

# City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



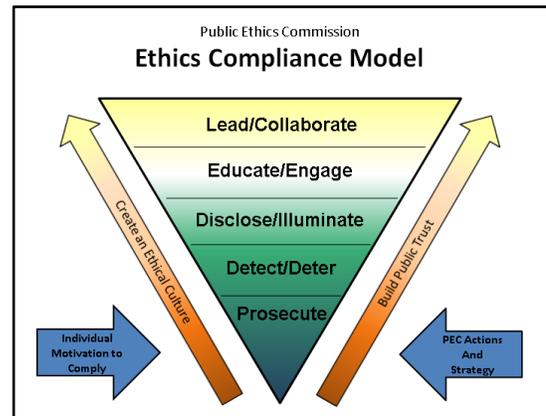
Public Ethics Commission  
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## INSTITUTIONALIZING INTEGRITY

The Public Ethics Commission (PEC or Commission) led a variety of initiatives in 2017 intended to institutionalize government ethics inside City Hall and throughout City government. This work exemplifies the Commission's important role in leading culture change toward compliance with the City of Oakland's government ethics, campaign finance, transparency, and lobbyist registration laws that aim to promote fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity in city government.



Highlights for 2017:

- **Advice calls increased dramatically** – the Commission received a record 251 requests for advice from City public servants (including elected officials), candidates for office, lobbyists and law firms, up from 94 in 2016.
- **New Online Ethics Training created** – Commission staff created a comprehensive, one-hour online ethics training for staff who hold decision-making positions that require them to file a Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests.
- **City ethics data illuminated** – as the new filing officer for campaign statements since January 1, 2017, Commission staff worked to enhance the accuracy and accessibility of data regarding campaign finance activities and payments made to charities at the behest of elected officials; staff also enhanced accessibility of lobbyist registration data for the public.
- **Stronger and more diverse range of enforcement tools deployed** – the enforcement team continues to expand its breadth and depth by utilizing a range of enforcement options, from advisory and warning letters to streamlined (low-level) fines, up to the finding of probable cause by the Commission, authorizing proceeding to an administrative hearing.
- **Important policy changes initiated** – the Commission conducted a comprehensive review of the City's policy and process for distributing tickets to Oakland Coliseum and Oracle Arena games and events, publishing a report and proposed policy revision to City Council. In addition, the Commission initiated a review of the City's campaign financing program with the aim of expanding participation by Oaklanders in the candidate campaign process.
- **Commission independence solidified** – the Commission further settled its position as an independent and self-functioning institution within City government with greater control over its own administrative functions such as budget administration and an established contract for administrative hearings, among others.

This report summarizes the Commission's work in 2017, a year in which the Commission's prevention, enforcement and collaborative activities have clearly taken root to allow the Commission to work effectively to cultivate and maintain government integrity in Oakland.

## PEC MISSION AND ACTIVITIES

The Public Ethics Commission was created in 1996 to ensure fairness, openness, honesty and integrity in City government. The PEC's work is governed by local ordinances in three main areas: campaign finance, transparency, and ethics. The Commission's authority and ability to do its work rests heavily on the provisions outlined in the City Charter, as amended in 2014, as well as in each relevant ordinance, listed as follows:

- Oakland Campaign Reform Act
- Sunshine Ordinance
- Limited Public Financing Act
- Lobbyist Registration Act
- False Endorsement in Campaign Literature Act
- Government Ethics Act
- Conflict of Interest Code



The Commission's activities, and the six-person staffing structure provided by the 2014 City Charter changes, are organized per the following ethics compliance framework to ensure a strong, effective, and fair ethics commission:

**Lead/Collaborate** – Lead by example and facilitate City policy, management, and technological changes to further the Commission's mission.

**Educate/Engage** – Provide education, advice, technical assistance, and formal legal opinions to promote awareness and understanding of the City's campaign finance, ethics, and transparency laws.

**Disclose/Illuminate** – Facilitate accurate, effective, and accessible disclosure of government integrity data, such as campaign finance reporting, conflicts of interest/gifts reports, and lobbyist activities, all of which help the public and PEC staff monitor filings, view information, and detect inconsistencies or noncompliance.

**Detect/Deter** – Conduct investigations and audits to monitor compliance with the laws within the Commission's jurisdiction.

**Prosecute** – Enforce violations of the laws within the Commission's jurisdiction through administrative or civil remedies.

### Transformation in 2014

The legislative changes made in 2014 were designed to equip the Commission with more authority, independence, and resources to ensure compliance with ethics, transparency, and campaign finance laws.

#### Oakland City Charter:

Measure CC was adopted by Oakland voters on November 4, 2014, to amend the Oakland City Charter to augment the authority, independence, and staffing of the Public Ethics Commission. The new provisions became effective on January 1, 2015, and the new staff positions were budgeted in July 2015.

#### Government Ethics Act:

In December 2014, City Council approved the PEC's proposed Oakland Government Ethics Act, to consolidate government ethics rules into one local ordinance and to enhance education and enforcement of those rules in and around City Hall.

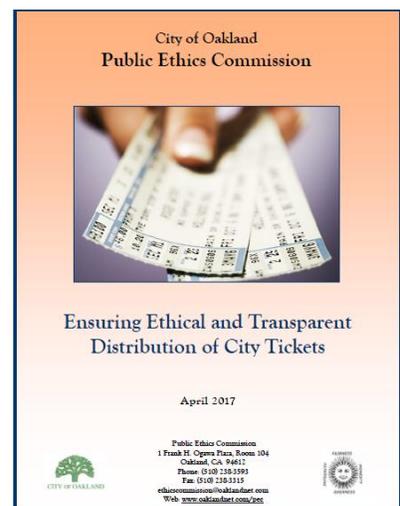
## LEAD AND COLLABORATE

The Commission leads by example and employs collaborative approaches to facilitate changes in City laws, policies, systems, and technology to ensure fairness, openness, integrity, and innovation. A collaborative approach aims to leverage the efforts of City and community partners working on similar or overlapping initiatives in order to enhance government integrity. Such an approach also recognizes that lasting results in transparency and accountability are achieved not through enforcement alone, but through a comprehensive strategy that aligns all points in the administration of City government – including clear laws, policies and process, effective management and use of staff resources, technology that facilitates desired outcomes, and an understanding of staff culture and citizen expectations.

### A NEW CITY TICKET POLICY AND PROCESS

After reviewing the City’s distribution of tickets received from the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum and Oracle Arena, the Commission **issued a comprehensive report and recommended policy for the distribution of these City tickets.** The Commission’s review followed news reports in 2016 alleging that City Councilmembers used thousands of dollars in free tickets to Golden State Warrior’s, Oakland Raiders, and Oakland A’s games and other events.

The Commission found that the City’s longstanding practice of handing batches of tickets to Oakland elected officials under an outdated policy, combined with a cavalier attitude and ineffective system of reporting tickets, resulted in tickets being used by City officials and staff as if they were a perk of office – or tickets going unused and unreported – in contrast to the public purposes for which the policy was created. The Commission reported these concerns to City Council and recommended a new and better distribution process for these tickets. The Commission went on to craft a revised policy that it will present to City Council in 2018. That policy will resolve all of the problems identified by the Commission, create a process for the distribution of tickets to City officials and staff that will ensure the public trust, and lead to many more tickets being distributed to school children, community organizations, and the like.

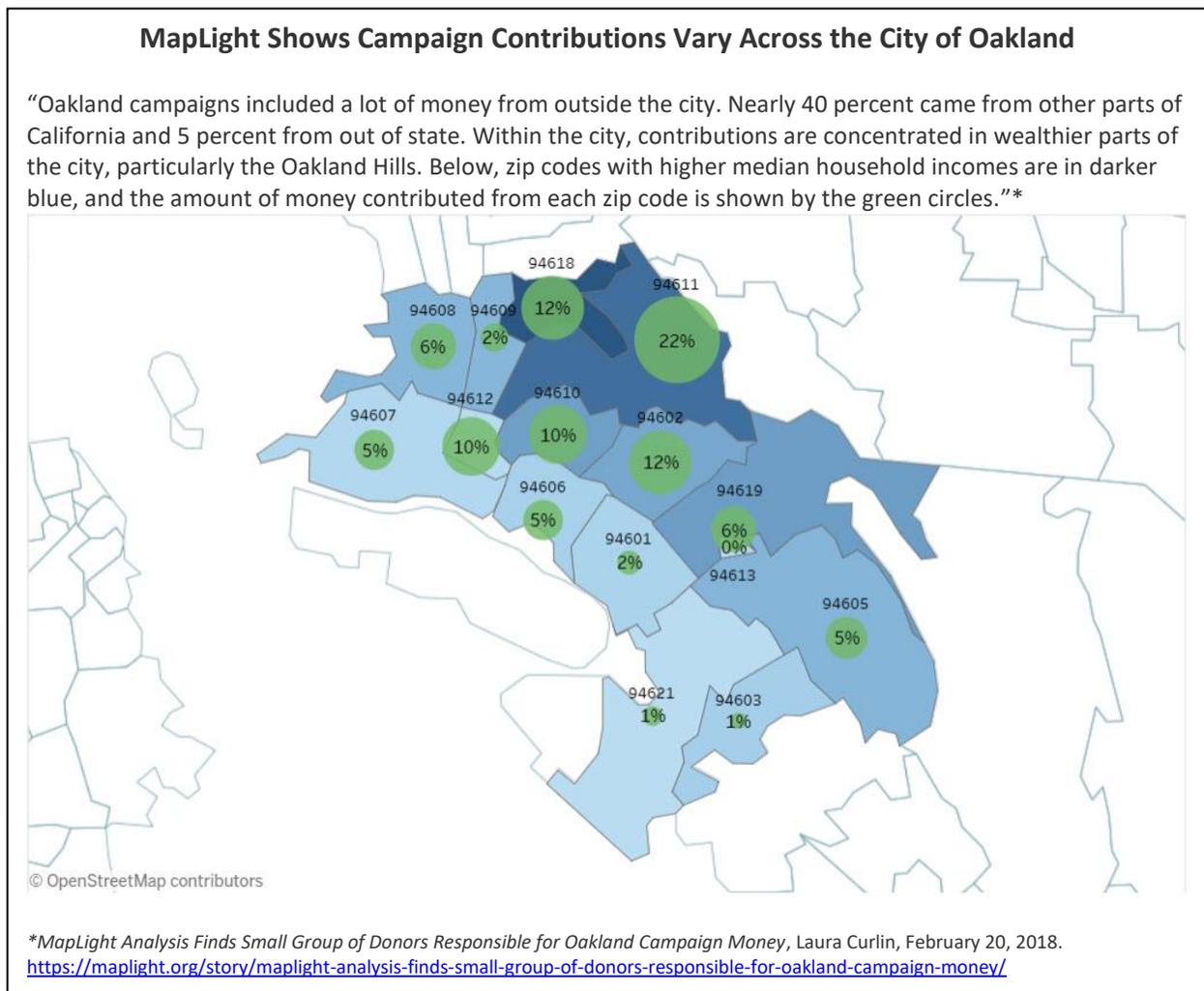


### CLEARER LOBBYIST REGISTRATION

The Commission **proposed changes to the Lobbyist Registration Act** to clarify and align language of the Act with the Commission’s enforcement and complaint procedures, and shift the location for filing lobbyist registration forms from the City Clerk’s office to the Public Ethics Commission to facilitate easier filing and better enforcement. City Council unanimously approved the amended ordinance, which became effective in January 2018.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REDESIGN

As part of the Commission’s project to revise campaign and public financing laws in Oakland, the Commission’s Campaign Finance subcommittee **reviewed best practices and brought together community and national partners to consider potential reforms to the City’s campaign laws.** In October 2017, the subcommittee identified concerns with the City’s existing campaign finance and public financing laws, including data visualizations provided by MapLight that showed clear disparities among racial, socio-economic, and geographic populations participating in the campaign process.



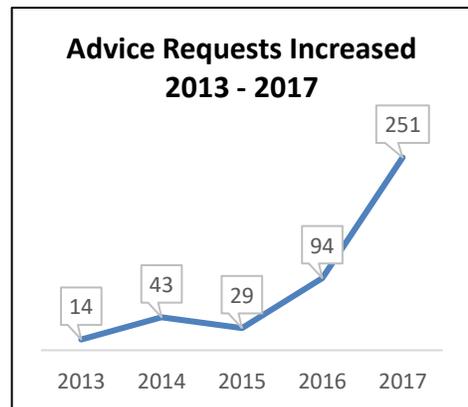
In 2018, the Campaign Finance subcommittee will further explore barriers to participating in the political process that are felt by community members, especially those from low-income communities and communities of color. The hope of the Campaign Finance subcommittee is to bring forward meaningful reforms to local campaign finance and public financing laws, for City Council consideration, that will give all communities an equal opportunity to participate in and to influence our local democracy.

## EDUCATE AND ENGAGE

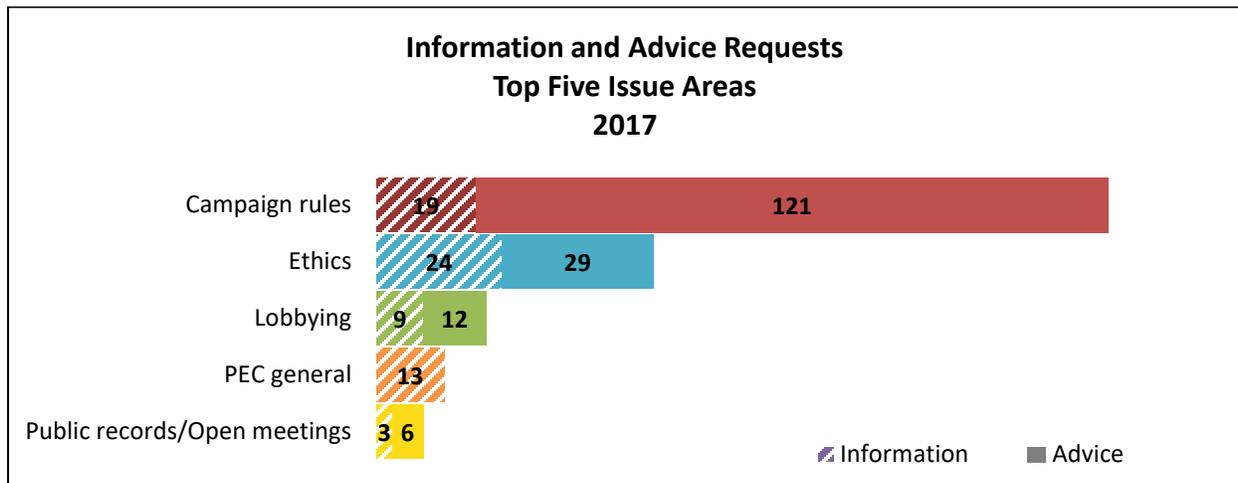
Prevention activities consist of education, outreach, and online information to facilitate compliance with government integrity laws. The Commission educates and advises candidates for local elective office, elected officials, appointed officials, City staff, lobbyists, people doing business with Oakland, City residents, businesses, and organizations.

### ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

In 2017, Commission staff **responded to more advice requests than ever before: 251 requests for information, advice or assistance** regarding campaign finance, ethics, or lobbyist registration issues. This is more than double the number of advice calls in 2016 (94 requests), and it amounts to a seventeen-fold increase from 2013 (14 requests.)



Of the 251 requests received in 2017, 135 of these requests were campaign-related questions, mostly from treasurers, candidates, and law firms seeking to comply with campaign finance laws. Other questions were from City staff and officials, lobbyists, members of the public, and others regarding about lobbying rules, gift restrictions, and conflicts of interests, to name a few.

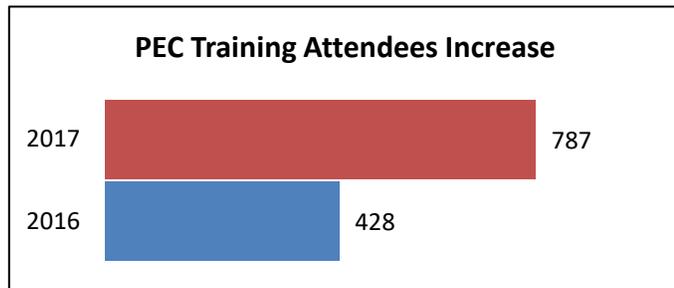


### ETHICS TRAININGS

Commission staff continued to create new ethics trainings and materials in 2017 following its work in 2016 to raise awareness and understanding of the City’s Government Ethics Act of 2014.

The following ethics training activities were continued from the prior year, almost doubling the number of training attendees in 2017:

- **New Employee Orientation** – Commission staff provided introductory ethics training at 12 New Employee Orientation sessions (offered monthly), reaching more than 380 new employees in 2017 (up from 270 in 2016).
- **Supervisor Academy** – Staff provided ethics presentations at three supervisor-level workshops, reaching more than 60 supervisors in various departments throughout the City.
- **Custom Trainings** – Upon the request of the Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development Department, staff presented ethics training to roughly 300 City employees brought on for the Summer in 2017.
- **Ethics in City Boards and Commissions** – Commission staff continued to present introductory ethics trainings to three boards in 2017 for a total of 30 commissioners. In addition, Commission staff also helped facilitate deeper training and discussion among board and commission staff to ensure that these key staff have the resources they need to support their community board members in serving with integrity and complying with government ethics and open meetings laws. This included sharing the PEC’s newly revised Board and Commission Member Handbook and checklist of orientation activities for new members.
- **AB 1234 Training for Elected Officials** – Commission staff continue to facilitate the completion of state-required ethics training for elected officials.



## ONLINE ETHICS TRAINING

Commission staff **designed a new, comprehensive online training** in 2017 for all employees who are required to file a Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests. These “Form 700 filers” include City employees and officials with decision-making authority, from program analysts and managers to Citywide elected officials. The hour-long training covers the Oakland Government Ethics Act and includes hypothetical scenarios and quizzes to enhance participant learning. It was launched through the City’s Target Solutions



**City of Oakland**  
**Government Ethics Training\***

Welcome! Thank you for taking the time to receive this important government ethics training provided by the City’s Public Ethics Commission, or “PEC.”

The PEC is an independent City board that oversees compliance with Oakland’s campaign finance, transparency, lobbying, and ethics laws in order to ensure fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity in City government. The PEC facilitates policy and technology improvements, enforces violations of the law, and educates City officials, staff, and citizens about ethics related laws and policies.

\*This training is composed of audio narration and interactive content. You will need headphones or speakers to listen to the narration.



training program in coordination with the Department of Human Resources at the start of 2018 for all Form 700 filers.

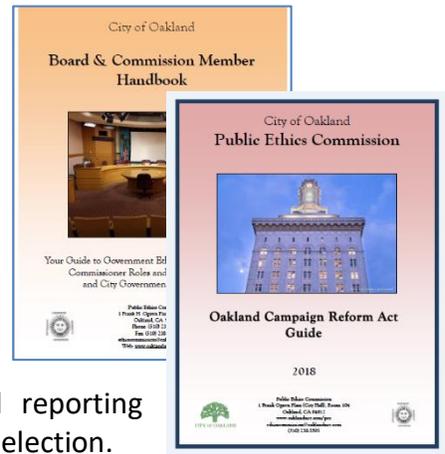
### OUTREACH

The Commission continued its series of community presentations, referred to as the “roadshow,” to connect directly with Oakland residents to share information about the Commission’s growth, role, and activities, and to receive community input on how the Commission can best serve them. Commissioners spoke at seven “roadshow” events, reaching approximately 153 Oaklanders. These outreach events occurred at Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils as well as broader community organization events.

### PUBLICATIONS

The Commission made substantial revisions to two comprehensive guides that are intended to assist the regulated community in complying with local laws.

First, the Board and Commission Member Handbook provides an overview of government ethics and sunshine laws, information about commissioner roles and responsibilities, and background on City government. Second, the Oakland Campaign Reform Act Guide provides an overview of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act provisions, such as contribution limits, expenditure ceilings, and campaign restrictions and reporting requirements for candidates running for City office in the 2018 election.



In addition, the Commission published three Public Trust newsletters as part of its efforts to timely educate readers about City laws, hot topics, and Commission activities.

The newsletter has a distribution reach of about 1,136 individuals who are Commission subscribers, and is also routinely distributed to all City staff and officials, as well as members of the public and Oaklanders attending Commission “roadshow” events.

## DISCLOSE AND ILLUMINATE

The Commission's Disclosure Program aims to help Oaklanders easily access campaign finance and ethics-related data and information that is accurate, user-friendly, and understandable so that the public and Commission staff may monitor filings, view information, and detect inconsistencies or noncompliance. This program utilizes a collaborative transparency approach, which reaches beyond the traditional minimum of providing copies of filings. The Commission proactively shares data in user-centered formats, invites participation and feedback, and facilitates shared discussion around community needs.

### ENSURING CAMPAIGN REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to the City Charter changes of 2014, the **Commission became the City's official filing officer for campaign statements on January 1, 2017**. This means that candidates and committees raising and spending money for Oakland candidates or campaigns must file their campaign finance forms with the Commission instead of the City Clerk's office, facilitating the Commission's ability to ensure that filers receive education and assistance with filing responsibilities and that filers are complying with the law. In 2017, Commission staff focused on establishing communications with filers through email, GovDelivery, and social media, raising awareness of the PEC's filing officer role and available resources, providing technical assistance to filers, conducting facial review of statements filed, and reaching out to non-filers to obtain timely compliance. In total, Commission staff reviewed 122 campaign statements in 2017 and assessed \$4,465 in late fees against 10 filers. Commission staff referred non-filers to the Commission's Enforcement Unit, resulting the opening of five enforcement cases.

As of December 2017, the City of Oakland has 98 active committees required to file periodic campaign disclosure statements, 35 candidate and officeholder committees, 37 major donor committees, 17 general purpose committees, 5 primarily-formed ballot measure committees, and 4 independent expenditure committees.

### ILLUMINATING DISCLOSURE DATA

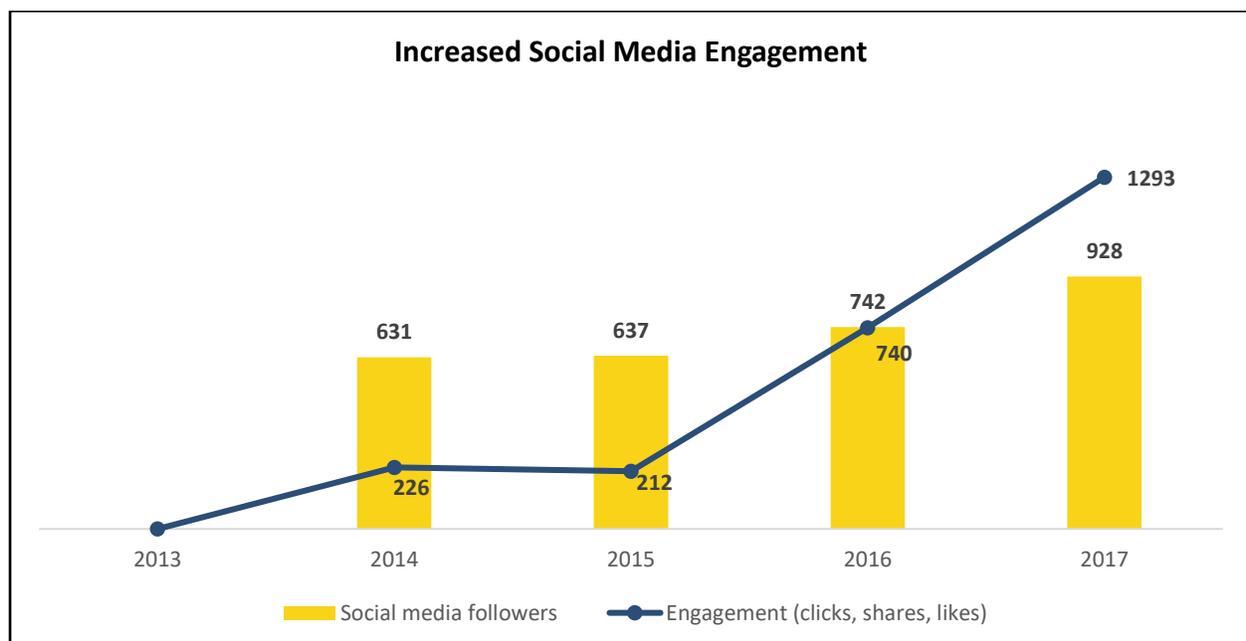
**Lobbyist Registration** – As of December 2017, **Oaklanders can now search, view and download lobbyist registration and quarterly activity reports online** through a portal hosted by the City's e-reporting vendor Netfile. Commission staff worked with Netfile to implement this feature, at no additional cost to the City, which enhances public access and streamlines maintenance of lobbyist information. The goal of the lobbyist registration disclosure project is to facilitate compliance with the Lobbyist Registration Act and to share information about lobbyist activities with the public. In 2017, 61 lobbyists submitted lobbyist reports to the City disclosing over \$1,821,000 in compensation received by lobbyists to influence City officials and \$17,600 in solicited contributions to Oakland officials. This is an increase of 14 lobbyists compared with 2016 filings.

**Charitable Contributions Made at the Request of Elected Officials (Behested Payments)** – The Commission now provides public access to disclosure reports that share payments made to a non-profit organization at the request (or “behest”) of an elected official. These “Behested Payments” are reported by the elected official on an FPPC Form 803 filed with the Commission and available for public inspection. Commission staff educated officials about this report requirement in recent years, and the first of these forms was submitted in 2014. Commission staff further initiated a project in 2017 to create an electronic filing system in coordination with the City’s Information Technology Department to simplify filing and eventually make the data easily accessible and searchable online for the public.

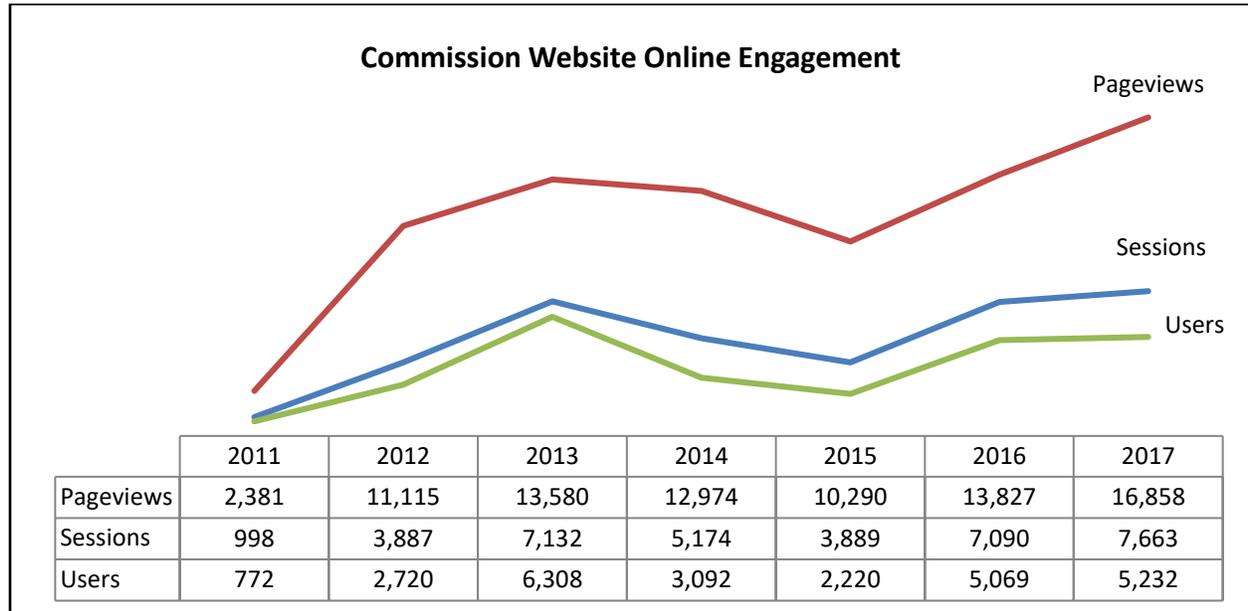
**Campaign Finance Disclosure** – In 2016, Commission staff worked with OpenOakland volunteers to redesign and expand the Open Disclosure website, [www.opendisclosure.io](http://www.opendisclosure.io), to show the City’s campaign data for all Oakland candidates and ballot measures online through an interactive and user-friendly interface. Although 2017 was a non-election year, Commission staff continued to collaborate with OpenOakland volunteers to improve the website’s features, including adding daily automatic updates, a contributor search tool, and mapping contribution patterns by district.

## ONLINE ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

In 2017, Commission staff experimented with best practices in marketing to create content to improve the PEC’s social media engagement. Staff highlighted PEC policy areas, activities, or client groups each month to maximize reach, resulting in far more social media activity in 2017 than prior years in terms of posts, tweets, new followers, and engagement with PEC content. Social media posts generated 79,145 impressions (views of PEC content), and 1,293 user engagements (likes, shares, retweets, clicks on links, and new followers). The PEC now has nearly 1,000 followers of its social media accounts, a 25 percent increase from 2016 and a 46 percent increase from 2015.



Commission staff **continued to augment the Commission’s website** to enhance the quality of information for the Commission’s clients. Visitors to the Commission’s webpages in 2016 and 2017 almost doubled in the number of users in 2014 and 2015 combined, and the number of user sessions on PEC pageviews increased 63 percent during that same timeframe.



### USER-CENTERED DESIGN

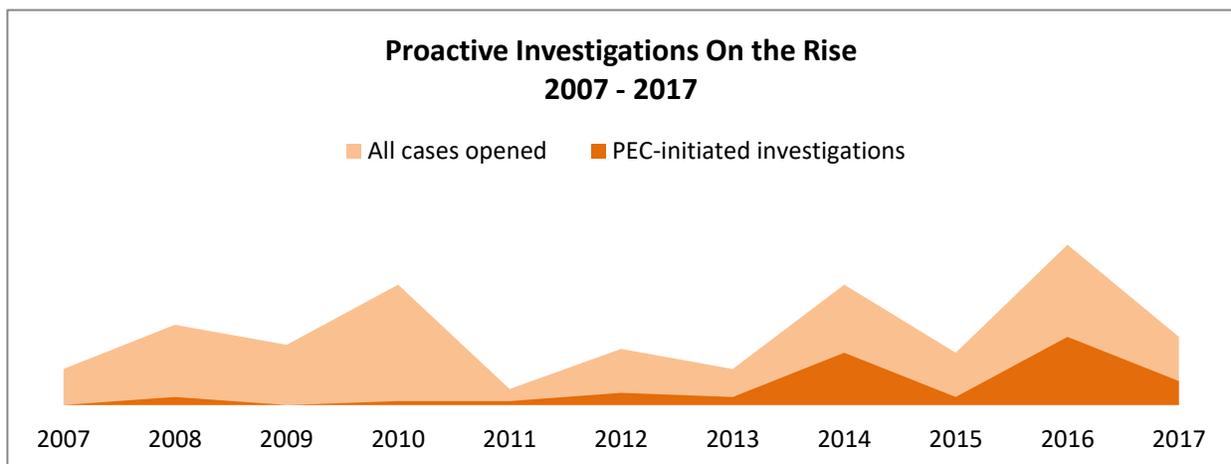
PEC staff **initiated a user needs assessment project in collaboration with the OpenOakland Civic User Testing (CUT) group to assess the quality of its website.** Information gathered through user surveys and client interviews has been incorporated into the Commission’s share of the Citywide website redesign to go live in 2018.

## ENFORCEMENT

The Commission conducts investigations, holds public hearings, issues subpoenas, and imposes fines and penalties as provided for by ordinance. City ordinances give the Commission the authority to impose penalties for violations of ethics laws, campaign finance laws, and lobbyist registration requirements. The Commission also can mediate or recommend “cure and correction” for violations of public records and open meetings laws, respectively.

### PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT

The Commission’s enforcement team has **significantly increased the number and complexity of proactive (staff-initiated) investigations opened** – both ethics and campaign finance – resulting in proactive cases constituting 36% of all cases opened in the past 4 years, compared with .04% over the 1997-2013 timeframe.



### NEW COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS OPENED

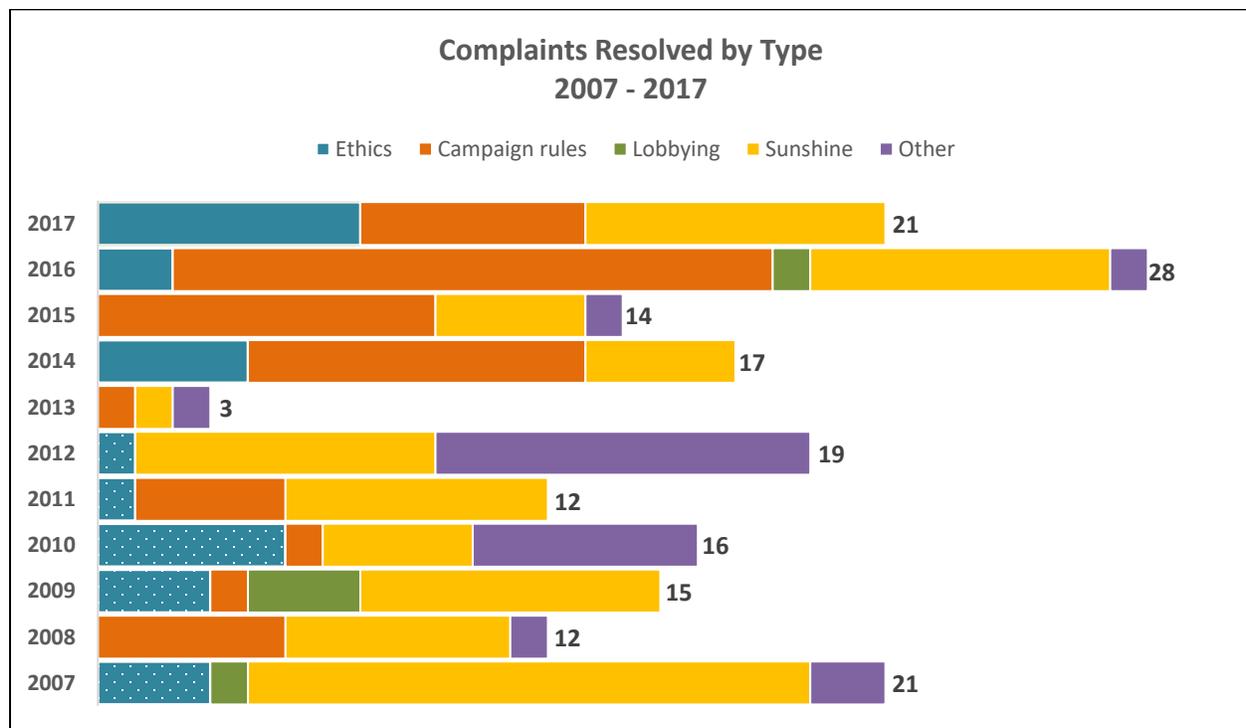
The Commission **received 16 formal complaints in 2017** alleging violations of campaign finance, conflicts of interest, open meetings, public records, and other ethics-related laws; 3 of those 16 complaints resulted in the opening of an investigation. In addition, Commission staff **opened 6 cases proactively** based on hearing or reading of suspicious activities, receiving anonymous tips, or obtaining information from third parties. The Commission also **received one referral from the California Fair Political Practices Commission** that led to the opening of an investigation.

As a result, Commission staff **reviewed or initiated a total of 23 allegations** of potential violations in 2017. This compares to 41 in 2016, 14 in 2015, 29 in 2014, nine in 2013, 14 in 2012, and five in 2011.

Commission investigative staff **issued seven subpoenas, including bank subpoenas for the first time, for documents related to its investigations** in 2017.

## CURRENT FOCUS ON MORE COMPLEX ETHICS CASES

After City Council approved the Commission’s proposed Government Ethics Act in 2014, which codified and strengthened ethics laws locally while equipping the Commission with authority to enforce ethics laws, **ethics-related cases are becoming far more prominent among the Commission’s enforcement caseload.** This is an important step forward for the Commission and the City, as ethics cases such as bribery, misuse of public resources, conflicts of interest, unlawful gifts, and failure to report gifts, tickets, or outside income typically are more serious, more complex, and more impactful than cases in other issue areas. The graphic below shows the types of cases that have been resolved each year, with pre-2014 ethics cases noted in blue with white dots. These pre-2014 cases were not actionable by the Commission without a local ethics ordinance and were therefore automatically dismissed without action.



Of the Commission’s 34 pending cases in December 2017, 17 involve ethics-related matters, 12 cases are campaign finance-related, four are Sunshine issues, and one is a lobbyist registration issue.

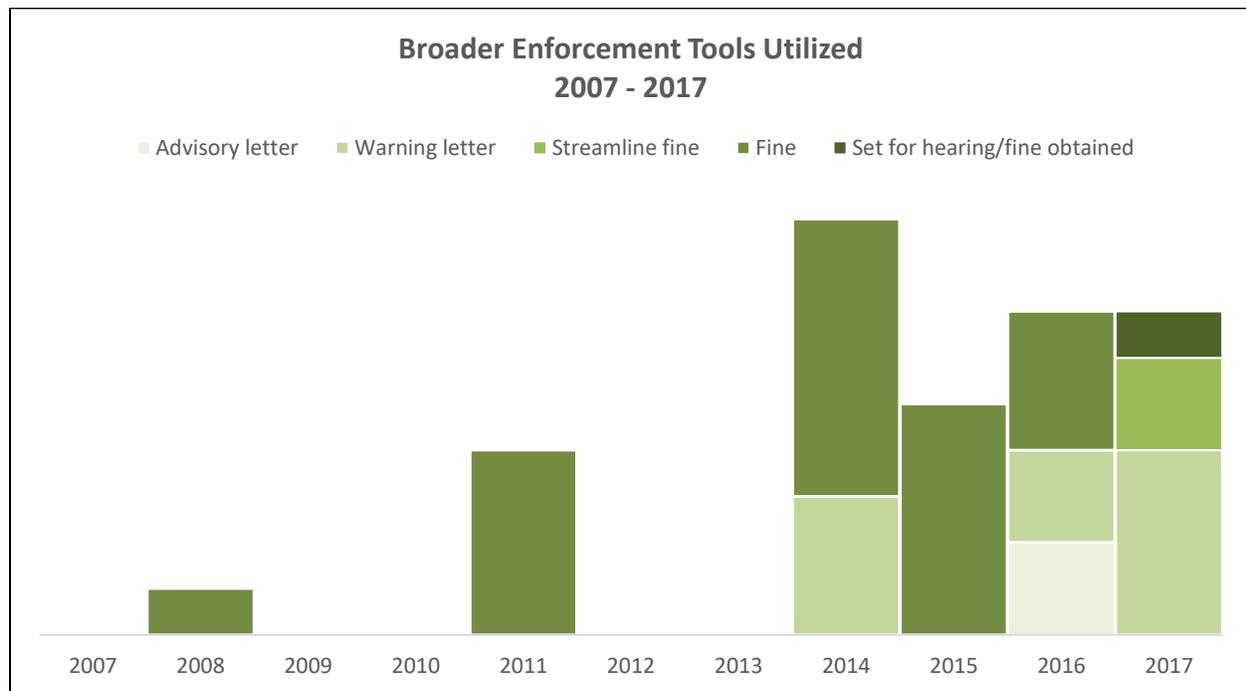
## BROADER ARRAY OF ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

By the end of 2017, the Commission **resolved 21 cases and imposed \$1,331 in penalties.** The 21 cases the Commission closed in 2017 were resolved as follows:

- Three fines (2 streamlined)
- Four warning letters
- Two mediations completed (Public Records Requests)
- Two cases closed after an investigation and legal review found no violation

- Ten complaints dismissed following a preliminary review, with Commission staff finding no cause of action within the Commission’s jurisdiction

Compared to past years, the enforcement team’s work this year reflects a broader spread of enforcement tools utilized, with more warning letters, first-time use of streamlined penalties (small, quick fines for low-level violations), and two findings of probable cause showing the Commission ready and able to proceed to an administrative hearing where necessary. This array of enforcement actions, combined with expanded ethics enforcement authority, demonstrates a stronger, more diverse, and more agile enforcement program than in past years.



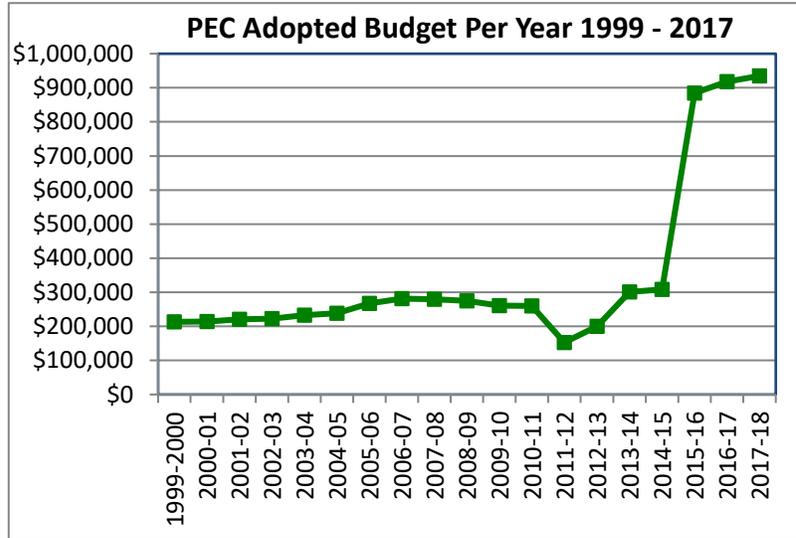
## ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES

**The Commission continued to prioritize enforcement activities** based on the following considerations to determine priority level: 1) the extent of Commission authority to issue penalties; 2) the impact of a Commission decision; 3) public interest, timing, and relevancy; and 4) Commission resources. The Commission also **prioritized all backlogged cases** that were received by the Commission prior to 2014, all of which were resolved by staff in 2017.

## ADMINISTRATION

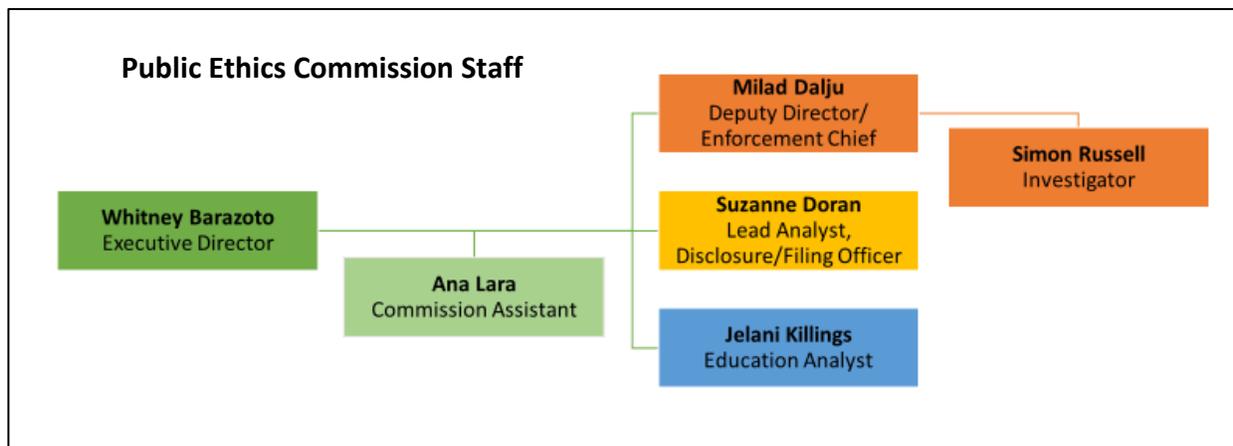
### BUDGET

The adopted budget for the Commission was \$917,989 for Fiscal Year 2016-17, and is \$934,746 for Fiscal Year 2017-18. The Commission’s budget tripled because of the City Charter amendment in 2014, with funding effective July 2015 for six full-time positions.



### STAFFING

Following the July 2015 budget augmentation, the Commission worked with the Department of Human Resources to recruit and hire staff into the five new positions, with hiring completed by August 2016. This makes 2017 the first year in which the Commission was fully-staffed for the entire year.



Commission staff are responsible for the Commission’s day-to-day operations, including investigations and enforcement casework, education and advice, data collection and illumination activities, and law and policy projects. Staff continue to **participate in ongoing professional development**, including opportunities through the Council of Government Ethics Laws, Code for America, the National Institute on Money in State Politics, and the League of California Cities. Commission staff also **hosted staff from each state and local ethics commission in California** in the first-ever Local Ethics Commissions Summit in Oakland in August 2017 to share best practices and collaborate on issues of mutual interest.

## 2017 COMMISSIONERS

### Marc Pilotin, Chair

City Attorney Appointee 3/5/2015 - 1/21/2018



Marc Pilotin is a trial attorney with the Office of the Solicitor for the U.S. Department of Labor. Previously, he was an associate at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, where he represented consumers and employees, and a law clerk to a federal district judge in Oakland. Prior to law school, he worked as a fourth-grade teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District and as the administrative director for the UCLA Center for American Politics and Public Policy.

Mr. Pilotin received his bachelor's degree in Political Science and Psychology and his master's degree in education from UCLA. He received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall). In addition to serving on the Public Ethics Commission, Mr. Pilotin serves on the board of directors for the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California.

### Krisida Nishioka, Vice-Chair

Commission Appointee 1/22/2016 - 1/21/2019

Krisida Nishioka is a retired Mental Health Hearing Officer for Alameda County and Santa Clara County. Prior to that appointment, she worked as an attorney in the Office of the County Counsel for Alameda County and as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Oakland. Ms. Nishioka was born in Louisiana and moved to California during the migration of African Americans from the segregated South during the 1960's. Ms. Nishioka began her college education while awaiting the birth of her 5th child. She completed her studies in 4 years and began her law school education at Boalt Hall, University of California School of Law, Berkeley. While in law school, Ms. Nishioka clerked at the Neighborhood Legal Services Office in Berkeley California.



After graduation, Ms. Nishioka worked for various federal agencies while remaining active in neighborhood organizations near her homes on East 27th Street and later on Hanover Avenue. Ms. Nishioka has been a member of the Committee of Bar Examiners, serving on the Moral Character subcommittee. She served as a member of the State Bar Committees on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, Human Rights and Public Employment. Ms. Nishioka was on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Mental Health Hearing Officers, Oakland Youth Chorus, Family Builders by Adoption, Black Women Lawyers, Law and Government Academy for the Oakland Unified School District, and Sisters 3, a breast cancer advocacy group for African American women, among others.

### Lisa Crowfoot

Mayoral Appointee 1/22/2017 - 1/21/2020



Lisa Crowfoot is an attorney who has practiced law and been engaged in California for almost 2 decades. She currently enjoys doing legal work for an international solar and storage company that is a leading innovator in the space. Previously, she was a partner at a national law firm where her litigation practice focused on representing and counseling design professionals, builders and developers. In that practice, Mrs. Crowfoot gained experience regarding the various rules, regulations and limits that apply to both public servants and those seeking to do business with public entities. She also gained an appreciation for the importance of transparency and openness in governance. She joined the Public Ethics Committee with the hope of strengthening Oakland by helping to ensure fairness, openness, honesty and integrity in government. Mrs. Crowfoot obtained her B.A. degree in English Literature from the University of Colorado, Boulder and her J.D. degree from Whittier Law School. She is an active volunteer who is dedicated to supporting her community. She and her husband enjoy raising their daughter near beautiful Lake Merritt.

## Dana King

Commission Appointee 1/22/2015 - 1/21/2018

Dana King traveled the world during her 25-year career as a broadcast journalist. She reported from Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Taiwan, Kosovo, Central America, Ghana, and Rwanda. Ms. King is the recipient of 5 Emmy Awards. She also earned an Edward R. Murrow Award for her reporting on the aftermath of the Rwandan Genocide.



In 2012, Ms. King announced she would be leaving San Francisco's KPIX-TV to pursue her lifelong passion for creating art. She is currently working on a commemorative sculpture for the City of Berkeley of civil rights leader and former California Assemblyman Byron Rumford, whose significant legislation changed the landscape for minorities in California with regard to housing and employment. Ms. King volunteers with "Rites of Passage", a program for young men jailed in the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center's maximum-security units. She is the Distinguished Journalist in Residence at Dominican University of California.

## Gail Kong

Commission Appointee 1/22/2017 - 1/21/2020



Gail Kong is a retired nonprofit and government executive. Most recently she was founding President of the Asian Pacific Fund, a community foundation serving the San Francisco Bay Area dedicated to increasing philanthropy among Asians. As President she was responsible for raising more than \$28 million, primarily from Asian donors and designing and executing grants, education, and cultural programs. Prior to her return to the West Coast in 1990, Ms. Kong was Executive Director of the City Volunteer Corps, a demonstration program that was the precursor to AmeriCorps, and head of the New York City foster care and child protective services agency. She also held executive staff positions in the New York City Human Resources Administration. She

has served on several nonprofit boards including Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the Diversity in Health Training Institute.

A graduate of Stanford University with graduate studies at Hunter College School of Social Work and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Ms. Kong was born and raised in Gilroy, California and is a third-generation Chinese American. She has lived in Oakland for 21 years.

## Jodie Smith

Commission Appointee 6/22/2017 - 1/21/2020

Jodie Smith is an attorney with Moscone Emblidge & Otis LLP in San Francisco. She specializes in resolving civil disputes, especially public law issues. She was a fellow in the California Attorney General's Civil Law Division, a clerk in the Oakland City Attorney's Office, and an extern for the Honorable Joseph C. Spero, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. Prior to practicing law, Jodie worked in and around state government as the Public Policy Director for Texans Care for Children, an analyst in the Texas House of Representatives, a public servant in two agencies, and an adjunct instructor in Government at Austin Community College.



Ms. Smith graduated from Texas Christian University in political science and continued on to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government for a Master of Public Policy degree. She later moved to California, where she obtained her law degree from U.C. Hastings College of the Law. Ms. Smith chairs the Civic & Judicial Appointments Committee of the Queen's Bench Bar Association and represents young people in school expulsion matters with Legal Services for Children.

**Jonathan Stein**

City Auditor Appointee 1/22/2016 - 1/21/2019



Jonathan Stein is head of the voting rights program at Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus and was formerly a voting rights attorney at the ACLU of California. His work is focused on increasing access to California's democracy for historically disenfranchised communities, including communities of color, low-income communities, people with disabilities, young people, and the formerly incarcerated. He is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the government reform nonprofit organization California Common Cause.

While studying to receive his master's in public policy and J.D. from UC Berkeley, Mr. Stein served as the Student Regent on the University of California's Board of Regents, advocating for the interests of 230,000 student constituents across the UC system. At Berkeley Law, Mr. Stein was a member of the Men of Color Alliance and the South Asian Law Student Association. Prior to graduate school, Mr. Stein spent four years at Mother Jones magazine as a researcher, assistant editor, blogger, and campaign correspondent during the 2008 presidential elections.