



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

July 29, 2024

Honorable Members of the City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Ms. Alisa Schlesinger to the Commission on Disability for the term ending June 30, 2029. Ms. Schlesinger's current term expired on June 30, 2024.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Schlesinger is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Alisa Schlesinger  
**Commission:** Commission on Disability  
**End of Term:** 6/30/2029

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Caucasian
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 4 - South Valley
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** J.D., University of California, Berkeley
7. **Occupation/profession:** Director, Labor Relations, The Walt Disney Studios
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment

### 10. Current composition of the commission:

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Barrios, Mary Grace	Central	5	API	F	6/30/2027
Bitonte, Robert	Central	14	Caucasian	M	6/30/2026
Cabanban, Myrna	Harbor	15	API	F	6/30/2026
Cable, Candace	Central	14	Caucasian	F	6/30/2025
Hopkins, Iran	South Valley	4	Latinx	F	6/30/2028
Schlesinger, Alisa	South Valley	4	Caucasian	F	6/30/2024
Williams, Robert	Central	4	Caucasian	M	6/30/2027
Acevedo, Jorge	East LA	1	Latinx	M	6/30/2028
Tagawa, Akiko	Central	13	API	F	6/30/2027

# ALISA C. SCHLESINGER

## EXPERIENCE

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**The Walt Disney Studios**, Burbank, CA

September 2021 – present

*Director, Labor Relations*

Advise production units in matters related to union compliance and resolve union claims, negotiate and administer collective bargaining agreements, represent the company in multiple forums, arbitrations and administrative agency matters.

**Writers Guild of America, West**, Los Angeles, CA

January 2015 – September 2021

*Counsel/Senior Counsel*

Represented the WGAW and professional television and film writers in cases involving complex issues under the WGAW collective bargaining agreement and individual writers' contracts. Handled arbitrations and litigation in connection with the WGAW's contract enforcement and organizing activities. Investigated facts and prepared cases for hearing by interviewing potential witnesses, compiling and analyzing contracts, financial records, statistical information, bargaining history, and other documentary evidence. Negotiated and drafted settlements of disputes.

**Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy**, Los Angeles, CA

October 2005 – January 2015

*Associate*

Practice focused on complex civil, government enforcement, and environmental litigation, including litigation and investigations brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Department of Justice. Trial counsel in federal and state court proceedings. Conducted numerous expert and fact witness depositions. Drafted briefs and motions in federal and state court proceedings. Managed case teams and directed general case management. Representative matters and responsibilities included:

- Trial counsel for multiple environmental hearings in federal bankruptcy court; responsible for managing discovery, pre-trial motion practice, trial preparation, presentation of expert testimony and cross-examinations, opening and closing statements and argument before the court.
- Trial counsel for hearings in which \$1.4 million judgment was obtained for client on \$144 million claim, and \$20,000 judgment was obtained for client on \$40 million claim.
- Litigation counsel for animal rights organization in False Claims Act suit brought against slaughterhouse owners and operators for role in illegally slaughtered meat operation, leading to \$155 million settlement.
- Litigation counsel in complex securities fraud case brought by the SEC; responsible for all areas of litigation including drafting and responding to initial pleadings and discovery, pre-trial motions; fact and expert witness deposition; general case management and strategy.
- Responsible for day-to-day management of \$10 billion environmental litigation portfolio involving more than 100 environmental cleanup sites across the United States.
- Directed wide-scale client response to SEC investigation of allegations of trading violations, managed investigation team, and conducted legal analysis.
- Mediation and settlement counsel for resolution of CERCLA claims at multiple environmental sites.
- Counsel for human trafficking victim; gathered and analyzed evidence, conducted interviews of human trafficking victim and social services-provider, and worked with law enforcement officers to obtain T-Visa.

Member of Milbank's Recruiting Committee and Green Task Force. Recipient of 2005/2006, 2011/2012, and 2012/2013 Pro Bono Achievement Awards. National Institute for Trial Advocacy Trial Skills and National Session participant, June 2013, July 2014.

**Disability Rights California**, Los Angeles, CA

April 2010 – August 2010

*Pro Bono Fellow*

Served as litigation counsel and advocate to minors and adults with developmental, physical, and mental disabilities at California's Protection and Advocacy agency. Responsibilities included:

- Provided legal representation to juveniles with developmental disabilities who were not receiving adequate medical or mental health care or habilitation services in the Los Angeles County juvenile hall system.
- Represented individual client in administrative hearing related to denial of Medi-Cal benefits.
- Conducted plaintiff interviews and helped develop strategy related to due process violations for Regional Center clients.
- Provided advocacy services to mental health patients in California state hospitals and to parent of child receiving special education services in connection with a school expulsion meeting.

Recipient of 2010 Pro Bono Achievement Award and 2010 Advocacy Achievement Award.

**Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne**, Paris, France

August 2005 – October 2005

*Associate Attorney*

Researched legal issues related to human trafficking and diplomatic immunity from prosecution for trafficking violations. Initiated civil litigation and administrative complaints against human traffickers. Liaised with European Union nations to implement a coordinated European response to human trafficking.

**U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico**, San Juan, PR

September 2003 – July 2005

*Law Clerk to the Honorable José A. Fusté*

Authored opinions and orders in federal civil and criminal law issues, including a complex death penalty case.

**Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)**, Buenos Aires, Argentina

May 2001 – August 2001

*Intern*

Researched judicial proceedings involving Argentina's Dirty War, including legal and political barriers to prosecution for dictatorial crimes. Investigated judicial proceedings brought against military dictators under the jurisdiction of Spain's Judge Baltazar Garzon. Authored and translated reference materials for use in international conferences.

**Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**, Los Angeles, CA

December 1999 – May 2000

*Neurological Researcher*

Investigated the molecular pathogenesis of neurodegenerative movement disorders in the Department of Neurology, published in Hiroki Shibata, Duong P. Huynh and Stefan-M. Pulst, "A Novel Protein with RNA-Binding Motifs Interacts with Ataxin-2," *Human Molecular Genetics*, Vol. 9, No. 9 (2000) 1303-1313.

**Los Angeles Conservancy**, Los Angeles, CA

October 1998 – December 1999

*Conservation Advocate*

Researched and drafted written reports regarding the history of historic sites in Los Angeles County. Composed correspondence to top city official concerning city preservation issues. Met with business, civic, and political leaders regarding historical redevelopment projects.

**Dubnoff Ctr. for Child Dev. & Educ. Therapy**, North Hollywood, CA

June 1997 – August 1997

*Secondary School Instructor*

Taught and supervised junior high school students with learning and behavioral disabilities.

**HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy**, Philadelphia, PA

January 1997 – May 1997

*Life Skills Assistant*

Supervised, instructed, and cared for school children with cerebral palsy.

## **EDUCATION**

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**University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law**, Juris Doctor, 2003

- Senior Executive Editor, *California Law Review*
- Moot Court Advocacy Award

**University of Pennsylvania**, Bachelor of Arts in French, Minor in Art History, *summa cum laude*, 1998

- Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List
- American University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, France, Spring 1998
- Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco, Fall 1997

## **ADMISSIONS**

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State Bar of California; United States District Courts for the Central, Eastern, Southern, and Northern Districts of California and the District of Puerto Rico; First and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals

## **LANGUAGES**

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Proficient in spoken and written French and Spanish.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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- **City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability, Commissioner**, 2014 – present. Advocate for people with disabilities and serve in advisory capacity to City of Los Angeles Department on Disability.
- **ReelAbilities Film Festival, Los Angeles, Founding Member/Executive Committee Member**, 2017 - present. Provide strategic direction, secure sponsorship, develop programming, and build community partnerships for disability film festival.
- **Hollyhock House, Docent**, 1994 – present. Lead tours through Frank Lloyd Wright's historic home, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Housing Rights Center, Board Member**, 2011 – present. Serve on Board of California's largest private, nonprofit organization dedicated to securing fair housing.
- **New Leaders Project, Fellow** – December 2014 – November 2015. Participant in civic leadership program aimed to enhance leadership capabilities while working with community leaders to address critical issues facing Los Angeles.
- **Metropolitan Detention Center Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Prison Educator**, 2004 – 2005. Taught high school equivalency exam coursework to inmates.



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

July 29, 2024

Dear Ms. Schlesinger:

I am pleased to inform you that I am reappointing you to the Commission on Disability for the term ending June 30, 2029, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the reappointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and undated Letters of Separation **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensure the most efficient, open, and accountable city government possible.

As part of the reappointment process, Nithya Raman, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, the Chair of the Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Should this apply to your commission, you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws, and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission via the California Fair Political Practices Commission's eDisclosure website, or by mailing the forms to City Hall at 200 N. Spring Street, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the City Ethics Commission by email at [nicole.enriquez@lacity.org](mailto:nicole.enriquez@lacity.org).

Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your reappointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your reappointment will be considered by the Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your reappointment will be presented to the full City Council. Immediately following the meeting, you will again be required to take the Oath of Office in the City Clerk's Office located in Room 395 of City Hall. If you require parking for these meetings, please contact my Commissions team by email at [myr-commissions@lacity.org](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).

Ms. Alisa Schlesinger  
July 29, 2024  
Page 2

Per the City Charter, most commissioners must be registered voters of the City of Los Angeles, and must therefore reside within Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, or your contact information changes, please contact my Commissions team immediately at the email listed below. While we hope that you complete a successful term, if for some reason you intend to resign, please do so in writing to my Commissions team at [myr-commissions@lacity.org](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).

Congratulations, and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I  
Ms. Alisa Schlesinger  
July 29, 2024

## **Nominee Check List**

### **I. Within 7 days:**

- Email the below completed documents, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: [myr-commissions@lacity.org](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org) OR mail them to:

Office of the Mayor  
Attn: Thomas Arechiga  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters (2)

### **II. Before your appointment is heard in committee or full council (you will be contacted by the Clerk's Office with this date):**

- File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office. Be sure to take no more than 21 days to file, per City law.

- Statement of Economic Interest ("Form 700")  
*IMPORTANT:* The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
- CEC Form 60

### **III. The Mayor's Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.**

- Your City Councilmember Nithya Raman
- Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

### **IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:**

- Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee Hearing
- Full Council Hearing