

Statement of Ann Ravel
Nominee to be Commissioner of the Federal Election Commission

Nomination Hearing before the Senate Rules Committee
July 24, 2013

Chairman Schumer, Ranking Member Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration:

I am very grateful to you for scheduling this hearing to consider my nomination to serve on the Federal Election Commission (FEC). I also wish to express my deep appreciation to President Obama for his confidence.

I would like to introduce my very supportive family and friends.

It is an honor and a privilege to be here. I know how important it is to live in a country in which the government is truly a representative one, and in which each citizen has the opportunity to take part in the governing process.

I am the child of two orphans, who both grew up in poverty. They would have been very proud to see their daughter sitting in these chambers as a Presidential nominee to the FEC.

My parents forever instilled in me a devotion to democratic values and public service. Through hard work and the opportunities afforded to him by living in America, my father obtained a PhD and became a professor. My mother was an immigrant from Latin America who, after becoming a naturalized citizen, had enormous pride in being able to vote and take part in the political process.

My parents stressed the importance of being an engaged participant in our representative democracy. Throughout my career, I have endeavored to fulfill their charge.

I have worked at every level of government. As the County Counsel for Santa Clara, a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Justice and the Chair of the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), I devoted decades to independently analyzing, adhering to the language

and intent of statutory and case law, and writing and interpreting regulations consistent with the law.

As Chair of the FPPC, I have undertaken an overhaul of a complex and sometimes contradictory regulatory scheme to ensure that the regulations supporting the Political Reform Act, which was enacted directly by the voters of California, are consistent with the statute's original intent.

While at the Department of Justice, I helped to develop a regulatory structure to ensure that legislation providing compensation for the 9/11 first responders was properly implemented. I met with interested parties, listened to their concerns, analyzed the law and worked to build consensus among stakeholders in a manner consistent with Congress's intent as enshrined in legislation.

Throughout my career, I have worked hard to build consensus, and interpret and apply the law in a neutral and evenhanded manner, regardless of party affiliation. While serving as County Counsel for a politically diverse Board, my advice and analysis was always, above all else, clear, unbiased, and honest.

The FPPC is a non-partisan agency, which is in many ways California's equivalent of the FEC. I work closely with members of both political parties to uphold the rule of law and to enforce and clarify an intricate regulatory regime.

The FEC is as important now as it was when Congress created it more than three decades ago. The transparency required by the FEC can empower each and every citizen to participate in the political process.

If confirmed, I will use my experience, devotion to public service and the rule of law, and commitment to work on a bipartisan basis, to ensure that the Commission serves the important mission it was created to accomplish.

Thank you again for the invitation to appear. I am happy to answer questions you may have.

ANN M. RAVEL
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EDUCATION

Law – Hastings College of the Law, JD 1974
Undergraduate: University of California, Berkeley, Philosophy B.A. 1970

Graduate Programs:

Straus Institute for Dispute resolution, Pepperdine School of Law
University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Negotiations program
Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Program for Government Officials

EMPLOYMENT

March 2011 – Present Chair, California Fair Political Practices Commission
Appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

The FPPC is an independent regulatory and quasi-judicial state agency which oversees government ethics (including conflict of interests and revolving door), political campaign matters, and lobbying. As the only full-time member of the Commission, I have authority over management of the Agency, policy, and the determination of priorities, with the approval of the Commission. The FPPC provides education and advice on our rules to the public and the regulated community, while also playing a major role in the disclosure of important public information. The FPPC issues regulations in furtherance of the purposes of the Political Reform Act, and enforces the law. The Commission sits in a quasi-judicial capacity on matters of enforcement or appeals from enforcement decisions. This has provided me with recent “quasi-judicial” experience in decisions about the enactment of regulations, which often raise legal and constitutional questions, as well as in decisions about violations of the Act.

2009 – 2011 Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, Torts and Consumer Litigation Divisions, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.
Appointed by President Barack Obama

Oversaw several hundred attorneys on sensitive and significant matters, developed policy, strategy and worked on consumer finance issues, white collar criminal cases, Constitutional cases, the Gulf Oil spill case, torts the Katrina Flooding litigation, the Federal Tobacco RICO case, among others. I was also selected by the Attorney General to Committee on Selection of Immigration Judges.

1998 – 2009 County Counsel, Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA

~ Attorney for the Board of Supervisors, and all departments and agencies of the County of Santa Clara, a county with 15,000 employees and a budget of almost \$4 Billion.
~ Provided public and private advice and strategy in matters ranging from tax, health

and hospital issues, labor and personnel, finance, budgeting and bonding, constitutional law, litigation, federal and state regulatory issues, environmental quality matters, contracts, legislation, election law, government transparency and redevelopment law, and compliance matters.

- ~ Negotiated and mediated significant political and high exposure matters.
- ~ Worked with community and elected officials, interacted with the press on behalf of the County
- ~ Provided training to elected officials on financial issues, compliance and ethics
- ~ Established Ethics Commission; wrote regulations and decisions
- ~ Initiated groundbreaking Elder Financial Abuse Task Force; Educational Rights Program, and Impact Litigation group. Brought consumer and other affirmative cases on behalf of the public
- ~ Worked with other agencies and brought Prop. 8 challenge to the Supreme Court
- ~ Oversaw a staff of 125, including 70 lawyers, administrative and support staff
- ~ Used legal strategies to help recoup and bring funds into the County
- ~ Litigated cases of note: *DiQuisto v. County of Santa Clara*; County of Santa Clara – re use of public funds for information, and *Santa Clara v. Atlantic Richfield Company* – re lead paint remediation, and use of private counsel in public law offices (California Supreme Court decisions)

1977-1998

Chief Assistant County Counsel; Chief Deputy County Counsel; Acting County Counsel; Lead Deputy County Counsel and Deputy County Counsel, Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA

- ~ Supervised sensitive and high exposure litigation; litigated 15 jury trials in State and Federal court, and hundreds of court trials, motions and arguments – both in United States and California Supreme Courts, and Federal and State Courts of Appeal
- ~ Member, Local government Steering Committee, Nation tobacco cases
- ~ Brought consumer and other affirmative cases
- ~ Litigated case of note: *Johnson v. Santa Clara County Transportation Agency* (U.S. Supreme Court)

1975-1976

Litigation Associate, Morgan Beauzay, Hammer, Ezgar et al, San Jose, CA

- ~ Litigated plaintiff's personal injury, labor, Title VII, criminal and contract cases.
- ~ Litigated case of note: *Robins v. Pruneyard* (U.S. Supreme Court decision re First Amendment rights at shopping center)

1974-1978

Law Clerk, Santa Clara County Superior Court

AWARDS

- ~ Honorary Doctor of Laws, Lincoln Law School of San Jose, May 2013
- ~ Society of Professional Journalists, James Madison Freedom of Information Award, March 2013
- ~ Law and Politics, Recognition, 2009 - 2011
- ~ State Bar of California, Public Attorney of the Year, 2007 - 2008
- ~ Status of Women Commission, Santa Clara County, Award for Contribution to Women's Rights, 2009
- ~ Recognition as Super Lawyer in Northern California, 2006 - 2009
- ~ California State Assn. of Counties, Circle of Service Award, 2008

- ~ San Jose Business Journal, Woman of Influence, Silicon Valley, 2008
- ~ American Bar Association, Jefferson Fordham Award for Litigation, 2007
- ~ Santa Clara County Bar Assn., Professional Attorney of the Year, 2006
- ~ Unsung Hero Award, Diversity Committee of the Santa Clara Bar Assn, 2006
- ~ National Merit Scholar out of high school, 1996
- ~ Rotary International Scholarship, 1996
- ~ San Jose Mercury News, Elizabeth Ent Award for Contributions to Law and Justice, 1985
- ~ San Jose Mercury News and Status of Women Commission, Award for Professional Woman of the Year, 1984
- ~ Dean's List, UC Berkeley, 1967 - 1970

PROFESSIONAL

- ~ Lecturer in Law at Santa Clara University School of Law and Stanford Law School
- ~ Led Clinical and pro Bono Program between Harvard Law School and Santa Clara County Counsel's Office
- ~ Served as Attorney for the Board of the California State Association of Counties
- ~ Served as Judge Pro-Tempore, and Arbitrator for Superior Court
- ~ Numerous articles/publications in the ABA The Public Lawyer, CA State Bar Public Law Journal, Op Eds, San Jose Mercury News, including: November 13, 2008 - "Santa Clara County fights for equal right to marry," regarding County challenge to Proposition 8.

ACTIVITIES

- ~ Lawyer Representative, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- ~ Board of Governors, State Bar of California, Vice-President and member
- ~ Chair, commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation, and member for 4 years; also member, Task Force for the Reform of JNE Rules and Procedures
- ~ Attorney member of Judicial Council of California
- ~ Board of Governors of California women Lawyers Association
- ~ President, American Inns of Court, Ingram chapter, member
- ~ Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley
- ~ Hispanic National Bar Association
- ~ Santa Clara Bar, President's blue ribbon Commission on Diversity in the Legal Profession in Silicon Valley
- ~ State Bar of California Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct member
- ~ President, County Counsel's Association of California
- ~ Chair, U.S. District court of Northern California Standing Committee on Professional Conduct
- ~ U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants

PERSONAL

Latin American (Brazilian); grew up in Chile; speak Spanish and Portuguese