

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: December 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-413, “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Reappointment Resolution of 2021”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-413, the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Reappointment Resolution of 2021” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On October 14, 2021, PR 24-413, the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Reappointment Resolution of 2021” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. The purpose of PR 24-413 is to reappoint Ms. Heidi Tseu as a member of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission for a term to end July 1, 2024.

Ms. Tseu is a Ward 3 resident. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the Pennsylvania State University and her Juris Doctorate from the 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 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. While working at the Council Ms. Tseu gained extensive experience in legislative drafting and in developing and

reviewing District government policies and practices. 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, as 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 Act which provides 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 from the District to the ULC. In addition, commissioners are required to advise the Mayor and Council on proposals for uniform state laws and the effect that those proposals would have on District laws.

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. 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. 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. The legal subject areas covered include family law, commercial law, trusts and estates, civil, criminal, administrative and environmental law. Uniform laws are different than model laws in that the ULC recommends their adoption, with minimal changes, by as many states as possible. The goal is to promote uniformity in the law among the states. The District's delegation to 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. 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. The commissioners must be residents of the District and must be a member in good standing of the District of Columbia Bar.

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

Resolution	Position	Appointee	Term Expiring
PR 24-413	Proposed Council Appointee	Heidi Tseu	July 1, 2024
	General Counsel to the Council	Nicole Streeter	N/A
	Mayoral Appointee	Brian Flowers	July 1, 2023
	Mayoral Appointee	James McKay (Chair)	July 1, 2023
	Mayoral Appointee	John McAvoy	July 1, 2023
	Chief Judge of the Superior Court Appointee	Judge Joan Zeldon	July 1, 2024

During the roundtable, Ms. Tseu highlighted her experience working on uniform laws and her work the Commission to date. She testified that, since her appointment, she has participated in all three annual meetings and begun serving on the Study Committee on Mitigation of Public Health Emergency Business Disruptions, as well as serving as Vice Chair of the ULC's new

drafting committee on Public Health Emergency Authorities. Ms. Tseu added that she maintains a deep appreciation for uniform laws, which bring clarity and stability to the law.

Ms. Tseu plans to continue to collaborate with the other commissioners to promote Council adoption of uniform laws. She also hopes to continue to be able to deepen her engagement with commissioners in the Washington D.C. region to collaborate on issues that impact the District, Maryland, and Virginia. In her short tenure, Finally, Ms. Tseu wants to continue her service on the Commission because it will allow her to use her experience and skills in public service to the District.

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, including uniform laws, that are being considered by the Council. Moreover, her government experience will continue to 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 24-413.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

October 14, 2021	PR 24-413, the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Reappointment Resolution of 2021” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
October 19, 2021	PR 24-413 is “read” at Regular Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
October 21, 2021	Notice of a Public Roundtable on PR 24-413 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> .
October 22, 2021	Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-413 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> .
October 27, 2021	The Committee of the Whole holds a public roundtable on PR 24-413.
December 7, 2021	The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 24-413.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Tseu is the Council’s appointee to the Uniform Law Commission. The Executive did not submit comments with respect to the appointee.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-413.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 24-413 on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. Copies of the testimony regarding PR 24-413 are attached to this report.

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

The Committee also received written testimony from James McKay, current Chair of the D.C. Uniform Law Commission, in support of the reappointment (attached). The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Tseu's reappointment.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Commissioners who 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 24-413 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Commissioners who 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 24-413.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Heidi Tseu as a member of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission to serve a term to end on July 1, 2024.
<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 24-413 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

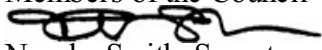
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-413 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written testimony and comments.
4. Legal sufficiency determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-413.

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 : Friday, October 15, 2021
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Thursday, October 14, 2021. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Reappointment Resolution of 2021", PR24-0413

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

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

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To reappoint Ms. Heidi Tseu to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Reappointment Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia reappoints:

Heidi Tseu
Sherier Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20016
(Ward 3)

as a member of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission, established by section 2 of the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Act of 2010, effective March 12, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-313; D.C. Official Code § 3-1431), for a 3-year term to end on July 1, 2024.

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

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

Heidi Tseu

Washington, D.C. 20016

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT

Senior-level higher education and government relations professional with significant experience executing public policy engagement strategies and developing community engagement initiatives that advance strategic initiatives and the common good. Skilled at developing collaboration and delivering innovative partnerships across a diversity of industries.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Georgetown University

Associate Vice President For Local Government & Community Engagement

Washington, D.C.

July 2021 - Present

Manages University engagement with the District of Columbia government and anchor local partner community organizations. Proven experience developing strategic partnerships with external stakeholders in business, government, and the nonprofit sector in areas such as research, public policy initiatives, regulatory management and compliance. Promoted to an executive-level position based on demonstrated success in building relationships across campus and the city that resulted in innovative programs that advanced both the University's strategic growth and commitments to serve the community.

Director of Local Government Affairs

March 2016 – June 2021

Served as University representative for local public policy and community engagement. Developed strategies and collaborative partnerships between University stakeholders and key community partners in order to create cross-industry events and programs that furthered research, scholarship, and service to the DC community. Co-chaired the University's annual MLK Initiative, which would fund, promote, and originate university-wide programming that honors the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws

Commissioner for the District of Columbia
Council of the District of Columbia Appointee

April 2019 – Present

American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia

National Board Member
Affiliate Board Member
Vice President and Executive Committee Member

September 2019 – Present
September 2015 – Present

CARECEN Latino Resource and Justice Center

Advisory Council Member

September 2019 – Present

Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Community Advisory Council Member

September 2016 – Present

Georgetown University Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching & Service

Staff Fellow

2018 – 2020

Mayor-Elect Vincent C. Gray's Public Safety and Legal Affairs Transition Team

Subcommittee Chairperson

November 2010

MEMBERSHIPS AND SKILLS

Leadership Greater Washington, Class of 2018

Member, Maryland State Bar, Admitted 2004

Member, District of Columbia Bar, Admitted 2019

Fluent in conversational Mandarin, Chinese; Proficient in Japanese

EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

Juris Doctor awarded, May 2004

Activities and Honors:

2002 Equal Justice Foundation Fellowship, Women's Law Association – Vice President

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Bachelor of Arts, May 2001

Major: Mass Media Studies, International Communications | Minor: Japanese

October 26, 2021

Via Email Only

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 October 21st letter regarding my nomination for re-appointment to the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission (Commission). I look forward to participating in the Wednesday, October 27th public roundtable on PR 24-413, the District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Heidi Tseu Reappointment Resolution of 2021.

Please find a copy of my testimony and responses to the 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 no. 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 \$1,000, 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 \$200 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 Associate Vice President for Local Government and Community Engagement. 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 \$1,000. 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 \$1,000.*

5752 Sherier Place NW, Washington, DC 20016

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

I've been a member of the D.C. Bar since 2019 and a member of the Maryland State Bar Association since 2004.

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

In addition to the organizations listed in Question 7, the 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.*

The Uniform Law Commission since 2019 and OSSE's DC Career and Technical Education Executive Advisory Board since 2020.

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

I serve on the American Civil Liberties Union, Inc. National Board of Directors as the DC Affiliate Representative, and the ACLU-DC Board of Directors as Vice President.

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 Board?*

My spouse Eric Goulet currently serves as Committee Director for the Council's Committee on Health. However, should an issue arise where there might 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 all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee.*

I contributed to Mendelson for Chairman 2018, Vince Gray 2020, and Re-Elect Brandon Todd 2020.

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'm 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?*

I would be interested in the opportunity to serve a second term as a Uniform Law Commissioner for the District of Columbia because I strongly support the Uniform Law Commission's mission – to create well-conceived and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of local and state laws. If chosen to serve in this capacity again, I would commit to representing the District of Columbia at the Commission's annual conferences, actively participating in Commission committees, and collaborating with the other DC Commissioners in order to promote Council adoption of uniform laws that will benefit District residents.

I appreciate your consideration of this re-appointment resolution. Please feel free to reach out should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Heidi Tseu

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 December 7, 2021
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8 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**
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11 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
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16

17 **RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, That this
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19 Reappointment Resolution of 2021”.

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23 Washington, DC 20016
24 (Ward 3)
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