



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>La Rond Baker</i>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> <i>Community Police Commission</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Commissioner</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Community Police Commission</i>		<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2021 <b>to</b> 12/31/2023  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> <i>Capitol Hill</i>	<b>Zip Code:</b> <i>98102</i>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<b>Background:</b> La Rond Baker is Special Counsel for Affirmative Litigation and Policy at the King County Department of Public Defense. In her role she spearheads DPD’s inquest program and represents families who have lost loved ones to police violence in inquest proceedings. Ms. Baker has 10 years of civil rights and civil liberties litigation and policy experience honed during her time at the ACLU of Washington, the Civil Rights Unit of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office, and DPD. A significant amount of her work has involved the criminal legal system and policing issues including serving as counsel in <i>Trueblood v. DSHS</i> , a challenge to Pierce County Jail’s failure to provide religious accommodations to Muslim inmates, a challenge to a private prison’s practice of paying detainee workers \$1 per day for labor that kept a for-profit prison operational, a challenge to the placement of peaceful hunger strikers in solitary confinement at the Northwest Detention Center, and a challenge to warrant seeking NoDAPL protesters’ Facebook page information. Ms. Baker also is deeply dedicated to collaborating and providing support to BIPOC communities and their advocacy regarding police reform and racial and economic justice.		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b> 		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Reverend Harriet Walden and Reverend Aaron Williams, Prachi Dave</i> <i>Co-chairs, Community Police Commission</i>

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

# La Rond Baker

## EXPERIENCE

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### **King County Department of Public Defense**

#### ***Special Counsel for Affirmative Litigation and Policy***

Represent families in King County inquest proceedings, drive the Department's inquest policy and practice, provide oversight and assistance of practitioners in Involuntary Treatment Court, develop and direct amicus program, litigate select appeals that have significant impact on client population, engage in legislative advocacy, develop and oversee impact litigation, and handle diverse set of civil issues that arise in the Director's Office.

### **Washington State Attorney General's Office**

#### ***Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Unit – July 2017 – Present***

Lead attorney responsible for all phases of litigation, including fact and pre-suit investigation, drafting discovery requests, reviewing discovery responses and productions, developing dispositive motion strategy, drafting pleadings, and oral argument in district and appellate courts for *Washington v. The Geo Group, INC.* (challenging private prison's practice of paying detainee workers \$1 per day for labor essential in operating a for-profit immigration detention center) and *Karnoski v. Trump* (challenging United States' military ban on open service by transgender individuals).

### **American Civil Liberties Union of Washington**

#### ***Staff Attorney – June 2011 – July 2017***

Responsible for all phases of litigation, including fact and pre-suit investigation, taking depositions, drafting discovery requests, reviewing discovery responses and productions, and developing dispositive motion strategy, drafting pleadings, trial, and post-trial compliance. Litigate constitutional and civil rights cases in a range of substantive areas, including:

- Free speech (*Veterans For Peace v. City of Auburn* – successfully challenged viewpoint discriminatory exclusion of a VFP from the City of Auburn's Veterans' Day parade);
- Religious accommodations for incarcerated individuals (*Tarrer v. Pierce County* – successfully challenged a jail's failure to accommodate the religious needs of Muslim inmates and the jail's operation of a housing unit in the jail as a Christian program wherein non-Christians were routinely denied access to privileges);
- Due process rights of individuals court-ordered to receive mental health treatment (evaluation and restoration) and who are incarcerated while they await the State to provide those services (*A.B. by and through Cassie Cordell Trueblood v. Department of Social and Health Services* – successfully challenged DSHS's failure to provide timely competency services which resulted in class members languishing in jails and engage in complex post-judgment enforcement litigation);
- Voting rights (*Montes v. City of Yakima* and *Aranda Glatt v. City of Pasco* – successfully challenged the City Council election systems for the cities of Yakima and Pasco under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act including lead counsel in negotiating a consent decree with Pasco regarding liability);
- Immigrant Rights (*Ramirez-Rangel v. Kitsap County* – successfully challenged traffic stops that unlawfully turned into immigration investigations and prolonged detentions; and *Ramirez-Martinez v. ICE* – successfully challenged placement of detained hunger strikers in solitary confinement).

### **MacDonald Hoague & Bayless**

#### ***Litigation Team Associate Intern – June 2009 – June 2011***

Researched discrete and broad issues; researched and drafted declarations, motions, and memos; and communicated with clients for individual and class action cases involving civil rights and employment litigation.

### **Associate Dean Peter Nicolas at the University of Washington School of Law**

#### ***Research Assistant – October 2008 – June 2009***

Cite checked and edited new edition of Associate Dean Peter Nicolas' Evidence textbook and New York Rules, Texas, and Florida Evidence Rules books; and researched the use of hearsay in the enforcement of race conscious laws.

### **Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington**

#### ***Juvenile Records Sealing Clinic Intern – October 2008 – July 2009***

Filed and served notices, motions, and orders for juvenile records sealing clinic, and advertised the clinic through outreach.

### **Court of Appeals, Division II – Judge David H. Armstrong's Chambers**

## La Rond Baker

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### *Extern – June 2008 – September 2008*

Researched relevant case law for opinions, drafted pre-hearing memos, and reviewed head notes for accuracy.

### **Powerful Voices**

#### *Instructional Coordinator for Girls Health & Wellness Class at Juvenile Detention - October 2006 – August 2007*

#### *Girls RAP (Rights! Action! Power!) Instructional Coordinator – October 2004 – October 2006*

Created curriculum for workshops on parenting, sexual assault, positive decision-making, and other topics. Individualized goal setting with incarcerated young women and for young women in middle school. Sustained and nourished relationships with staff at juvenile detention and at the middle schools where programs were held.

### **the Service Board**

#### *South End Program Coordinator – October 2005 – July 2007*

Led flagship site for a non-profit mentoring program that focuses on community service, social justice, service projects, and snowboarding. Developed curriculum and community service components, and facilitated weekly meetings of 25-35 people.

### **Pipeline Project – University of Washington**

#### *Seminar Leader & Site Coordinator at King County Correctional Facility – January 2003 – December 2005*

Paid position from September 2004 to December 2005

Created curriculum for Education and the Criminal Justice System seminar for UW students who tutored inmates for credit. Developed and facilitated trainings for UW tutors and support lesson planning and researched material acquisition.

### **Literacy AmeriCorps Member**

#### *ABE & GED Teacher/Volunteer Coordinator at King County Correctional Facility – September 2002 – September 2004*

Taught non-traditional GED classes to groups of 12-18 inmates. Created curriculum and individualized lesson plans for inmates. Increased volunteer tutor base from 5 to 25 tutors. Developed and facilitated tutor trainings.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### **Washington State Bar Association Civil Rights Law Section**

*Chair– September 2016 – September 2018*

*At-Large Board Member – September 2013 – 2016*

## EDUCATION

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**University of Washington School of Law – J.D. Class of 2010**

**The Evergreen State College – B.A. Class of 2002**

