



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Benjamin L. Goldsmith</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Community Police Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Commissioner</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Community Police Commission</i>	Date Appointed: <i>mm/dd/yy.</i>	Term of Position: * <i>1/1/2018</i> to <i>12/31/2020</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: <i>N/A</i>	Zip Code: <i>N/A</i>	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: <i>Benjamin L Goldsmith is a highly skilled and experienced public defender with extensive experience in criminal law. He has dedicated his entire career to public defense; first as a public defense investigator in Washington, DC, conducting fact investigations of felony cases. As an attorney, he has worked as a Fellow at the Criminal Justice Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center, where he represented indigent clients charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses in D.C. Superior Court, and as a staff attorney and supervisor in the felony division of The Defender Association, (now a division of the King County Department of Public Defense). In his practice, he regularly investigates and litigates issues relating to potential police misconduct. As part of these investigations he has interviewed hundreds of police officers and civilian witnesses, and watched hours of in-car, body-camera, and interrogation videos. He has served as a technical advisor to the CPC since late 2017, and he has attended several of the Commission's meetings.</i> <i>Benjamin earned his B.A. from Swarthmore College, his J.D. from University of Michigan Law School, and his L.L.M in Trial Advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center.</i>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): <i>Rev. Harriett Walden</i> <i>Enrique Gonzalez</i>		Appointing Signatory: <i>Rev. Harriett Walden</i> <i>Co-Chair, Community Police Commission</i> <i>Enrique Gonzalez</i> <i>Co-Chair, Community Police Commission</i>

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

<i>Isaac Ruiz</i>	<i>Isaac Ruiz</i> <i>Co-Chair, Community Police Commission</i>
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April 12, 2018

Fe Lopez
Executive Director, Community Police Commission
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Ave
Suite 1640
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Ms. Lopez,

I am writing to apply for a position as a commissioner on the Community Police Commission (CPC). I am a highly skilled and experienced public defender with extensive experience in criminal law and the effects of police practices on my clients, who are all indigent and predominately people of color.

I have dedicated my entire career to public defense. After college I worked as a public defense investigator in Washington, DC conducting fact investigations of felony cases. As an attorney, I have worked as a Fellow at the Criminal Justice Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center, where I represented indigent clients charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses in D.C. Superior Court and as a staff attorney and supervisor in the felony division of The Defender Association, which is now a division of the King County Department of Public Defense. In my practice, I regularly investigate and litigate issues relating to potential police misconduct. As part of these investigations I have interviewed hundreds of police officers and civilian witnesses, and watched hours of in-car, body-camera, and interrogation videos. Another core aspect of my job is to gain the trust of my clients and their families, who often have been mistreated by figures in positions of authority. While I am largely a product of privilege, my clients are not, and success in client-centered public defense requires significant skills in speaking and building rapport with people from diverse backgrounds. In addition to my work as a public defender, I have been a technical advisor to the CPC since late 2016 and have attended several of the commission's meetings.

I believe with my experience, the position of commissioner on the Community Police Commission is one that I could transition into naturally and seamlessly. I affirm my commitment to the work of commission, subject to requirements of my employment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ben Goldsmith

Benjamin L. Goldsmith

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Felony Supervisor, *The Defender Association Division, King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA (December 2015-Present).*

Training, development, and management of attorneys, interns and paralegals. Co-tries cases, supervises and mentors staff attorneys and externs. Presents trainings to local, statewide, and national defender organizations. Represents clients charged with homicide.

Assistant Felony Supervisor, *The Defender Association, Seattle, WA (December 2009- December 2015).*

Creation and implementation of felony attorney training program, weekly case reviews, monthly office-wide trainings, including training of investigators, interns, and paralegals. Co-tries cases, supervises and mentors staff attorneys and externs. Presents trainings to local, statewide, and national defender organizations. Represents clients charged with homicide or charged as persistent offenders facing sentences of life without the possibility of parole.

Staff Attorney, *The Defender Association, Seattle, WA (September 2006-December 2009).*

Attorney in the felony division representing indigent clients including those charged with class A felonies or as persistent offenders. Previously in civil commitment division defending clients against 14-, 90-, and 180-day involuntary commitments.

E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow, *Georgetown University Law Center Criminal Justice Clinic (August 2004-August 2006).*

Represented indigent clients with misdemeanor and felony cases from arraignment to trial in D.C. Superior Court. During second year of fellowship, taught third-year clinical students and supervised their representation of clients with misdemeanor cases in Superior Court.

Staff Investigator, *Public Defender Service, Washington, DC (June 1999-April 2001).*

Worked on behalf of numerous misdemeanor and felony clients including those charged with murder, rape, kidnapping, and armed robbery. Performed investigation of criminal cases, including location and interview of witnesses, production of statements from prosecution witnesses, canvas of neighborhoods, subpoena of witnesses and records, crime scene photography, inspection and analysis of physical evidence, formulation of defense theory, in-court testimony and training of junior investigators.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, *Washington, DC (August 2004-August 2006).*
L.L.M. in Trial Advocacy, E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow.

University of Michigan Law School, *Ann Arbor, MI (May 2001-December 2003).*
Juris Doctor, Cum Laude December 2003.

- Book Award, *Criminal Procedure: Administration of Police Practices*, Professor Yale Kamisar
- Michigan State Bar Association Award and Scholarship for Excellence in Trial Advocacy

Swarthmore College, *Swarthmore, PA (September 1995-May 1999).*
Bachelor of Arts, May 1999. Major in History.

ACTIVITIES

Adjunct Professor, *Seattle University School of Law*

Co-teaches *Forensics*, a course for second and third year law students on the admissibility, preparation and strategic use of expert witnesses.

Technical Advisor, Seattle Community Police Commission

Reviews and provides expert commentary on Seattle Police Department Proposed policies including those related to use of force, searches, and detention to the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC), a civilian commission created by the City of Seattle with a mandate to develop reform recommendations and represent community interests and perspectives in policing.

Trainer/Presenter

Trainer and presenter for local and national CLEs. Invited speaker to NACDLs National Forensic College, a weeklong forensic training featuring the foremost experts in a range of forensic disciplines. Frequent presenter at CLE's organized by King County Department of Public Defense, Washington Defender Association, the Innocence Project Northwest, NACDL, Seattle University, the University of Washington, the Montana State Office of the Public Defender, and the Wisconsin Public Defender on subjects including cross-examination, closing argument, jury selection, interrogation techniques, DNA, and implicit bias.

Promoting Peace and Recovery Pilot Advisory Committee Member

Works with stake holders from the King County Prosecutor's Office, Asian Counseling and Referral Services, and the Department of Juvenile and Adult Detention to develop and implement a dual diagnosis domestic violence treatment program.

King County Superior Court Jury Work Group

Worked with Superior Court Judges, Prosecutors, and select Defense Attorneys to address issues of racial inequity in the King County jury system.

ACLU/WDA Batson Work Group

Worked with members of ACLU and the Washington Defender Association (WDA) to vet a proposed court rule change following *State v. Saintcalle*.

Community Police Commission

21 Members: Pursuant to *Ordinance 125315*, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 7 Commission-appointed

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
4	M		1.	Member	Jay W. Hollingsworth	3/18/13	12/31/17	2	Mayor
2	M		2.	Member	Aaron Williams	1/1/18	12/31/20	3	Council
6	M		3.	Public Defense	Benjamin L. Goldsmith	1/1/18	12/31/20	1	Commission
3	F		4.	Member	Claudia D'Allegrì	1/1/18	12/31/20	3	Mayor
3	M		5.	Member	Isaac Ruiz	1/1/18	12/31/20	2	Council
6	F		6.	Civil Liberties	Lisa Daugaard	1/1/18	12/31/20	3	Commission
3	M		7.	Member	Enrique Gonzalez	1/1/18	12/31/20	2	Mayor
			8.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Council
6	F		9.	Member	Melinda A. Giovengo	1/1/16	12/31/18	2	Commission
2	F		10.	Member	Harriett Walden	1/1/16	12/31/18	2	Mayor
			11.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Council
			12.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Commission
			13.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Mayor
			14.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Council
2	M		15.	SPOG	Kevin Stuckey	1/1/17	12/31/19	1	Commission
4	F		16.	Member	Colleen Echohawk	1/1/17	12/31/19	1	Mayor
			17.	Member		1/1/17	12/31/19		Council
			18.	SPMA		1/1/17	12/31/19	3	Commission
7	F		19.	Member	Emma Montanez Catague	1/1/17	12/31/19	1	Mayor
			20.	Member		1/1/17	12/31/19		Council
			21.	Member		1/1/17	12/31/19		Commission

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	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial					
Mayor	2	4				1	2	2			1							
Council	2					1	1											
Other	2	2				1				3								
Total	6	6				3	3	2		3	1							