

LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

N E W S

...preserving the public trust

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2006

Contact: David Tristan
213-978-1960

New City Ethics Commissioner Confirmed by Council Attorney Helen E. Zukin to Serve Five-Year Term

The Los Angeles City Council today unanimously confirmed the appointment of attorney Helen E. Zukin to serve as the newest member of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission. Zukin is a civil litigator whose practice has an emphasis on toxic torts, product liability, and environmental property damage. In addition to her private law practice, Zukin has served as temporary judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court system, and has served on the State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation, where she served as Chair as well as Chair of its Review Committee. Additionally, she has been active on the Board of Governors for the Consumer Attorney's Association of Los Angeles and as a trustee of the Jewish Community Foundation. Ms. Zukin holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School. Zukin succeeds Dr. Uri D. Herscher, President and CEO of the Skirball Cultural Center, whose term on the Commission expired June 30, 2006. Nominated to the five-year term by Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, Zukin will serve on the panel through June 30, 2011.

"Commissioner Zukin's practical experience as both an advocate and as a temporary judge will bring a unique perspective to this agency's work in support of open and accountable government," said LeeAnn Pelham, the Commission's Executive Director. "We look forward to the benefit of her insights."

The City Ethics Commission consists of a five-member panel of part-time volunteers, each of whom is appointed by a different elected official: the Mayor, Council President, Council President Pro Tem, City Attorney, and Controller. As an independent voice for more open and responsive City government, the charter-based Commission acts through its voter-established mandate to preserve the public trust. Through meaningful public disclosure and effective education, the Commission is committed to supporting and equipping an informed citizenry. Dedicated to upholding the public interest, the Commission shapes, administers and enforces City ethics, campaign finance and lobbying laws to ensure City elections and government decision making are fair, open and accountable. The Commission and its Charter mandate are supported by a 31-member staff and an annual operating budget of \$2.7 million.

#####