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CITY OF SEATTLE
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CITY CLERK

City of Seattle
Notice of Appointment

Name: Susana Mercado Alvarado		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Reappointment <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Council <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Constituency
Residential Neighborhood: Wallingford	Zip Code: 98105	Contact Phone No.: (206) 941-5974
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>Susana Mercado Alvarado. Graduated from Mexico's City, <i>Escuela Libre de Derecho</i> where she obtained her Degree as a Mexican attorney and is licensed to practice law in the 32 states that constitute Mexico. Susana also holds an Advanced Studies Degree on Environmental and Sustainable Development Studies from Universidad Iberomericana and a certificate from <i>Escuela Libre de Derecho</i> in Legal Translation from English to Spanish. She currently works as a Law Clerk providing advice on Mexican Law and support in the different immigration cases.</p> <p>Susana has mainly developed her professional career in the Human Rights field as a former member of the professional civil service in Mexico City's Human Rights Commission where she investigated alleged Human Rights violations. Recently, she worked for the Legal Department at the Consulate of Mexico in Seattle, Washington providing legal advice on Mexican law and consular assistance to Mexican nationals in Washington State. Susana also served as President of the Board of the Seattle Latino Film Festival and is vigorously involved in the Latino Community as an activist, coordinator, volunteer and interpreter with various local organizations such as One America, Legal Voice, Social Justice Fund, and El Centro de la Raza, among others.</p>		
Authorizing Signature: 		Name and Title of Officer Making Appointment: Mayor Edward Murray

March 5, 2014

Susana Mercado-Alvarado
Law Clerk
Bean Porter Hawkins PLLC
2200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 835
Seattle, WA 98121

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Seattle has been my home for the past five years. Since moving to Seattle, I have been working closely with the local community. Throughout my career, I have had the chance to interact, advocate and work directly with various nonprofits and community organizers, as well as local, state, and national governmental agencies and officials, both from Mexico and the United States.

During my time here I have closely observed the work and services provided by the City of Seattle. I have also been able to engage as a volunteer and supporter of various local grassroots organizations that work together with the City on events and programs that address social justice issues within Seattle. This has allowed me to become aware of immigrant's needs in this region. Being an immigrant myself, a professional woman, and an activist from Mexico City gives me a unique perspective on various approaches to serving immigrants in our community.

I am a lawyer from Mexico, where I worked in the Mexico City Human Rights Commission for four years. At the Commission, I worked directly with vulnerable groups of people, including women who had been victims of human rights violations. I provided direct legal assistance and advocacy during the investigations in my case load. There, I discovered my natural passion for social justice issues.

I came to Seattle in 2008 when the Mexican Consulate offered me a position in the agency's Legal Department. In that position, I provided consular assistance to Mexican nationals living in Washington State. This included providing legal advice and giving legal information on local resources to Mexican immigrants who had all sorts of legal issues, including family law cases, criminal law, labor claims and immigration matters. I also helped to organize a symposium on Women's Labor Rights, bringing together local professionals, government officials, and advocates to discuss legal issues that affect immigrant women in the workplace.

I recently left the Mexican Consulate and began working for a private immigration law firm located in downtown Seattle. Many of our clients are immigrants who seek legal advice. I assist as a Law Clerk, providing culturally sensitive legal support in their immigration cases and advice on Mexican Law issues. I enjoy my job greatly as I am able to understand their situations and provide aid using the skills I had learned in the past.

In addition to my professional experience, I have volunteered with numerous local community organizations, including OneAmerica, Washington New Americans, Legal Voice, the Latin@ Bar Association, and the Social Justice Fund. Recently, I also served as the president of the Board of Directors for the Seattle Latino Film Festival.

My experience and my background would offer a different insight to the work of the Seattle's Immigrant and Refugee Commission. I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to give back to the City that has welcomed me and is now my home. I would especially like this position to be a bridge between immigrants in our community and the elected officials and government agencies, to give voice to their needs that should be addressed. This is a chance to work on behalf of a group that I am a part of and whose needs I understand and share. I would take this position fully aware of the responsibilities that are entailed in providing public service and in representing the voice of immigrants.

Sincerely,

Susana Mercado-Alvarado

SUSANA MERCADO ALVARADO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CARRER OBJECTIVE

I seek a long-term position in an organization that allows me to use my experiences, education, and talents in various areas of law related to the attention of cases of immigrants, specially Mexican nationals, in the USA.

EDUCATION

B.A.-Escuela Libre de Derecho. *Attorney*. Mexico City, Mexico..2005.
Advanced Studies Degree, Environmental Studies. Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Bean, Porter, Hawkins PLC** **2013 – Present**
Seattle, WA
 - Immigration Law Clerk: Providing support and advocacy for both the clients and the lawyers in the firm. Responsibilities: gathering of supporting documents for immigration cases, taking statements and declarations from clients and other similar activities. I also provide advice on Mexican Law issues as needed. Certified as a Legal translator in mexican venues, English- Spanish and Spanish-English.

- **Consulate of Mexico, Seattle, Washington** **2008 – 2012**
Seattle, WA
 - Legal Department: working as a lawyer for the Mexican Consulate, in areas related to administrative law, family law, labor law, immigration and criminal law. In the attention of the afore mentioned, I follow up the cases presented by mexican nationals, generating complaints, interviewing the victims, giving legal assistance and contacting authorities across Washington State and in Mexico.

- **Mexico City Human Rights Commission** **2004 -2008 Mexico City,**
Mexico
 - Investigator of Human Rights violations committed by local authorities in Mexico City.
 - Management: Team work and meetings with diverse local authorities and academic faculty.
 - Instructor: Gave workshops in specific Human Rights subjects and participated in the elaboration and publishing of reports and policy briefs.

- **Castañeda y Asociados. Law Office** **2002 –2003**
Mexico City, Mexico
Intern: Worked in the litigation of antitrust proceedings and *amparo action* related to these cases.
- **Notary Public N.229** **2001 – 2002**
Mexico City, Mexico
-Intern: Worked as one of the legal assistants of the Notary Public Marco Antonio Ruiz Aguirre in Mexico City. Had functions of making general presentations to the clients and getting all the paperwork necessary to file different kinds of contracts, legal statements and other documents certified by the Notary Public.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Associate. Romero Macgregor y Asociados. Founding Associate in Law firm located in Mexico City, Mexico.
- Quoted in articles in the Mexican magazine *el Mundo del Abogado* and author of various articles in Seattle's weekly newspaper *La Raza del Noroeste*.
- Active volunteer with various Washington State Organizations such as: One America, Legal Voice and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.
- Participation in Radio and TV programs in Washington State, related to the work developed in the Mexican Consulate.
- Board Member. *Seattle Latino Film Festival*. Since 2011.

LANGUAGES

- SPANISH: NATIVE
- ENGLISH: FLUENT ORAL / WRITTEN

OTHER STUDIES

- **Escuela Libre de Derecho** **AUG. 2004 – FEB. 2005**
Certified Studies in the translation of legal documents (English-Spanish/ Spanish English)
- **Barra Mexicana de Abogados (Mexican Bar Association)** **MARCH 14, 2003**
Anti trust-Law Seminar
- **Barra Mexicana de Abogados (Mexican Bar Association)** **APRIL 18, 2004**
Amparo Action Seminar
- **Escuela Libre de Derecho** **FEBUARY 22 – 24, 2005**
Constitutional and Administrative Law Seminar

- **Foreign Ministry of Affairs in Mexico**

JULY 13-14, 2005

International Seminar for the Exchange of experiences in the implementation of the Additional Protocol of the Convention against Torture in México.

- **Legal Research Institute, National Autonomous University of Mexico (Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, UNAM)**

2008

International Congress in International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

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		API		(1) African		(2) Latin@		(3) Mid-East		(4) Other		(5) E European		(6) Vacancies	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	M	W	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M		
Subtotal	7	1	1	0	7	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mayor	7	1	1	0	7	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	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	0
Total	12	3	3	0	4	6	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0