

**Brian G. Whitaker**  
**City Clerk, New Castle, Delaware**

## Biography

During Brian's Junior and Senior years of college, he interned at Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., where he learned how to advocate for people with physical disabilities. Efforts were made to ensure that these individuals received equal accommodation at all Delaware gas stations. As a result of Brian's advocacy and grassroots efforts, Title 6 § 2912 of the Delaware Code was amended to ensure these accommodations were implemented. During his Senior year of college, he wrote his final thesis on "Mobility and Orientation: A Study of the Visually Impaired". The study was about the various methods that persons with visual impairment use to navigate their surroundings without assistance. The study was conducted in Wilmington, Delaware, and Brian surveyed the many different methods used by each person in the study who presented themselves as visually impaired, and how they maintained personal mobility.

After college, Brian continued to work at St. Peter's School and Parish and continued his grassroots efforts to ensure the passage of a law that was originally lobbied for by the Paralyzed Veterans Associations of Delaware. These efforts caught the interest of the media and local politicians. Thus, State Legislators amended to the law to ensure accommodations at gas stations were also implemented.

Throughout his time in the military, Brian kept in touch with lawmakers and various organizations to ensure that the legislation was still moving forward. The effort began back in 2006, and it ensured that individuals with physical disabilities had assistance at all places that offer motor fuel. In more detail, all gas stations are required to have a call button to alert the gas-station attendant that the customer needs assistance.

Brian received military honors while serving in Korea, Germany, Kuwait and Iraq. He attained the rank of Specialist (E-4), and received several military awards: 1) National Defense Medal, 2) National War on Terrorism, 3) Korean Defense Service Medal, 4) Iraq Campaign Medal with Star, 5) Army Service Ribbon, 6) Overseas Service Ribbon, 7) Air Force Training Ribbon, and 8) the Good Conduct Medal. The Good Conduct Medal was authorized on June 28, 1941 for exemplary conduct, efficiency and fidelity, and is awarded to Army personnel who, on or after August 27, 1940, have honorably completed three years of active Federal military service.

After Brian returned from Germany on March 23, 2010, he attended the University of the Rockies in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Three years later, he received an academic honor for maintaining a grade point average of 3.97. Brian was inducted into the Salute Honor Society, which is for United States Veterans. A year after graduation, Brian was inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society for maintaining a grade point average of 3.97. This honor society is for graduate students only.

In addition to academics, Brian was asked by the Department of Health and Social Services to be a part of their council. He accepted their invitation and served in the position as a Strategic Planner for the Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities Advisory Council, which later became the Healthcare Committee. The council has oversight of the Disability and Health project, and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Brian has served in this position from March 2014 to this present time. This committee is run by both the University of Delaware and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. Brian furthered his political accomplishments by being appointed by the Governor of Delaware to the Board of Speech Pathologists, Audiologists, and Hearing Aid Dispensaries, from December 2014 to the

present, as an Independent. His duties on the board are to approve licenses for speech pathologists and audiologists, discuss questions pertaining to issues and legislation for professionals in the field, discuss hearing aid dispensaries and disposable hearing aids, and investigate claims against professionals for violating laws that pertain to Delaware State Law.

In addition to earning his B.S. in Behavioral Science and his M.A. in Human Services, Brian took it upon himself to receive independent training in Peer Support and Drug and Alcohol Counseling. He earned hours from Open Door Inc. and from the Rick Van Story Resource Center. Brian completed the required 1,000 hours to qualify to take the State exam to be a licensed Peer Support Specialist. As a Peer Support Specialist, Brian assists individuals who are diagnosed with severe mental health disorders, among others. He had to take classes at the Delaware Psychiatric Center to learn how to assist those who are in need in the proper way.

Another accomplishment that reflects Brian's interest in helping others was his completion of the Drug and Alcohol Certificate program at Delaware Technical and Community College, with honors. He interned at Meadowood Hospital and, while there, performed several clinical interviews with the individuals there, some of whom have substance abuse disorders and some of whom have severe mental health diagnoses.

Brian has worked hard in his military, civilian and academic careers. He is especially proud of his receipt of the Good Conduct Medal. Brian achieved much academically at the University of the Rockies and Delaware Technical and Community College. He serves his community at the places where he has interned and at the public library. Brian advocates for his friends and the patients that he interviews, and he suggests policy changes to the people in charge to make improvements to programs. Lastly, Brian has been appointed by the Governor of

Delaware to make regulations that impact medical professionals and the patients that come to them for treatment.

Even though Brian was defeated in the Mayor's race of 2010, he did not put politics aside. He patiently waited for the moment to make a comeback in City politics, and decided to run for the City Clerk position instead. Even though the position was uncontested, Brian campaigned throughout the City of New Castle, Delaware and earned 788 votes. Brian is proud to be the City Clerk of New Castle and have the opportunity to help make this City great again, make it free of drugs, bring people back to work, and help them out of poverty. Currently, Brian works for Kelly Education Services as a substitute teacher and for New Castle County Library Services, and he also has his own Notary and Personal Training business. Brian is glad to service the people of this great city, and at the moment, he is applying at various medical facilities to make use of his advanced education.