



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 17, 2024

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Almuhtada "Al" Smith to the Innovation and Performance Commission for the term ending September 06, 2026.

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

Mr. Smith will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Tony Hoang.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Almuhtada "AI" Smith
Commission: Innovation and Performance Commission
End of Term: 9/6/2026

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 12 - North 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, Los Angeles, School of Law
7. **Occupation/profession:** Principal Attorney, ARS Counsel, P.C.
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Lazarovici, Laureen	South Valley	4	Caucasian	F	6/30/2025
Holland, Anthony	Central	5	Latinx	M	6/30/2027
VACANT					9/6/2026

ALMUHTADA SMITH

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- ARS Counsel, P.C.** Los Angeles, CA 2018 – Present
Principal Attorney
- Founding principal of ARS Counsel, P.C. with a focus on all aspects of business and intellectual property law, and capital raising. The practice encompasses advising early stage companies from formation to startup financing, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), public offerings and private placements, and securities law while often acting as a virtual in-house counsel
 - Completed franchise M&A transactions during the Covid-19 pandemic totaling \$70 million
 - Helped various sized clients raise over \$10 million of venture capital funds, with a single client capital raise exceeding \$2.6 million which allowed them to take product to market, while offering counsel on applicable securities laws and various corporate matters
 - Conducts trademark filings while also representing clients in USPTO Trademark Office Actions
 - Represent clients in a wide range of business sectors such as fashion and beauty, television and film, authors, individual recording artists, and companies involved in emerging technologies
- Jenner & Block, LLP** Los Angeles, CA 2014 – 2018
Attorney
- Represented clients in a wide variety of business sectors such as entertainment, aerospace & defense, energy, and real estate for businesses ranging from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies
 - Conducted due diligence and executed complex M&A transactions, including licensing, restructuring, and investment solutions, while negotiating, drafting, and advising on business agreements consisting of operating agreements, service agreements, and employment agreements
 - Managed large team of contract attorneys engaged with various transactional legal tasks associated with clients within the technology and entertainment industries
 - Performed large-scale internal investigations with discretion for companies regarding general business matters and advising on potential legal issues related to investigation results
 - Involved in two high-profile intellectual property cases, one resulting in a \$130 million settlement
- Abaco Partners** Los Angeles, CA 2013 – 2014
Counsel
- Acted as general counsel to the founder of Abaco Partners, LLC which was a strategic partner of The Bedford Group, one of the largest real estate development firms in the Los Angeles area
 - Performed contract drafting and review of major capital investment project debt financing, intellectual property, and real estate investing
- Adli Law Group** Los Angeles, CA 2012 – 2013
Attorney
- Became well-versed in resolving complex patent, copyright, and trademark issues
 - Counseled small and medium businesses on a range of business issues from corporate structure and governance, including drafting shareholder agreements, to compliance and business matters
- The Cochran Firm** Los Angeles, CA 2009 – 2012
Attorney
- Argued administrative hearings statewide in California after directing discovery consisting of drafting initial pleadings through trial conclusion, including the use of expert testimony
 - Developed complex litigation strategies after conducting early case assessment and outcome probability analysis that resulted in over \$1.5 million in revenue generated

LICENSES & EDUCATION

Bar Admissions

- California

UCLA School of Law

Los Angeles, CA

Class of 2008

Juris Doctor

- Chief Managing Editor – Entertainment Law Review Journal
- Activities included:
 - Student Bar Association – Fundraising Committee
 - Black Law Students Association– Community Service Chair and Mock Trial Team
 - International Comparative Research (Brazil)

Morehouse College

Atlanta, GA

Class of 2005

Bachelor of Arts – Business Administration, magna cum laude

- Honors included:
 - Phi Beta Kappa
 - Full Tuition Merit-Based Scholarship
 - Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society
- Activities included:
 - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Member
 - Golden Key Honor Society Student Representative

AWARDS

California Super Lawyers

- 2021 Southern California Rising Stars list
- 2022, 2023 and 2024 Southern California Super Lawyers list

National Bar Association (NBA)

- 2022-2023 class of the NBA's Top 40 Under 40 - Nation's Best Advocates

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

LA Southwest College Foundation

Los Angeles, CA

2016 – Present

Chairman (2018-2023), Board of Directors

- Developed by-laws and other institutional guidelines for quality assurance in projects and plans from inception through completion while adhering to federal, state, and local legal requirements
- Managed budgetary requirements and outlays for programs in accordance with all applicable accounting and finance regulations
- Assisted with grant management, capital development, and governmental relations while relaying pertinent information to the Board for decisions related to policy and operations

John M. Langston Bar Association

Los Angeles, CA

2011 – Present

Lifetime Member, Board Member

- As a Board Member from 2011 – 2016 and 2023 - present, developed and maintained budget oversight and control for various programs while assisting each committee in developing project budgets and adhering to Langston's applicable policies and procedures

University of West Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

2014 – Present

Advisory Board Member & Adjunct Professor

The Alliance for College Ready Public Schools

Los Angeles, CA

2013 – 2018

Board of Directors



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 17, 2024

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Innovation and Performance Commission for the term ending September 06, 2026, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the appointment 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.

Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with Personnel's Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

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.

As part of the appointment process, John Lee, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, the Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Mr. Almuhtada "Al" Smith
May 17, 2024
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Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your appointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council. Before you may begin serving, you will 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.

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 address 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.

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
Mr. Almuhtada "Al" Smith
May 17, 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 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)

- Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

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 John Lee

- Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee Hearing

- Full Council Hearing