

CALIFORNIA LAW REVISION COMMISSION

c/o UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW
DAVIS, CA 95616
530-752-3626



NEWS RELEASE
October 2, 2020
For Immediate Release

Contact: Brian Hebert
Executive Director
530-752-3626
bhebert@clrc.ca.gov

Miller-O’Brien Elected Chair of Law Revision Commission

Crystal Miller-O’Brien, of Los Angeles, has been elected Chairperson of the California Law Revision Commission and Richard Simpson, of Sacramento, has been elected Vice-Chairperson. The term of office is one year, ending on August 31, 2021.

The Law Revision Commission is a state agency responsible for studying problem areas in California law and recommending reforms to the Governor and Legislature. The Commission’s current workload includes studies of alternatives to probate, revision of statutes made obsolete by trial court restructuring, and the reorganization and clean-up of the Fish and Game Code and certain statutes that regulate toxic substances.

Crystal Miller-O’Brien, the new Chairperson, was appointed to the Commission in 2011. She is a graduate of Oberlin College and received her Juris Doctorate degree from the Willamette University College of Law. Ms. Miller-O’Brien serves as Director of Employee Relations/General Counsel for University Medical Partners, Inc., an affiliate of Stanford Health Care, since 2020. She was General Counsel for Medical Management Consultants, Inc. from 2006 to 2020, an associate for Anderson McPharlin and Connors LLP from 2005 to 2006, for Robie and Matthai PC from 2003 to 2005, and for Bullivant Houser Bailey PC from 2002 to 2003. From 2001 to 2002, she clerked for the Honorable Faith Ireland of the Washington State Supreme Court. Ms. Miller-O’Brien served on the board of directors to the California Conference of Bar Associations from 2009 to 2011. She was appointed as a panelist attorney with the Workplace Conduct Unit in 2019, and she is a member of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Richard Simpson, the new Vice-Chairperson, was appointed to the Commission in 2019. He served as chief of staff in the Office of State Senator Robert Hertzberg in 2019. He served as a member of the Sacramento County Board of Education from 1990 to 2002. He was deputy chief of staff and education advisor in the Office of the Assembly Speaker from 1999 to 2016, legislative secretary in the Office of Governor Gray Davis from 1998 to 1999, and deputy chief of staff in the Office of Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa in 1998. Simpson was a legislative advocate for the California Teachers Association from 1996 to 1998, staff director for the Senate Education Committee from 1995 to 1996, and education advisor for the Office of the Assembly Speaker Willie Brown Jr. from 1991 to 1994. He is a member of the Commission on Judicial

Performance. Simpson earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

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