



Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

September 20, 2013

The Honorable City Council
c/o Holly Wolcott, Interim City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
City Hall – 3rd Floor
Los Angeles CA 90012

**Re: Council File Number 13-1208
Appointment of Jessica Levinson to the
City Ethics Commission**

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Dear Councilmembers:

On September 11, 2013, the City Controller transmitted to the City Clerk a letter indicating his appointment of Ms. Jessica Levinson to the City Ethics Commission. The Ethics Commission received Ms. Levinson's pre-confirmation statement of economic interests (SEI) on September 17, 2013, and this letter is provided for your consideration as part of the confirmation process. A copy of this letter is also being provided to Ms. Levinson to help her avoid potential conflicts of interests that may arise in the course of her tenure as a member of the City Ethics Commission.

Ms. Levinson reports on her SEI salary income from Loyola Law School, where she is an Associate Clinical Professor. She also discloses salary income from KCET for her position as a blogger and income from 20th Century Fox Film Corporation for the use of her residence as a filming location. In addition, Ms. Levinson discloses wedding gifts from James and Harriet Selna, Christina and George Wilkinson, Martin and Diane Gordon, Tara Crow, Bernie and Fredda Wasserman, and Barbara Wagner. Lastly, she discloses investment interests in Johnson & Johnson, Coca Cola Company, Walt Disney Company, and Pfizer Incorporated. If a matter involving any of these interests comes before the City Ethics Commission, Ms. Levinson should, before acting, seek the advice of the City Attorney regarding whether she should disqualify herself. We are unable to assess if or how frequently Ms. Levinson would be in a position of having to recuse herself.

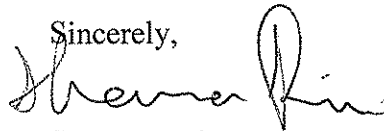
Interests disclosed on an SEI are not the only interests that can give rise to a conflict of interests. For example, state law may require recusal by a board or commission member due to certain business activities of the clients of that member's employer. Additionally, recusal may be required under City Charter § 222, which states that the City Attorney may provide a written opinion concerning the obligation of a City official to refrain from acting on a matter when it may violate state law or when action may not be in the public interest.

If a matter raises a potential conflict of interests, we encourage Ms. Levinson to seek the advice of the City Attorney before acting. If Ms. Levinson is required to disqualify herself from acting on a matter, Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.5.6(J) and Executive Directive 2005-1 require her to file a Recusal Notification Form (CEC Form 51) with the Ethics Commission and the Mayor's office. If a board or commission member is disqualified from acting on three or more agenda items in a year because of a conflict caused by the same interest, the Ethics Commission is required by City Charter § 707 to review the conflict. If the Ethics Commission determines that the member has a significant and continuing conflict of interests, it must order divestment of the interest that is causing the conflict.

In addition to filing SEIs, nominees also file Residence Verification Forms. We have received a completed form from Ms. Levinson, which states that she is registered to vote in the City.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 978-1960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Prior". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S".

Shannon Prior
Ethics Program Manager

cc: City Controller Ron Galperin
Ms. Jessica Levinson