

Application

Profile

FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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APPLICANTS MAY ONLY APPLY FOR ONE VACANCY AT A TIME. DUPLICATE/MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

New Applicant or Current Member

New Applicant

Alexandra
First Name

Lydon
Last Name

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Date of Birth

Home Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

22314
Postal Code

Legal Services of Northern
Virginia
Employer

Anti-Human Trafficking
Senior Staff Attorney
Job Title

Applicants may only apply for **ONE** board/commission/committee. Please note: If more than one board is selected, your applications **will not** move forward for City Council consideration.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Human Rights Commission: Submitted

Which position are you applying for?

Human Rights Commissioner

Demographics

Do you currently live in the City of Alexandria? NOTE: If your answer is no, a residency waiver is required for positions that are not specific to an organization or profession.

Yes No

If yes, how long?

5+ years

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Board or Commission for which you are applying?

Yes No

Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

Yes No

If yes, please explain

I am an LGBTQ Navigator for the City (appointed through my participation on the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force).

Interests & Experiences

Statement of Interest

Dear Members of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving as a fellow member of the Human Rights Commission, bringing to the table a multifaceted background in human rights law, advocacy, and community engagement. With my experience as a local anti-human trafficking legal aid attorney, LGBTQ Navigator for the City of Alexandria, former member of an international criminal prosecution team, and former public defender intern, I am committed to advancing the cause of human rights at both the local and global levels. Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to combating injustice and defending the rights of the most vulnerable members of our society. As a legal aid attorney specializing in anti-human trafficking and domestic violence efforts, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of exploitation and the urgent need for comprehensive legal protections for survivors. My work in this field has equipped me with a deep understanding of the legal frameworks surrounding human trafficking and a passion for promoting policies that prioritize prevention, trauma-informed practices, and expanded supportive services and housing for survivors. In my role as an LGBTQ Navigator for the City of Alexandria and Clinics Committee Coordinator for the Virginia Equality Bar Association, I have had the privilege of facilitating trainings aimed at fostering inclusivity and understanding within our community. By promoting awareness of LGBTQ+ rights and issues in both of these positions, I strive to create a more inclusive and accepting environment where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. I believe that promoting LGBTQ+ rights is integral to the broader human rights agenda, and I am committed to advocating for equality and justice for all members of the LGBTQ+ community. My experience as a former member of an international criminal prosecution team has provided me with a global perspective on human rights violations, including specialized knowledge on genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other important war crimes. Working at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia alongside dedicated legal and military professionals from around the world, I have contributed to the pursuit of justice for victims and survivors of the Bosnian genocide and the accountability of the perpetrators of these war crimes on the international stage. I am passionate about leveraging this experience to advocate for human rights at the local level, recognizing that our actions in the City of Alexandria can have a meaningful impact on the broader human rights landscape. Additionally, my time as an intern at the Richmond Public Defender's Office and working for Legal Services of Northern Virginia has reinforced my belief in the fundamental importance of access to justice and the right to a fair trial for all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances. I am committed to promoting legal empowerment and providing representation to those who are marginalized or disenfranchised within our society. If given the opportunity to serve on the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, I am eager to bring my diverse background and passion for human rights to the table. I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow commissioners, community stakeholders, and local authorities to identify and address human rights challenges within our community, promote awareness and education, and advocate for policies that uphold the principles of equality, justice, and dignity for all. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the important work of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission. Sincerely, Alexandra Lydon

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority?

Yes No

If yes, please list the board:

How many terms have you served on this board?

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

N/A

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria?

Yes No

If yes, please state your department, job title, and describe your duties:

I am an LGBTQ Navigator for the City (appointed through my participation on the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force). This position is housed in Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services. In my position, I represent the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force at events, help plan and organize Alexandria Pride each year, consult with city agencies on LGBTQ+ issues, and train new city employees on working with LGBTQ individuals.

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

My colleague, Mary Horner, is a City of Alexandria Marriage Celebrant (appointed by the court to marry individuals within Alexandria) and some of my colleagues on the LGBTQ Task Force (including Erika Callaway-Kleiner and Debra Evans) work for Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services.

Attendance Requirements: Sec. 2-4-7 of the City Code requires appointees to attend at least 75% of the yearly committee meetings. Absences may be excused because of personal illness or serious illness of members of the immediate family, death of a family member, unscheduled business trips and emergency work assignments only. All other absences are recorded as unexcused. In light of the aforementioned statement, will you be able to attend at least 75% of the regular meetings of the board which you may be appointed?

Yes No

If applicable, will you comply with the provisions of the City's conflict of interest requirements in City Ordinance 2867 regarding the completion of a financial disclosure statement??

Yes No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, Virginia, Juris Doctor, May 2015 University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Bachelor of Arts in Communication & Information Sciences (double major in Psychology), summa cum laude, May 2012

SUMMARY OF WORK AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE:

Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Alexandria, VA Anti-Human Trafficking Senior Staff Attorney, June 2021 - Present; Staff Attorney, April 2017 - June 2021 • Work with survivors of human trafficking to prepare for and argue their various civil legal cases and related motions in the court systems throughout Northern Virginia, including the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and the Virginia Employment Commission (June 2018 - current). • Meet with potential clients to analyze their cases, draft various legal documents for filing in the Northern Virginia court systems; and conduct human trafficking, legislative updates, and family law trainings for attorneys, service providers, police officers, and citizens throughout Northern Virginia. • Participate in various community groups and task forces, including the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force, Fairfax Alliance for LGBTQ Learning Inclusion and Equality Development, Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, Fairfax Human Trafficking Task Force, Loudoun County Human Trafficking Task Force, and Fairfax Sexual Assault Response Team; as well as internal LSNV committees, serving as the Co-Chair of the Communications Sub-Committee of LSNV's Racial Justice Team and member of the Racial Justice Banner Team. • Previously worked with survivors of domestic violence to prepare for and argue their Protective Order, Custody, Visitation, Support, and Divorce cases and related motions in the Fairfax and Arlington County Court systems (April 2017 - June 2018). City of Alexandria, Alexandria, VA LGBTQ Navigator, January 2023 - Present • Represent the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force at events throughout the city and participate in LGBTQ Task Force meetings as a member of the leadership team. • Plan, organize, and run Alexandria Pride each year (2019 to present) as a member of the Pride Planning Committee of the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force. • Consult with city agencies, commissions, and boards on LGBTQ+ issues. • Train new city employees and staff members on working with LGBTQ+ individuals in their job capacity. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, The Hague, Netherlands Contracting Attorney/Trial Support Clerk, Office of the Prosecutor, September 2016 - December 2016 • Drafted and edited sections of the Prosecution's final trial brief, closing arguments, and responses to Defense filings, as well as various legal documents and memoranda for the prosecution team. • Researched and wrote analyses on complex war crimes committed in various municipalities throughout Bosnia & Herzegovina that Ratko Mladić was charged with and found guilty of. • Kept track of, recorded, and informed team members of Prosecution deadlines for responses to Defense motions and court orders in the team's common Excel document. Legal Intern, Office of the Prosecutor, August 2015 - December 2015, March 2016 - September 2016 • Helped senior attorneys prepare for cross-examination of crucial defense witnesses, wrote and edited sections of the final trial brief, researched and analyzed instances of genocide and other war crimes, and drafted various legal documents in preparation for the final trial brief. • Member of the Career Development Committee, which plans and hosts career development presentations and networking events for interns at the ICTY to help further their career aspirations. Throughout law school, I was lucky to experience a wide range of work experiences, including handling misdemeanor criminal cases for clients of the Richmond Public Defender's Office with a Third Year Practice Certificate (May 2014 - May 2015); interning in London, England with Kaim Todner Solicitors where we represented clients in criminal extradition removal proceedings (June 2013); helping clients with their bankruptcy cases through my work at a local bankruptcy firm and volunteering with the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society in Richmond, Virginia; and acting as a nanny for my law professor's two children.

REFERENCES - Please list names, phone number and/or email addresses of three references that support your application.

Upload a Resume

Additional Document (statement of interest, letter of support, or recommendation, etc..)

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New Applicant or Current Member

Current Member

Sam

First Name

Schwartz

Last Name

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Date of Birth

Home Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

22302

Postal Code

Retired

Employer

Job Title

Applicants may only apply for **ONE** board/commission/committee.

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Human Rights Commission: Submitted

Which position are you applying for?

Citizen Commissioner

Demographics

Do you currently live in the City of Alexandria? NOTE: If your answer is no, a residency waiver is required for positions that are not specific to an organization or profession.

Yes No

If yes, how long?

29 years

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Board or Commission for which you are applying?

Yes No

Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

Yes No

If yes, please explain

Currently on Commission on Human Rights Currently on Commission on HIV/AIDS (liaison from Commission on Human Rights) Unofficial liaison from Commission on Human Rights to Independent Community Policing Review Board

Interests & Experiences

Statement of Interest

I have served as a member of the Human Rights Commission for 3 terms and am seeking a 4th. (I realize this is a long term of public service but others have served as long and longer.) I believe in the work the Commission is doing and I believe the Commission, especially now, needs to focus on Alexandria's issues, and the issues faced by Alexandria's residents, rather than be pulled into extraneous matters. I have worked hard to push for that focus and would like to continue to do so. My work for the Commission in my last term successfully lobbied the city for installation of PRIDE Plus "rainbow" crosswalks at Market Square and I am proud of the consensus-building we achieved in bringing that about. In addition, I currently serve as the liaison from the Human Rights Commission to the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS, where I am working to expand the focus from a single avoidable and treatable condition, to work with the Health Department and Public Health Advisory Commission on addressing issues of stigma experienced by members of Alexandria's LGBTQ+ community in encounters with medical professionals and medical office staff. The liaison position with these commissions and the Department of Health brings together the essential parties to this discussion. Further, after the creation of the Alexandria Independent Community Policing Review Board, and the recognition that functions of that body intersect with functions of the Human Rights Commission, I was tasked with serving as unofficial liaison between the two groups. There remain important functions of the Police Department that the Human Rights Commission monitors, such as hiring practices and employment goals, as well as other functions. I am well-suited to continuing this work and would appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority?

Yes No

If yes, please list the board:

Commission on Human Rights

How many terms have you served on this board?

4 or 5 (non-consecutive)

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

My Statement of Interest (above) I believe identifies the key reasons why I am seeking this additional term. As for additional qualifications, my experience practicing employment law (labor, discrimination, harassment, and administrative and litigation functions), for 30 years, is directly relevant to the work of the Commission. This experience has proved invaluable over my term of service and will continue into the future. In addition, I possess institutional knowledge that has proved helpful to both commissioners, as well as to Office of Human Rights staff. Likewise, my work with the Commission on HIV/AIDS and the Alexandria Department of Health has helped invigorate that commission.

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria?

Yes No

If yes, please state your department, job title, and describe your duties:

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Attendance Requirements: Sec. 2-4-7 of the City Code requires appointees to attend at least 75% of the yearly committee meetings. Absences may be excused because of personal illness or serious illness of members of the immediate family, death of a family member, unscheduled business trips and emergency work assignments only. All other absences are recorded as unexcused. In light of the aforementioned statement, will you be able to attend at least 75% of the regular meetings of the board which you may be appointed?

Yes No