



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Ellen J. Clement, Health Officer
Public Health Department

Bader Cassin, Medical Examiner

DATE: April 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Confirming the appointment of Jeffrey Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D. as
Deputy Medical Examiner for Washtenaw County as
recommended by the Medical Examiner, Dr. Bader Cassin

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners confirm the appointment of Jeffrey Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D. as Deputy Medical Examiner for Washtenaw County as recommended by the Medical Examiner, Dr. Bader Cassin.

BACKGROUND

Michigan Law (PA 181 of 1953) establishes and sets forth the powers and duties of County Medical Examiners. The Washtenaw County Office of the Medical Examiner, administered under the Public Health Department, is directed by Medical Examiner, Dr. Bader Cassin. Dr. Cassin has served as the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner since 1996 and since 1997 he has also served as the forensic pathologist, performing or overseeing all County Medical Examiner ordered autopsies.

The Medical Examiner's Office, a 24-hour on-call service, serves the community by investigating sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths which occur in Washtenaw County. Every reported death is investigated thoroughly, frequently with cooperation of law enforcement agencies and health care personnel in Washtenaw County as well as around the State of Michigan. The results of these death investigations provide valuable information, which is used to determine cause of death and for the criminal justice system, public health department, families of the deceased, professional education, and other concerned persons. County Boards of

Commissioners appoint the Medical Examiner and, as recommended by the Medical Examiner may appoint a Deputy County Medical Examiner. The Medical Examiner may, under Michigan law, “delegate any functions of his office to a duly appointed deputy county medical examiner if the deputy county medical examiner is a licensed physician.” (PA 181 of 1953 52.201c)

DISCUSSION

In Washtenaw County the County Medical Examiner program administration, customer service and autopsy functions are carried out through contractual agreements with the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS), St. Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) and Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA). HVA provides field investigators, administrative support, customer service, and autopsy assistants. Both SJMHS and UMHS contractually provide the County Medical Examiner Program the use of hospital facilities for body storage and autopsies, with UMHS also providing pathologist assistants for autopsies and the associated handling of bodies, in-house toxicology, histology services, and gross tissue storage.

Not all Medical Examiner cases require an autopsy. Increasing case numbers over the past 5 years show a similar steady increase of cases requiring an autopsy:

2002	228 autopsies
2003	257 “
2004	309 “
2005	303 “
2006	335 “

Autopsies are performed by Dr. Cassin and by back-up coverage personnel arranged by Dr. Cassin as stipulated in his contract. Because of the increasing numbers of required autopsies the Public Health Director recognizes the need to establish a permanent part time arrangement for a qualified expert in the position of Deputy Medical Examiner as allowed by state law. Under the proposed arrangement which is provided for in the UMHS contract, Dr. Jeff Jentzen, Director of Autopsies and Forensic Services at UMHS, will provide coverage for the Medical Examiner including performing autopsies on an agreed upon schedule. The appointment of Dr. Jentzen as Deputy Medical Examiner will assure the efficient operation of the Medical Examiner system 24 hours every day and during routine or unexpected absences of Dr. Cassin. This arrangement promotes the existing partnership between the County and UMHS under which the health system has the benefit of Medical Examiner autopsies for teaching purposes and the County will concentrate their autopsy work at UMHS and share the position of UMHS Autopsy Service Director as Deputy Medical Examiner.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES

None.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

No impact on current budget. Funds for this arrangement are in the current budget.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS

None.

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IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The Public Health Department will work with Huron Valley Ambulance, the University of Michigan and St. Joseph Mercy Health System to assure that this transition will not adversely affect coordination among the affected agencies.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES

This request is in conformance with County policies.

ATTACHMENTS

Dr. Jeffrey Jentzen's CV (Abbreviated)

Revised March 2008

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jeffrey M. Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D

Professor of Pathology
University of Michigan
Department of Pathology
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Phone: 734.913.6962 (h)
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

09/71-05/75	B.S. Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan
09/75-09/77	Autonomous University Guadalajara, Mexico
09/77- 06/80	M.D., Wayne State Medical School Detroit, Michigan
07/80-06/81	Intern, Transitional St. Joseph Mercy Hospital University of Michigan Affiliated Hospital Ann Arbor, MI
07/80-06/85	Resident, Pathology (Anatomic and Clinical) Hennepin County Medical Center Minneapolis, MN
07/85-06/86	Fellow, Forensic Pathology Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office Minneapolis, MN
09/95-06/97	M.S. History of Science University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, Wisconsin
07/97-05/07	Ph.D., History of Science, 2007 University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, Wisconsin Major Professor: Ronald L. Numbers Dissertation: Death Investigation in America: Coroners, Medical Examiners and the Search for Medical Certainty

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

05/85	American Board of Pathology: Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
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05/86	American Board of Pathology: Forensic Pathology
06/80	Michigan #44373 (Expires 01/31/09)
06/81	Minnesota #26583 (Expired)
01/87	Wisconsin #28157 (Expires 10/31/08)

ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLINICAL APPOINTMENTS

ACADEMIC

03/08-Present	Professor, Department of Pathology University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan
07/98-02/08	Professor, Department of Pathology Medical College of Wisconsin Milwaukee, WI
11/97-01/01	Assistant Clinical Professor Department of Pathology University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI
01/00-Present	Assistant Clinical Professor Department of Health and Allied Sciences University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Milwaukee, WI

ADMINISTRATIVE

03/08-Present	Director of Autopsy and Forensic Services University of Michigan Hospital Ann Arbor, Michigan
01/87-02/08	Medical Examiner, Milwaukee County Milwaukee, Wisconsin
09/89 -Present	Co-Director, Forensic Pathology Fellowship Medical College of Wisconsin

09/98-Present	Co-Director, Toxicology Fellowship Program, Medical College of Wisconsin
01/98-2004	Secretary, American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators
09/00-Present	Founding Member, Center for Forensic Science University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
01/00-02/06	Medical Examiner, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin
01-07-Present	Vice President, National Association of Medical Examiners
01-08 – 12-08	President-Elect, National Association of Medical Examiners

CLINICAL

03/08-Present	University of Michigan Hospital Ann Arbor, Michigan
01/87-Current	Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals Milwaukee, WI
03/07-Current	Froedert Memorial Hospital Milwaukee, WI

Courtesy Staff (expired)
Community Memorial Hospital
848 South Main Street
P.O. Box 419
Cheboygan, MI 49721 (Expired)
(1985 – 2003)

03/08-Present	Director of Autopsy and Forensic Services University of Michigan Hospital Director of Autopsy Services: Oversee and direct an academic autopsy service; teaching pathology residents and providing education and administrative direction. Deputy medical examiner, Washtenaw County, Michigan: performs autopsies, investigates death scenes, provides
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educational and administrative support.

01/87-02/08

**Medical Examiner Milwaukee County,
Wisconsin**

Forensic Toxicology Laboratory: Oversee and direct a full-service forensic toxicology laboratory. Administration: Direct an office of 25 with annual budget of \$4.5 M. Autopsy: Perform 250-300 medicolegal autopsies per year. Supervises the 1050-1100 autopsies performed annually in the medical examiner office. Courtroom Testimony: Provides courtroom testimony for prosecutors and defense counsel on request. Testify 1-2 times per week on average. Revenue development: The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office performs autopsies for contracted counties, expert testimony. The office also provides full-service forensic pathology coverage for Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. (2000-2005) Total revenue \$1.4 Million annually.

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JEFFREY JENTZEN, M.D.,
Ph.D. AS DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY AS
RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER, DR BADER CASSIN

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 2, 2008

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is requested to confirm the appointment of Jeffrey Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D. as Deputy Medical Examiner as recommended by the Medical Examiner, Dr. Bader Cassin; and

WHEREAS, Michigan law, PA 181 of 1953, establishes and sets forth the powers and duties of County Medical Examiners; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner's Office is a 24 hour on-call service with the number of required autopsies performed by the Medical Examiner's office having increased in each of the past four years in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, to support the efficient operation and maintain appropriate professional support of the Medical Examiner system in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, the County has a contractual relationship with the University of Michigan Health System for autopsy facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the County and UMHS desire to extend our partnership to include a shared position of Autopsy Service Director and Deputy Medical Examiner; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Medical Examiner recommend the appointment of Jeff Jentzen , M.D., Ph.D. as Washtenaw County Deputy Medical Examiner; and

WHEREAS, the scope of service and costs provided by the Deputy Medical Examiner are included in Public Health's current budget and the UMHS contract; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the County Administrator, Corporation Counsel, the Human Resources Department, the Finance Department and the Ways & Means Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby confirms the appointment of Dr. Jeff Jentzen as Deputy Medical Examiner for Washtenaw County.