

Application

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 3:02 pm, Mar 15, 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

Prefix Robert _____
First Name

Middle Initial M _____
Last Name _____
Suffix

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

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:

approx 15

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:

I have no prior experience on City Boards or Commissions.

Question applies to multiple boards

List community activities in which you are involved:

My family and I are members of a local synagogue. My two sons go to public school in Santa Monica and my wife and I are longstanding members of the PTAs.

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 member of the Office of Legal Affairs at UCLA, my work often involves consulting a diverse array of stakeholders to try to find consensus solutions. As part of my job I serve on a number of internal committees that address such topics as diverse hiring practices, Title IX policy, and research safety. In advising my campus clients, I often work as a part of a larger team to identify solutions that align with the University's mission and values, an exercise that almost always requires creativity, ingenuity and hard work. One example was my work for the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence. As counsel to the Commission, I led a team that interviewed witnesses, took live witness testimony, consulted with policing experts, and prepared a detailed written report with recommendations addressing specific issues plaguing the jails.

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 gained a wide variety of experiences on both civil rights and criminal law matters throughout my career. As a junior lawyer, I left a large private firm to serve as a special law clerk to United States District Court Judge Gary Feess. At the time, Judge Feess needed a clerk to work full time on the civil rights cases brought by individuals who were wrongfully arrested and imprisoned as part of the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division scandal. I assisted Judge Feess in helping address the claims and issues in more than 100 such cases. After returning to private practice, I continued to work on civil rights issues related to policing, serving as counsel to the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence. The Commission was charged with reviewing the use of force by sheriff's deputies in Los Angeles County jails. After a months-long investigation, my team helped craft the recommendation that led to the creation of the Civilian Oversight Commission that today oversees the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. While in private practice, I represented criminal defendants in a variety of matters. I also acted as a special prosecutor for a local city handling misdemeanor cases through my firm's Trial Advocacy Prosecution Program. I also worked closely with the Alliance for Children's Rights, an organization advocating for the rights of impoverished and neglected youth. I helped bring litigation that secured greater funding for individuals seeking to serve as foster parents to relatives in foster care throughout California. Today, as a member of UCLA's in-house legal team, my work touches on a wide variety of civil rights issues. I advise our Title IX Office, the University office responsible for investigating and adjudicating complaints of sexual violence and harassment. I work with our Discrimination Prevention Office and advise our Center for Accessible Education, which supports students with disabilities who need assistance and accommodations to navigate the University. I interface with the UCLA Police Department on a variety of issues. Finally, I am often called on to advise university leaders who are working to diversify the faculty without running afoul of California's Proposition 209 or federal law barring racial discrimination. Taken together, I believe my experiences have prepared me to identify and advise on a variety of issues related to policing and public safety that I would be a beneficial part of the Commission. As a member of a large campus community, I understand the importance of working with a large cross-section of community stakeholders in a transparent environment.

Question applies to Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

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

I am interested in serving on the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission because I want to continue to use my legal skills and training to protect, defend and expand the civil rights of the most vulnerable and help make Santa Monica safe for all who live and work here. Throughout my career, I have sought opportunities to make an impact on civil rights and a difference in people's lives. Public safety in Santa Monica is at the intersection of some of the most important issues, including racial injustice, homelessness, mental health, and public accountability. These are among the most pressing issues facing our community, and I want to be part of finding solutions to them. Joining the Commission provides an opportunity to do so. I see the opportunity to participate on the Commission as an opportunity to help identify and foster best practices that will serve the community. Through my work at UCLA I have learned the importance of identifying and bringing together all stakeholders to address and respond to problems. The Commission will need to do the same, working with the police and residents to create a culture that is equitable, inclusive, accountable and respectful.

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) *

Other

Business Information (Public)

Occupation:

Attorney

Business name:

UCLA

Business Address

3149 Murphy Hall Box 951405 Los Angeles CA 90095

Business Phone

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.