



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

James E. Rogers
College of Law

JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW

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April 5, 2024

Admissions Committee
Master of Public Administration
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington

Dear Admissions Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Michelle Pennington, who is applying to your Master of Public Administration Program. I am the Director of Advocacy and Professor of Law here at the James E. Rogers College of Law. Michelle was my research assistant from approximately February 2022 to August 2022. Based on her performance in that position, I am confident that Michelle would be a valuable addition to your program.

I know that one of Michelle's long-term goals is to start a legal non-profit serving underserved populations. She is also interested in learning about public policy in government settings so that she can advocate for needed legislation. Your program of study would greatly enhance her ability to achieve those goals.

Michelle's major project for me was to research which states have adopted some version of the Model Penal Code and what jury instructions they had written to go with that legislation. I am the editor of the D.C. Criminal Jury Instructions, and the D.C. City Council was in the process of approving a new criminal code for the District based largely on the Model Penal Code. Unfortunately, Congress refused to allow the new code to go into effect. There is still hope that some revisions will ultimately be enacted but, in the meantime, Michelle's research was invaluable because when some version of that code is eventually enacted, we will need to totally rewrite all the jury instructions for the District. That will be a massive undertaking, but her work will give us a good start.

Michelle is very bright. She brings maturity, good judgment, and professionalism to all that she does. She works hard and is totally dependable. When she said she would have a project done by a certain date, I knew that it would be done and done well. I have no doubt that she would bring all those qualities to your MPA program. If you have any specific questions, I would be happy to address them. My email address is: bbergman@arizona.edu and my cell phone is (505) 301-7547.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bergman
Director of Advocacy