

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: April 2, 2019

SUBJECT: Report on PR 23-178, “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Appointment Resolution of 2019”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 23-178, the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Appointment Resolution of 2019” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On March 4, 2019, PR 23-178, the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Appointment Resolution of 2019” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. The purpose of PR 23-178 is to appoint Heidi Tseu as a Council appointee to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission (Commission) for a term to end July 1, 2021.

Ms. Tseu is a Ward 3 resident of the District of Columbia. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the Pennsylvania State University and her Juris Doctorate from American University, Washington College of Law. Currently, she serves as Director of Local Government Affairs for Georgetown University. As Director of Local Government Affairs, she manages Georgetown University’s engagement with the District of Columbia government’s legislative branch and executive agencies. Prior to her work at Georgetown University, Ms. Tseu served as Senior

Counsel and as Committee Director for the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee at the Council of the District of Columbia (Council). While working at the Council Ms. Tseu gained extensive experience in legislative drafting and in developing and reviewing District government policies and practices.¹ Further, Ms. Tseu serves on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia. She also serves as a Community Advisory Council Member for the Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities, a staff fellow for the Georgetown University Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching & Service, and as a staff mentor for the Georgetown University Women’s Alliance.

In 2010, the Council adopted the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Act² which provided the statutory basis for the appointment and duties of the District’s commissioners to the Uniform Law Commission (ULC). Members of the Commission serve as official commissioners of the District of Columbia to the ULC. In addition to serving as representatives to the ULC, commissioners are required to advise the Mayor and Council on proposals for uniform and model state laws and the effect that those proposals would have on District laws.³

The ULC, first established in 1892, provides states with a venue to address the problems resulting from the inconsistencies in the law of different states that impede commerce and other interstate activities.⁴ The main purpose of the ULC is to study and review the law of the states to determine which areas of law should be uniform.⁵ The ULC can only propose laws and it is up to a state legislature to approve the proposed law. The District first sent representatives to the ULC in 1905, and since that date numerous uniform laws have been adopted by the District.⁶ The legal subject areas covered include family law, commercial law, trusts and estates, civil, criminal, administrative and environmental law.⁷

Table 1: Membership of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission

Resolution #	Position	Appointee	Term Expiring:
<i>PR 23-178</i>	<i>Proposed Council Appointee</i>	<i>Heidi Tseu</i>	<i>July 1, 2021</i>
	General Counsel to the Council	Nicole Streeter	N/A
	Mayoral Appointee	Brian Flowers	July 1, 2020
	Mayoral Appointee	James McKay	July 1, 2020
	Mayoral Appointee	John McAvoy	July 1, 2020
	Chief Judge of the Superior Court Appointee	Judge Joan Zeldon	July 1, 2021
	Life Member of the ULC	Benny Kass	N/A

¹ See Heidi Tseu, Nominee, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Pre-Roundtable Questionnaire, Page 4, March 20, 2019. (Attached to the Report).

² Effective March 12, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-313; D.C. Official Code § 3-1431 *et seq.*).

³ See D.C. Official Code § 3-1433(a).

⁴ Bill 18-617, District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Act of 2010, Report of the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary, 2 (November 3, 2010).

⁵ Uniform Law Commission, Overview, available at <http://uniformlaws.org/aboutulc/overview> (last visited March 27, 2019).

⁶ *Supra* note 4.

⁷ *Id.*

The Commission consists of seven commissioners, five of whom are appointed, three by the Mayor, one by the Council, and one by the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.⁸ The General Counsel to the Council, or his or her designee, and a resident of the District who is elected as a life member of the ULC also serve as commissioners.⁹ The commissioners must be residents of the District and must be a member in good standing of the District of Columbia Bar.¹⁰

During the roundtable, Ms. Tseu highlighted her experience working on uniform laws. She testified that the first bill she worked on at the Council was Bill 16-147, the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act of 2005, which was a bill that was proposed by the Commission.¹¹ In addition, Ms. Tseu added that she has a deep appreciation for the need of uniform laws to bring clarity and stability to the law.¹²

As a member on the Commission she plans to collaborate with the other commissioners to promote Council adoption of uniform laws. She also hopes to be able to work with commissioners in the Washington D.C. region to collaborate on issues that impact the District, Maryland, and Virginia.¹³ Finally, Ms. Tseu wants to serve on the Commission because it will allow her to use her experience and skills in the performance of public service to the District.¹⁴

Based on her impressive credentials, the Committee recommends the appointment of Ms. Tseu to serve on the Commission. She has an in-depth knowledge of legislative issues, in particular uniform laws, that are being considered by the Council. Moreover, her government relations experience will be an asset to the Commission as it works with the Council to get bills proposed by the Commission adopted into law. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 23-178.

⁸ See D.C. Official Code § 3-1432. The five appointed commissioners serve a term of 3 years.

⁹ *Id.* A life member is elected to life membership to the ULC because of his or her long service in the cause of uniformity of state legislation.

¹⁰ *Id.* The Committee notes that Ms. Tseu is currently not a member of the DC Bar, however, she has been a member of the Maryland Bar since 2004 and has submitted her application to waive into the DC Bar. The Committee expects that it will take a couple months for Ms. Tseu to be admitted into the DC Bar. In order to move expeditiously in approving Ms. Tseu's appointment resolution the Council moved to waive the DC Bar membership requirement for the Council appointment to the Commission only on a temporary basis when it approved the Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Emergency Amendment Act of 2019, passed on March 5, 2019 (Enrolled version of Bill 23-99). It is important to approve Ms. Tseu's appointment resolution before she is admitted into the DC Bar in order to allow her to register to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting of the ULC which will take place from July 12, 2019 to July 18, 2019.

¹¹ Heidi Tseu, Nominee, Testimony before the DC Council Committee of the Whole, 2, March 22, 2019.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.* at 3.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 1.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

March 4, 2019	PR 23-178, the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Appointment Resolution of 2019” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
March 5, 2019	PR 23-178 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.
March 8, 2019	Notice of Intent to Act on PR 23-178 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> .
March 15, 2019	Notice of a Public Roundtable on PR 23-178 is filed with the Office of the Secretary.
March 22, 2019	The Committee of the Whole holds a public roundtable on PR 23-178.
April 2, 2019	The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 23-178.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Tseu is the Council’s appointee to the Commission. The Executive provided no comment on Ms. Tseu’s appointment.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 23-178.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 23-178 on Friday, March 22, 2019. The testimony summarized below is from that roundtable. A copy of the written testimony provided to the Committee is attached to this report.

Heidi Tseu, Appointee, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Gray regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission and her interest in serving on the Commission.

Testimony Submitted for the Record

Brian K. Flowers, Commissioner, District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission (Commission), submitted a statement in support of Ms. Tseu’s appointment to the Commission. He wrote that Ms. Tseu’s experience and training in legislative affairs and government relations

will be an asset to the Commission, and her background will add a perspective to the Commission that is now lacking.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Tseu's appointment.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Commissioners that serve on the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission are appointed pursuant to section 3 of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Act of 2010, effective March 12, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-313; D.C. Official Code § 3-1432).

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 23-178 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Commissioners that serve on the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission are not entitled to compensation.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 23-178.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Heidi Tseu as a commissioner on the District of Columbia Law Commission to serve a term to end on July 1, 2021.
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 23-178 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

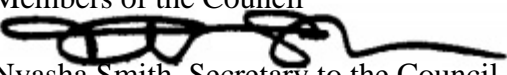
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 23-178 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal sufficiency determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 23-178.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : March 05, 2019

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, March 4, 2019. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Appointment Resolution of 2019", PR23-0178

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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7 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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9

10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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12

13
14 To appoint Ms. Heidi Tseu to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission.
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16 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
17 resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu
18 Appointment Resolution of 2019”.

19 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia appoints:

20 Heidi Tseu
21 5752 Sherier Place, N.W.
22 Washington, DC 20016
23 (Ward 3)
24

25 as a member of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission, established by section 2 of
26 the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Act of 2010, effective March 12, 2011 (D.C.
27 Law 18-313; D.C. Official Code § 3-1431), for a 3-year term to end on July 1, 2021.

28 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
29 upon its adoption, to the appointee.

30 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
31 the District of Columbia Register.

Heidi Tseu

5752 Sherier Place NW • Washington, D.C. 20016 • (202) 680-4568 • htg7@georgetown.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Georgetown University

Director of Local Government Affairs

Washington, D.C.

March 2016 – Present

Manage Georgetown University's engagement with the District of Columbia government's legislative branch and executive agencies. Responsibilities for this role include facilitating strategic partnerships between the University and District stakeholders in areas such as immigration, health equity, and business development; representing the University's interests in legislative and executive actions that impact University operations, faculty research, or student projects; and strengthening awareness of Georgetown programs, services, and partnerships throughout the District.

Serve as Co-Chair of the *MLK Initiative: Let Freedom Ring!* Under the leadership of the President's Office, the MLK Initiative sponsors and promotes an annual series of programs and events throughout Georgetown's campuses, and the greater DC community, that celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Co-Chairmanship responsibilities include developing strategic internal and external partnerships to create programming, providing guidance and support for events, and utilizing social media and targeted outreach to communicate and promote events.

D.C. Council - Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety

Senior Counsel

Washington, D.C.

January 2013 – February 2013

Led the committee's transition process for new Committee Chairperson, Tommy Wells. Managed the recruiting, interviewing, and hiring process for committee attorneys. Organized preparation, oversight, and execution of the fiscal year 2012 and 2013 annual performance oversight hearings. Provided expert insight and recommendations to develop legislative proposals and agendas. Drafted proposed public safety legislation.

D.C. Council - Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary

Committee Director

Washington, D.C.

February 2007 – October 2010

Advised the Committee Chairperson and provided leadership, planning, expert advice, direction, and supervision of the legislative agenda pertaining to all District public safety agencies. Executed and organized preparation for the public safety cluster's \$1.3 billion annual budget review and appropriations process. Managed and recruited committee staff. Organized and staffed taskforces on key legislative issues.

Legislative Analyst

July 2005 – February 2007

Drafted committee reports and legislation. Organized and managed public hearings on oversight matters and proposed legislation related to the Department of Corrections and reentry issues. Managed constituent inquiries.

Administrative Judge Keith Mathews – District Court of Baltimore City

Judicial Law Clerk

Baltimore, MD

September 2004 – July 2005

Drafted legal memoranda, proposed orders, and opinions. Assisted the Administrative Judge with special programs such as drug court, alternative dispute resolution, and domestic violence committee programs.

Internships

AllBright Law Offices

Summer 2003 – Corporate and Banking Department Intern

Shanghai, P.R. China

Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office

Summer 2002 – District Court Screener

Rockville, MD

Alexandria Public Defender Office

Summer 2001 – Investigative Intern

Alexandria, VA

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia Board Member Legislative Committee Member	September 2015 to Present December 2013 to Present
Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities Community Advisory Council Member	
Georgetown University Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching & Service Staff Fellow	September 2018 to Present
Georgetown Women's Alliance Staff Mentor	September 2018 to Present
Mayor-Elect Vincent C. Gray's Public Safety and Legal Affairs Transition Team Subcommittee Chairperson	November 2010
D.C. Law Students in Court Program Clinical Program Student	August 2003 - May 2004

MEMBERSHIPS AND SKILLS

Leadership Greater Washington	Class of 2018
Member, Maryland State Bar	Admitted December 2004
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area	
Fluent in conversational Mandarin, Chinese	
Proficient in Japanese	

EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law Juris Doctor awarded, May 2004 Activities and Honors: 2002 Equal Justice Foundation Fellowship Women's Law Association – Vice President	Washington, D.C.
The Pennsylvania State University Bachelor of Arts awarded, May 2001 Major: Mass Media Studies, International Communications Minor: Japanese Language	University Park, PA



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson
Chairman

Office: (202) 724-8032
Fax: (202) 724-8085

March 18, 2019

Ms. Heidi Tseu
5752 Sherier Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Ms. Tseu,

Congratulations on being nominated for appointment to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission (Commission). As you know, the appointment is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public roundtable on your nomination for **Friday, March 22, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 412**. Enclosed is a copy of the hearing notice. It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the following questions no later than close of business Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement.
2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.
3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.
4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.
5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.
6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.
8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.

9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.
10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.
11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.
12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Commission?
13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee.
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.
15. Why have you agreed to serve, and how do you plan to help the Commission fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Commission over the next three years?
16. Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as a member of the Commission.

At the March 22nd roundtable, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving as a member of the Commission. The testimony of persons interested in supporting your nomination is helpful but not necessary. Interested parties may call the Committee office to register to testify (724-8196) or, alternatively, may submit written comments to the Committee regarding your nomination via letter mail or e-mail (COW@dccouncil.us).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me or Peter Johnson on my staff at (202) 724-8083.

Sincerely,



Phil Mendelson
Chairman

enc.

PM/pj

March 20, 2019

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Chairman Mendelson:

Thank you for your March 18th letter regarding my nomination for appointment to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission (Commission). I look forward to participating in the Friday, March 22nd public roundtable. Please find my responses to your pre-roundtable questions below.

1. *Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement.*

I have not submitted a Financial Disclosure Statement. Please see my responses to questions 2-8 below.

2. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.*

None.

3. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.*

I am currently employed by Georgetown University and have received a salary in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.

4. *Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.*

I am currently employed by Georgetown University as the Director of Local Government Affairs. Georgetown is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit institution of higher learning in the United States. The University was established in the District of Columbia in 1789 and is one of the world's leading academic and research institutions.

5. *Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.*

None.

6. *Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.*

5752 Sherier Place NW, Washington, DC 20016.

7. *Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.*

I am licensed to practice law in Maryland and have been since 2004.

8. *Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.*

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area.

9. *Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.*

None.

10. *Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.*

I have served on the Board of Directors for the American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia since 2015.

11. *Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.*

No.

12. *Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Commission?*

My spouse Eric Goulet currently serves as Committee Director for the Council's Committee on Health. However, should an issue arise where there may be a conflict of interest, I would recuse myself from the matter and defer to the other DC Commissioners.

13. *Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee.*

I contributed \$250 to Mendelson for Chairman 2018 on January 31, 2018.

14. *Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.*

Yes. I am registered in the District of Columbia with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability as a lobbyist for Georgetown University.

15. *Why have you agreed to serve, and how do you plan to help the Commission fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Commission over the next three years?*

I am honored to be nominated as a Commissioner and am excited to serve because I would be utilizing my professional experience and skills in the performance of a public service to my hometown. The Commission provides a valuable service to the District and nation through a deliberative and open drafting process to create well-conceived and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of local and state statutory law.

If given the opportunity to serve the District of Columbia in this capacity, I would commit to representing the District at the Commission's annual conferences, seeking opportunities to join Commission committees, and collaborating with the other DC Commissioners in order to promote Council adoption of uniform laws that will benefit the District. In addition, I would be interested in developing connections with Commissioners in our region in the hopes that there are Commission related collaborations that can be approached regionally.

16. *Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as a member of the Commission.*

Any work on the Commission will include two levels – articulating and developing strategies that take into account the District's position, politics, and interest at the national level when developing these uniform laws; and then working with key stakeholders at the local level in order to facilitate the adoption of these uniform laws in DC.

My relevant experience includes: skills developed as a Council staffer in legislative drafting, knowledge of Council processes, and broader DC government and community practices; a broad perspective on public policy that's been informed by my work on the Council, as the board member of a non-profit organization in DC, as a director for Georgetown University at the intersection of higher education and public policy, and as a long-time DC resident; and a knowledge of stakeholders in DC that are actively engaged on a variety of public policy matters.

Thank you again and please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Heidi Tseu

Testimony of Heidi Tseu

Committee of the Whole Public Roundtable
on
**PR 23-178, District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu
Appointment Resolution of 2019**

March 22, 2019

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson, members of the committee, and staff. My name is Heidi Tseu and I am here today to testify on PR 23-178 and my proposed appointment to serve as a Commissioner for the District of Columbia to the Uniform Law Commission (Commission).

Thank you very much for allowing me the time to speak today. My testimony this afternoon will focus on why I am eager to serve the District of Columbia in this capacity, and highlight a few of my experiences and qualifications that I believe are relevant to this nomination. I have submitted my complete responses to the Committee's pre-roundtable questions for the record.

I am honored to be nominated as a Commissioner and am interested in serving because it will be an opportunity to utilize my professional experience and skills in the performance of a public service to the District.

I am a 15-year resident of the District of Columbia and currently live in the Palisades neighborhood with my husband and two sons. I earned an undergraduate degree from Penn State and a law degree from the American University Washington College of Law.

Since 2004, I have been barred in Maryland and have submitted my application to the DC Bar pursuant to a motion by 5 year provision (Rule 46(e)(3)(A)). This rule allows for admission to the DC Bar when you have been a member in good standing of another jurisdiction for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of application.

The vast majority of my career has been dedicated to matters of public policy specific to the District of Columbia and I have had the privilege of engaging the District's public policy matters from a diversity of perspectives – as a staffer for the Council of the District of Columbia; as a long-time District resident; as the board member of a non-profit organization committed to free speech, equal rights, and civil liberties; and currently as the government relations director for Georgetown University.

I developed my knowledge of DC's legislative process during my tenure with the Council's Judiciary Committee from 2005-2010 – first as a legislative analyst and then as a committee director. In 2013, I also briefly served as special counsel for the Committee with Councilmember Tommy Wells. During my time with the Council, I had the privilege of working on dozens of bills. The very first piece of legislation I ever worked on at the Council was B16-147, the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act of 2005. A bill that was designed to create clear rules for environmental covenants – restricting and regulating the use of contaminated property when real estate is transferred from one owner to another. This bill was developed by the Uniform Law Commission and has now been enacted in 27 states – with New Mexico introducing the legislation just this year.

I have a deep appreciation for the need for uniform laws in order to bring clarity and stability to the law; the benefit of uniform laws – facilitating the movement of individuals and the business of organizations; and the spirit of these laws – that they achieve consensus amongst a diverse range of stakeholders on complex issues. The District has participated with the Commission since 1905 and has an impressive history of DC leadership and representation. If given the opportunity to serve the District as a Commissioner – in addition to the basic requirement to attend the National conference – I would seek opportunities to join Commission committees; collaborate with the other DC Commissioners in order to promote Council adoption of uniform laws; and develop connections with Commissioners in our region in the hopes that there are Commission related collaborations that can be approached regionally.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

BRIAN K. FLOWERS

E:brian.flowers@abfa.com • M: 202.812.8444 • Washington, D.C. 20017

March 19, 2019

Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am writing as a member of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission (“Commission” or “ULC”), since 2002, to support the nomination of Attorney Heidi Tseu to become a member of the Commission. I have known Ms. Tseu in a professional capacity for approximately 12 years, from our work at the Council, and later in the Mayor’s Office. I have served in a variety of different capacities at the ULC, including leadership positions on the Scope and Program Committee as well as a Division Chair.

I currently serve on the Commission’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, where our goal is to encourage and facilitate greater diversity in the composition of the membership, committee service, and leadership of the organization to ensure that all voices, thoughts and ideas are included in the legislation that we propose. Ms. Tseu’s experience and training in legislative affairs, government relations and lobbying will be an asset to the Commission, and her background with nonprofit/educational institutions, legal advocacy groups, volunteer work on behalf of the disabled community, as well as her affinity for languages and different cultures will add a perspective to our delegation that is now lacking.

I hope you will give her nomination favorable consideration.

Warmest regards,



Brian K. Flowers
Uniform Law Commissioner, DC

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 April 2, 2019
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8 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**
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10 23-178
11 _____
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13 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
14 _____
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17 To appoint Ms. Heidi Tseu to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission.
18

19 **RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu
21 Appointment Resolution of 2019”.

22 **Sec. 2.** The Council of the District of Columbia appoints:

23 Heidi Tseu
24 5752 Sherier Place, N.W.
25 Washington, DC 20016
26 (Ward 3)
27

28 as a commissioner on the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission, established by section
29 2 of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Act of 2010, effective March 12, 2011
30 (D.C. Law 18-313; D.C. Official Code § 3-1431), for a 3-year term to end on July 1, 2021.

31 **Sec. 3.** The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
32 upon its adoption, to the appointee.

33 **Sec. 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
34 the District of Columbia Register.