City of Seattle

Notice of Appointment

Name: *Alejandra Gonza*		☐ **Executive Appointment** ☒ **Reappointment** ☒ **Legislative Appointment** ☐ **Agency Appointment** ☐ **PDA Council** ☐ **PDA Constituency**
Residential Neighborhood: *Eastlake*	**Zip Code:** *98102*	**Contact Phone No.:** *206-684-0390*
Appointed to: *At-large member of the Seattle Human Rights Commission*		**Date of Appointment:**
Authority (Ord., Res.): *S.M.C. 3.14.920*		**Term of Office** **From:** *July 22*, 2013 **To:** *July 22, 2015*

Background:

Alejandra Gonza received her law degree from the National University of Tucumán in her native Argentina and her Masters in European Studies and Human Rights from the Pontific University of Salamanca, Spain. Currently, she serves as a legal adviser to the Due Process of Law Foundation in Washington, DC. Ms. Gonza also represents victims of human rights violations before the Inter-American human rights system. Previously, she served as a senior staff attorney at the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (both of the Organization of American States).

Authorizing Signature: Bruce A. Harrell	**Name and Title of Officer Making Appointments:** **Councilmember Bruce Harrell**

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Revised 3/11

EDUCATION

University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain
Ph.D. Program: "Criminal Law and Human Rights." First year completed with honors.

- Subject of research: "Criminal Defamation and Freedom of Speech: An International and Comparative Approach." I am researching this from Seattle, WA.

Pontifical University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain (2004)
Master's degree, with honors, in "European Studies and Human Rights"

- Thesis entitled "The Development of International Criminal Law: The Universal Justice"

University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain (2002-2003)

- Passed qualifying examination to practice as attorney in Spain

Tucumán State University, Tucumán, Argentina (1993-1998)

- Earned law degree

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Due Process of Law Foundation, Washington, DC
Legal Consultant, January 2012 to present
In conjunction with two human rights clinics, drafting a report on international state responsibility for human rights violations by private actors (primarily Canadian companies with mining operations in Latin America). Preparing an amicus brief on international standards for legal detention to be submitted to the Mexican Supreme Court. The Mexican case offers a key opportunity to overturn jurisprudence that has permitted, in practice, the systematic use of torture and arbitrary detention in the Mexican justice system.

Legal Consultant, July 2010 to February 2011
As principal author, drafted a report on the Right of Indigenous Peoples to Prior Consultation (focusing on Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru), published in 2011 by DPLF and OXFAM and submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Collaborations with the International Human Rights Clinic, SU School of Law, Seattle, WA
Co-counsel, August 2008 to present
Represent a Mexican family who suffered a range of human rights violations, including torture, at the hands of the Mexican police. Our representation includes a petition before the Inter-American Commission, as well as matters before domestic bodies. The Inter-American Commission recently granted precautionary measures for our clients. Also, I provided legal advice and technical assistance in the preparation of an amicus curiae brief on the rights of indigenous peoples. The brief was submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in April 2011.

Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA
Volunteer Teaching Assistant, Fall Semester 2010
Collaborated in the International and Foreign Law Research course by offering a practitioner's perspective on researching, and working with, international law.

Mexican Commission for the Protection of Human Rights, Mexico City, Mexico
Legal Consultant, July 2009
Provided technical assistance and legal advice to this prominent human rights organization during its litigation of a landmark case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The case, involving the enforced disappearance of persons during Mexico's "Dirty War," was decided favorably, setting an important precedent for the rights of victims in the hemisphere.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Washington DC
Senior Staff Attorney and Project Director, November 2007 to June 2008
In addition to the duties outlined in the next paragraph, I directed a new, million-dollar project, which established a mechanism to respond more efficiently to complaints of violations of freedom of expression, reducing the substantial backlog of accumulated petitions. Directed a team of two attorneys, two fellows and several external consultants. Developed international standards and principles in the field of freedom of expression through studies and on-site investigations.

Staff Attorney, August 2006 to November 2007
Managed cases related to freedom of expression violations in various procedural stages before the Inter-American human rights system. Researched and drafted reports and orders for the Commissioners. Frequently represented the Rapporteurship in public hearings before the Inter-American Court and in international conferences. Conducted workshops for endangered journalists in Latin America. Drafted, coordinated and developed fundraising proposals. Planned and carried out on-site investigations. Provided legal advice to individuals who desired to present a complaint before the Inter-American human rights system.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights, San José, Costa Rica
Staff Attorney, September 2003 to July 2006
Managed numerous cases in various procedural stages before the Court. Researched and drafted judgments, opinions, and orders for the Tribunal's judges. Directed the Court's internship program, which selects and supervises more than 40 visiting attorneys and law students each year. Developed formal agreements between the Court and universities of North and Latin America, as well as Europe. Represented the Court in conferences, seminars and before international organizations.

SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

- *Commentary on Article 21 of the American Convention on Human Rights: The Right to Property* in COMMENTARY ON THE AMERICAN CONVENTION published by the Rule of Law for Latin America Program, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (forthcoming 2012 in Spanish).

- *The Indigenous Right to Be Consulted in the Americas: International Legal Framework*, APORTES, the triannual publication of the Due Process of Law Foundation (Sept. 2010 in Spanish) (with Thomas Antkowiak).

- FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE JURISPRUDENCE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (2009 in Spanish) (with Sergio García Ramírez, former President of the Inter-

American Court of Human Rights) published by the Inter-American Press Society. Second edition published in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

- *Freedom of Expression in the Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights* in the legal journal LA REVISTA DE DERECHO PÚBLICO (2006 in Spanish) (with Sergio García Ramírez).

- *The Right to Information as Interpreted through Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights* in DERECHOS HUMANOS Y LIBERTAD DE EXPRESIÓN EN MÉXICO (2006 in Spanish).

- *Forced Disappearance as Political Genocide* in CONFERENCE REPORT OF THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY (2002 in Spanish), University of Salamanca, Spain.

Op-eds

- "Treat Indigenous Peoples as True Landowners: A Current Challenge with Urgent International Obligations," published on March 24, 2011 in *Nueva Propuesta*, Salta, Argentina (in Spanish, with Thomas Antkowiak).

- "Impunity's Vicious Cycle," published on March 25, 2010 in *Nueva Propuesta*, Salta, Argentina (in Spanish).

- "The Right to Reply or Respond," published on July 2006 in *El Periódico de Tucumán* (in Spanish).

- "The Right to Freedom of Expression," published on June 9, 2006 in *Nueva Propuesta*, Salta, Argentina (in Spanish).

- "30 Years of Painful Memories: The Need to Remember and Retell," published on March 31, 2006 in *Nueva Propuesta*, Salta, Argentina (in Spanish).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, Authors' conference on the forthcoming book COMMENTARY ON THE AMERICAN CONVENTION. March 5-7, 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (invited). Organized by Konrad Adenauer Foundation and CELS. (Authors are from several countries of Latin America).

- Guest Speaker, "The Right to Health in the Inter-American Human Rights System." January 30, 2012 at University of Washington School of Law. For course on "Global Health Law."

- Guest Speaker, "The Criminal Justice System in Argentina: A Comparison to the US System." November 4, 2011 at Seattle University School of Law. For "Spanish for Lawyers" CLE.

- Guest Lecturer, "The Latin American Criminal Justice Model." March 9, 2010 at Seattle University School of Law. For the criminal law externship seminar.

- Panelist, conference: "Strategic Litigation in International and Domestic Fora." October 12, 2009, in Washington, DC. Organized by American University, Washington College of Law. Presentation entitled "Rethinking the Criminal Defamation Standards of the Inter-American System."

- Participant, expert seminar: "Promoting diversity in the broadcast media." December 7, 2007, in Amsterdam. The UN, OSCE, OAS and African Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression met with academics and other experts in order to adopt a joint Declaration on Promoting Diversity in the Broadcast Media. Participated in the debates and drafting process.

- Presenter, international conference: "Methodologies for Documentation and Follow-up of Aggressions upon Journalists and the Media in Mexico." November 28-29, 2007, Mexico City. Sponsored by Article 19, Cencos, Universidad Iberoamericana and the British Embassy.

- Instructor, training workshops on freedom of expression. Held in Mexico (Culiacán and Mexico City), Guatemala (Guatemala City and Cobán), Honduras (Tegucigalpa and Olancho), and El Salvador (San Salvador and San Miguel) during 2006-2007. Organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Locations were chosen because the journalists in these areas routinely suffer attacks and intimidation for their reporting.

- Presenter, international conference: "The Right to Defend Human Rights and the Freedom of Expression". May 30-31, 2007, Mexico City. Sponsored by Mexican Journalist Association.

- Instructor, "Workshop on the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America." July 2005 in San José, Costa Rica. Sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

- Instructor, "Second Regional Course on International Refugee Law." October 2004 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

- Presenter, "Fifth International Congress of Human Rights History." November 28-30, 2001. University of Salamanca, Spain. Presentation on "Forced Disappearances of Persons as Political Genocide."

AWARDS

- *ADEPA/Diario Clarín 2009 National Award (Argentina)* to the best work of journalism in defense of freedom of speech. Award was granted to *Semanario Nueva Propuesta*, a weekly publication, for its feature on freedom of expression in the Inter-American System of Human Rights. I was the author and coordinator of this multi-page feature, which also included interviews with international experts.

- Fellow, Americas Project, 2007: "Building Opportunities and Managing Challenges in the Americas." October 4-6, 2007 in Houston, Texas. Sponsored by Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy and the Organization of American States. This is a leadership program that each year competitively selects approximately 15 emerging leaders from throughout the Americas.

- Scholarship recipient, Academy on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law at American University, May 2005. The Inter-American Court annually sponsors a staff lawyer to participate in this program based upon outstanding job performance.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Spanish: native speaker (Argentina)
- English: fluent
- French: intermediate

Seattle Human Rights Commission

January 21, 2014

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
6	M	Alex Becker		07-22-14	1st		City Council
6	F	Catherine Moore	08-27-12	07-22-14	1st	Chair	City Council
4	F	Ethel Branch	09-24-13	07-22-15	1st		City Council
4	F	Nika Dahlbacka	09-09-09	07-22-13	3rd	Vice-Chair	City Council
3	F	Alejandra Gonza	11-01-12	07-22-15	2nd		City Council
3	M	Greg Ramirez	10-31-11	07-22-15	2nd		City Council
1	F	Christina Ygona	08-27-12	07-22-14	1st		Commission
6	F	Sarah Bishop		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	1st	Secretary	Mayor
5	F	Anita Khandelwal	11-15-13	07-22-15	1st		Mayor
6	F	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	2	5	0	4	0	0	2	2	0	3
Commission	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mayor	2	5	0	5	2	0	1	0	2	2
Get Engaged	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	***4***	***12***	***0***	***10***	***3***	***0***	***3***	***2***	***2***	***6***