

Office Use Only:

Council District: 19 *New Appointment* ^x *Reappointment* *Attendance Record:*

Library Board of Trustees Commission

The Library Board of Trustees meets at 12:00 Noon on the 4th Monday of each month at the Main Library- 25 Heritage Green Plaza, Greenville.

Name: Asher Watson

Occupation: Lawyer

Highest

Degree Juris Doctor

Earned:

Year of

Graduation: 2012

Linked In

Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/asherwatson/>

Employer: Watson Fowler, LLC

School

Attended: Charleston School of Law

Field of

Study: Law

Social Media

Profile: [goodreads.com/asherwatson](https://www.goodreads.com/asherwatson)

Military Experience:

N/A

Certifications:

Admitted to practice in South Carolina State and Federal Courts and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Certificate through Opportunity Greenville.

Civic Organizations / Other Affiliations:

Member at Christ Church Episcopal Greenville

I have been a member of the Greenville Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, aka "GACDL" (www.gacdl.com), since July 2017, when I entered private practice after serving as an assistant solicitor in Greenville for five years. From January 2018, to May 2021, I served as the GACDL treasurer. Since then, I have served (and continue to serve) as the organization's General Sessions Liaison. Like treasurer, it is an executive position. As Liaison, I represent the private bar at regular meetings with the Chief Administrative Judge for Greenville County, the elected 13th Circuit Solicitor, the Chief Public Defender, the elected Clerk of Court, and their designees to address broad, pressing, and oftentimes essential issues affecting entire criminal justice system in Greenville County, where we discuss and craft policy to address these issues.

Proud Greenville County Library Cardholder and Patron.

Volunteer Experience (Please List & Describe):

Previously served as Board Member of the CCES Alumni Board (4 year term) where I served on fundraising and event committees, reviewed budgets, voted on matters, among other things.

Coached CCES HS Mock Trial Team (2 years)

My interest in serving on the Library Board of Trustees Commission:

I am a voracious reader and have a passion for libraries. In college and law school, most of my waking hours not spent in class or eating were spent in the Addlestone Library in Charleston or the CSOL Law Library. Since beginning law practice, I have mostly purchased my own books to amass a collection of my own. However, I would like to give back in service to the library of the county in which I was born and raised using my professional skills and experience. In the link below, you may see what I have read on the year. Several of these books were checked out from multiple branches of the Greenville County Library System.

[goodreads.com/asherwatson](https://www.goodreads.com/asherwatson)

Describe your understanding of the position for which you are applying:

Most importantly, I understand that this Board serves at the behest of Greenville County Council and, above all, the citizens of Greenville County. I have carefully reviewed the legislation that enables and governs the powers and duties of the Board. All of the points bulleted on the relevant link on the Greenville County website (<https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/county council board/countywideboards.aspx#Library%20Board%20of%20Trustees>) are integral to the operation and governance of the Greenville County Library System. They govern the management, sale, acquisition, and use of real and personal property under the custody and control of the library system; budgeting; reporting relevant actions to the County Council (and where necessary, gaining approval therefrom); cooperating or entering into contracts and agreements with other agencies (negotiating these contracts is no doubt involved); among other things. It would not be useful to provide an exhaustive list here, and I do not pretend to say that the points catalogued above are more important than ones not mentioned here. If given the privilege of an appointment to the board, all my duties and powers will be undertaken with the most care.

Describe your strengths or skills that would positively contribute to the Library Board of Trustees Commission:

If appointed, I will bring my experience as an organizational/board member and executive, as well as my skill as a lawyer, to the service of the Greenville County Library Board of Trustees. Particularly as a lawyer, I cut to the heart of the matter. At its core, a good legal training allows someone to identify and remedy issues that hurt productivity, create risk, and threaten the proper order of things as they should be. My experience as a trial lawyer over the past decade and, more recently, as a strong voice in Greenville County's criminal justice system has sharpened these skills; I am confident they would be of use to the Greenville County Library Board of Trustees.

My community topics of concern that relate to the Library Board of Trustees Commission:

I want to see that the Library System is accessible, welcoming, and safe to the Greenville community and patrons of all ages. I want the community to take pride in a robust library system with a dedicated and knowledgeable staff. I would like to increase the number of cardholders in the county as a reflection of meeting these goals. A library is not a place to entertain spectacle or animus, but to encourage civic participation through cultivating a well-informed citizenry. The Greenville Library System should operate accordingly.

Do you currently hold an elected or appointed office or commission?

- Yes No

If yes, please list:

Only in GACDL at the moment (see above). I do not hold an elected or appointed office for the County or any government entity.

Have you previously held an elected or appointed office or commission?

- Yes No

If yes, please list:

Please see section immediately above.

Have you ever been fined for an ethics violation?

- Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation?

- Yes No

If yes, please give details:

Are you currently, or have ever been, a part or party to any litigation with or against Greenville County?

- Yes No

If yes, please give details:

Would you be willing to submit to a criminal background check and/or credit check?

- Yes No

Are you aware of the meeting schedule and time commitment for the Library Board of Trustees Commission

- Yes No

Have you attended a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees Commission

- Yes No

Are you aware of the County's attendance policy as it relates to County boards and commissions?

- Yes No

Are you aware this is not a compensated position?

- Yes No

It is the policy of Greenville County to require disclosure of any personal or financial interest that may be influenced by decisions of the Committee, Board or Commission for which any citizen applies for membership.

Do you or a member of your immediate family provide goods and/or services to this board?

- Yes No

Do you or a member of your immediate family benefit from the action of this board?

- Yes No

Does your employer provide goods and/or services to this board?

- Yes No

Does your employer receive direct services from this board?

- Yes No

Does your employer financially benefit from the actions of this board?

Yes No

By signing your name and turning in your application, you agree to and attest to the following:

All information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand it is my responsibility to insure my application is submitted within the application period and that it has been received by the Clerk to Council's office.

I have read the Greenville County Board and Commission Policy and I understand the rules of conduct for the position for which I am applying.

I understand my lack of attendance for three (3) consecutive meetings or 25% of all regular scheduled meetings within a 12-month period may result in my removal from the board.

I understand that I serve at the pleasure of County Council and all appointments are subject to the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act, S.C. Code Ann. Section 8-13-100 et. seq. Any member appointed to a board or commission whose action is inconsistent or may be perceived to be inconsistent with the spirit or intent of the Act, may be subject for removal.

I understand that information provided in this application may be subject to South Carolina Freedom of Information disclosure.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Applicants are encouraged to notify their representing Council Member of their interest to be considered for a desired board seat.