

Application

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 10:02 am, Apr 20, 2021

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission : Submitted

Please read the following before completing an application:

The Oaks Initiative, also known as the "Taxpayer Protection Act," was adopted by Santa Monica voters in November 2000 and amended in November 2016. Its requirements affect all City-elected and appointed officials, including Council-appointed board and commission members. Additional information is available on the City's website in City Charter Article XXII – Taxpayer Protection.

All persons are invited to apply for membership on City Boards and Commissions regardless of race, age, sex, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sexual preference, or disability. Applicants shall not, however, be under 18 years of age or serve on more than one Board, Commission or Corporation. Some Boards and Commissions do require special qualifications and requirements. Appointment of members will be made by Councilmembers at an open City Council meeting. Upon appointment, designated members will be required to file a Conflict of Interest disclosure statement. Please answer all questions on this application. This application will become a public record and will be available for public inspection or duplication.

[Additional Conflict of Interest Information for applicants](#)

Profile

	Joel	C.	Koury	
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Suffix

[Redacted] Email Address

[Redacted] Street Address

[Redacted] Suite or Apt

[Redacted] City

[Redacted] State

[Redacted] Postal Code

[Redacted] Primary Phone

[Redacted] Alternate Phone

Question applies to multiple boards

Reside in Santa Monica?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, number of years residence in Santa Monica:

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

Are you applying for the seats reserved for those ages 18-22 years old?

Yes No

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

What is your occupation?

Attorney

Written Request to Serve Additional Term/s

Interests & Experience

Question applies to multiple boards

Specify current or prior service on City Boards/Commissions:

Prior Rent Board Commissioner (2008-2010), Chairperson of the Rent Board (2012).

Question applies to multiple boards

List community activities in which you are involved:

Current & Founding Santa Monica High School and former founding JAMS - mock trial coach. (2010-2021). Member of Los Angeles County - Indigent Juvenile Defense Executive Supervisory Panel. (2018-2021). Member of the Los Angeles County Indigent Grade V Criminal Defense Panel. (2010-2021). Member of the Los Angeles County Indigent Grade IV Criminal Defense Panel. (2012-2021). Member of the Central District of California - Criminal Justice Act West Panel. (2010-2021). Former coach in the Santa Monica Little League. Former coach/volunteer in the Santa Monica AYSO. Contributor to the Los Angeles County Black Public Defender's Association. Former member of Mexican American Bar Association. Former member of Arab American Bar Association.

Personal qualities identified in the criteria include leadership, creativity, and innovation as well as the ability to work effectively in a group setting and an ability to balance competing needs. Provide examples of how you have demonstrated those qualities:

As a Los Angeles Public Defender, I worked as the assistant training coordinator for that office. My duties included training all of the new attorneys, developing and conducting ongoing training materials and lectures for them, supervising them and drafting evaluations and improvement plans as needed. In that position, I personally supervised and trained hundreds of public defenders many who have become judges and supervisors. My current practice includes building, supervising and directing criminal defense teams in complex criminal cases in state and federal court where indigent clients are charged with capital murder and RICO violations. As part of my responsibility, I have to supervise and direct the work of attorneys, paralegals, and investigators many who have worked in law enforcement for years. Supervising a team of experts requires an ability to recognize a person's strengths to keep them focused and working toward the teams goals while minimizing individual weaknesses. Whether in my professional capacity or in my community work, I keep my focus on finding a consensus to accomplish the broader goal. Let me offer two examples that reinforce this point. In my first death penalty case, I was tasked with cross examining a woman whose family was murdered by my client. At the end of that hearing, that woman sought me out to thank and compliment for the way that I treated her throughout the proceeding. The second example comes from my time on the Santa Monica Rent Control Board. Running in my second election for that position, I was endorsed by SMRR and the president of the AAGLA. The former organization is the leading tenant rights organization in our city and the latter was the president of one of the leading property owner's organizations in Los Angeles County. I think both demonstrate that my personality is goal oriented and collaborative and dedicated to finding common ground from all parties regardless of their perspective.

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

Please share any knowledge of or experience with law enforcement, public safety policies and issues, or social services policies and issues.

I have been an attorney working in indigent criminal defense work for 31 years. The first 18 years were as a Los Angeles County Public Defender, 2 years as a Federal defender. For the last 11 years, I have handled almost exclusively indigent appointments from the state and federal courts representing indigent people charged with federal and state crimes. As part of my practice, I have represented thousands of indigent clients and dozens of clients charged with crimes ranging from drunk in public to special circumstance murder cases. Currently, I represent five defendants charged with special circumstance murder cases. The seriousness of the cases I handle require me to level of emotional maturity and competence to be able to investigate the most complex cases that come through the criminal justice system. Investigating the client's background to prepare a defense to convince a jury to spare a murderers life or to try and undermine law enforcement's claims about a client's criminal behavior require a level of expertise about human nature, mental health, developmental disability, criminal law and police practices that most people lack. The reason that the Los Angeles Superior Court and the United States District Court Judges appoint me on these cases is because I have the experience, knowledge and ability to handle the complex criminal cases that are filed in Los Angeles. I have tried over one hundred and fifty cases in state and federal court and litigated thousands of hearings including cases where the cases were dismissed due to law enforcement negligence and misconduct. I have worked with experts in the area of police oversight and reform including Max Huntsman who supervises the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Sean Kennedy who is on the same panel. This experience also includes the ability to recognize superior police work and practices from those that are less than that. Living in Santa Monica we are blessed with more resources than most municipalities and as a result our police force should be a model for most others. Our police department as good as it currently is, there is no reason we cannot and should not make it even better.

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

Why you are interested in serving on the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission?

My career has been dedicated to helping those people that are most often targeted by law enforcement. Tragically, most people that are targeted by law enforcement are among some of society's most vulnerable; mentally ill, indigent, developmentally challenged, prior abuse victims and of course minority community members. Having had multiple clients that have been beaten, tazed and shot by law enforcement when other less damaging means were available revealed the flaws with much of law enforcement's training and priorities. As a young public defender, I recall comparing notes with my colleagues who described how the Santa Monica Police Department was smarter and better trained than many other local law enforcement departments. While, my experience is that this remains true, our police department is only as good as the policy and guidance that the police chief and council demands. Being a police officer is a difficult job but if there are ways to implement policy that reduces societal harm while still maintaining officer's safety, then we have a duty to try and find it.

Question applies to multiple boards

Participation on the board requires a significant commitment over the length of the term including attendance at approximately two scheduled meetings per month, and possibly other tasks and meetings outside of board meetings. Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the board?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

How did you learn about the vacancy in this board or commission? (select all that apply) *

Word of Mouth- Council or Board/Commission member, City Staff, neighborhood groups, etc.

Business Information (Public)

Occupation:

Attorney

Business name:

Law Offices of Joel C. Koury

Business Address

3435 Ocean Park Blvd. Suite 107-50 Santa Monica, CA 90405

Business Phone

[REDACTED]

Notes

ALL INFORMATION, EXCEPT PERSONAL DATA ENTERED IN THE PROFILE SECTION, IS PUBLIC AND AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY'S WEB PAGE.

DISABILITY RELATED ASSISTANCE AND ALTERNATE FORMATS OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST BY CALLING (310) 458-8211.

After an application has been submitted, a confirmation page will be displayed. If an email address has been provided, an email confirmation will be sent. IF A CONFIRMATION IS NOT DISPLAYED, PLEASE RESUBMIT OR CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT (310) 458-8211.