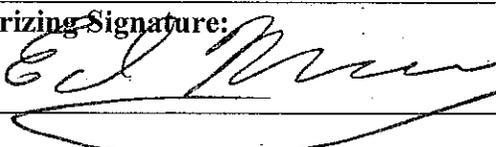


**City of Seattle  
Notice of Appointment**

#9  
C.F. 313729 CITY OF SEATTLE  
2014 APR 10 AM 11:08  
CITY CLERK

<b>Name: Riddhi Mukhopadhyay</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive Reappointment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Legislative Appointment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agency Appointment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>PDA Council</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>PDA Constituency</b>
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> Belltown	<b>Zip Code:</b> 98121	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b>  (206) 832-3632
<b>Appointed to:</b> Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission		<b>Date of Appointment:</b> 4/7/2014
<b>Authority (Ord., Res.):</b>  Ordinance 118392		<b>Term of Office:</b> <b>From: Confirmation</b> <b>To: 4/30/2016</b>
<b>Comments:</b> Riddhi Mukhopadhyay is an attorney and longtime activist for immigrant and refugee rights. Born in Kolkata, India, she has previously lived in North Carolina, Texas and now calls Seattle, Washington, home. Riddhi received her law degree from Seattle University School of Law and her bachelors from Duke University. Since 2001, she has volunteered as an advocate for immigrant domestic and sexual violence survivors and is a former Berkeley Law Foundation legal fellow and attorney at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. She has organized and advocated with different immigrant communities, including domestic workers, detained individuals and immigrants with developmental disabilities. Currently at the Sexual Violence Law Center, Riddhi specializes in representing and assisting survivors and victims of sexual violence facing challenges in accessing justice based on mental illness, developmental disabilities, limited English proficiency, and immigration status. She provides bilingual legal services in Spanish, and also speaks Bengali and Hindi.		
<b>Authorizing Signature:</b> 		<b>Name and Title of Officer Making Appointment:</b> Mayor Edward Murray

# Riddhi Mukhopadhyay

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

March 10, 2014

**RE: Seattle Immigrant & Refugee Commission opening**

To the Immigrant and Refugee Commissioners:

Having learned of the current open positions in the Immigrant & Refugee Commission, I am submitting my application for your consideration. Having pursued a career focused on issues affecting immigrant communities, specifically around sexual violence, access to justice and mental health, I believe I am a qualified candidate for the Commission. With my current experience working with immigrant populations in King County, I now hope to add a new perspective on matters impacting immigrants in Seattle.

My work with immigrants for several years in the civil, mental health and criminal law context, allows me to bring a unique perspective on the needs of refugees and immigrants in our community. Currently, as the Coordinating Attorney at the Sexual Violence Law Center, here in Seattle, I see on a daily basis the inequality in treatment of immigrant survivors of sexual assault, abuse and violence. Previously, as a public defender for the Department of Assigned Counsel's (DAC) mental health advocacy unit, I was in court on a weekly basis representing indigent clients, many of whom were immigrants, subject to civil commitment proceedings. Working closely with clients dealing with mental illness or disabilities, I learned immediately how disparate the treatment is of immigrants facing the stigma and barriers of mental illness.

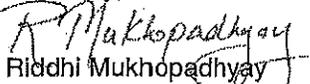
Prior to DAC, I was a Berkeley Law Foundation legal fellow and staff attorney at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP). I provided legal orientation program (LOP) services to most adult *pro se* detainees at the Northwest Detention Center. I also provided representation to individuals appealing decisions, practicing before the Immigration Court, USCIS, the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Ninth Circuit. Both through LOP and NWIRP's VAWA unit, I helped immigrant survivors of crimes and abuse secure U-visas and VAWA petitions and have continued providing such representation currently through the Sexual Violence Law Center.

Before focusing on a legal career, I worked with organizations that advocated for the rights of immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Volunteering for grassroots Asian organizations in North Carolina, Texas and Washington, I trained volunteer advocates and educated the public on the needs of immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Having worked with immigrant communities in different regions of the country, I can not only work with the Commission on identifying current local needs but may also be able to bring collaborative ideas or suggestions for practices that have succeeded in other areas.

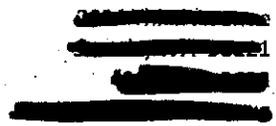
My professional experience has taught me how multiple areas of injustice intersect for immigrants and refugees—homelessness, violence, education, immigration, employment, mental illness and more. As a result, I have worked with a wide cross-section of communities. I know that I like working on a team when the members are motivated and passionate. As a member of the Commission, this position will allow me to fully utilize my talents and abilities as I continue to advocate for the issues affecting immigrant communities that I have dedicated my legal career to.

I would appreciate the chance to learn more about the Commission and tell you about myself. I may be reached at [riddhi@svlawcenter.org](mailto:riddhi@svlawcenter.org) or at (206) 695-2340 (my home) or (206) 832-3632 (my office). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Riddhi Mukhopadhyay

# Riddhi Mukhopadhyay



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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Sexual Violence Law Center**, civil rights non-profit  
*Coordinating Attorney (previously Staff Attorney)* Seattle, WA  
2012-present
- Provide holistic legal representation to sexual assault and abuse survivors in civil legal matters ranging from protection order, privacy, housing, employment, immigration and more.
  - Present to and train judges, prosecutors, civil attorneys and advocates on legal issues and barriers faced by survivors; provide *pro se* clinic trainings and presentations on legal options and legal rights to survivors.
  - Manage statewide hotline for attorneys, advocates and survivors of sexual violence requesting technical assistance and legal information; train and support contract attorneys and *pro bono* attorneys.
- Department of Assigned Counsel**, criminal public defense Tacoma, WA  
2011-2012  
*Staff Attorney*
- Represent indigent individuals with pending criminal charges, including legal research on criminal law, motion practice, client interview and litigation in Tacoma Municipal and Pierce County District Court.
  - Represent individuals with severe mental health and developmental disabilities for civil commitment hearings, including legal research on civil and criminal law, motion practice, client interview and litigation in Pierce County Superior Court.
- Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice**, immigration and civil rights non-profit Seattle, WA  
2011-present  
*Pro Bono Attorney*
- Secure legal status for detained unaccompanied noncitizen minors and noncitizen trafficking victims before Washington juvenile court, EOIR and USCIS.
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**, immigration and civil rights non-profit Tacoma, WA  
2009-2010  
*Berkeley Law Foundation Fellow/Attorney*
- Provide noncitizen detainees legal orientation (know-your-rights) and *pro se* assistance; represent detainees before EOIR, USCIS, Board of Immigration Appeals and Ninth Circuit in removal proceedings at the Northwest Detention Center.
  - Identify and advocate for noncitizen detainees with mental health and developmental disabilities; former co-counsel on class action with ACLU of Southern California on behalf of detainees with mental disabilities subject to prolonged detention and proceeding through immigration without appointed counsel.
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**, immigration and civil rights non-profit Seattle, WA  
Spring, 2009  
*VAWA Intern*
- Secure legal status for low-income noncitizen survivors of violence and abuse and U-visa status for undocumented noncitizen victims of crime.
- International Human Rights Clinic**, Seattle University School of Law Seattle, WA  
Spring, 2009  
*Legal Associate*
- Research and analyze human rights law addressing treatment of accused in Mexican criminal justice system; petition the Inter-American Court on Human Rights for the inhumane treatment of incarcerated individuals by Mexican criminal justice system.
- International Human Rights Clinic**, Seattle University School of Law Seattle, WA  
Spring, 2008  
*Legal Associate*
- Interview Spanish-speaking detainees at the Northwest Detention Center; develop and co-author human rights report based on international law on conditions of immigration detention.
- SafePlace**, Travis County Domestic & Sexual Abuse Crisis Center Austin, TX  
2004-2006  
*Community Educator & Development / Program Associate*
- Prepare and present on agency issues in community presentations; initiated staff Speaker's Bureau; developed grant-funded projects; drafted and tracked grant applications for programs; accompanied and supported sexual assault survivors to hospital.
- Fine By Me**, non-profit GLBT rights campaign Durham, NC/Austin, TX  
2003-2006  
*Co-Founder/Southwest Coordinator*
- Plan, develop and expand campaign in response to homophobia on college campuses; implement program nationally; research and prepare funding proposals.

Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University  
Program Assistant

Durham, NC  
2001-2004

- Provide technical assistance to grantees implementing ethics framework in programs such as Ethics at Work and Middle School Visions; provide consultation and evaluation of grantee programs.

Amar Ghor, women's advocacy group  
Educator/Trainer

Kolkata, India  
Summer, 2000-2006

- Design and implement basic Bengali and English reading and writing comprehension curriculum for women domestic workers; collaborate with volunteer advocates on sexual assault and domestic violence support advocacy.

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## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Leavenworth, WA, *Immigrant Victims Under Attack: Overview of Immigration Issues for Survivors*, September 2013.
- *Voices From Detention: A Report on Human Rights Violations at the Northwest Detention Center*, 2008 Seattle Law International Human Rights Clinic (June 2008) (co-authored with OneAmerica).
- Equal Justice Works Conference, Washington, DC, *Bursting the Law School Bubble: Connecting to National Collaborations & Law Student Movements*, October 2008.
- *Death in Detention: Medical and Mental Health Consequences of Indefinite Detention of Immigrants in the United States*, *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*, (Spring/Summer 2009).
- Access to Justice Bar Leaders Conference, Yakima, WA, *Economic Migration and the Growing Divide*, May 2009.

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## COMMUNITY

- Northwest Girls Coalition, girl-focused non-profit  
Leadership Councilmember  
Seattle, WA  
2013-present
- Legal Voice (formerly Northwest Women's Law Center), legal advocacy non-profit  
Information & Referral Hotline Volunteer  
Seattle, WA  
2008-2010
- API-Chaya, Asian domestic & sexual assault support  
Community Outreach Volunteer  
Seattle, WA  
2007-2011
- SAHELI, Asian domestic violence support  
Volunteer/ Walk Chair for '05 & '06  
Austin, TX  
2004-2006
- KIRAN, South Asian domestic & sexual assault group  
Volunteer/ Hotline & Crisis Advocate  
Research Triangle, NC  
2001-2004

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## EDUCATION

Seattle University School of Law  
Juris Doctor

Seattle, WA  
May 2009

- *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*, Article Editor
- Dean's Diversity Scholar, 2006-2008
- Public Interest Law Foundation summer grant recipient, 2007 & 2008
- 2008 Dean Kellye Testy Leadership award recipient
- 2009 Asian Bar Association of Washington scholarship recipient

Duke University  
Bachelor of Arts: History & Literature

Durham, NC  
May 2004

- Graduated with Distinction
- Human Rights at Home & Abroad FOCUS program
- Dean's List, 2002-2004

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## BAR MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Washington State Bar Association (admitted to practice 2009)  
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (admitted to practice in 2010)

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## LANGUAGES

Fluent: Bengali, Hindi  
Proficient: 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		API		(1) African		(2) Latin@		(3) Mid-East		(4) Other		(5) E European		(6) Vacancies
	Subtotal	14	3	10	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1						
Gender:	Women	Men	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	
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