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Commissioner Margaret McFarland



Margaret McFarland was appointed to serve on the Housing Opportunities Commission by County Executive Leggett and confirmed by the Montgomery County Council on October 30, 2014.

Dr. McFarland is currently a clinical professor at the University of Maryland in College Park and the Director of graduate programs in real estate development. Prior to 2006 she served as General Counsel to the District of Columbia Housing Authority, providing legal advice and counsel on all aspects from public finance to project and community redevelopment, property management and tenant issues, to regulatory, legislative and litigation.

McFarland began her career in real estate as an urban planner for the Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio) Planning Commissions. On completing her law degree Dr. McFarland joined O'Melveny & Myers in private practice in Washington, DC assisting clients in financing hotel, office and retail facilities, including commercial properties seeking historic preservation designation and complex revenue bond financing.

In 1985, McFarland was appointed counsel to Maryland's housing finance agency (CDA) and mortgage insurance fund (MHF) issuing revenue bonds for affordable single and multi-family housing for low and moderate income citizens of Maryland. In 1987 Attorney General J. Joseph Curran appointed McFarland to the Position

of General Council to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

Starting in 1995 Ms. McFarland spent two years on special assignment as General Counsel to the Historic St. Mary's City Commission in southern Maryland, most notably serving as counsel to Lieutenant Governor Townsend's Task Force to establish a quasi-corporate entity and cooperative relationship between St. Mary's College and the Commission.

McFarland returned to the private sector in 1998 providing consulting services to clients, both public and private, looking to employ housing tax credits and other financing mechanisms to build or redevelop new communities including affordable housing. Subsequently, she served for several years as the Executive Director of the Housing Credit Group for the National Association of Home Builders where she worked with private sector bankers, builders, developers, investors, syndicators and property managers from all over the U.S. on projects financed with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit.

Dr. McFarland is a member of the District of Columbia and Maryland bars. She is an outside director of the Neighborhood Development Collaborative, Inc., a non-profit real estate company focused on affordable, senior and community development projects with properties under development and/or management in Georgia, Texas and Nevada. She is a Trustee of Washington Adventist University and serves on the Board of Directors of the American Real Estate Society.

Dr. McFarland has been a resident of Takoma Park, Maryland since 1979.