

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: December 4, 2018

SUBJECT: Report on PR 22-1103, “Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Reappointment Resolution of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 22-1103, the “Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Reappointment Resolution of 2018” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On October 29, 2018, PR 22-1103, the “Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Reappointment Resolution of 2018,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. The proposed resolution was referred to the Committee of the Whole on November 13, 2018. The purpose of PR 22-1103 is to reappoint Ms. Bulle-Vu as a member of the Child Support Guideline Commission (“Commission”) for a four-year term to end December 20, 2022.

Ms. Bulle-Vu is a Ward 3 resident of the District of Columbia. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University and her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center. Currently, Ms. Bulle-Vu is employed as a supervising attorney in the domestic violence and family unit at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. As a supervising attorney, she represents low-income clients in child custody and civil protection order cases, and custodial

and non-custodial parents in child support and paternity cases. She also mentors pro bono attorneys in family law. Prior to joining the Legal Aid Society, Ms. Bulle-Vu was the recipient of the Georgetown/Howrey Pro Bono Fellowship. During her fellowship, she represented low-income clients exclusively on a pro bono basis. In addition, Ms. Bulle-Vu serves as the Vice Chairman of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School Board and she used to sit on the Board of Excel Academy Public Charter School.

The federal Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984¹, requires every state to enact child support guidelines to determine how child support awards are calculated. The child support guidelines are required to follow the following principles: 1) must be available to the judges who set child support amounts; 2) application of the guidelines must be presumptive and rebuttable only where their application would be unjust or inappropriate; 3) deviation from the guidelines must be supported by written findings stating the guideline award amount and the reasons for varying from this amount; 4) child support must take into account all earnings and income of the parent with a duty to pay support; 5) the guidelines must be based on specific criteria, and their application must result in a numeric child support value; and 6) the guidelines must address how the child's medical needs will be covered.² Once the child support guidelines are established, the states are required to review their guidelines once every four years.³ The Child Support Guideline Commission was established as the body to review the child support guidelines in the District of Columbia to bring them into compliance with federal law.⁴

Quadrennially, the Commission examines the child support guidelines and makes recommendations to the Mayor.⁵ Under District law, any case involving the establishment of child support, or modification of an existing child support order, requires a judicial officer to conduct a hearing and make a finding in accordance with the child support guidelines. The child support guidelines, codified at D.C. Official Code § 16-916.01, provide a presumptive formula for determining the amount of child support in cases where the parents are unmarried, separated, or divorced.⁶

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02(d), the Commission is required to: 1) review and recommend updates to the guidelines not less than once every four years; 2) review pertinent economic data, including poverty levels, and information on the functioning of the guidelines for the purpose of recommending changes to the guidelines; 3) hold a public meeting at least annually to receive oral or written comments from members of the Bar or the public; and 4) perform other

¹ Public L. No. 98-378, 98 Stat. 1305 (1984).

² Child Support Guideline Commission, Report of the District of Columbia Child Support Guideline Commission: Final Recommendations, 4-5 (December 2013) (on file with the Committee). [hereinafter 2013 Commission Report].

³ *Id.* at 5.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02(a).

⁶ The child support guideline in the District are based on the following principles: 1) both parents share legal responsibility for support of the child; 2) subsistence needs of each parent shall be taken into account; 3) a parent must meet a child's basic needs, as well as to provide additional support; 4) the guideline shall be gender neutral; 5) the guideline shall be applied consistently regardless of whether either parent is a recipient of benefits under a public-assistance program; and 6) the guideline shall be applied presumptively. (D.C. Official Code § 16-916.01(c)).

tasks as necessary to develop, update, or monitor the guidelines and to ensure that the District is in compliance with federal mandates.

The Commission consists of nine members, all of whom must be District residents.⁷ The Mayor shall appoint the Chairperson as well as two members, one of whom must be a member of the DC Bar and an expert in the fields of family law and child support.⁸ The Mayor must also appoint one member to represent the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Office of Attorney General.⁹ The Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia may appoint two members.¹⁰ The Council shall designate one Councilmember and appoint two additional members; one of the two members shall be a member of the DC Bar and be an expert in the fields of family law and child support.¹¹

Table 1: Membership of the Child Support Guideline Commission

Resolution #	Position	Appointee	Term Expiring:
<i>PR 22-1103</i>	<i>Proposed Council Appointee (D.C. Bar Member and Expert in Family Law and Child Support)</i>	<i>Meridel Bulle-Vu</i>	<i>December 20, 2022</i>
R. 22-314	Council Appointee (Council Designee)	Councilmember Charles Allen	October 23, 2021
R. 22-315	Council Appointee	Tianna Gibbs	December 20, 2020
	Chief Judge of Superior Court Appointee	Judge Kenia Seoane Lopez	September 1, 2021
	Chief Judge of Superior Court Appointee	Judge Shelly A. Mulkey	September 1, 2021
	Mayoral Appointee (D.C. Bar Member and Expert in Family Law and Child Support)	LaShelle Williams-Franklin (Chairperson)	December 31, 2021
	Mayoral Appointee	Tamisa Brooks	December 31, 2021
	Mayoral Appointee (Child Support Enforcement Division, Office of Attorney General)	Justin Latus	December 31, 2021
	Mayoral Appointee	Vacant	

The District’s child support guidelines were last revised in 2016, when the Council approved the Child Support Revision Amendment Act of 2016 (“2016 Act”).¹² The 2016 Act adopted recommendations that were outlined in the 2013 Commission Report. The Commission recommended keeping the Income Shares model, which requires each of the parents to provide support for the child.¹³ In addition, the Commission refined the child support guidelines and corrected and improved the guidelines to address discrepancies.¹⁴

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02(b).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² D.C. Law 21-107; D.C. Official Code § 16-916.01.

¹³ *Supra* note 2 at 11.

¹⁴ *Id.*

Ms. Bulle-Vu was first appointed to the Commission on December 8, 2017, to fill the unexpired term of Michele Zavos as the Council appointee to the Commission, for a term to expire on December 20, 2018.¹⁵ Ms. Bulle-Vu serves as the family law and child support expert as required by D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02(b). She meets the requirements of D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02(b) as she has over seven and a half years of family and child support law experience and she is a member of the DC Bar.

Due to Ms. Bulle-Vu's term ending on December 20, 2018, Chairman Mendelson filed PR 22-1103 to extend her term to December 20, 2022. Because the Committee held a public hearing on Ms. Bulle-Vu's previous appointment resolution (PR 22-557) last year, the Committee believes that another public hearing is unnecessary. However, the Committee did send Ms. Bulle-Vu questions regarding her reappointment and her responses are attached to this Report.

Ms. Bulle-Vu is an expert on the District's child support guidelines as she has assisted hundreds of custodial and non-custodial parents with questions about the guidelines.¹⁶ If reappointed she plans to utilize her experience to continue to serve the District.¹⁷ Ms. Bulle-Vu wants to serve a full four-year term so she can share her expertise and to be a voice for low-income families on the Commission.¹⁸

Based on her impressive credentials, the Committee recommends the reappointment of Ms. Bulle-Vu to serve on the Commission. She will continue to be an asset as she understands the impact that the guidelines have on children living in poverty. She will ensure that the guidelines are written to ensure fair child support orders. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 22-557.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

October 16, 2017	PR 22-557, the "Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Appointment Resolution of 2017" is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
November 7, 2017	PR 22-557 is "read" at a Committee of the Whole meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
November 20, 2017	The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 22-557.
December 5, 2017	The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 22-557.
December 8, 2017	PR 22-557 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> and takes effect as Resolution R. 22-313.

¹⁵ Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Appointment Resolution of 2017, effective December 8, 2017 (R. 22-313; 64 DCR 12416).

¹⁶ See Meridel Bulle-Vu, Nominee, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole's Pre-Roundtable Questionnaire, Page 3, November 30, 2018. (Attached to the Report).

¹⁷ *Id.* at 1.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 3.

- October 29, 2018 PR 22-1103, the “Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Reappointment Resolution of 2018” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
- November 2, 2018 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 22-1103 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- November 13, 2018 PR 22-1103 is “read” at a Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
- December 4, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 22-1103.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Bulle-Vu is the Council’s appointee to the Commission. The Executive provided no comment on Ms. Bulle-Vu’s reappointment.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 22-1103.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

There was no public testimony since the Committee did not hold a public hearing on PR 22-1103. However, a hearing was held November 20, 2017 on Ms. Bulle-Vu’s appointment to the term she is now serving. Pursuant to Council Rule 501, hearings are not required for resolutions before final adoption by the Council. The Committee received no comments in opposition to PR 22-1103.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Child Support Guideline Commission are appointed pursuant to section 3 of the Child Support Guideline Amendment Act of 1990, effective July 25, 1990 (D.C. Law 8-150; D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02), which establishes the Commission.¹⁹

¹⁹ Section 3 (D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02) was amended by D.C. Law 14-190 (October 1, 2002) to change the membership, including reducing the size of the Commission.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 22-1103 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02(f), members of the Child Support Guideline Commission serve without compensation.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 22-1103.
<u>Section 2</u>	Reappoints Meridel Bulle-Vu as a member of the Child Support Guideline Commission to serve a 4-year term to end December 20, 2022.
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee, the chairperson of the Commission, and to the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 22-1103 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

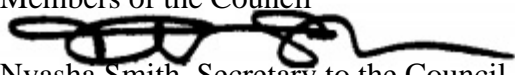
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 22-1103 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Legal sufficiency determination.
4. Committee Print for PR 22-1103.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : October 30, 2018

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, October 29, 2018. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Reappointment Resolution of 2018", PR22-1103

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To reappoint Ms. Meridel Bulle-Vu to the Child Support Guideline Commission.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu Reappointment Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia reappoints:

Ms. Meridel Bulle-Vu
3816 Military Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015
(Ward 3)

as a member of the Child Support Guideline Commission, established by section 3 of the Child Support Guideline Amendment Act of 1990, effective July 25, 1990 (D.C. Law 8-150; D.C. Official Code § 16-916.02), to serve a 4-year term to end December 20, 2022.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the appointee, the chairperson of the Commission, and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

Meridel J. Bulle-Vu

• 3816 Military Road NW • Washington, D.C. 20015 • 516-287-6799 • mjbulle@gmail.com •

EXPERIENCE

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

June 2011 – present

Senior Staff Attorney, Domestic Violence/Family Unit

Represent low-income clients – predominantly domestic violence survivors – in child custody and civil protection order cases, and custodial and non-custodial parents in child support and paternity cases. Staff a court-based legal services office at the Paternity and Support Branch of the D.C. Superior Court, providing same-day advice and temporary representation to parents. Provide extended representation in complex paternity, support, and custody proceedings and in motions for review. Supervise post-graduate fellows, junior attorneys, and legal interns. Supervise intake interviews across practice areas. Engage in systemic advocacy to improve the D.C. child support system, including testifying before the D.C. Council, drafting proposed legislation, and commenting on federal regulations. Lead internal and external trainings and outreach on the substance and practice of family law. Mentor *pro bono* attorneys in family law.

Georgetown/Howrey Pro Bono Fellowship, Washington, DC

September 2010 – March 2011

Represented low-income clients exclusively on *pro bono* matters. Independently managed diverse caseload. Drafted writ of *certiorari*, related motions and briefs for appeal from denial of *habeas corpus*. Interviewed clients, prepared affidavits and applications for asylum; successfully defended against removal of asylum clients in immigration court. Prepared for remanded third party custody trial. Successfully litigated police complaint for civil rights violation before administrative examiner. Represented juvenile clients committed to DYRS. Coordinated volunteer reading program at local school.

Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic, Washington, DC

Academic Year 2009 – 2010

Student Attorney

Independently represented adolescents charged with misdemeanor and felony crimes in D.C. Responsible for all stages of clients' cases, including initial client interview, development of a defense theory, investigation of evidence and witnesses, counseling client about plea offers, negotiation with prosecutors, and preparing for trial, disposition, and review hearings. Zealously addressed clients' tangential social and educational issues pre- and post- disposition.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC

May – Aug 2009

Legal Intern, Community Development Project

Investigated potential racial discrimination in the unequal provision of municipal services and prepared memoranda analyzing merits under Civil Right statutes. Drafted legal agreements for community organizations in the Gulf Coast. Researched affordable housing and mobility opportunities under federal statutes.

National Health Law Program, Washington, DC

Sept 2008 – April 2009

Legal Intern

Researched health care issues facing low-income, minority, and elderly populations, focusing on language access barriers to quality care. Analyzed provisions of the Affordable Health Act for impact on minority health. Developed consumer education campaign on access to care and coverage and dealing with medical debt.

The Door - Legal Services Center, New York, NY

June – Aug 2008

Law Clerk

Interviewed clients and prepared petitions, affidavits and memoranda of law for Family Court and Immigration Court proceedings related to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications for undocumented youth, U-Visas for victims of crime, and T-Visas for victims of trafficking. Coordinated and led summer workshop for youth on "Street Law".

Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Sept 2005 – Aug 2007

Research Specialist

Researched topics including juvenile justice, education, poverty, and race for articles, policy briefs, course planning, and fundraising for *The Future of Children*, a journal promoting best practices in child policy. Drafted and edited reports, letters, papers, and website copy for use in advocacy and outreach. Created and maintained journal websites. Statistically analyzed data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study and wrote briefs on vulnerable children and families.

Meridel J. Bulle-Vu

• 3816 Military Road NW • Washington, D.C. 20015 • 516-287-6799 • mjbulle@gmail.com •

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of New York, January 20, 2011 – present
District of Columbia, September 9, 2011 – present

PUBLICATIONS

District of Columbia Practice Manual, 2016 Edition, “Parentage”, “Child Support”, “UIFSA” (with Ashley McDowell et al).
District of Columbia Practice Manual, 2015 Edition, “Parentage” and “Child Support” (with Ashley McDowell et al).

Developments in Family Law in the District of Columbia: Three Significant Legislative Changes for Child Support, 18 UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW, 201-209 (2015) (with Tianna Gibbs and Ashley McDowell).

Strategic Intent: A Post-Sandoval Litigation Strategy for Title IV Impact Cases, 18 GEORGETOWN JOURNAL ON POVERTY LAW AND POLICY, 461-486 (2010).

Review of What Youth Programs Do to Increase the Connectedness of Youth With Adults, 39 JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH, 788-799 (2006) (with Jean B. Grossman).

SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Guest clinical lecturer at University of the District of Columbia General Practice Clinic (May 2017), Catholic University of America Columbus Community Legal Services Clinic (February 2016), and George Washington University Family Justice Clinic (January 2012).

Presenter, CCAN Brown Bag: *Paternity Issues from the Parents’ Perspective*, August 2015.

Presenter, *Multijurisdictional Issues in Family Court*, D.C. Superior Court quarterly judicial training, September 2014.

Presenter, *Navigating Child Support in Family Court Proceedings*, D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program training, June 2015.

Panelist, Roundtable Conference: *Strengthening the Link Between Child Support Enforcement and Employment Assistance*, Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, June 2012.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center

J.D. *cum laude*, May 2010

Honors: Juvenile Justice Clinic Public Service Award, May 2010
International Academy of Trial Lawyers Student Advocacy Award, May 2010
Pro Bono Pledge Award, May 2010
Equal Justice Foundation Ricci Fellowship

Activities: GEORGETOWN JOURNAL ON POVERTY LAW AND POLICY, *Note and Comment Editor*
Georgetown Youth Advocacy
Educational Surrogate Parent Program, *Volunteer with D.C. Public Schools*

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

A.B. *cum laude*, May 2005

Honors: Priscilla Glickman ’92 Memorial Prize for Community Service, May 2005
Dean Hank Dobin Prize for Community Based Independent Work, May 2005

Senior Thesis: *Building Better Beginnings: Promising Practices for State Early Childhood Education Policy*

LANGUAGES

Proficient in Spanish.



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson
Chairman

Office: (202) 724-8032
Fax: (202) 724-8085

November 21, 2018

Ms. Meridel J. Bulle-Vu
3816 Military Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Ms. Bulle-Vu,

Congratulations on being nominated for reappointment to the Child Support Guideline Commission (Commission). As you are aware, last year the Council approved your appointment to the Commission for a term to end on December 20, 2018. In expectation of your term expiring next month, a resolution to reappoint you to the Commission for a term to end on December 20, 2022 was filed on October 29, 2018. The Committee of the Whole does not plan to hold a public hearing on your nomination, since one was held last November. The Committee of the Whole does plan to bring your reappointment resolution before the Council in early December. It is standard practice for the Council to submit questions to nominees. Before your reappointment resolution is brought before the Council, I request your response to the following questions no later than close of business Friday, November 30, 2018.

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement.
2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.
3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.
4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.
5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.
6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.

8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.
9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.
10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.
11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.
12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Commission?
13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, and itemize any campaign contributions to a *local* candidate or political action committee.
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.
15. What are your current priorities for service on the Commission?

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me or Peter Johnson on my staff at (202) 724-8083.

Sincerely,



Phil Mendelson
Chairman

enc.

PM/pj



November 30, 2018

Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Committee of the Whole
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

Thank you for considering me for reappointment to the Child Support Guideline Commission. If reappointed, I would be honored to utilize my expertise and experience in child support to continue serve the District. Below, please find my responses to your questions in advance of the Council's consideration of my reappointment.

1. *Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement.*

I have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement. Please find answers to questions 2-8 below.

2. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.*

I do not have any interest in any business entity transacting business with the District Government. To the extent I may own publicly traded stock in a business entity that may transact business with the District Government, I am not immediately aware of any such interest and furthermore do not believe that any such interest exceeds \$5,000.

3. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.*

Neither I nor my immediate family has transacted business with the District Government.

4. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.*

None.

5. *Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.*

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family has any loans other than from a federal or state insured and regulated financial institution.

6. *Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.*

1010 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Unit 913
Washington, DC 20001

3816 Military Rd. NW
Washington, DC 20015

7. *Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.*

I am a member of the Bar in good standing in the State of New York, Third District, and the District of Columbia.

8. *Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.*

None.

9. *Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.*

I was a member of the Board of Excel Academy Public Charter School from 2009 until 2013.

My spouse, Michael Vu, is currently a member and Vice Chairman of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School Board in Washington, DC.

10. *Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.*

None.

11. *Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.*

No.

12. *Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Commission?*

No.

13. *Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee.*

None.

14. *Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.*

No.

15. *(a) Why have you agreed to serve for a four-year term?*

I have been engaged in the practice of child support law in the District for the past seven and a half years while employed at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. I was initially hired in 2011 at the inception of Child Support Community Legal Services Project, a joint endeavor between Legal Aid and Bread for the City. Funded by grants from the D.C. Bar Foundation, Legal Aid and Bread for the City created the Child Support Resource Center, a legal services center based at the Paternity and Support branch of the DC Superior Court. Four days per week, I or another attorney from Legal Aid or Bread for the City is available at the P&S Branch of the Superior Court to provide legal information, advice, and same-day temporary representation to custodial and non-custodial parents in their paternity and child support cases. Prior to becoming a Supervising Attorney, I staffed the Child Support Resource Center at least on a weekly basis – and sometimes several days a week – for six and a half years. During my time at Legal Aid, I have assisted hundreds of custodial and non-custodial parents with questions about D.C.’s Child Support Guideline – some relatively straightforward and some incredibly complex. I have become an expert in this area of the law, particularly as it applies to low-income families.

I appreciate the Council’s wisdom in continually appointing a commission to reevaluate the D.C. Child Support Guidelines and make recommendations to ensure that application of the Guidelines results in fair and appropriate support orders, and including legal services experts on that Commission. For children living below or close to the poverty line, regularly paid child support has the power to significantly boost their standard of living and thereby reduce the stress they face in their everyday lives. I intend to remain actively engaged in this area of the law going forward and am willing to devote a portion of my time over the next four years to service on the Commission. While I understand that this is a significant commitment, I am prepared to make that commitment in order to share my expertise and be a voice for low-income families on the Commission.

- (b) How do you plan to help the Commission fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Commission over the next four years?*

In my practice, I regularly assist both custodial and non-custodial parents in seeking fair child support orders. As such, I am in a unique position to see how the Guidelines apply to both sides, and to help evaluate how any proposed changes would affect families as a whole – particularly families living in poverty. I intend to use the perspective I have gained from my and my colleagues’ clients’ experiences under the current Guidelines to inform my contributions to the Commission and as a lens through which to view any recommendations for changes.

16. *Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as a member of the Commission.*

My undergraduate degree is from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. My course of studies focused on domestic public policy, specifically policies affecting child wellbeing. After graduating, I stayed on to work with my thesis advisor at The Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton, where I assisted with a national longitudinal research project that studied, among many other things, the impact of child support on father involvement and on child outcomes. In addition, I also worked on The Future of Children, a journal that translates social science research into policy recommendations on issues. This background in public policy and social science, including economics, will inform my participation in the Commission and will be particularly useful in the event the Commission decides to revisit the economic models that are the baseline of our joint income model for determining child support awards.

Again, thank you for considering me for reappointment to the Commission. I was disappointed that the Commission did not have an opportunity to formally meet this past year and look forward to a more productive coming term. If there is any additional information I can provide before consideration of my reappointment resolution, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Meridel Bulle-Vu
Supervising Attorney, Family Unit

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 December 4, 2018
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8 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**
9

10 22-1103
11 _____
12

13 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
14 _____
15

16
17 To reappoint Ms. Meridel Bulle-Vu to the Child Support Guideline Commission.
18

19 **RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the “Child Support Guideline Commission Meridel Bulle-Vu
21 Reappointment Resolution of 2018”.

22 **Sec. 2.** The Council of the District of Columbia reappoints:

23 Ms. Meridel Bulle-Vu
24 3816 Military Road, N.W.
25 Washington, D.C. 20015
26 (Ward 3)
27

28 as a member of the Child Support Guideline Commission, established by section 3 of the Child
29 Support Guideline Amendment Act of 1990, effective July 25, 1990 (D.C. Law 8-150; D.C.
30 Official Code § 16-916.02), to serve a 4-year term to end December 20, 2022.

31 **Sec. 3.** The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
32 upon its adoption, to the appointee, the chairperson of the Commission, and to the Office of the
33 Mayor.

34 **Sec. 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
35 the District of Columbia Register.