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CURRICULUM VITAE

I. OVERVIEW

My legal experience covers management and supervisory duties, trial work, independent research, and instructing. I am an effective communicator, both oral and written, and especially enjoy trial litigation. I have served as a presenter of continuing legal education seminars and courses for The Magnolia Bar Association, The Municipal Attorney's Association, and other CLE seminars.

I have been a licensed practicing attorney since May 1982. My career began as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate with the United States Air Force, where I served as a Captain within the Judge Advocate General's Lawyer's Corp. My experience has since expanded from military law to include experience in administration, environmental, constitutional, property, criminal, domestic and family, personal injury, commercial business, and governmental legal law.

I served as the City Attorney for the City of Jackson under Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jr. from January 1998 through June 2005. In this capacity, my office was responsible for providing legal advice to all of the city officials, departments, and programs, to include such federal programs as Housing and Community Development Block Grants. Most relevant to your requirements, my office also handled municipal matters involving planning, zoning, eminent domain, condemnation, environmental, administrative, legislative, public policy, redistricting, annexation, judicial, and other legal issues. Presently, I have a private law firm at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39213. My clients include organizations, as well as contract clients.

II. EDUCATION

1982	University of Mississippi School of Law; J.D.
1979	Millsaps College (Jackson, MS); B.A.
1975	Simmons High School; Diploma

III. AWARDS/HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Pre-med Training Co-op Program - Scholarship
J.O. Eastland Law Scholarship
Earl Warren Legal Training Scholarship
President, Black American Law Student Association (The University of Mississippi)
Air Force Commendation Medal
Honorable Discharge United States Air Force

TERRY WALLACE

PAGE TWO

IV. ACADEMIC INSTRUCTING

8/2006 – present	Jackson State University (R & D Center)
1/1997 - 12/1997	Hinds Community College
6/1983 - 8/1984	East Mississippi Junior College (Business Law)

V. EXPERIENCE

07/2005 – present	Private Law Practice
1/1998 - 7/01/2005	City Attorney Jackson, MS
2/1995 - 12/1997	Assistant District Attorney 7 th Circuit Court District
12/1993 - 2/1995	Deputy City Attorney Jackson, MS
10/1991 - 12/1993	Central MS Legal Services Managing Attorney
1/1990 - 10/1991	Private Law Practice
9/1988 - 11/1989	Assistant District Attorney 16 th Circuit Court District
10/1987 - 9/1988	Partner Wallace, Burdine & Wilson
7/1986 - 10/1987	Private Law Practice
6/1986 - 7/1986	Area Defense Counsel, Captain United States Air Force
7/1982 - 6/1984	Assistant Staff Judge Advocate Captain, United States Air Force

VI. RELEVANT WORK

Planning: Provided legal reviews, advice and counsel regarding municipal planning ordinances, policies and laws. The City of Jackson’s Planning Department included Housing development, redevelopment, and rehabilitation. The Planning department also reviewed subdivisions and single lot developments. Primary duties entailed housing and building inspections, condemnations and eminent domain. All legal disputes were subject to legal review.

Zoning: Zoning comprises a major portion of municipal planning. The legal department participated directly in this area, and conducted legal reviews and rendered legal opinions for every zoning issue. This included matters involving requests for zoning exceptions and variances, as well as rezoning requests.

The legal department participated in the enforcement of zoning ordinances, and provided the legal vehicle when violations occurred.

TERRY WALLACE
PAGE THREE

Environmental: As City Attorney, I directed all litigation involving environmental issues. This included issues pursued by The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, or private plaintiffs such as The Sierra Club. Most environmental issues were handled through the state's administrative process. The legal department was responsible for issues to include clean water and clean air acts; Brownfield reviews; supplemental environmental projects, etc.

Enforcement: As City Attorney, I supervised the City's prosecutors who prosecuted cases in environmental court where citizens violated municipal ordinances regarding debris in yards, overgrown lots, abandoned houses and vehicles, or condemned property. The legal department also pursued some cases in state court, and conducted legal reviews when fines and monetary assessments were levied.

Annexation: As City Attorney, I served as liaison with outside attorneys and planners. I pushed for changes in part annexation practices on two separate occasions. In one case involving Madison County and Ridgeland, I directed attorneys to suspend traditional annexation appellate procedures and used general court rules to seek "reconsideration" of an adverse ruling. This allowed The City of Jackson to acquire additional territory it would otherwise have lost.

In a second instance, when the City was facing blockage of its southern boundary due to Byram's planned "incorporation," I recommended that attorneys disregard traditional principals of waiting until previous annexation issues are resolved before initiating new annexation efforts. Traditional reasoning mandated that boundaries be fully established and legally described before seeking other territory. Mississippi law requires that cities provide accurate legal boundary descriptions when annexations begin. I recommended we simply provide several legal descriptions:

- 1) our legally established and settled boundaries;
- 2) our pending boundaries, which were subject to judicial review; and
- 3) the boundaries that would exist if annexation is successful.

This approach was taken, and the City of Jackson was able to challenge Byram in an annexation effort without waiting on the Madison County and Ridgeland matters to be resolved.

Special Municipal Districts: The legal department handled numerous challenges involving special municipal district matters. Notably included Capitol City Incorporated (CCI), which became a self taxed and independent business district within the City of Jackson. I personally resolved this legal challenge through seeking "preclearance" through the United States' Department of Justice.

TERRY WALLACE
PAGE FOUR

Redistricting: All state, county, and city governments must review and often change district boundary lines following the national census every ten (10) years. Such process occurred during my tenure as City Attorney, and was conducted efficiently and without incident. I personally presented the city's proposal to the United States' Department of Justice and obtained the required preclearance.

Economic Development: A major initiative in which I was directly involved, was the city's Equal Business Opportunity Ordinance. This involved the commission of a disparity study, and legislative and executive action by the City Council and Mayor. Public hearings were also conducted and I presented the legal basis and components of the proposed plan.

Miscellaneous: As City Attorney, I primarily participated and handled the legal issues on major city projects and ventures. These included the following:

- 1) Adult Entertainment Ordinances and enforcement;
- 2) Protected the City's interest as Superior owner of Reservoir Water rights;
- 3) Negotiated Sale of Water to Nissan;
- 4) Negotiated City of Jackson's Labor/Management Union Contract
(The first recognized Union Contract in the State)
- 5) Handled legal matters with legislative, and citizen referendums for City of Jackson Convention Center
- 6) Handled legal matters with citizens group, state agencies and officials for Mississippi Telecom Center.
- 7) Resolved legal issues and conflicts involving School Board Appointments and reconfirmation of department heads and other appointments.
- 8) Sign ordinances – Reviewed, revised and provided legal opinions regarding municipal and state laws and revisions.
- 9) Comprehensive Plan – Provided legal reviews and recommendations.
- 10) Eminent Domain – Provided legal reviews, and legal opinions regarding eminent domain condemnation and quick take processes for High Street and Metro Parkway projects.