

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
WAIVER OF PROBATION OFFICER)
MINIMUM HIRING REQUIREMENTS)
FOR THE COCHISE COUNTY ADULT)
PROBATION DEPARTMENT)
_____)

Administrative Order
No. 2021 - 154

A.R.S. § 12-251(C) provides, “Probation department personnel shall qualify under minimum standards of experience and education established by the Supreme Court. Such standards may differ for counties of less than three hundred thousand persons from counties with three hundred thousand persons or more.” ACJA § 6-106(F)(3)(a), Personnel Practices, states that probation officers must possess “At minimum, a bachelor’s degree with a preference in the behavioral sciences or a related field from an accredited college or university.”

The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Cochise County has requested a waiver of this requirement pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-251(C). Cochise County is a county of less than three hundred thousand persons and has experienced a hardship in the ability to recruit deputy probation officers who meet the educational requirements as stated in ACJA § 6-106(F)(3)(a). Cochise County has an otherwise qualified deputy probation officer candidate who is completing bachelor’s degree requirements and is currently employed as a court assistant. The waiver will permit the Cochise County Adult Probation Department to hire Ariel Belloc to the position of probation officer, contingent on meeting bachelor’s degree requirements within 12 months from the date of this order.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that a waiver of ACJA § 6-106(F)(3)(a) is granted for 12 months regarding the educational requirements allowing the Cochise County Adult Probation Department to appoint Ariel Belloc to the position of probation officer.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this waiver is effective on and after the date of signature.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2021.

ROBERT BRUTINEL
Chief Justice