



BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

December 3, 2024

Ms. Holly Wolcott
City Clerk
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St., Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Los Angeles City Ethics Commission Appointment

Dear Ms. Wolcott,

As City Council President Pro Tempore, I am writing to appoint Terry P. Kaufmann to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, pursuant to Los Angeles Charter section 700 (b).

Ms. Kaufmann is a former Senior Assistant City Attorney who served the people of Los Angeles with dedication for more than 20 years prior to her retirement in 2023. As a City employee she advised Commissions and elected officials and developed a reputation as an honest, straightforward, and ethical public servant. She is supremely well qualified to administer and ensure compliance with State and local laws governing campaign financing, contracts, developers, governmental ethics, and lobbying.

The role of Ethics Commissioner is one of the most important elements of ensuring integrity and public confidence in City Government. She is committed to restoring and preserving public trust in the City of Los Angeles as the Ethics Commission oversees city government and elections. Ms. Kaufmann will serve as a steadfast advocate for transparency and integrity, working diligently to ensure honesty and rebuild trust within the community.

If you have any questions regarding the appointment, please call my office at (213) 473-7003.

Sincerely,

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District
City of Los Angeles

cc: City Council President Marqueece Harris Dawson

TERRY P. KAUFMANN

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, Land Use Division

*Senior Assistant City Attorney
Managing Assistant, Land Use Division*

2017 - 2023

*Assistant City Attorney
Managing Assistant, Land Use Division*

2013 - 2017

- Directly managed the daily work and administration of the Division, including the work of up to 20 attorneys, support staff, and paralegals, relating to litigation, legal advice, and legislation.
- Supervised the City Attorney's Office staffing of ten land use legislative bodies, including all seven Area Planning Commissions, the Cultural Heritage Commission, the City Planning Commission, and the Board of Building and Safety Commission, on Brown Act compliance, City Charter requirements, issues of potential conflicts, state and federal constitutional requirements pertaining to due process and equal protection, and substantive areas of law.
- Advisor to the PLUM Committee for over 10 years.
- Supervised the daily advice provided to City Departments, including the Departments of Building and Safety and Planning, as well as to Council offices and the Mayor's Office, on First Amendment, signage, Brown Act, CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), Coastal Act, Public Records Act, Permit Streamlining Act, City Charter, state housing laws, historic resources, other general land use issues, and conducted training sessions on relevant legal requirements.
- Reviewed and supervised preparation of ordinances relating to land use, including planning and zoning, community and specific plans, as well as building code regulations.
- Supervised state and federal land use litigation, including all appeals, involving writs of mandate and complaints for damages on a wide range of zoning and building code regulations, state statutes, and state and federal constitutional issues.
- Successfully launched the CEQA practice in 2015 into the Land Use Division to provide direct advice and litigation defense to the Departments of Planning and Building and Safety, including actions of the land use commissions and City Council.
- City of Los Angeles Representative (Permanent Member, Executive Committee) on the California League of Cities Legal Advocacy Committee for over 7 years.

Deputy City Attorney

2000 – 2013

- Advisor to the East Los Angeles Area Planning Commission and the City Planning Commission.
- Defended the Departments of Building and Safety and Planning in the Superior Court and Court of Appeal against challenges involving all aspects of land use relating to regulatory takings, development fees, development projects, building permits, variances and use permits, state and local planning and zoning regulations, First Amendment sign regulations, Brown Act, Subdivision Map Act, state and federal constitutional claims involving substantive and procedural due process and equal protection.
- Drafted various amendments to the Planning and Zoning Code and other ordinances, related to, among other matters, historic preservation interim control ordinances, signage, conditional uses, nuisance abatement and specific plans.
- Advised the City Council, the Department of Planning and the Department of Building and Safety and their staff members on matters involving land use and development.

Fox and Sohagi, LLP

1996 - 2000

Associate Attorney

Land use, adult business and CEQA litigation for municipal clients throughout Southern California.

Richards, Watson & Gershon

1994 – 1996

Associate Attorney

Land use, eminent domain and CEQA litigation for municipal clients throughout Southern California.

Burke, Williams & Sorenson, LLP

1988-1994

Associate Attorney

Land use and transactional matters for municipal clients in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

EDUCATION

Loyola Law School

Juris Doctor, 1988

University of California, Los Angeles

Bachelor of Arts, English 1973