



OFFICE OF MAYOR

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April 2, 2014

City Hall
2309 15th St.
Gulfport, MS 39501

Council President Ricky Dombrowski
Councilman Kenneth Casey
Councilwoman Ella Holmes-Hines
Councilman F. B. "Rusty" Walker, IV
Councilman Myles Sharp
Councilman R. Lee Flowers
Councilwoman Cara Pucheu

Dear Council Members,

I respectfully submit to you for consideration the appointment of Mr. Ricky Cox to serve on the Coast Transit Authority's Board of Commissioners. Mr. Cox will replace Mr. Don Hartfield who has served admirably and effectively on this commission since October 2003.

Mr. Cox is a partner with Balch & Bingham, LLP and has practiced law since 1991. Prior to joining Balch in 1993, he served as a law clerk while attending Mississippi College School of Law. He received his Bachelor of General Studies in Pre-Law from Louisiana State University. He is a member of the Mississippi State Bar, the Louisiana State Bar, Mississippi Young Lawyers, American Bar Association and was recognized as "One of the Best Lawyers in America in Energy Law" in 2006. A copy of his full resume is attached which details in depth his community and professional affiliations.

I am confident in his ability to represent our city on this commission. He possesses strong business acumen and will be a tremendous asset for CTA. Your confirmation will be greatly appreciated. His term will expire April 8, 2019.

Sincerely yours,



Billy Hewes
Mayor

RICKY J. COX

21 Colonel Wink Drive
Gulfport, Mississippi 39507
(228) 596-7820 (mobile)
(228) 214-0411 (office)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Mississippi State Bar, September 1993
Louisiana State Bar Association, February 1994
Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division (Board Member 1998-2000; Co-chairman, Publications Committee 1999-2001)
Harrison County Young Lawyers Association (1993-2005) (Vice President 1997-1998; President 1998-1999)
Harrison County Bar Association
American Bar Association (Section on Business Law; Section on Public Utility, Communication and Transportation Law) (Frequent Contributor to the Electricity Committee Spring and Annual Reports)
Former Associate, Dan M. Russell, Jr.--W. Joel Blass--Harry G. Walker American Inn of Court
Recognized as One of the Best Lawyers in America in Energy Law (2006)

EDUCATION

Mississippi College School of Law, Jackson, Mississippi
Doctor of Jurisprudence, *with distinction*, May 1993
Grade Point Average: 3.42/4.00
Class Rank: 8/110
Honors: Dean's List (Six Semesters)
Mississippi College President's Scholarship Recipient
Mississippi Bar Foundation Scholarship Recipient
American Jurisprudence Award (Property I, Civil Procedure II, Insurance, Conflicts of Laws)
Activities: Executive Editor, Mississippi College Law Review
Student Member, Charles Clark American Inn of Court
Law Student Bar Association - Senator

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Bachelor of General Studies (Pre-Law), May 1990
Political Science Concentration
Grade Point Average: 3.10/4.00
Honors: Dean's List
Alumni Federation Scholarship Recipient

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

May 1993 - Present *Partner*, Balch & Bingham LLP (formerly Eaton & Cottrell, P.A.)
Gulfport, Mississippi
Practice Areas: Energy/Public Utility Law; Commercial Transactions;
Administrative Law

July 1992 - Aug. 1992 *Law Clerk*, Daniel Coker Horton and Bell, P.A.
Jackson, Mississippi

May 1992 - July 1992 *Law Clerk*, Taylor, Porter, Brooks and Phillips
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

May 1991 - Aug. 1991 *Law Clerk*, Eaton and Cottrell, P.A.
Gulfport, Mississippi

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND HONORS

2006-2007 Top 40 under 40, *Mississippi Business Journal*

2006-2007 Top 10 Business Leaders under 40, *The Sun Herald*

Graduate, Leadership Gulf Coast Class of 2002-2003

Member, Leadership Gulf Coast Board of Directors (Policies and Procedures Committee)

Member, United Way of South Mississippi Board of Directors (Campaign Committee
Member 2006)

Firm Representative, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce

Member, St. James Catholic Church Parish, Gulfport, Mississippi (Fall Festival Committee
Member)

Member, St. James Catholic School Advisory Council (Teacher's Fund Committee Chair)

Member of the Bishop Gunn Council No. 1583 of the Knights of Columbus, Gulfport,
Mississippi

Board Member, Louisiana State University Mississippi Gulf Coast Alumni Chapter (Co-Chair
of Scholarship Golf Tournament for Past Eight Years)

Member, Gulfport Business Club

Volunteer Assistant Coach, Bayou View Youth Sports Association (2001-2004)

ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I currently serve as the Managing Partner of the Gulfport office and am a member of the firm's Energy; Corporate & Securities; and Real Estate, Lending and Commercial practice groups. I enjoy a diverse practice and regularly represent clients in a wide variety of utility and commercial matters, including energy and utility litigation; energy regulation and transactions; water and sewer utility regulation, transactions, and litigation; business entity selection, formation, and operation; corporate finance; contract negotiation and administration; mergers and acquisitions; corporate compliance activities; securities matters; and real estate transactions.

In my energy and utility practice, I regularly appear before the Mississippi Public Service Commission and participate in filings submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I have been involved in numerous proceedings involving electric, water and sewer rate and tariff filings and contested rate cases, cost-based and market-based wholesale power transactions, applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity, transfers of jurisdictional property, rulemakings, and electric utility project development, regulatory approval, financing, construction, and operation.

In my corporate and commercial practice, I have assisted clients in negotiation and development of various contractual arrangements, assets sales, asset acquisitions, stock purchases, transfers and sales of limited liability company and partnership interests, and financings. I also represent lenders and commercial real estate developers in the acquisition, financing, development and leasing of commercial office, retail, industrial and gaming properties. As an equity partner in Balch & Bingham LLP, I am responsible for managing various existing clients, developing new legal business, managing other lawyers and staff. In addition, I serve on various firm committees, including primary responsibility for law student recruiting on the recruiting associate relations and oversight as a member of the firm's associates committee.

In terms of professional career highlights, I was one of the principal attorneys for Premier Entertainment LLC in the complex formation, licensing and financing of the Hard Rock Hotel and Resort Casino Project in Biloxi. I have also represented Mississippi Power Company in many successful regulatory matters since 1996, most notably during its efforts to restore electric service following Hurricane Katrina, and the attendant regulatory proceedings that followed the restoration of electric service. In that proceeding, serving as one of Mississippi Power's lead attorneys, I helped to secure comprehensive federal and state grants, and regulatory recovery of storm restoration costs in excess of \$300 million. I also served as lead counsel in the most extensive water and sewer rate proceeding on record in Mississippi. Finally, I have participated in numerous other successful transactions on behalf of our firm's corporate clients.

In addition, I was recently recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America in the field of Energy Law. Because that particular recognition is peer driven, I am particularly proud of that career accomplishment. Also, I was recently selected as on the Mississippi Business Journal's 2007 Top 40 Under 40.