

Application

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 1:39 pm, Jul 21, 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

	Matt		Neco		
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 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?

Mediator, Attorney, Entrepreneur

Written Request to Serve Additional Term/s

Interests & Experience

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:

I am a certified professional mediator and devote(d) mediation services pro bono to litigants in bankruptcy cases. (Certified by Pepperdine Law's Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution.) I am a collaborative problem solver and issue addresser. I am ethical and moral, professionally and personally. I am a member of the California Lawyers Association Racial Justice Committee. As a member of the Racial Justice Committee I collaborated on planning a program that will focus on systems of various states (including California) for independent investigations of officer-involved shootings. I am a member of the Attorney Wellbeing Committees of both the California Lawyers Association and the Association of Corporate Counsel's Southern California Chapter. While many of the Committee members were focusing on physical wellbeing I urged the formation of a sub-committee to focus on mental and emotional issues, which I guess I am chair of though no formal title has been asked for or given. I am Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (April 2018 - Present). "[A]n honorary organization of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession. . . . Members are nominated by their peers and elected by the Board of the American Bar Foundation. Established in 1955, The Fellows support the research of the American Bar Foundation []." I am familiar with Roberts Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedure), having studied it in college upon being elected to represent my dormitory quad before student council. At the first meeting I attended after a motion was made for a "white ballot vote" (passes unopposed, unanimous) I made a motion to change the name of the procedure to "[school colors] ballot vote," explaining that I felt the term being used might be insensitive to people who were not Caucasian. It passed unanimously. So very long ago I was a two year member of Judicial Board, the peer disciplinary hearing body, and chaired my second year. I was a resident assistant for two years, and trained 1st year RAs. In law school I was president of the LatinX (though it wasn't called that at the time) Law Students Association. Yes, I am at least half LatinX. I can read, interpret, understand, and write resolutions, reports, codes, statutes, settlement agreements, decisions, memos, contracts, licenses, terms and conditions, agenda, minutes, etc., and describe or write them in plain english or legalese. In my opinion and experience, as General Counsel of a company you need to be a collaborator, and nimble

Matt Neco

and quick. I am a team player, not a bottleneck or “no, we can’t do that person,” but a “let’s find a way to do that.” I understand and advise on how to mitigate risk, while understanding risk tolerances. As a member of the C-Suite, and advising board directors I know when to speak, when to ask questions, and when to listen. I was GC for a company that won litigation at federal trial court. We won on appeal at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We kind of lost at the United States Supreme Court. During oral arguments at the Supreme Court the advocates sit up front at tables separated by a lectern. There are but a few seats for each side in a case. Of course the oral advocate gets one seat. We had two other seats allocated to us. Probably for me that was a once in a lifetime opportunity to be that close to the Justices, the oral advocates, the action. I chose to sit in the galley and reward for their hard work and loyalty two of our outside counsel, one from a law firm and one from a public interest advocacy non-profit. I did write part of and edit the brief though, and my name is on the brief. I also helped recruit amicus curiae. I was ambassadorial and interfaced with Congressional Staff, FTC, State Attorneys General. For the last 17 years or so I have been involved with the executive committee of a section of the State Bar of California (now the California Lawyers Association.) After a year of involvement with one of its committees I was appointed to the executive committee for a three year term. I remain an active participant. I was appointed notwithstanding that some on the committee determining whether I should be appointed viewed my employer at the time as facilitating copyright infringement by means of a neutral software program that was capable of being misused. I have a principle named after me: just because you point out a problem, raise an issue, or suggest something that doesn’t mean that you have work on fixing it or doing something about it. This principle encourages participation. I was a delegate on an annual Executive Committee trip to Washington, DC and met with House and Senate representatives and staffers, and heads and executive staff of the copyright office, of the Patent and Trademark Office, as well as members of the judiciary for the Federal Circuit Court and its Court of Appeals. I interfaced with the lawyers for the RIAA, the MPAA, the NMPA, and other content industry and software companies and their trade associations and built trust and rapport with many. I was on numerous panels with opposing counsel at conferences. I was involved with public policy and assisted in the formation and operation of a trade association. On the case that went to the United States Supreme Court, afterwards one of the lawyers on the other side - who was the dean of Pepperdine Law School and a former Solicitor General - had me on a panel where he was the moderator and I was debating the oral advocate on the other side (who later became a Solicitor General of the United States under Pres. Obama), and then the dean hired me as an adjunct law professor. A couple of recommendations of perhaps relevant interest from my LinkedIn profile are: "Matt is a devoted member of our Executive Committee for several years now. He is outspoken and raises issues that need to be addressed -- often times when no one else has either given the issues any thought or were simply afraid to raise them. He has a gentle way of bringing up matters of controversy, but does not shy away from doing so. I have always admired this quality about Matt. He is an asset to any organization in my opinion." Joanna Mendoza Legal Disruptor; Member of California State Bar's Access Through Innovation of Legal Services Task Force (ATILS) "Matthew Neco and I have been on opposite sides of the table on a range of intellectual property issues--he in his capacity as General Counsel of [] and me in my capacity as SVP, Intellectual Property for Warner Bros. We have appeared on many panels together, including for the California Bar, where we have debated copyright law and policy. I have a great deal of respect for Matt's knowledge and command of the law. He is intelligent and perceptive and someone with whom one can engage in honest debate. He is also pragmatic and reasonable and I have always found him to be a person of solid integrity. Beyond these professional (and personal) qualities, Matt is just a very good, decent and fun guy. He is someone you enjoy having a drink or sharing a meal with. I would recommend Matt highly for any position that he seeks in the area of law or business related to intellectual property and technology." Dean Marks Attorney At Law at Copyright and Content Protection Consulting

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

In addition to what I wrote elsewhere: I graduated from law school. I took criminal justice classes. My law school was known for its Law-in-Action and (New) Legal Realism outlooks. (Every law school will teach you the legal rules. Rules laid down in statutes and regulations. Rules announced by state and federal judges in their appellate decisions. We learned not only legal rules, but also why those rules evolved to address social concerns, and how those rules operate in the real world. We're not the only school that features a broader, more socially aware view of law.) From descriptions of the Law-in-Action approach: "You are a member of a law reform commission. As a member of the commission, you are tasked with improving both the substance and procedures of criminal law. As at other law schools, your classes covered United States Supreme Court constitutional cases that address the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure, police interrogation techniques, and the rights of a criminal defendant at trial. But you also had a class called Criminal Justice Administration, which explores why the state legislature passed a "mandatory arrest law" for domestic violence situations and assesses the law's effect on police practices; examined the day-to-day decisions that a prosecutor must make about whether, or how much, to charge a defendant in a particular case; and investigated the goals and effectiveness of incarceration compared to other dispositions such as probation, drug treatment, or community service. Your contributions to the law reform commission are imbued not only with theoretical rigor but also with a keen appreciation of which reforms are most likely to achieve their intended effect." One of my law professors instilled in me: What results and outcomes do you want to reach and how do you reach them? And with regard to criminal justice and law enforcement "There but for the grace of God go I." Though I am not a criminal law attorney or, strictly speaking a civil rights attorney, I try to follow policy arguments, laws, and cases, to some extent. I believe I am able to see the many perspectives of many people, with some empathy. There are usually multiple sides of a story. I am comfortable in the many spectrums of gray. I believe I am able to see the perspective of law enforcement as well as the people who have positive and negative encounters with law enforcement. I am not quick to judge, especially without knowledge of the facts and evidence. I believe I often possess the qualities of equanimity. Though I don't intend to ride on coat-tails, my father was the first Puerto Rican appointed as a Deputy Commissioner to the New York City Police Department. He was, in effect, the general council of the Police Department and a hearing officer. He also had been special counsel to the NYC Corporation Counsel (what NYC calls the office of the city attorney), and then was appointed a NYC criminal court judge. I learned a lot from him about the sometimes very delicate and tenuous balances of justice, policing, policy, and community affairs. He had something to do with hearings involving Frank Serpico, for those of you old enough to remember him and corruption in the NYPD. He also opined on the constitutionality of stop and frisk. My ex-brother in law was on the job in NYC as a patrol officer. I was an intern for the Manhattan DA's office in the career criminal division, then under young Cyrus Vance Jr. I was an intern for the NY Corporation counsel and researched and wrote a memo on whether and when the City might have obligations to defend a police officer accused of a Section 1983 violation. (The Civil Rights Act of 1871 is a federal statute, numbered 42 U.S.C. § 1983, that allows people to sue the government for civil rights violations. It applies when someone acting "under color of" state-level or local law has deprived a person of rights created by the U.S. Constitution or federal statutes. Section 1983 can apply in many scenarios, and claims under it don't have to involve violence. But it's often invoked when someone claims to be the victim of excessive police force.) I have great respect for law enforcement, but I also know that many abuses have been occasioned upon people and guardrails and reform are needed. I interned for a federal court judge. I don't recall specifically whether I worked on any cases involving the police.

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

I would like to be of service to my community in this very important area. I hope and believe my skills and perspectives will be of benefit to the Commission and the community.

Business Information (Public)**Occupation:**

Mediator, Attorney, Entrepreneur

Business name:**Business Address****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.