

**City of Seattle
Notice of Appointment**

C.F. 313730

Name: Kianoush Naficy		<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Reappointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Council <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Constituency
Residential Neighborhood: Queen Anne	Zip Code: 98109	Contact Phone No.: (206)931-7711
Appointed to: Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission		Date of Appointment: 4/7/2014
Authority (Ord., Res.): Ordinance 118392		Term of Office: From: Confirmation To: 4/30/2016
Comments: <p>Kianoush is an associate attorney at the Law Offices of Marie Higuera, where her practice is solely devoted to immigration law. She received her B.A. from Whitman college and received her law degree from the University of Washington in 2010. During law school, Kianoush concentrated on immigration law and policy matters. She represented removal and asylum clients as a member of the UW Immigration Law Clinic and completed summer internships at immigrant rights organizations in Seattle and San Francisco. After graduation, Kianoush moved to Washington D.C., where she worked in civil litigation at a plaintiff's firm and volunteered for Appleseed Foundation as a legal fellow on their Immigrant Rights Project.</p> <p>Prior to attending law school, Kianoush lived in southern China, where she taught English to students at Shantou University. She has also lived in Tehran, her birth city, where she wrote and translated articles for an online social justice publication (Tehranavenue.com) and mentored children at a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping child laborers receive education and healthcare.</p>		
Authorizing Signature: 		Name and Title of Officer Making Appointment: Councilmember Bruce Harrell

KIANOUSH NAFICY

March 10, 2014

Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs
P.O. Box 94745
Seattle, WA 98124-4745

Dear Selection Committee,

As a dedicated immigrant rights advocate, I am eager to submit my application for the position of commissioner with the Immigrant and Refugee Commission. As I hope my personal and professional background will reflect, I have gained extensive experience in the areas of immigration law and policy over the past six years, ranging from various clinic and externship experiences during law school to my current practice as an immigration lawyer with the Law Offices of Marie Higuera. Additionally, as a first generation Iranian-American, I understand firsthand what it means to be an immigrant, having learned from a young age the challenges fraught in navigating a new land, culture, and language, or seeking stability in a society that can be hostile and unwelcoming to outsiders. As a young advocate, I am strongly committed to continuing to serve Washington's immigrant population and believe I can offer the Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs the necessary skills and passion to support the Commission's goals of advising and advocating on behalf of immigrants and refugees in Seattle.

While at the University of Washington, I completed coursework in immigration law, international human rights, international law, equal protection, and critical race theory so that I could understand the ways in which our social and legal systems both protect and discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and immigration status. I served as a member of the University of Washington Immigrant Family Advocacy Project, where I successfully filed a U-Visa petition on behalf of an immigrant domestic violence victim and her daughter. I was also selected to become a member of the UW Immigration Clinic, where I spent two years representing clients facing deportation and seeking asylum. Through intensive case preparation—including many hours spent researching, conducting interviews, gathering data, and preparing our clients' declarations and other pre-hearing documents—my partner and I successfully represented our client in immigration court. We also successfully assisted a second client in winning her asylum case, including accompanying her to the asylum interview and providing support as she recounted the awful ordeals she had faced in Guinea.

During my summer externships, I worked with nonprofit organizations dedicated to immigrant and refugee rights. In San Francisco, I worked for the National Sanctuary for Community Advancement, a human rights organization that serves Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian individuals facing post-9/11 discrimination. I conducted client intakes, prepared legal briefings, organized community outreach events, and assisted the director in designing a CLB on *pro bono* representation of immigrants. As an Immigration Policy Extern at OneAmerica in Seattle, I analyzed local and national legislative initiatives for immigrant rights and served as a community outreach liaison to promote public hearings around Washington State on the challenges of immigrant integration.

After graduation, I moved to Washington, D.C. and, where I volunteered for the Appleseed Foundation while also seeking positions in immigration law and policy. At Appleseed, I was appointed a Legal Fellow and joined the foundation's Immigrant Rights Projects. In that position, I researched

legal and regulatory barriers to naturalization, met with community leaders to discuss immigration reform, and drafted reports for the Executive Director. Although I worked in other practice areas during my first two years as an attorney, I quickly discovered that to sustain my legal career, I would need to do work that aligned with my passion for helping those who have been marginalized by the legal system. I now dedicate 100% of my professional practice to immigration law as an associate attorney, including representing *pro bono* clients through the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.

I have pursued educational and professional endeavors that have empowered me to help others defend their rights. I am confident that my combination of experience, advocacy skills, and demonstrated commitment to immigrant and refugee communities will allow me to make a meaningful contribution as a member of the Immigrant and Refugee Commission. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kianoush Naficy

RIANOUSH NAFIGY

EXPERIENCE | LEGAL & POLICY

LAW OFFICES OF MARIE HIGUERA | May 2013 – Present | Seattle, WA

Attorney: Represent clients in a variety of immigration law matters. Caseload includes completing family-based applications, defending those in removal proceedings, assisting refugees gain asylum, and helping victims of violence and other crimes navigate the complex immigration system to win relief.

DUBOIS CARY LAW GROUP, PLLC | May 2012 – November 2012 | Seattle, WA

Attorney: Assisted supervising attorneys in divorce cases involving child custody, visitation, property division, and maintenance issues.

REGAN ZAMBRI & LONG, PLLC | January 2011 – March 2012 | Washington, DC

Attorney: Researched and wrote legal memoranda on a range of topics, including product liability, personal injury, and medical malpractice. Drafted original complaints, discovery, briefs, opposition motions, motions *in limine*, and motions for summary judgment. Assisted in depositions, settlement mediations, and all aspects of litigation.

APPLESEED FOUNDATION | January 2011 – June 2011 | Washington, DC

Legal Fellow: Served on the foundation's Immigrant Rights Project. Researched legal, policy, regulatory, and governmental practice barriers to naturalization, drafted summary reports, and met with local leaders to discuss immigration reform.

ONEAMERICA | June 2009 – September 2009 | Seattle, WA

Policy & Research Extern: Conducted research and writing for publications and website content to support the organization's policy platforms on immigrant integration and comprehensive immigration reform. Served as community outreach liaison to forward legislative advocacy efforts. Facilitated public hearings around Washington State on challenges of immigrant integration before members of the Governor's New Americans Policy Council.

NLSCA | June 2008 – September 2008 | San Francisco, CA

Legal Clerk: Provided legal services for employment discrimination and asylum cases, organized community outreach events, and assisted director in designing a CLE for Pro Bono advocacy. NLSCA is a non-profit human rights organization that serves Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Americans facing post 9/11 discrimination.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

TEHRAN AVENUE | March 2006 – June 2006 | Tehran, Iran

Writer and Translator: Translated over 25 articles from Farsi to English for a city webzine dedicated to arts, culture, and society in Tehran. Articles ranged from social commentary to film critiques to political satire.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER, SHANTOU UNIVERSITY | August 2004 – July 2005 | Shantou, China

English Instructor and Academic Activity Advisor: Taught requisite English courses to university students to improve written and spoken English, contributed as a writer for textbook series, and coached participants of an intercollegiate speech contest.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW | Seattle, WA | *Juris Doctor*, June 2010

Selected Honors and Activities: Founding Member of the Middle Eastern Law Students Association | Student Liaison to the Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington, 2008 – 2010 | Professional Mediation Skills Training, Winter 2010 | Immigration Law Clinical Program, Winter 2009 – Spring 2009 | Student Bar Association Executive Board Member and Class Representative, Fall 2007 – Spring 2009 | Immigrant Family Advocacy Program, Fall 2007

WHITMAN COLLEGE | Walla Walla, WA

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, *Cum Laude*, May 2004

Selected Honors and Activities: Academic Distinction, 2001 – 2004 | Authored Honors Thesis titled, "Negotiated Boundaries: An Exploration of Second Generation American Identity Construction," published in the Penrose Library, Whitman College, 2004 | Whitman Scholar Athlete, Varsity Swimming, 2004

MEMBERSHIPS AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Washington State Bar Association, 2012 | UW Persian Studies Advisory Board Member | Fluent in Farsi & Spanish

Immigrant and Refugee Commission

January 2014

15 Members: Who are confirmed by City Council and serve a term of two years. **3 term maximum.**

- 8 appointed by Mayor
- 7 appointed by City Council

D		Member	I/R	Y	Term #	First Appointed	Term Ends	Position #	Appointing Body
1	M	Shree Ram Dahal	Y		2	7/11/11	1/31/15	2	Council
2	M	Simon S-M Khin	Y		1	3/28/13	1/31/15	4	Council
1	F	Mindy Au	Y		1	4/30/2014	4/30/2016	10	Council
3	F	Mariya Kochubey	Y		1	3/28/13	1/31/15	8	Council
1	F	Veasna Hoy	Y		1	4/30/2014	4/30/2016	14	Council
4	F	Kianoush Naficy	Y		1	4/30/2014	4/30/2016	6	Council
1	F	Dori Cahn	Y		1	3/28/13	1/31/15	12	Council
1	F	Michele Ramirez	Y		1	4/30/2014	4/30/2016	3	Mayor
1	F	Susana Mercado Alvarado	Y		1	4/30/2014	4/30/2016	11	Mayor
2	F	Tsegaba Woldehaimanot	Y	Y	2	5/13/11	1/31/15	1	Mayor
1	F	Jennifer Calleja	Y		1	1/31/13	1/31/15	5	Mayor
1	F	Farhiya Mohamed	Y		1	12/17/13	1/31/16	9	Mayor
4	F	Roxana Norouzi			1	1/31/13	1/31/15	7	Mayor
2	F	Riddhi Mukhopadehyay	Y		1	4/30/2014	4/30/2016	15	Mayor
2	M	Michael Neguse	Y		3	12/22/10	1/31/15	13	Mayor

*Diversity*before vacancies*

Appointed by:	Total		Youth		*I/R		US Born Minority		(1) API		(2) African		(3) Latin@		(4) Mid-East		(5) Other		(6) E European		Vacancies
	Women	Men	W	M	W	M	W	M	M	W	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	
Subtotal	7	1	3	0	10		3		4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
Mayor	7	1	1	0	7	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council	5	2	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	3	3	0	4	6	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0