City of Seattle
Notice of Appointment

Name: **Ethel Branch**		☐ Executive Appointment ☒ Legislative Appointment ☐ Agency Appointment ☐ PDA Council ☐ PDA Constituency
Residential Neighborhood:	**Zip Code:**	**Contact Phone No.:** 206-684-0390
Appointed to: Seattle Human Rights Commission		**Date of Appointment:** September 24, 2013
Authority (Ord., Res.): 3.14.920		**Term of Office:** From: September 24th 2013 To: July 22, 2015
Comments:		
Authorizing Signature:		**Name and Title of Officer Making Appointments:** Bruce Harrell, Council Member

Confirmed by the Following Vote at City Council

In Favor:	**Against:**	**Date:**
Attested by:		**Title:**

Form last revised 2/21/08

ETHEL BILLIE BRANCH

[redacted]

[redacted](c); 206.344.8100, ext. 105 (w); ebranch@kanjikatzen.com

EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., June 2008

Honors: Zuckerman Fellow, for commitment to public service
Nationbuilding Fellow, for research on tribal governance

Activities: Environmental Law Review, Senior Editor, Article Editor, Submissions Editor
International Law Journal, Subciter
Native American Law Students Association, President
Research Assistant to Professor Kevin Washburn
Research Assistant to Professor Joseph Singer

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL, M.P.P., June 2008

Activities: From Harvard Square to the Oval Office: A Political Campaign Practicum

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, B.A. *cum laude* in History, June 2001

Honors: Stride Rite Scholar, for commitment to community service
Foundation Award for Interracial and Intercultural Relations
Chief Manuelito Scholar

Thesis: *From the Line to the Hoop: Harvard's History through Native Eyes*

Activities: Native Americans at Harvard College, Co-chair
Founding Director of Achieve, Phillips Brooks House Association

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Oregon Bar Association, November 2009
Arizona Bar Association, February 2009
Navajo Nation Bar Association, November 2008

BOARD ACTIVITIES

Grand Canyon Trust, Flagstaff, Arizona (February 2012-present)
Native American Youth and Family Center, Portland, Oregon (September 2009-June 2011)

EXPERIENCE

KANJI & KATZEN, PLLC, Seattle, WA **October 2012-present**
Associate

Advocate for the protection of tribal sovereign authority and treaty rights through high stakes litigation and sovereign-to-sovereign negotiations. Arbitrated on behalf of a tribe to protect over a half-billion dollars in withheld gaming exclusivity fee payments from being remitted to a state where exclusivity was breached (which resulted in a successful settlement less than a month after the arbitration hearing). Represent a tribe engaged in a CERCLA natural resources damages action (work focuses on the protection of treaty shellfish harvest rights). Represent a tribe in negotiations with a state regarding the proper basis for calculating gaming revenue share payments. Provided pro bono services to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission relating to implementation of recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review. Specific work consists of conducting legal, financial, and trial expert research; drafting memos and letters; assisting with hearing-related matters (such as exhibit collection, preparation, and management); and engaging with experts and clients.

INDIAN LAW RESOURCE CENTER, Washington, DC **October 2011-August 2012**
Attorney
Advanced the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States and the Americas by educating tribal leaders, law students, and legal professionals on the Declaration and creative ways it can be implemented. Drafted memos, news articles, and letters raising awareness of the issue of violence against Native women as an international human rights violation. Assisted in an initiative to secure and strengthen indigenous human rights safeguards for multilateral development bank-financed projects by editing materials produced by staff attorneys.

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE, LLP, Portland, OR **October 2008-June 2011**[1]
Public Finance Associate
Drafted borrowing documents to facilitate tax-exempt financings for tribes, states, and local governments in the following types of transactions: conduit financings, revenue bond issues, general obligation bond issues, and loans. Drafted and reviewed resolutions, statutes, memos, contracts, offering documents, opinions, and rating presentations primarily for tribal clients. Assisted with the first Tribal Economic Development Bond issue and with the first large ($60,000,000) tribal general obligation bond issue governed by tribal law and enforceable in tribal courts. Coordinated pooled issuer document review by 23 associates and paralegals in six offices on a $1.2 billion Build America Bond issue.

PATTON BOGGS, LLP, Washington, DC **Summer 2007**
Summer Associate
Identified investment incentives related to tribes in the Tax and Indian chapters of the United States Code. Conducted a survey of tribal telecommunications regulations. Drafted a memo on how to enforce a tribal corporation's $2.1 million judgment against an out-of-state corporation. Reviewed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a tribe's land-into-trust application.

SNELL & WILMER, LLP, Phoenix, AZ **Summer 2007**
Summer Associate
Drafted a tribal film ordinance; researched a project's potential Environmental Impact Statement challenges; and wrote memos on the soundness of investing in a specific tribal casino and the instances in which tribal judgments will be enforced in state courts.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, DC **Summer 2006**
Appellate Section Legal Intern, Environment and Natural Resources Division
Drafted an appellate brief relating to a tribal membership dispute that addressed issues of tribal subject matter jurisdiction and tribal and federal sovereign immunity for a case argued and won in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Wrote a motion to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals for summary affirmance on a *res judicata*-barred tribal membership dispute.

UNITED STATES SENATE, Washington, DC **Summer 2005**
Legal Intern for Senator Byron L. Dorgan, Committee on Indian Affairs
Researched and drafted memos on the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Provided legal and policy analysis of *Cobell v. Norton*. Advised on hearings and legislation addressing teen suicide and education in Indian country.

INTERESTS

Enjoy mentoring youth and young lawyers, running, yoga, hiking, cycling, traveling, and exploring.

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[1] This gap in my resume exists because the Indian Law Resource Center kindly allowed me three months to, among other things, study Spanish in Barcelona and Malaga, Spain.

ANN ARBOR OFFICE
303 DETROIT STREET
SUITE 400
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
PHONE: (734) 769-5400
FAX: (734) 769-2701

KANJI & KATZEN, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
401 SECOND AVE. S., SUITE 700
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104
(206) 344-8100 • FAX (866) 283-0178
www.kanjikatzen.com

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE
1250 CONNECTICUT AVE. NW
SUITE 200
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
PHONE: (202) 261-6528
FAX: (202) 261-6537

July 3, 2013

Council Member Bruce Harrell, Chairman
Public Safety, Civil Rights & Technology Committee
Seattle City Council
600 4th Ave., Second Floor
Seattle WA, 98104

Attention: Jennifer Samuels

Dear Mr. Harrell:

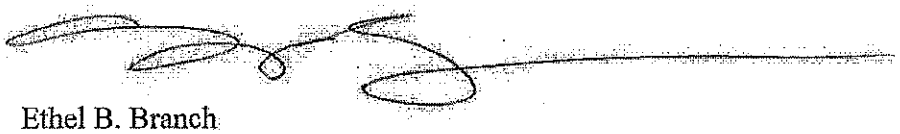
I am writing to express my keen interest in serving as a Seattle Human Rights Commissioner. You have a most impressive team of Commissioners, and the Commission's embrace of the U.S.'s international human rights obligations is remarkable. The work the Commission does is cutting edge among U.S. cities, promising great benefit to the people and City of Seattle, including a higher standard of living for all who live here. It also distinguishes Seattle as a standard-bearer among U.S. cities for what human rights implementation at the local level can look like. That is, it demonstrates that cities are in the position to ensure a more just environment where the most vulnerable of its citizens are protected, and where the color of one's skin or the birth origin of one's parents plays no role in the treatment of that individual, in the protection of that individual's personal liberties, or in his or her baseline living or working conditions.

I have extensive experience with human rights issues that qualifies me for a seat on the Commission. As you will see from my attached resume, most of my experience in human rights work has involved indigenous human rights, but I am more broadly interested in advancing human rights in the context of homelessness, employer discrimination, and justice for those accused of crimes. As a Commissioner, I would be able to draw on insights and expertise gained from my practice at the Indian Law Resource Center, one of the pre-eminent indigenous human rights organizations in the Western Hemisphere, as well as my training with the Columbia Human Rights Institute (focused on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). My principal work at the Indian Law Resource Center centered on implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the U.S., Mexico, Central America, and South America. I crafted broad-scale strategy towards that end and executed that strategy primarily through oral and written advocacy, and education of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, tribal leaders, federal officials, national legislators, scientists, and the general public. In my current position, I have continued my human rights work through pro bono engagement by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC). I assisted the NNHRC in advocating for the Obama administration's implementation of the recommendations

of the U.N. General Assembly's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, particularly as those recommendations related to indigenous human rights. In addition to my human rights-specific work, I have served as an advocate for tribes for the bulk of my career as an attorney, which experience I believe further reinforces my human rights-oriented outlook.

I appreciate your review of my letter of interest and resume, and I welcome the opportunity to speak with you regarding the Commission. Please let me know if there is anything else I can provide you with to assist in your consideration of me as a candidate for the Commission.

Respectfully,



Ethel B. Branch
206-344-8100, ext. 105

Seattle Human Rights Commission

September 24, 2013

15 members, confirmed by City Council, who serve a term of 2-years:

- 7 appointed by Mayor, confirmed by City Council
- 7 appointed by City Council
- 1 appointed by the Commission, confirmed by City Council

1 Get Engaged Member, confirmed by City Council who serves a single term of 1-year

D	G	Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Term #	Position	Appointed By
6	F	Katherine Beckett	08-27-12	07-22-14	1st		City Council
	F	vacant	08-27-12	07-22-14	1st		City Council
6	F	Catherine Moore	08-27-12	07-22-14	1st	Chair	City Council
6	F	Ethel Branch	09-30-13	07-22-15	1nd		City Council
4	F	Nika Dahlbacka	09-09-09	07-22-13	3rd	Vice-Chair	City Council
3	F	Alejandra Gonza	11-01-12	07-22-13	1st		City Council
3	M	Greg Ramirez	10-31-11	07-22-13	1st		City Council
1	F	Christina Ygona	08-27-12	07-22-14	1st		Commission
3	M	David Lujano	11-05-12	07-22-14	1st		Mayor
3	F	Andrea Negrete	11-05-12	07-22-14	1st		Mayor
1	M	Rich Stolz	03-20-13	07-22-14	1st		Mayor
1	F	Jennifer Yogi	07-30-10	07-22-14	2nd		Mayor
5	F	Marsha Mavunkel	10-31-11	07-22-13	1st		Mayor
6	M	Martin Penner	07-30-10	07-22-13	2nd	Secretary	Mayor
	M	vacant	07-30-09	07-22-13	2nd		Mayor
5	M	Naomi McMillen	07-15-13	09-01-14	1st	Get Engaged	Mayor

(sorted by appt auth, term end date and name)

Diversity

	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	(1) Asian-American	(2) African-American	(3) Hispanic Latin@	(4) Native-American	(5) Other	(6) Caucasian
Council	1	4	2	3	0	0	2	1	0	1
Commission	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mayor	3	3	1	5	2	0	2	0	1	1
Get Engaged	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	***5***	***8***	***3***	***10***	***3***	***0***	***4***	***1***	***2***	***2***