

Application Form

Profile

Prefix Kenneth First Name C Middle Initial Kettler Last Name Suffix

kettlerkenneth@gmail.com Email Address

525 West Wolfe Street Home Address Suite or Apt

Harrisonburg City VA State 22802 Postal Code

How many years have you been a resident of Harrisonburg?

4

Mobile: (832) 421-1007 Primary Phone Business: (540) 433-6124 Alternate Phone

Ritchie Law Firm, PLC Employer Associate Attorney Job Title

Demographics - (Submission of this information if voluntary and will not subject you to any adverse treatment should you chose to not complete)

Ethnicity

[X] Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

[X] Male

What is your age?

[X] 18-30 years old [X] 30-40 years old

Are you reapplying for a current position you hold? *

[X] No

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission (PC): Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Kenneth C Kettler

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I'm interested in serving on Planning Commission because Harrisonburg faces a severe housing shortage. I'm an attorney living in the Northwest Neighborhood and working downtown, often with clients in economic distress and difficulty with transportation/housing options.

What other interests or concerns do you have regarding the community?

I am strongly motivated by my interest in making our community a more walkable, bikable, and affordable place. After we bought our house last year, our current landlord sought to raise our rent by about \$500 per month. Many friends experienced similar increases. The cost of new vehicles continues to rise substantially. In short, we need more housing. The location and kind of housing we create has a strong impact on affordability, as does including mixed-use development alongside housing. We must encourage thoughtful incremental residential growth in most areas of the city, and substantial residential growth in key areas like downtown. We must do so with special regard for historically marginalized communities, particularly North Downtown/Northeast Neighborhood.

What relevant experience or education do you have to this board or commission?

I am an attorney for the Ritchie Law Firm, focusing on personal injury, social security disability, and workers compensation. My clients, necessarily, are people hurt by car-centric development, exacerbated by overly restrictive zoning codes. When low-income clients are hit, they lose time from work, their transportation is in danger, and it can set off a vicious cycle often leading to eviction. I am a graduate of Washington and Lee University School of Law, having taken courses in administrative law, environmental law, and land use/zoning. As an attorney and local housing advocate, I have a grounded understanding of zoning and its legal basis.

Please list any past or present community involvement e.g. City Council, Boards and Commissions, Citizen Academy, etc. in Harrisonburg or elsewhere:

I have served on Harrisonburg Redevelopment Housing Authority since 2023. I completed Citizens' Academy in 2022. I am serve as chair of Climate Action Alliance of the Valley (CAAV), and help to coordinate climate outreach. I have attended or observed several meetings of City Council, Planning Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, and EPSAC in the past 3 years for CAAV. I coordinate Livable Harrisonburg, a group of residents focused on promoting walkability, bikeability, and affordable housing in Harrisonburg.

[Kenneth_Kettler_Resume_v7.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

EPSAC Applicants only

Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee Applicants only

KENNETH KETTLER

525 West Wolfe Street | Harrisonburg, VA 22802 | 832.421.1007 | kettlerkenneth@gmail.com

Education

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Lexington, VA

Juris Doctor, May 2020

- Competitions: Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, 2018–2019; John Davis Moot Court Competition, 2018; Mock Trial Competition, 2018
- Vice President–External Competitions: Environmental Law Society, May 2019 – May 2020

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE, Houston, TX

Bachelor of Science, Legal Studies, May 2015

- Legal Studies Association: *President, Student Government Representative*, Jan. 2013 – Jan. 2015; started Moot Court Program; advanced to national tournament in 2014-2015
- Student Government Association: *Vice President and Committee Coordinator*, May 2013 – May 2014; Coordinated involvement and representation in 20 university committees

Experience

RITCHIE LAW FIRM, Harrisonburg, VA

Associate Attorney, July 2021 – Present

- Represented plaintiffs in personal injury, workers compensation, and social security disability claims.
- Interviewed, advised, and represented clients at hearings, drafted pleadings and correspondence.

DANVILLE CIRCUIT COURT, Danville, VA

Law Clerk, Aug. 2020 – July 2021

- Drafted legal opinions and correspondence; Researched law as needed in a courtroom setting.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CLINIC, Lexington, VA

Student Attorney, Aug. 2019 – May 2020

- Represented undocumented immigrants in removal proceedings, including vulnerable populations such as refugees and victims of domestic violence.
- Interviewed clients and advised them on how to proceed in their cases.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, Lexington, VA

Research Burks Scholar, Aug. 2019 – May 2020

- Assisted in teaching two 1L legal research courses, led review session, held office hours, and graded assignments.

Research Assistant for Professor Fraley, Apr. 2019 – Aug. 2020

- Researched municipal nuisance codes from the 50 most populous cities in the United states, focusing on evidentiary standards in environmental cases.
- Researched ‘shaming’ in relation to environmental harms.

McThenia Faculty Research Assistant, Feb. 2019 – May 2019

- Researched international comparative law on attorneys.

KENNETH KETTLER

525 West Wolfe Street | Harrisonburg, VA 22802 | 832.421.1007 | kettlerkenneth@gmail.com

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Greeneville, TN

Summer Law Clerk, May 2019 – July 2019

- Prepared and reviewed drafts including a response to motion to suppress, response to motion to transfer venue, and prosecution memos, among others.
- Represented the United States in sentencing, detention, and suppression hearings.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT– THE HON. M. HANNAH LAUCK, Richmond, VA

Judicial Intern, June 2018 – Aug. 2018

- Drafted memoranda on a habeas petition, sentencing, and a motion to dismiss.

CHAD T. WILSON LAW FIRM, Houston, TX

Legal Assistant, Oct. 2015 – June 2017

- Drafted pleadings, correspondence, discovery requests, and responses.
- Maintained calendar of events, meetings, and hearings for over 200 cases simultaneously.
- Communicated with clients and potential clients for scheduling and discovery.

Honors and Awards

Eagle Scout, 2012