



JERRY P. DYER
MAYOR

**NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR
TO BOARD OR COMMISSION**

TO: City Council

THROUGH: Todd Stermer, City Clerk

BY: Jerry P. Dyer, Mayor

_____ Reappointment

 X New Appointment

Name of person replaced: Maiyer Vang

Name: Laura Ward

Address:



Phone:



Appointed to: Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission

Term: Through 7/1/2025

Application Form**Profile****Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission: Submitted

Laura

First Name

E.

Middle Initial

Ward

Last Name

Email Address

Home Address

Fresno

City

CA

State

Postal Code

What district do you live in? *☒ District 1

Home:

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Briefly explain why are you interested in serving on this board or commission?

I was born and raised in Fresno, and have strongly believed in reinvesting my energy and efforts into making the City of Fresno a better place since I moved back in 2007 after law school. It would be an honor to serve on a commission that contributes to improving the City of Fresno through thoughtful oversight to ensure that Measure P is carried out as envisioned by the citizens that drafted the measure and voted it into law. I assisted with drafting the arts component of Measure P, collected signatures for the ballot measure through tabling at events and canvassing door-to-door, and would love to see increased representation of the arts community on the PRAC commission. I have served on the board of the Fresno Arts Council since 2018, and as a community arts advocate I believe it is very important that the demographics of the PRAC commission incorporate more individuals who can provide a voice for the arts organizations and artists who will be impacted by the Measure P components related to the Cultural Arts Plan for the City of Fresno, and the long-term investment required to make the creative culture in Fresno remain vibrant for years to come.

Educational background, Schools Attended, Degrees and Certifications

1. University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento, CA - Juris Doctor with a concentration in Taxation, May 2007 2. Stanford University, Stanford, CA - Bachelor of Arts in English (creative writing emphasis) and minor in Art History, June 2004 3. Certified in Healthcare Compliance, Healthcare Compliance Assoc., May 2017 to Present 4. Certified Fraud Examiner, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, March 2021 to Present 5. Certified Yoga Instructor, RYT-200, Balanced Rock Foundation in Yosemite CA, May 2016 to Present

Briefly explain your qualifications or areas of demonstrated expertise for this board or commission.

I have a Creative Writing degree, with a minor in Art History, from Stanford University - as a transactional attorney I engage in technical writing as a profession, and outside of work I engage in creative writing and supporting the local arts community as an advocate and a patron. For the past five years I have been involved in the leadership of the Fresno Arts Council, ensuring that the organization was strengthened and in a good position to carry out the tasks allocated to it through Measure P, and working to ensure greater access to arts and culture throughout Fresno County. I have operated two local book clubs for the past 16 years, serve on the board of Back Wellness & Prosperity Center (a nonprofit focused on black maternal health issues) for the past 3 years, participate with Rotary Club of North Fresno (member and Endowment Fund board officer since 2017), and previously served as a board member of the Central California Legal Services, Inc. from March 2019 - August 2022. I am familiar with the Brown Act through some of the clients I advise in my legal work, my current role as Vice Chair of the City of Fresno Women's Commission, and have served in various officer roles for nonprofit organizations and their committees.

Do you or an immediate family member have any professional or financial relationship that may present a potential conflict of interest for this board, commission or similar body?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Work History

Ward Legal, Inc.	Attorney/Owner
employer	Job title

Work Address

City, State, Zip Code

Provide 3 Personal and Professional References. Provide name, address, and phone number where they may be reached during the day.

1. Paul Gibson, [REDACTED]
2. Lila Chavez, [REDACTED]
3. Shantay Davies-Bach, [REDACTED]
4. Thomas-White Es, [REDACTED]

Question applies to multiple boards

The Political Reform Act of 1974 prohibits public officials from using their official positions to influence governmental decisions in which they have a financial interest. The Board Members in the designed positions must disclose their financial interests as specified in the agency's conflict of interest code.

I agree that I have read the above and agree to file a Statement of Economic Interest Form should I be appointed to a Board, Commission, or similar body according to the adopted resolution.

☒ I Agree

Laura E. Ward, JD, CHC, CFE

EDUCATION

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento, CA

Juris Doctor with a concentration in Taxation, May 2007

- Chief Comment Editor, McGeorge Law Review, Spring 2006 to Spring 2007
- Legislative Staff Writer and Comment Staff Writer, McGeorge Law Review, 2005 to 2006

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Bachelor of Arts in English (creative writing emphasis) and minor in Art History, June 2004

EXPERIENCE

Ward Legal, Inc. Fresno, CA

Attorney/Owner, July 2015 to Present

- Advise business clients on for-profit and non-profit entity planning and formation, initial tax filings (exemption and registrations), dissolution, contracting, purchase and sale agreements, operational, regulatory, governance and compliance issues.
- Assist for-profit and non-profit clients with contract drafting, review, and revision, as well as entity policy and procedures, letters of intent, and memorandums of understanding.
- Advise non-profit clients on ongoing compliance related to best practices, regulatory compliance with various oversight bodies, and administrative alignment with other non-profit and for-profit entities.
- Develop and implement comprehensive estate plans for individuals and families.
- Assist clients with obtaining Knox-Keene licenses to operate health maintenance organizations; Contracted Privacy and Compliance Officer for three restricted Knox Keene licensed Medicare Advantage health plans.
- Advise Knox Keene licensed HMOs and employers sponsoring self-funded health plans on health care reform, the Affordable Care Act, ERISA state, and federal law and regulation compliance.
- Counsel healthcare providers, administrators, and facilities on the full range of healthcare related state and federal issues, including but not limited to consent, privacy, managed care, anti- kickback, HIPAA, COBRA, and the self-referral prohibitions in Stark and PORA.

Tucker, Chiu, Hebesha & Ward PC, Clovis, CA Attorney/Owner, February 2011 to June 2015

Transactional attorney (emphasis in corporate, nonprofit, health law, benefits, estates, and taxation).

Kimble MacMichael & Upton, Fresno, CA Associate Attorney, September 2007 to February 2011

Transactional attorney (emphasis in corporate, nonprofit, health law, benefits, ERISA, compliance).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified in Healthcare Compliance, Health Care Compliance Assoc., May 2017 to Present.
- Certified Fraud Examiner, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, March 2021 to Present.
- Board Member & Co-President, Fresno Area Stanford Alumni Association, 2007 to Present.
- Selected as Northern CA “Rising Star” in healthcare by Super Lawyers Magazine, 2014-2022.
- Selected as Northern CA “Super Lawyer” in healthcare by Super Lawyers Magazine, 2023.
- Member, Fresno County Bar – Business & Pro Bono Legal Services Section, 2007 to Present.
- Member, Fresno County Women Lawyers, 2008 to Present.
- Certified Yoga Teacher, RYT-200, Balanced Rock Foundation (Yosemite), 2016 to Present.
- Board Member and Vice President, Fresno Arts Council, 2018 to Present.
- Board Member and Volunteer Pro Bono Attorney, Central California Legal Services Inc., March 2019 to August 2022.
- Board Member, BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center, 2020 to Present.
- Rotary Club of North Fresno, Member & Endowment Fund Secretary, 2017 to Present.
- Commissioner for District One and Vice Chair, City of Fresno Women’s Commission, 2022 to Present.