrative management.

EDUCATION

Suffolk University Law School, Boston, Massachusetts

Juris Doctor, 1980; Top 5% of class; Dean's List 1978-1979, 1979-1980;

Law Review 1979-1980

Admitted to Massachusetts Bar - December, 1980

Admitted to Federal District Court - 1980

University of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts

B.A. English 1975; magna cum laude

MILITARY SERVICE

United States Air Force 1967-1971

Honorably Discharged



20.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

December 9, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Donald A. Drisdell, 51 Standish Street, Cambridge, as City Solicitor effective December 2, 2002.

I have attached Mr. Drisdell's resume for your information.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

A-87

Consent Agenda #20

Appointment of Donald A.
Drisdell, 51 Standish Street,
Cambridge, as City Solicitor,
effective December 2, 2002.

In City Council December 9, 2002

PLACED ON FILE.