

Application Form

Profile

Prefix

Kenneth
First Name

C
Middle Initial

Kettler
Last Name

Suffix

kettlerkenneth@gmail.com
Email Address

242 East Water Street, Suite 215
Home Address

Suite or Apt

Harrisonburg
City

VA
State

22801
Postal Code

How many years have you been a resident of Harrisonburg?

1

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

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Male

What is your age?

18-30 years old

Are you reapplying for a current position you hold? *

No

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee, **Planning Commission**; EPSAC, OAC

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 Harrisonburg because I am grateful for the opportunity to live here. I'm originally from Houston, Texas. I came to Harrisonburg after attending Washington and Lee University School of Law because it is a beautiful, dynamic city. I saw a thriving immigrant community, two excellent universities, walkable neighborhoods near downtown, moderate housing costs, and a strong sense of community to be very attractive as a young professional. I plan to serve, largely to build on those strengths in the boards and commissions.

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

I am strongly motivated by my interest in protecting the environment, but in so many ways, helping the environment also helps us. Harrisonburg is a growing city. Mayor Reed has stated at recent City Council Meetings that our population is expected to grow to as large as 75,000 in the next few years. There are two paths we can follow - we can build up or build out. One path follows the trend of car-centric development south of I-81, with more massive parking lots connecting big box stores requiring everyone to buy expensive cars, whether they can afford them or not. Or we can aim for more development like downtown, where I live - encourage mixed commercial/residential development so everyone can have a local corner store. We can allow townhouses and in neighborhoods close to downtown to limit housing costs. We can focus more on sidewalks, separated bike paths and greenways to connect residences, schools, and businesses. In short, we can make our city richer, healthier, and more connected, all at once. I can't tell you the freedom there is in being able to walk or bike to work and the grocery store every week, as I do.

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

I am a recent graduate of Washington and Lee University School of Law, having taken courses in administrative law, environmental law, and land use/zoning. As a research assistant for Professor Fraley, I researched municipal codes in environmental and public nuisance contexts. Most importantly, working for the Ritchie Law Firm I see firsthand the impact of car accidents and disability in this community - I've learned the hardships clients face to get around after their car is totaled and sidewalks can't accommodate their wheelchair because a telephone pole blocks the path. And I've learned the lifechanging value of the Community Services Board (CSB) and Healthy Communities Health Centers (HCHC) for those who otherwise couldn't afford treatment.

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

I am on the steering committee of the Climate Action Alliance of the Valley (CAAV), and help to coordinate climate outreach. I have attended meetings of City Council, Planning Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, and EPSAC in the past year for CAAV. I hope to participate in Harrisonburg Citizen Academy this year, and am a member of the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Bar Association.

[Kenneth Kettler Resume v6.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

EPSAC Applicants only

Question applies to Environmental Performance Standards Committee (EPSAC)

City Council is seeking EPSAC members to represent broad stakeholder interests within the city. If you will be participating on the EPSAC as a representative of a business, group, or organization, please provide the name of the business, group, or organization and indicate what stakeholder category the group represents. If more than one, please list all. A. Residents, civic leagues, homeowners associations. B. Institutional and tax exempt entities including colleges and churches. C. Business community including residential, commercial and industrial property owners, malls, and business groups. D. Professional engineers, real estate developers, and construction contractors. E. Special interest groups that represent economic development, environmental or outdoor recreation. F. Others, education professionals from the local schools and city staff: PLEASE CHOOSE ONE FROM THE DROP DOWN BOX *

E: Special interest groups that represent economic development, environmental or outdoor recreation

Question applies to Environmental Performance Standards Committee (EPSAC)

Name of business, group or organization you would represent?

Climate Action Alliance of the Valley

KENNETH KETTLER

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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 – present

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, Aug. 2020 – 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 – Present

- 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.

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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