




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Zach Jones Pekelis</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission</i>		Term of Position: * 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Capitol Hill // Council District 3</i>	Zip Code: <i>98112</i>	Contact Phone No.:
Background: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Vice Chair Zach Pekelis is a litigation partner at Pacifica Law Group, where his practice focuses on constitutional, administrative, and political law. Previously, Zach worked as an Assistant Attorney General in the Complex Litigation Division of the Washington Attorney General's Office; as a Trial Attorney in the Voting Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division; and as a litigation associate at Perkins Coie. Born and raised in Seattle, Zach attended Garfield High School, where he played sax in the jazz band. He graduated from Yale College and Yale Law School. After college, Zach joined Teach For America, teaching history and government at a high school in Brooklyn, New York. After law school, Zach clerked for Judge David F. Hamilton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Zach was first appointed to the Commission by the Mayor in 2020 for a term that expires December 31, 2022.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 1/5/2023		Appointing Signatory: <i>Bruce A. Harrell</i> <i>Mayor of Seattle</i>

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

ZACH JONES PEKELIS

EXPERIENCE

PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP, Seattle, WA June 2021–present
Partner

Represent government entities and officials, nonprofits, and corporate clients in civil litigation across range of subject matter, including constitutional law, administrative law, and election law; defend state and local governments in legal challenges to COVID-19 emergency orders, going undefeated in over 40 cases; represent government entities and officials in litigation over Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act; counsel advocacy organizations and political committees on compliance with election and campaign finance laws.

WASHINGTON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, Seattle, WA Aug. 2018–June 2021
Assistant Attorney General, Complex Litigation Division

Co-led team defending Washington's COVID-19 response; co-led successful defense of ballot measure regulating assault rifles against constitutional challenge; represented Legislature in successful lawsuit over Governor's line-item veto; litigated affirmative cases challenging Trump administration actions, including DHS "public charge" rule and State Department's deregulation of 3D-printed firearms; successfully represented Governor in federal constitutional challenge to denial of permits for proposed coal export terminal.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, D.C. Aug. 2016–July 2018
Trial Attorney, Civil Rights Division – Voting Section

Litigated cases to enforce federal voting rights law, including Texas voter ID litigation; investigated potential voting rights violations; performed outreach to state and local governments to ensure compliance with federal election laws regulating bilingual election programs, absentee ballots for military and overseas citizens, and voter registration; monitored federal elections in local jurisdictions across the United States.

PERKINS COIE LLP, Seattle, WA June–Aug. 2010, Sept. 2012–Aug. 2016
Litigation Associate (2012–16); Summer Associate (2010)

Litigated cases across range of subject matter, including labor and employment, consumer protection, and civil fraud; served as lead associate in three civil trials and all phases of major commercial arbitration; prepared appellate briefs in state and federal courts; represented Alabama prisoners in state and federal habeas proceedings, partnering with Equal Justice Initiative; first-chaired felony trials in prosecution fellowship.

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Bloomington, IN Aug. 2011–Aug. 2012
Law Clerk to Circuit Judge David. F. Hamilton

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Washington, D.C. June–Aug. 2009
Senior Associate, Urban Education Leaders Internship Program

Wrote legal memoranda on special education law; assisted at administrative hearings and court proceedings.

TEACH FOR AMERICA, Brooklyn, NY June 2005–June 2007
Social Studies Teacher, Dr. Susan S. McKinney Secondary School for the Arts

Taught global history, government, and economics in 10th through 12th grades.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Florence, Italy June–Aug. 2004
Consular Intern

Drafted cables; prepared daily Italian press briefs; assisted with visa interviews and U.S. citizen services.

EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, CT J.D., June 2011

Honors and activities: Thurman Arnold Prize for Oral Advocacy, Yale Law School Moot Court Competition
Founding Director, Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project (Yale-New Haven)

PACE UNIVERSITY, New York, NY M.S., Teaching, June 2007

YALE COLLEGE, New Haven, CT B.A., *cum laude*, May 2005

Honors: European Union Studies Fellowship; Distinction in Ethics, Politics & Economics major

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission; Washington Bus board; Northwest Justice Project board

LANGUAGES

Italian (advanced proficiency)

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

7 Members: Pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code 3.70.020, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 3 Mayor- appointed
- 3 City Council- appointed
- 1 Other Appointing Authority: Commission

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	F	7	1	Member	Kristin Hawes	1/1/21	12/31/23	1	Mayor
6	M	6	2	Member	Richard Shordt	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	City Council
7	F	2	3	Member	Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima	1/1/22	12/31/24	1	Mayor
6	F	1	4	Member	Susan Taylor	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	Commission
5	M	6	5	Member	Hardeep Singh Rekhi	1/1/20	12/31/22	2	City Council
6	M	3	6	Member	Zach Pekelis	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	Mayor
			7	Member	Vacant	(8/17/22)	12/31/23	1	City Council

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	1	2								2	1		
Council	2								1	1			
Other		1								1			
Total	3	3							1	4	1		

Key:

*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

**G List *gender*, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary, O= Other, U= Unknown

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

01/06/2023 SEEC/crd