



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> Ilays A. Aden		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission		<b>Position Title:</b> Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		<b>Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	<b>Term of Position: *</b> 8/1/2022 to 7/31/2024 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> Tukwila	<b>Zip Code:</b>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Background:</b> Ilays Aden is a Somali-American activist who came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1995. She has lived in Seattle since 2004. She graduated from University of Washington with a Bachelor's in Arts, majoring in Economics and African Studies. After graduating, she worked directly with immigrant and refugees from East Africa in South King County in educational support and with the citizenship process. Her passions to help her community led her to law school at American University, where she focused on immigration and human rights law. Ilays has more than ten years of experience in the fields of youth development, civic engagement, and fund development.  She co-founded the Eat With Muslims Project, bringing people of all faiths and backgrounds together to learn more about Islam and fight back against Islamophobia. Her work to counter the dehumanization of Muslims and xenophobia led her to receive Congressman Adam Smith's 2018 Champion of Justice Award. She is currently the Environmental Engagement Program Coordinator for the Port of Seattle.		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>  <b>Date:</b> 7/13/2023	<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle	

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

# ILAYS A. ADEN

## EDUCATION

**American University Washington College of Law**, Washington, DC -*Juris Doctor, May 2015*

**Activities:** Symposium Editor, American University Labor and Employment Law Forum and Brief June 2014-May 2015  
Community Outreach Chair, Black Law Student Association April 2013- April 2014  
Alternative Break Chair, Action for Human Rights April 2014- May 2015

**Studies Abroad and in US:** Economics and Human Rights Law in London, Brussels, Paris, Geneva June 2013  
Alternative Spring Break: Furthering Afro-Colombian Rights in Bogota, Colombia March 2014  
Alternative Winter Break: Reforming the Orleans Parish Prison System Dec. 2014  
Alternative Spring Break: Assisting the Navajo Nation Judicial Court March 2015

**University of Washington**, Seattle, WA - *Bachelor of Arts* in Economics and African Studies Minor, Dec. 2009

**Study Abroad:** European Union Policy Studies- Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium June -Aug. 2009

## EXPERIENCE

**Forterra**– Community Campaign Manager, Seattle, WA Aug 2018- Present

- Work closely with community partners and organization on our affordable housing and land banking projects
- Raised over \$780,000 towards capital campaigns for Forterra's development projects
- Organize information sessions, focus groups and open houses for community members to learn more about our work on land conservation, urban work, and park and riparian restoration
- Meet with donors, for-profit and non-profit leaders, city leaders, and stakeholders to keep them informed, while learning about other work in our region to tackle affordable housing issues
- Write grants and proposals to government agencies, corporations and foundations to support our work

**Eat With Muslims**– Co-Founder, Seattle, WA Dec. 2016- Present

- Co-founded this organization based in Seattle, WA to counteract Islamophobia and build stronger communities through advocacy, events and gatherings, and courageous conversations
- We have created and organized over 60 events all over Seattle and South King County, bringing together over a 3,500 Muslims and non-Muslims including immigrant and refugees, people of color, elderly, and youth to share courageous conversations around Islamophobia
- Responsible for writing grants to foundations to support our mission and vision of peace and understanding
- Create reports and surveys sent to our donors and partners, including Seattle Foundation, 4Culture, and United Way of King County
- Email and telephone correspondence with guests, donors, and community members interested in our work
- We have been featured as a story on The Today Show, NPR/KUOW, Seattle Weekly, AirBnb Magazine, and have been filmed for an upcoming documentary that centers around the women's march and representation of Muslim-American women

**Correia & Puth, PLLC**– Law Clerk, Washington, DC Sept. 2015- Feb. 2016

- Directly communicated with potential clients in employment disputes and performed intakes
- Investigated and researched legal claims and drafted memos discussing employment discrimination and harassment
- Utilized LexisNexis to research legal questions for the firm's current cases
- Researched and summarized recent Supreme Court and Circuit Court decisions in employment law cases
- Attended Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyer's Association meetings to gather information on new legislation and procedures effecting employment law in DC and reported back to the firm
- Met with partners and associates weekly to discuss research memos and upcoming deadlines for cases
- Tracked time and billing on Sage Timeslips

**International Human Rights Law Clinic**– Student Attorney, Washington, DC Aug. 2014- May 2015

- Worked with my student attorney partner on six cases concerning immigration and asylum law, family law, as well as employment discrimination
- Conducted client intakes and interviews and coordinated with translators to have effective meetings

- Researched and wrote memos on asylum, immigration, and family law cases
- Wrote briefs, motions, and FOIA requests to help our clients have timely and successful cases
- Represented clients in Immigration Court and filed in Maryland Circuit Court
- Actively participated in a seminar that provided support and knowledge on human rights issues and defense work

**American Federation of Government Employees** –Law Clerk, Washington, DC Aug. 2014- May 2015

- Interviewed and performed intakes for clients and members, as well as investigated claims
- Drafted appeals and provided arguments for government employees who have been terminated or suspended without pay
- Worked with attorneys in the General Counsel’s Office to provide legal research for trials and arbitrations
- Organized information and data for our case files, utilized Excel, Word, and Outlook on a daily basis

**Students United For Youth Justice/Mentoring Today**– Program Mentor, Washington, DC April 2013- January 2015

- Program focused on mentoring young black males in DC’s juvenile system, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
- Worked with my mentee to set goals, explore his interest, and pursue his education while in the facility
- Upon his release, we worked together to secure housing, employment, and provide access to family planning
- We also set aside time to explore the city and attend different art events, as he enjoyed drawing
- Attended court hearings and spoke positively to his judge on his improvements and drastic lifestyle changes in order to reduce his probation

**The Law Offices of David R. Saffold & Associates** – Immigration Law Intern, Washington, DC June- Sept. 2014

- Worked with clients on immigration and asylum cases, helping them gather affidavits and evidence for their case
- Worked under supervising attorney to help prepare the client for immigration court or asylum office interviews
- Researched and wrote memos on new immigration and asylum case law, as well as clients' issues

**Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**- Legal Intern, Washington, DC July- Aug. 2013

- Utilized LexisNexis and Westlaw databases to conduct research on environmental human rights issues, relevant international treaties and domestic laws, and case law
- Helped write “Right to a Healthy Environment” chapter for the Center’s human rights lawyering handbook, which is used as a reference for legal aid attorneys across the country who are litigating cases with a human rights component

**Somali Youth and Family Club** - Program Coordinator and Tutor, Seattle, WA July 2010- Aug. 2012

- Led the after school program and coordinated tutors to serve about hundred East African students in Skyway and Renton
- Performed intakes and referrals for clients seeking citizenship and went out to the communities to provide education on the paths to citizenship.
- Attended community meetings to strengthen partnerships with local government officials and professional organizations, including the King County Disproportionality Coalition
- Assisted in writing grants that resulted in the organization receiving nearly \$85,000 in funds
- Created monthly reports and informed partners of SYFC’s community impact and access to services

**Key Bank** - Teller and Customer Service Representative, Issaquah, WA April 2010- July 2011

- Reached out to community and businesses for new customers
- Improved branch’s customer service scores by providing excellent service and catering to clients’ needs
- Exceeded monthly referral goals and became one of the top tellers in the region

**Congressman William Jefferson** - Staff Assistant, Washington, DC June- Sept. 2008

- Spoke directly with constituents, gave tours, and was the first line of communication
- Created daily schedule and briefed Congressman Jefferson on upcoming activities and meetings
- Attended meetings for the congressman, updated him on issues concerning his constituents
- Wrote and presented a community action plan to help regulate trade in New Orleans

**Language**

- Somali (proficient)

## **VOLUNTEER AND ACTIVITIES**

- Puget Sound Educational Service District Strategic Direction Action Team Member- Volunteer for the community cohort that is working to change PSESD's policies to reflect an anti-racist and racial equity agenda for all students 2018
- United Way of King County volunteer and grant reviewer 2017
- Producer of *Pursued*- A short film about a young Immigrant Muslim man in Seattle, premiering later this year 2019

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

- U.S. Congressman Adam Smith's 2018 Champion of Justice Award- Congressman Smith recognized the work of Eat With Muslims and its impact around the 9<sup>th</sup> District of Washington.
- The Op-Ed Project 2018 Scholarship recipient- Chosen as a leader in Seattle to work on crafting an opinion editorial about issues in my community. This national organization works to elevate key voices that are especially missing from our country's conversations.

# Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to *Ordinances 12822 and 120345 and SMC 3.14.545*, [all] members subject to City Council confirmation, [14 [ have 2-year terms, (1) Get Engage Member has 1 year term:

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 8 Mayor-appointed
- 0 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify):

## Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
8	F	NA	1.	Member	Gul Siddiqi	2/1/23	1/31/25	1	Council
			2.	Member	Ahmad Hilal Abid	2/1/23	1/31/25	1	Council
			3.	Member	Anand Rao	2/1/23	1/31/25	1	Mayor
			4.	Member	Afra Mahmood	2/1/23	1/31/25	1	Mayor
3	F	5	5.	Member	Vacant	8/1/2022	7/31/24	1	Council
2	F	NA	6.	Member	Ilays A. Aden	8/1/2022	7/31/24	2	Mayor
			7.	Member	Vacant	8/1/2022	7/31/24	1	Mayor
			8.	Member	Vacant	2/1/2022	1/31/24	1	Council
3	F	5	9.	Member	Maria Jimenez-Zepeda	2/1/2022	1/31/24	3	Council
			10.	Member	Vacant	2/1/23	1/31/25	1	Mayor
2	M	2	11.	Member	Emmanuel Dolo	2/1/2022	1/31/24	2	Mayor
9	F	3	12.	Member	Heather Yang Hwalek	2/1/23	1/31/25	1	Council
3	F	4	13.	Member	Amanda Sandoval	8/1/2022	7/31/24	2	Mayor
			14.	Member	Vacant	2/1/2022	1/31/24	1	Council
1	F	7	15.	Get Engaged Member	Vacant	9/1/22	8/31/23	2	Mayor

## SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
	Men	Women	Transgender	Unknown	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other (Specification Optional)	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor													
Council													
Other													
Total													

## Key:

- \*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)
- \*\*G List *gender*, M = Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, U= Unknown
- RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

*Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.*