




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Kai Smith		
Board/Commission Name: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission		Position Title: Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input 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: Fill in appointing authority		Term of Position: * 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2027 <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
Residential Neighborhood: Meadowbrook	Zip Code: 98125	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Kai Smith is a litigation partner at Pacifica Law Group. He represents clients on a broad range of issues, focusing on public entity representation, constitutional law, public policy and political law, and complex commercial disputes. Clients trust Kai with their complex legal issues, and he regularly represents clients in high-profile matters. In addition to his litigation practice, Kai also provides general counsel and strategic advice to help clients address important and sensitive issues, particularly in the areas of municipal law, legislation, statutory and regulatory compliance, business strategy, and public records.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): April 16 th , 2025		Appointing Signatory: Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle

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

KAI SMITH

EXPERIENCE

Pacifica Law Group, Seattle, WA

2018-present

Partner (2023-present)

Associate (2018-2022)

- Experienced civil litigator and counselor representing leading Pacific Northwest public and private entities and nonprofits, with a focus on constitutional law, public policy and legislation, and commercial disputes.
- Represent public interest advocacy organizations and political committees in litigation involving ballot measures, including all four measures that appeared on the 2024 Washington general election ballot.
- Represent Seattle-area companies in significant litigation involving contract disputes and other conflicts.
- Represent state and local officials and government entities in a variety of civil actions, including dozens of actions challenging COVID-19 emergency orders and related cases.
- Recent representative matters include serving as lead counsel in lawsuit challenging constitutionality of Washington Initiative 2066 and lead counsel in actions defending REI in multi-million dollar contract dispute.
- Provide general counsel and strategic advice to municipal, political, and nonprofit clients, particularly in the areas of public policy, political and election law, and statutory and regulatory compliance.

Covington & Burling LLP, Washington, DC

2014-2017

Associate

- Represented clients in civil and criminal litigations and proceedings before federal enforcement agencies.
- Successfully represented Expedia in obtaining clearance from the DOJ in Expedia's \$1.3 billion acquisition of Orbitz; represented leading technology company in \$1 billion federal antitrust lawsuit; successfully represented leading financial institution in MDL antitrust litigation.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| ▪ Board Member – Washington State Budget & Policy Center | 2023-present |
| ▪ Pro Bono Committee – Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington | 2023-present |
| ▪ Board Member – King County Municipal League Foundation | 2019-2024 |

HONORS

- Selected for inclusion in the “Ones to Watch” list in The Best Lawyers in America in the fields of Commercial Litigation, 2022-2025, and Appellate Practice, 2024-2025
- Selected for inclusion in Washington Rising Stars, 2022-2024

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School

J.D., with Pro Bono Distinction (2013)

Journals:

- *Stanford Law Review*, Senior Editor & Development Committee Editor
- *Stanford Law & Policy Review*, Legislative Notes Editor, Editorial Board

Seattle University

B.A. in History and Political Science, *magna cum laude* (2009)

Honors:

- Harry S. Truman Scholar
- Alpha Sigma Nu

Activities:

- University Honors Program
- Student Body President

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Hon. Sidney R. Thomas, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Billings, MT

2013–2014

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Washington | Washington, D.C. | Montana (inactive) | Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals | U.S. District Courts for the Western and Eastern Districts of Washington

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	1/1/24	12/31/26	2	Mayor
6	M	6	2	Member	Richard Shordt	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	City Council
6	M	5	3	Member	Kai Smith	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
2	F	3	4	Member	Vivian Vassall	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Commission
6	M	7	5	Member	Jonathan Schirmer	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	City Council
6	M	3	6	Member	Zach Pekelis	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	Mayor
2	M	3	7	Member	Bobby Forch	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	City Council

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	2	1								3	0		
Council	3					1				2			
Other		1				1							
Total	5	2				2				5	0		

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.