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Public Ethics Commission Application

Contact Information

Name	Avi Klein
Address	
Phone	
Evening Phone	
Email	

Please answer the following questions

Are you an Oakland resident?	Yes
Years of residency in Oakland	7
Your City Council District	District 1
Have you attended a Public Ethics Commission meeting?	Yes
Are you currently employed by the City of Oakland or do you have any direct and substantial financial interest in any work, business, or official action by the City?	No
Are you currently or are you planning to run for elective office in Oakland?	No
Are you currently or are you planning to endorse, support or oppose an Oakland candidate or ballot measure?	No
Are you currently or are you planning to work on behalf of an Oakland candidate or ballot measure?	No
Are you a registered Oakland lobbyist?	No

Are you required to register as a lobbyist?

No

Do you receive compensation from an Oakland lobbyist?

No

Do you receive gifts from an Oakland lobbyist?

No

How did you hear about this vacancy?

email announcement

Supplemental Questions

1. Why do you want to serve on the Public Ethics Commission?

Democratic governance relies on public confidence in the integrity of elected officials and civil services. In an era where the most corrupt have a vested interest in destroying the public's faith in honest services - for if everyone is seen to be corrupt, then the most corrupt escape inquiry - it is more important than ever that independent bodies like the Public Ethics Commission act as strong voices and critics.

Stopping corruption, building transparent institutions and contributing to the democratic process motivate me to serve on the Commission. Many years ago, when I was on staff with the Obama presidential campaign, the president charged all of us - staff and supporters - to get involved and serve our local communities. I have wanted to do so for some time but haven't found the venue where I felt I could donate my knowledge and background in an effective way.

2. What skills and experience will you bring to the Commission? (Include any governmental experience, activities with civic and business organizations, neighborhood groups, or any other experience that would contribute to your effectiveness as a Commissioner.)

Trained as a lawyer, but working in politics, journalism and investigations, my entire career has been focused on the combination of business and government as seen through the lens of public records and interviews. Earlier in my career, I was research director at a nonprofit organization that focused on money-in-politics issues, and I have developed extensive experience reviewing campaign finance reports and financial disclosures for indicia of corruption.

Likewise, my practice as a corporate private investigator is focused mainly on commercial fraud and identifying illegal or unethical activity. This work has included an investigation connected to the ongoing federal investigation into contracting and permits in San Francisco. I am well-versed in the manners and methods of public corruption and would like to add these skills to the Commission's toolkit.

Item 6a - Avi Klein

3. What issues, projects, or goals would you like to pursue while serving on the Commission?

To enhance the Commission's investigative work both through my own ability to assist on complex investigations, and training for staff and other commission members.

To build out a proactive investigations process, through examination of public records and press reports, to identify possible loci of corruption before they are formally brought to the Commission's attention. For instance, periodic review of federal and state civil litigation by local companies can help identify fraud matters that are unknown to the city and that might impact public ethics.

To review the public records appeal system to improve transparency and responsiveness.

4. What do you think are the City's most pressing ethics, campaign finance, or transparency challenges?

The growth of real estate development and cannabis present the city with two booming industries that have a long history of attracting corrupt actors. A proactive, forward leaning approach to anti-corruption issues can give the Commission additional teeth in both enforcement and deterrence.

5. What else would you like the subcommittee to know as your application is considered?

If selected, you will find me to be a prepared, engaged and enthusiastic colleague.

Please provide two references

Reference 1

Name

Alan Levins

Address

Phone

Email

Reference 2

Name

Jacob Klein (no relation)

Address

Phone

Email

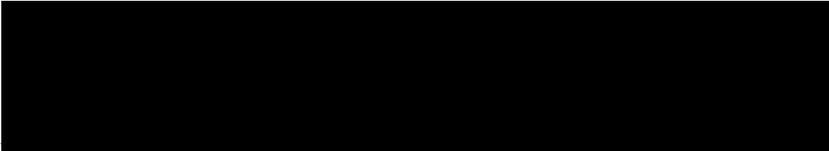
Submit your resume

Upload your resume



Sign and submit application

Signature



Date/Time

Aug 19, 2020

AVI KLEIN



WORK EXPERIENCE

THE KLEIN GROUP, Oakland, CA

May 2018 – Present

Managing Partner

- Originated and conducted more than 100 investigations on behalf of litigators and general counsel, including tracing major commercial fraud, asset searches and background checks.

THE MINTZ GROUP, San Francisco, CA

August 2013 – December 2017

Managing Investigator

- Manage and conduct corporate litigation investigations, including commercial fraud, employment disputes, white collar defense and intellectual property matters. Led a 1.5 year, ongoing fraud matter from engagement, the initiation of litigation, through (to date) discovery and trial preparation.
- West coast lead for on-site physical security reviews on behalf of a commercial real estate company.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, Chicago, IL

July 2011 – November 2012

Research Associate

- Led 1.5 year examination of private equity issues relevant to the 2012 Obama campaign, focused on identifying through public records all relevant investments, business transactions, adverse events and litigation dating to the 1980s.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN, Washington, DC

February 2008 – July 2011

Research Director (June 2010-July 2011)

- Research in support of accountability, independent expenditure and legislative efforts focused on campaign finance reform.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW SCHOOL

Juris Doctor, 2004

Admitted to Maryland Bar Association, 2005

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 2000

