

Print

**Application for Appointment to Board, Commission, Committee, Task Force or Position -
Submission #628**

Date Submitted: 11/27/2018

Applicants appointed by the Board of Supervisors will be required to take an oath of office. All applications will be kept on file for one year from the date of application.

Public Records Act

Applications are public records that are subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. Information provided by the applicant is not regarded as confidential except for the addresses and phone numbers of references and the applicant's personal information including home and work addresses, phone numbers and email address.

Form 700 Conflict of Interest Code

[California Fair Political Practices Website](#)

Please note that appointees may be required by state law and county conflict of interest code to file financial disclosure statements.

Application for Appointment to:

Napa County Housing Commission

Name of Board, Commission, Committee, Task Force or Position.

Category of Membership for Which You Are Applying*

Someone interested and/or experienced in affordable housing and/or farmworker housing.

This information can be found on the news release announcing the opening. You may apply for more than one category if more than one position is open.

Personal Information

The following information is provided in confidence, but may be used by the Board of Supervisors when making the appointment, or be used by the Committee/Commission/Board/Task Force following appointment for purposes of communicating with the appointee.

Full Name*

Robert Louis Palmer

Supervisorial District in Which You Reside*

District 3

Home Address***City***

Yountville

State*

CA

Zip*

94599

Phone***Email Address*****Work Address*****City***

Yountville

State*

CA

Zip*

94599

Work Phone***Current Occupation***

Attorney

Within the last 12 months

Current License

California, Arizona, District of Columbia

Professional or occupational, date of issue, and expiration including status

Education/Experience

B.A. Georgetown University, 1968; J.D. Columbia Law School, 1971

Resume

RLP Rez.docx

Attach a resume containing this and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating your application.

Community Participation

"Live Healthy Napa County" meetings and workshops; pro bono legal services; LA county Inns of Court; Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest

Nature of activity and community location

Other County Board/Commission/Committee on Which You Serve/Have Served

n/a

Public Actions that may impact Credit Rating

n/a

List all court or other public administration actions impacting your credit rating within the past ten (10) years.

Provide names, addresses and phone numbers of 3 individuals who are familiar with your background.

Reference 1**Name***

Jeff Streblow

Phone*

[REDACTED]

Address*

City*

Napa

State*

CA

Zip*

94558

.....

Reference 2

Name*

Michael Jankiewicz

Phone*

Address*

City*

Napa

State*

CA

Zip*

94558

.....

Reference 3

Name*

Eric Schlienger

Phone*

Address*

City*

Napa

State*

CA

Zip*

94558

Name and occupation of spouse within the last 12 months, if married.

Mary G. Palmer, retired special education teacher

For Conflict of Interest purposes

Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you could contribute.*

Through participation in "Live Healthy Napa County" community meetings, I have become very interested in finding affordable housing solutions for our community, and have a general desire to engage in community service. I believe my background gives me skills in problem evaluation and solving, and people and communication skills, that would be useful in the Commission's work.

Responded☐ Yes**Completed**☐ Yes**I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.***☒ Yes☐ No**Electronic Signature Agreement**

By checking the "I agree" box below, you agree and acknowledge that 1) your application will not be signed in the sense of a traditional paper document, 2) by signing in this alternate manner, you authorize your electronic signature to be valid and binding upon you to the same force and effect as a handwritten signature, and 3) you may still be required to provide a traditional signature at a later date.

☒ I agree.**Electronic Signature**

Robert L. Palmer

Date

11/27/2018

12:00 PM

Robert L. Palmer

Purpose

This resume is submitted in support of my application for appointment to the Napa County Housing Commission, in response to the County's November 15, 2018 invitation for applications. I would like to be considered as a person "interested and/or experienced in affordable housing and/or farmworker housing."

Background Summary

I have been a practicing lawyer since 1971, admitted to practice in California, Arizona and the District of Columbia. I am now semi-retired, continuing to work on several matters of particular interest but able to devote the bulk of my time to other activities.

We have owned our house in Yountville, and have been regular Napa visitors since 2003. When I scaled back my legal work, my wife Mary and I moved to Northern California to live full time, and Yountville is our permanent residence. We have three grown daughters, two of whom live in Napa with their families.

Work Experience

McKool Smith P.C., Los Angeles, California

October 2011 to present

- McKool Smith is a national law firm. In October 2011, my previous firm merged with McKool Smith.
- I am a Principal with the firm. My areas of practice are all litigation-related, in the areas of general commercial litigation, False Claims Act litigation and human rights litigation.

Hennigan Dorman, LLC, Los Angeles, California

May 1996-September 2011

- Hennigan Dorman was a Los Angeles law firm devoted entirely to litigation, generally but not exclusively representing clients in commercial disputes. Hennigan Dorman was established in the Spring of 1996 and I was asked to join the firm when it was established.
- My practice focused on general commercial litigation and mediation, securities litigation, False Claims Act litigation and civil rights litigation.
- I was a partner in Hennigan Dorman throughout my tenure and, from approximately August 1996 until the merger with McKool Smith, was the Firm's Managing Partner.

Osborn Maledon, Phoenix, Arizona

March 1976-April 1996

- Osborn Maledon was and is a general practice law firm in Phoenix, Arizona, representing clients in a wide range of areas including but not limited to commercial litigation, criminal defense, False Claims Act disputes, contracts and mergers & acquisitions.

- My practice focused on general commercial litigation, antitrust litigation, securities litigation, False Claims Act litigation and civil rights litigation.
- I was an associate attorney with Osborn Maledon in 1976 and was a partner thereafter until I left in April 1996 to join Hennigan Dorman.

Covington & Burling, Washington, D.C. August 1972-May 1973, November 1974-February 1976

- Covington & Burling was and is national law firm with a general practice, including litigation and matters related to governments programs and contracts.
- I was an associate attorney with Covington & Burling, focused entirely on commercial and *pro bono* litigation.
- The break in my tenure with that firm was due to my service with the Watergate Special Prosecution Force.

Watergate Special Prosecution Force, Washington, D.C. June 1973-October 1974

- The WSPF was formed in May 1973 to investigate matters related to the Nixon Administration and its personnel.
- I was an Assistant Special Prosecutor. My duties included investigations of various alleged criminal activities of persons in and associated with the Nixon Administration, including illegal campaign contributions and matters related to the attempt to suppress or discredit the Pentagon Papers disclosures by Daniel Ellsberg.
- I also served for a time as Assistant Counsel to the Special Prosecutor, representing the office in judicial proceedings.

Hon. Harold Leventhal, Washington, D.C. August 1971-July 1972

- After graduation from law school, I served as law clerk to Judge Harold Leventhal, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.
- As his law clerk, my duties were to assist Judge Leventhal with the evaluation of appeals brought before his Court, to perform research and to prepare draft opinions.

Education

Columbia Law School, New York, NY September 1968-June 1971

- I received a Juris Doctor degree in June 1971.
- I was elected to the Columbia Law Review after my first year and served on the Board of the Review, as Notes and Comments Editor, in my third year.

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. September 1964-June 1968

- I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in June 1968, with a major in Economics.

Relevant Skills and Additional Information

- I have good analytical and communication skills, and am trained and experienced in comparative evaluation of proposed solutions to complex problems.
- I have considerable experience and have been successful in collaborative problems solving. That comes, among other things, from my role as a law firm managing partner, from representing clients in settlement and mediation proceedings and from formal training in conducting mediations in a 2015 intensive program through Pepperdine Law School.
- I have a long-term interest in constructive social change. In addition to *pro bono* litigation work for disadvantaged clients over my career, I served on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest for approximately 6 years and was its President for three. More recently my wife and I have been regular participants in the workshops and roundtables of the “Live Healthy Napa County” study and program.
- Our home in Yountville has a separate studio unit. Based on my experience with LHNC and conversations with county personnel involved in housing issues, we have offered and plan to continue to offer that unit for lease at affordable rent to locally employed people in non-highly compensated work.
- Housing problems are of critical concern both locally and nationally. I believe the best solutions to housing availability and affordability can be those fashioned locally by engaged community leaders and members, tailored to local circumstances. I am very interested in the opportunity to participate in the Commission’s work. Being semi-retired, I would have no difficulty devoting the time and attention necessary to be an active and contributing member of the Commission.