



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

February 28, 2023

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Deepika Sharma to the newly created House LA Citizens Oversight Committee for the term ending June 30, 2024.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Sharma is qualified for the work that will devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

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

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga


Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM


Name: Deepika Sharma
Commission: House LA Citizens Oversight Committee
End of Term: 6/30/2024

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Asian Pacific Islander
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 4 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** J.D., University of California, Berkeley School of Law
7. **Occupation/profession:** Clinical Professor of Law, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**



Deepika Sharma



Academic Position

University of Southern California, Gould School of Law

Clinical Assistant Professor of Law & Director, Housing Law & Policy Clinic 2022- present

[Housing Law and Policy Clinic | USC Gould School of Law](#)

Education

University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Juris Doctor, May 2007

University of California, Berkeley

BA, Summa Cum Laude, May 2000

Professional Experience

Los Angeles Mayor's Office, Eric Garcetti

Director of Housing Security Initiatives, 2022

Oversaw the City's unified response to housing insecurity and conducted extensive advocacy to secure the State and Federal resources needed to prevent inflow into homelessness. Worked in close coordination with the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), City Attorney, community-based organizations, industry groups, academic researchers, legal service providers, and government partners at the county, state, and federal level. Managed the City's Emergency Rental Assistance Program and subsequent federally funded initiatives, including advocating for more flexible federal regulations.

Los Angeles City Council, Nithya Raman

Director of Housing Policy, 2021- 2022

Served a one-year appointment in a position setting Council District 4's agenda on housing policy, programs, and model for tenant protections in its field and constituent related services. Developed and managed a tenant outreach program based on tenant needs in the district; developed survey tools, trained volunteers, and created materials dedicated to renters. Collaborated with local and state-wide housing coalition members to inform policy priorities to curb housing displacement. Drafted significant legislative amendments for the newly passed Tenant Harassment Ordinance.

University of California, Los Angeles

EEO/Title IX Investigator, 2019 – 2020

Impartially investigated and responded to complaints of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and sexual violence. Developed and prepared investigative reports with analysis and determinations of policy violations and effective alternative resolutions; provided expert subject-matter consultation and guidance to university community members; made recommendations regarding policy and procedural improvements to ensure equity, fairness, and efficiency in the complaint process. Prepared and delivered trainings on sexual harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

Public Counsel

Senior Staff Attorney, 2013 – 2019

Created an affirmative housing litigation unit and supervising and training a team of attorneys, legal fellows, and law clerks representing indigent clients in impact cases related to their fundamental rights. Litigated and

supervised cases concerning fair housing, harassment, racial discrimination, and access to benefits for individuals with disabilities. Procured attorney fee awards resulting in close to one million dollars over a three year period. Provided statewide technical assistance on legal issues involving housing and public benefits, and advocated for local, state, and national policies and practices related to indigent clients. Served as a guiding member of the Firm's Equity and Inclusion Committee to establish programs for staff and conducted an organizational equity review.

Eviction Defense Network

Supervising Attorney, 2010 – 2012

Supervising Attorney responsible for managing a non-profit and litigating cases on behalf of low-income families. Litigated dozens of jury and bench trials, extensive experience in motion practice, coordinated fundraising activities, managed the budget which included overseeing payroll, costs, and facilitated board meetings. Supervised paralegals, law clerks, attorneys, and staff and oversaw the day-to-day operations.

Morrison & Foerster, LLP

Associate, 2007 – 2009

Litigated complex civil cases, including antitrust and pro bono work. Drafted dispositive motions, including successful motions to strike and portions of trial briefs. Litigated pro bono cases, including representing a Guantanamo detainee, and was actively involved in the recruiting activities of the firm.

Prior Teaching Experience

University of Southern California, Gould School of Law

Lecturer in Law, Fall 2018

Legal Writing instructor for the LLM program.

University of California, Berkeley

Graduate Student Instructor, Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

Mass Communications 101

Distinguished Housing Cases

Optimus v. Martinez: Lead counsel in six related federal lawsuits aimed at counteracting housing discrimination in the city's Koreatown neighborhood. The team's clients included Spanish-speaking Latino families and persons with disabilities who had allegedly been targeted by their landlords. The cases settled for a total of \$2.5 million, on account of damages to the team's clients, costs, and attorneys' fees. The settlement terms should help ensure fair and affordable housing for the clients — who remain in their homes — and other current and future tenants of the subject buildings by, among other things, securing seven future vacancies for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher holders, requiring fair housing training for building management, and visibly posting the fair housing law in English and in Spanish at each location.

Gutierrez v. Borten: Lead co-counsel on a case involving disabled long term rent control tenant (over 30 years) with a housing choice voucher and included claims of disability discrimination in violation of FEHA and retaliation in violation of California Civil Code 1940.2 and 1942.5, and intentional infliction of emotional distress amongst others.

Crasnick v. Marquez: Attorney in published case where appellate court upheld legal fees for Public Counsel, Court held that equities did not require the trial court to offset separate judgments against the tenant's attorney fee award in landlord's unlawful detainer action against the same parties.

Nivo 1 LLC v. Antunez: Trial attorney in published opinion. Low-income Spanish speaking family with a disability in a rent-controlled tenancy of over 20 years being evicted for not maintaining renter's insurance pursuant to the lease. Appellate court upheld the trial court's ruling that the defendant's failure to maintain insurance was an immaterial or trivial breach such that it did not result in a forfeiture of the lease agreement.

Speaking Engagements/National Trainings

Best Practices from the Bench, Tenant Lawyer Network Annual Conference, Jan 2020

Housing Discrimination, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Civil Rights Institute, Oct 2018

Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Fair Employment and Housing Act, Fair Housing Symposium, Sept 2018

Strategies to Combat Displacement, National Housing Law Project, October 14, 2017

"Eviction Defense by Jury Trial: A Practicum" Tenants Together & National Jury Project, April 2016

Settlements & Trials: Masking Considerations, Jury Trials & Bench Trials California Eviction Defense 2.0: Beyond the Basics of Helping Protect Low Income Tenants Public Law Institute, March 2015

Housing Rights Training, Gibson Dunn LLP, February 24, 2015

The Bench: Best Practices from the LA Superior Court, Tenant Lawyer Network Annual Conference, January 2015

Advanced Unlawful Detainers Topics, Tenant Lawyer Network Annual Conference, January 2015

Perfecting your Jury Trial, Tenant Lawyer Network Annual Conference, January 2014

Media Coverage

[L.A. Tenants Win Groundbreaking \\$2.5 Million Settlement in Housing Discrimination Lawsuit - YouTube](#)

"Koreatown Apartment Owner agrees to pay 2.5 million in settlement of tenants' discrimination lawsuit" quoted as lead attorney, *Los Angeles Times*, October 22, 2018

[Koreatown apartment owner agrees to pay \\$2.5 million in settlement of tenants' discrimination lawsuit - Los Angeles Times](#)

Broadcast TV on Telemundo and Univision, October 22, 2018

"Investment firm ousts Mentally Ill and Latino Families to Flip Koreatown buildings, lawsuit alleges" quoted as lead attorney, *Los Angeles Times*, November 18, 2016

[Investment firm ousts mentally ill and Latino families to flip Koreatown buildings, lawsuit alleges - Los Angeles Times](#)

"Learn English: LA Landlords Allegedly Harassed Latinos to Get Richer Tenants" quoted as lead attorney in *The Guardian*, November 18, 2016

[LA Landlords harassed Latinos](#)

"A Push for Legal Aid in Civil Cases Finds Its Cases" quote in *New York Times*, November 24, 2014

[A Push for Legal Aid in Civil Cases Finds Its Advocates - The New York Times](#)

Other Relevant Experience

Extraordinary Chambers, Courts of Cambodia

Legal Advisor, 2009

U.C. Berkeley War Crimes Study Center

Trial Monitor, 2009

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Immigration Unit Intern, 2007

East Bay Community Law Center Clinic, Housing Unit

Law Clerk, 2006

Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking

National Training Director, 2002-2004

Commission on the Status of Women, City of Los Angeles

Project Coordinator, 2001-2002



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

February 28, 2023

Dear Ms. Sharma:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the House LA Citizens Oversight Committee for the term ending June 30, 2024. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org, to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and Undated Separation Letters **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open, and accountable City government possible. Further, 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 the Personnel 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 at 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

Ms. Deepika Sharma
February 28, 2023
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As part of the City Council confirmation process, a meeting will be offered to Nithya Raman, your Councilmember and the Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, to answer any questions she may have. You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Housing and Homelessness Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council for confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office in Room 395 of City Hall.

Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your telephone numbers, or in the future plan to resign (resignation must be put in writing), please contact my office immediately.

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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Ms. Deepika Sharma
February 28, 2023

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

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

_____ Email the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to: Commissions Team, Office of the Mayor, City Hall – Room 303, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters

II. Within 21 days:

_____ 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.*

- **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 and Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination, Nithya Raman