

Daniel Schultz, MD, F-AP/CP/FP

7/26/22

President, Final Diagnosis Inc.

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Attention: District 22 Medical Examiner Search Committee

Hello,

My name is Dr. Dan Schultz, and I am a 27-year experienced board-certified forensic pathologist licensed in the state of Florida among several other states. I recently discovered last week that Dr. Imami has announced his plans to retire this September of 2022. I must admit that this location and practice type has been something I have been interested in for decades. I consider myself a friend of Dr. Imami and have covered for him as an Associate Medical Examiner on several occasions many years ago. I am very familiar with his office staff as well. Despite my interest, I never mentioned my interest to him, mainly out of courtesy, as it would seem a bit forward to keep asking, "Are you thinking of retiring any time soon?". So here we are.

My work experiences and background I believe make me an excellent candidate for filling this position. For 8 years I worked as a senior forensic pathologist in Cincinnati, Ohio and taught as well in the Department of Pathology at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine. I spent a little more than a year with District 6 in Clearwater, but this was not a good fit for me. The latter half of my forensic career has been spent sharing my time as a tissue bank Medical Director with part- or full-time forensic pathology work. I had been a regular Associate Medical Examiner for roughly 12 years in Sarasota, still maintaining myself as a backup person. I also returned to full time forensic pathology work in Hillsborough County from 2017 to 2019, and this was refreshing but not exactly as flexible as I needed to maintain other interests. I took an interesting, career defining, and educational opportunity in 2006 moving to a full-time role at LifeLink Tissue Bank as Vice President and Medical Director of Tissue Services. A few years ago I took on a unique challenge and successfully covered a solo private contract forensic pathology position in Big Rapids, Michigan for a Northwest Michigan consortium of over 8 counties. I did this remotely from Tampa, flying up for each case to my vacation home in Michigan (also in Big Rapids). Then from Sept 2019 through May 2022, I was recruited as a contractor consultant at LifeNet health in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and a few months later was hired as Vice President of Medical Affairs and Medical Director. I have since moved on from LifeNet to focus on Final Diagnosis, Inc., my very unique, private autopsy laboratory, fielding medical autopsies and sometimes second look forensic styled autopsies and forensic consults from around the United States, some autopsies from even outside the continental US. All of these private autopsies are delivered to our well suited/staffed autopsy facility in Tampa. Cases there are routinely performed outside routine business hours (after 5 pm) given that most of my staff (myself included) have alternative full-time employment. Final Diagnosis has other board-certified forensic pathologists who assist me and this allows tremendous flexibility in my schedule. At my age of 57 I feel semi-retired, having experienced a lot, yet thirsty for a reasonable caseload of forensic pathology cases of all types to satisfy my interest. Education and elevation of forensic pathology as a viable and satisfying career path is important to me. Educating and serving law

enforcement, criminal prosecution, and defense stakeholders as well as local healthcare and funeral directors is important to me. There are many stakeholders. That said, the ability to explain “what happened” to a grieving family is really what it is all about. Despite growing up in Michigan, I am here in Florida preferentially because I believe we have the highest quality death investigative systems and practices in the United States.

I am quite sure there will be a bevy of highly qualified colleagues of mine interested in this position, and I can say that those who know me would describe me as about as passionate and enthusiastic as one can get about the value of a competent autopsy, the value of rapport with law enforcement, with all sides of the judicial system, with funeral homes and with the transplant community. I foresee a lengthy career to end here, and I cherish the opportunity to maintain Final Diagnosis as it grows in its scope of niche casework, answering questions of grieving families but also engaging in regular teaching of young people interested in pathology, and especially forensic pathology.

I would of course remove myself as practitioner from any private medical/consultative autopsy activities in deaths arising in District 22. It is known by many of my forensic pathologist friends that Final Diagnosis Inc facility and equipment is geared to be used as a point of care practice site for other forensic pathologists.

I am at a phase of my career that I value the smaller things in life, time for family, friends, and I think this means time to give my best to a community of this size who could appreciate my work ethic and passion. I have friendships with adjacent Medical Examiners, particularly Dr. Vega and his staff in District 12, and others, and I would forge to make that collegiality and collaborative spirit continue. I welcome the sort of situation that Dr. Imami found himself in during his amazing career of over 50 years, serving a community that would get to know me in the same sort of way. I believe that I can offer a down to earth personality, an empathetic heart, and a desire to simply do the right thing.

A side benefit of my dual role in tissue banking over the years is that I have a unique and strong understanding of ways to optimize the gift of donation and to also yield the greatest data for death investigation. I have espoused for years the added value that comes through the testing and the data generated by tissue, eye, and organ donation. I have no relation at all at this phase with LifeLink or any transplant agency other than being a continued supporter. I have been on the donor registry as a potential donor myself since 16 years of age. I have experience in leadership roles as Chairman of the Board and President of the American Association of Tissue Banks, with heavy board involvement for a total of 8 years. I am currently ready to take on something precisely like this position that I have patiently waited on as it will be symbiotic with our slow-paced, flexible autopsy lab in Tampa. I also look forward as a leader and chief to be a regular presence at local and national forensic meetings and committees.

In terms of carrying out the duties, I have no issues with the full workload of this historically one-man office, this volume being much less than I experienced over the years literally swinging two to three bats at a time as a full-time and part-time medical examiner and during the 14+ years I worked in full-time tissue banking, as an ME and as a private practitioner. While it is challenging to find coverage in the market shortage of forensic pathologists, this office best is handled with locum coverages as Imami has historically done to fill gaps for vacation, illness, etc. I already have such relationships and connections. I expect to be in the office regularly. I intend to set routine schedules of autopsy casework so as to make things easier for staff and stakeholders but also always willing to afford flexibility as needed.

While I live in Brandon, I do have a strong interest in buying a second home in the greater Port Charlotte area, as I did when I worked in Sarasota. I would anticipate spending time in both locales just for the contrast it offers to living currently full time in urban Tampa. I must admit I love the idea of being just close enough to the greater Tampa Bay area as I am a diehard hockey fan and Lightning season ticket holder over 12 years. I also hope to continue to offer teaching opportunities both at Final Diagnosis and in the ME facility for those up-and-coming forensic professionals who might be interested in doing what I and Dr. Imami have had the blessing to do. In my own 32 years as a physician, I am still well under 20 years away from Dr. Imami's longevity, but I can hope to see that.

I would be honored to be a part of this District 22 Medical Examiner Staff and continue a strong legacy of service.

Thank you all for your time and good luck in your search. I'm available to discuss my qualifications and interest further.

Respectfully,

Daniel Schultz, MD