C.F. 312992

**City of Seattle**
**Notice of Appointment**

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| **Name: Dori C. Cahn** | | ☐ **Executive Reappointment**<br>☒ **Legislative Appointment**<br>☐ **Agency Appointment**<br>☐ **PDA Council** ☐ **PDA Constituency** |
| **Residential Neighborhood:**<br>**Madrona** | **Zip Code:**<br>**98122** | **Contact Phone No.:**<br>**(206) 356-9232** |
| **Appointed to:**<br>**Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission** | | **Date of Appointment:**<br>**1/31/2013** |
| **Authority (Ord., Res.):**<br>**Ordinance 122441**<br>**Ordinance 123822** | | **Term of Office:**<br>**From: Confirmation**<br>**To: 01/31/2015** |

**Comments:**

**Dori Cahn** has worked with immigrants and refugees in the Seattle area for many years, as a teacher and writer, and as a community activist. As a teacher of adult ESL and ABE learners, her students have come from all over the world. Through them she has learned a lot about what it means to come to the U.S. and start over, sometimes with literally nothing, and overcoming challenges way beyond learning language and understanding cultural norms. She has advocated for immigrants' rights, working with immigrant/refugee communities and community organizations, and writing about immigrant/refugee issues.

When the U.S. began deporting Cambodian refugees back to Cambodia ten years ago, Dori was deeply involved in communicating with affected families about their legal and political options, and helped organize individuals to advocate for their community that was already struggling with poverty, low graduation rates, and family breakdowns. Dori was awed and honored by the efforts of so many members of that community. She still believes deportation of former refugees is a failure of U.S. policy and she continues to engage with this issue.

In her role as an educator and advocate, Dori has worked with the Wing Luke Museum to create exhibits about deportation and refugee experiences, with the goal of educating all members of the Seattle area community about the challenges faced by those among us who were not born here. She is currently working on gathering oral histories of people who had experiences at the former Immigration Building on Airport Way from 1932 to 2004. She anticipates that these stories will tell us much about the society we have become and how we got here.

Dori earned degrees from the University of Washington and the University of Michigan, as well as certifications in writing and teaching ESL from the University of Washington and Seattle University, respectively.

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| **Authorizing Signature:**<br>Bruce A. Harrell | **Name and Title of Officer Making Appointment:**<br>Councilmember Bruce A. Harrell |

Ms. Diibon;

I would like to be considered for a position on the Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission.

I have worked with immigrants and refugees in the Seattle area for many years, as a teacher and writer, and as a community activist. As a teacher of adult ESL and ABE learners, my students have come from all over the world. Through them I have learned a lot about what it means to come to the U.S. and start over, sometimes with literally nothing, and overcoming challenges way beyond learning language and understanding cultural norms. I have advocated for immigrants' rights, working with immigrant/refugee communities and community organizations, and writing about immigrant/refugee issues.

When the U.S. began deporting Cambodian refugees back to Cambodia ten years ago, I was deeply involved in communicating with affected families about their legal and political options, and helped organize individuals to advocate for their community that was already struggling with poverty, low education rates, and family breakdowns. I was awed and honored by the efforts of so many members of that community. I still believe deportation of former refugees is a failure of U.S. policy, and continue to engage with this issue.

Extending my role as a teacher and advocate, I have worked with the Wing Luke Museum to create exhibits about deportation, and about refugee experiences, with the goal of educating all members of the Seattle area community about the challenges faced by those among us who were not born here. I am currently working on gathering oral histories of people who had experiences at the former Immigration Building on Airport Way over the course of its life, from 1932 to 2004. These stories tell us much about the society we have become and how we got here, and I am excited to further develop this project.

I would be honored to work with the Commission on Immigrants and refugees as another outlet for advocating for, and educating about, immigrants and refugees in Seattle.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dori Cahn

Seattle, WA 98122

**Dori C. Cahn**

Seattle, WA 98122

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## Owner, Haiku Communications

**Writing, Editing, and Research Services,** 2003 - present
Self-employed freelance writer and editor, specializing in social justice issues.

Selected Publications:

*"Letter From Phnom Penh: Thoughts From the Front Lines of the War on Immigrants"* (with J. Stansell), Z Magazine, October 2003.

*"From Refugee to Deportee: How U.S. Immigration Law Failed the Cambodian Community"* (with J. Stansell), in *Race, Culture, Psychology, & Law*, Barrett and George, eds., 2005, Sage Publications.

from The International Examiner ("The Newspaper of the Northwest Asian American Communities"):

- *"SE-SPAN: Encouraging Seniors to Exercise"*; March 15-April 4, 2006, volume 33, number 6.
- *" Families and Legal Residents Affected by Immigration Bills"*; May 3-16, 2006, volume 33, number 9; reprinted in New America Media, May 13, 2006.
- *"'Sentenced Home': SIFF Looks at Deportation of Cambodian Americans"*; June 7-20, 2006, volume 33, number 11.
- *"Eroding Immigrant Rights: Commit a Misdemeanor, Get Deported"*; March 21-April 3, 2007, volume 34, number 6.
- *"When 'Permanent' Means Temporary: Navigating the Language of Immigration"*; May 2-15, 2007, volume 34, number 10.
- *"Advocates Rally for Immigrant Rights"*; June 6-19, 2007, volume 34, number 11.
- *"U.S. and Vietnam Need to Rethink Deportation"* (with Jay Stansell); February 6-19, 2008, volume 35, number 3; reprinted in New America Media, February 16, 2008.
- IE Community Voice Award Winners: *"Many Uch: From Jailhouse Lawyer to Community Activist"*; May 7-20, 2008, volume 35, number 9.

- *"Up for Grabs: The White House"*; October 15-November 4, 2008, volume 35, number 20.

- *"2008: The Year in Review"*; December 17-January 6, 2009, volume 35, number 24.

- *"The Trade of Asia's Girls"*; March 18-March31, 2009, volume 36, number 6; reprinted in New America Media, March 26, 2009.

- *"Behind the Curtains"*; March 18-March31, 2009, volume 36, number 6.

- *"The Aftermath of Deportation"*; May 6-May 19, 2009, volume 36, number 9.

- *"Courage Beyond Their Years: For 'Lost' Refugee Children, 'Education is Their Mother and Father'"*; November 18-December 1, 2009, volume 36, number 22; reprinted in Bhutan News.

- *"An Uphill Battle: A Soldier's Mental Health"*; December 16-January 5, 2010, volume 36, number 24.

*"A Day in the Life"*; Home Care InSight Magazine, Fall 2011.

*"UW Professor Seeds Social Change in Cambodia"*; Seattle Globalist, March 26, 2012.

*"A New Life, A New Career"*; Home Care InSight Magazine, Fall 2012.

Oral History:

- "Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Building Project"; **Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience,** 2012 -present: interviews of immigrant experiences between 1932 and 2004.
- **Children's Institute for Learning Differences (CHILD),** 2010-2011: interviews and creation of written materials documenting the history of a unique special education school and institute.

Museum Exhibit Text:

- *"A Refugee's Journey of Survival and Hope"*; **Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience,** 2010
- *"Deporting Cambodians"*; **Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience,** 2009

Organizational Communications:

- **Convergence Consulting**, Olympia, WA, 2009-2011
- **Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC)**, Seattle WA, 2009-2011
- **MERIT Foundation**, Marysville, WA, 2010-2011

## Teaching Experience

Mentor/Advisor 2008-present
**University of Washington School of Social Work/ Royal University of Phnom Penh Partnership, Seattle WA and Phnom Penh, Cambodia**
Academic support for students and faculty at RUPP Department of Social Work, in partnership with UW School of Social Work

**Asian Counseling and Referral Service, Seattle, WA** 2007
Work skills ESL for workplace and pre-employment.

**Seattle Central Community College, Seattle, WA** 2006
College Survival Skills: study skills, reading, time management, and goal-setting.

**Highline Community College, Des Moines, WA** 2004, 2006
ESL for immigrants and refugees.

**Karol & Setha** 2005
***(Knowledge and Reflection on Life & Sexuality Through a Holistic Approach),***
**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**
Advanced English to Cambodian staff of community-based NGO promoting healthy relationships for HIV/AIDS and domestic violence prevention.

**Royal University of Law and Economics,** 2005
**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**
Writing workshops.

**South Seattle Community College, Seattle WA** 1998-2002
Instructor and advisor for first generation and low income students; taught first year college Spanish courses.

**Seattle Goodwill Community Learning Center, Seattle WA** 1995-1998
Classroom and small group instruction in Adult Basic Education (ABE) reading, writing, and math for ABE and ESL adult learners.

**Seattle Public Library, Seattle WA** 1994-1996
Community outreach to ABE and ESL programs throughout Seattle; instructor, recruiter, and Spanish language translator for family literacy programs.

**The Evergreen State College, Olympia WA** 1990-1992
Graduate and undergraduate coordinated studies programs in environmental studies and Latin American studies; task force to develop Latin American studies program.

## Education

**Certificate in Non-Fiction Writing** University of Washington, Seattle WA

**Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)** Seattle University

**M.L.A. in Environmental Planning** University of Washington, Seattle WA
thesis: "*'Cuidar Las Plantas es Hacer Revolucion': Conservation Planning in Nicaragua*"

**B.S. in Natural Resources** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI

## Community Work

***Garfield High School***, Seattle WA 2008-present
ELL writing and study support.

***TOPS K-8 school***, Seattle WA 2008-2011
Newsletter editor, Social Justice Coalition, Planting the Seeds (homelessness immersion project).

***Refugee Justice Project***, Seattle WA 2007-2008.
Steering committee member.

***Cambodian Women's Association***, Seattle WA 2006-2008.
Board member.

***Sentenced Home outreach project*** 2005-2008.
Presenter and panelist on deportation documentary.

***Returnee Assistance Project*** *(now Returnee Integration and Support Center)*, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Recognition from ***Cambodian American Community Coalition of Washington***.

***People's Learning Center***, Seattle WA.

***Pledge of Resistance*** (Central American solidarity)
National board member.

***South Seattle Neighborhood Group***
Community activities related to neighborhood clean-up, public transportation, and public safety.

# Immigrant and Refugee Commission

*April 2013*

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 | Habtamu M. Abdi | Y | | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 4 | Council |
| 4 | F | Dori C. Cahn | | | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 10 | Council |
| 1 | M | Simon M-S Khin | Y | | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 8 | Council |
| 6 | F | Mariya Kochubey | Y | Y | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 14 | Council |
| 6 | F | Natasha A. Savage | Y | | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 6 | Council |
| | | Vacant | | | | | | 12 | Council |
| 1 | M | Justin Chan | | Y | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 3 | Mayor |
| 1 | F | Maria E (Maru) Mora Villalpando | Y | | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 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 |
| 4 | F | Devon Alisa Abdallah, Ph.D | | | 3 | 12/13/07 | 1/31/14 | 9 | Mayor |
| 4 | F | Roxana Norouzi | | | 1 | 1/31/13 | 1/31/15 | 7 | Mayor |
| 2 | M | Mohamed Sheikh Hassan | Y | | 2 | 12/22/10 | 1/31/14 | 15 | Mayor |
| 2 | M | Michael Neguse | Y | | 2 | 12/22/10 | 1/31/14 | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Subtotal* | *14* | | *3* | | *10* | | *4* | | *5* | | *4* | | *2* | | *3* | | *0* | | *2* | | *1* |
| Gender | Women | Men | W | M | W | M | W | M | M | W | W | M | W | M | W | M | W | M | W | M | |
| Mayor | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Council | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |