

## VI. A. Appointment of Members to Board of Directors for Corporation for Public Benefit for Nevada Youth Legislature (NRS 219A.300)

### Statutory Provision:

**NRS 219A.300 Administration of Youth Legislature by corporation for public benefit; governance of corporation by Board of Directors; appointment and terms of Board members; election of Chair and Vice Chair; powers and duties of Board.**

1. The Youth Legislature must be administered by a corporation for public benefit, as that term is defined in NRS 82.021, which must include providing educational programs and opportunities as its primary organizational goal.

2. The corporation for public benefit must be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of seven members appointed by the Legislative Commission consisting of at least:

(a) One member of the Senate;

(b) One member of the Assembly;

(c) One representative of the general public; and

(d) If practicable, one person who previously served as a member of the Youth Legislature.

3. A member of the Board serves a term of 2 years and until his or her successor is appointed. A member of the Board may be reappointed.

4. The members of the Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among their number. The term of office of the Chair and the Vice Chair is 1 year.

5. The Board:

(a) Shall administer the provisions of this chapter.

(b) May provide to the Youth Legislature such administrative, financial and other support and guidance as the Board may determine to be necessary or appropriate.

(c) May employ one or more persons to provide administrative support for the Youth Legislature or pay the costs incurred by one or more volunteers to provide any required administrative support.

(d) Shall oversee the activities of the Youth Legislature.

(e) May solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from any source to provide educational programs and opportunities and for the support of the Youth Legislature in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. Any such gifts, grants and donations must be deposited in the Account.

(f) May perform such other functions in whatever manner the Board determines will best serve the interests of this State and the Youth Legislature.

(Added to NRS by 2011, 1053) — (Substituted in revision for NRS 385.581)

The provisions underlined and italicized above were added through the enactment of legislation approved by the 2019 Legislature and are new for the upcoming biennium.

The current members of the Board of Directors were appointed after the 2017 Legislative Session and their terms expire this summer. The Board currently consists of the members set forth below. All are eligible for reappointment.

Senator Joyce Woodhouse

Assemblyman John Hambrick

Former Senator Valerie Wiener (Application attached)

Former Assemblywoman Amber Joiner

Former Youth Legislator Zhan Okuda-Lim (Application attached)

Former Youth Legislator Alex Bybee

Victoria Carreon (Application attached)

TO: Rick Combs, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau

February 7, 2019

FROM: Senator Valerie Wiener (Retired), Chair, Board of Directors  
Corporation for Public Benefit for the Nevada Youth Legislature  
(dba Nevada Youth Legislature Foundation Board)

### **From the Beginning**

2019 marks the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of SB 247, which created the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL). As the proud sponsor of that legislation, I have continued to be actively engaged in the NYL program. I have the joy of co-creating (with Legislative Counsel Bureau staff) both annual trainings and each monthly half-day, highly interactive training. We also work closely together to create and refine the eight outside activities per term, as well as timely conference calls and special events.

In 2011, I was privileged to be appointed by the Legislative Commission to the newly created NYL Foundation Board and was selected by its members to serve as chair. Reappointed to this Board by the Legislative Commission in 2013, 2015, and 2017, I was again chosen to serve as its chair. During this time, we have expanded the activities of the NYL program. For starters, in 2011, the terms of Youth Legislators were lengthened from one year to two years to better mirror a legislative cycle.

### **Expanding Youth Legislators' Roles, Responsibilities, and Opportunities**

With the two-year term, the roles and responsibilities of Youth Legislators were also expanded. Youth Legislators were required to form their own District Youth Advisory Councils (DYACs) to allow up to two students from each public high school to participate as their advisers. During the 2017-2019 term, we strongly encouraged these DYAC students to attend monthly trainings and participate in some of the interactive opportunities at these sessions.

During the past several years, we have also expanded the requirements for each Youth Legislator's involvement in constituent engagement. In addition to forming their DYACs, Youth Legislators are required to conduct at least one DYAC meeting with their youth advisers. Youth Legislators are also required to host at least one town hall meeting and testify before at least one public decision-making body (outside their own school). In 2019, we also introduced a new outside activity: outreach recruitment letters, which the Youth Legislators write on behalf of the NYL program to recruit students to apply for NYL appointments.

During this 2017-2019 term, we made a strong commitment to lead more interactive trainings. One addition is the paired activity that enables Youth Legislators to practice whatever they are learning at that meeting, e.g. message accountability, listening skills, constituent outreach.

We have also shifted the role of the Legislators from each caucus, who participate as trainer/facilitators each month. Rather than sitting at a table in a panel format, Legislators now lead group discussions to enable Youth Legislators to have real conversations with Legislators. These Legislators also sit at the witness table with each group reporter to participate in the summary of that group's discussion. We continue to include NYL alumni/trainers, via telephone or at the witness table, to provide their unique perspectives on the monthly topic, based on their own experiences in the NYL program and beyond.

### **Enriching the NYL Bill Experience**

Because Youth Legislators craft their own BDRs, in the Fall of 2018, for the first time, each Youth Legislator sat at the witness table before the entire NYL and presented his/her bill proposal and answered questions. During that September 2018 meeting, the NYL narrowed the BDRs down to seven. These seven BDR sponsors testified again at the October 2018 meeting during which the NYL narrowed their BDR choices down to two. At the November 2018 meeting, the NYL conducted full hearings on these two measures and, following extensive debate, selected their bill, which is scheduled to be heard on March 19, 2019, in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### **Listening to—and Learning from—Youth Legislators**

We also listen to what our Youth Legislators share with us. They have been eager to experience stronger ties with their own Legislators. Therefore, during the 2017-2019 term, we started requiring Youth Legislators to include their Senate and Assembly members in the email submissions of all required reports on their outside activities. This has produced wonderful connections between the Youth Legislators and their own elected Legislators.

### **Impact on Youth Legislators . . . Now and Beyond**

NYL alumni have an important role in the evolution of the NYL program. In addition to having different alumni participating during each of the monthly trainings, two NYL alumni have actively contributed to policy making and other activities as members of the NYL Foundation Board.

I have the privilege of maintaining contact with dozens of NYL alumni. These wonderful ambassadors for the program tell me, again and again, how the NYL program has substantially affected the choices they are making about their college educations and career paths. Many of them credit this program with shifting their career or life paths to include public service in significant ways.

The NYL Foundation Board also continues to support NYL alumni with annual scholarships. In 2019, these scholarships included: Senator Valerie Wiener (Retired) NYL Scholarship (\$750); Senator Joyce Woodhouse NYL Scholarship (\$500); Former Youth Legislator Tierra Patmavanu NYL Scholarship (\$500); and Nevada Youth Legislature Scholarship (\$500), which is sponsored by Tori Carreon, an NYL Foundation Board member.

**\*\*\*International Outreach**

During a trip to Australia and New Zealand, November 5 to December 17, 2018, I had the magnificent privilege to visit the Queensland (state) Parliament in Brisbane, the New South Wales (state) Parliament in Sydney, the Australian (federal) Parliament in Canberra, and the New Zealand (federal) Parliament in Wellington. During these visits, I had the opportunity to introduce the NYL to elected leaders and/or professional staff. As a follow up to these visits, I sent personalized, hand-written thank-you notes and, after returning to Las Vegas, a New Year's Eve email encouraging our collaboration to develop a similar program in their Parliaments.

On January 8, 2019, I received a very energetic response from the Deputy Chief Executive and Director, People and Engagement Branch, Department of Parliamentary Services, New South Wales Parliament. Her email response encouraged an ongoing conversation about a collaboration to integrate a program like the NYL into their Parliament.

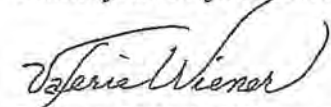
On January 30, 2019, I received another enthusiastic response to my email from the Policy and Protocol Officer, Office of the Speaker, Queensland Parliament. He, too, invited additional conversation about a collaboration with them if they choose to introduce a program like the NYL in the Queensland Parliament.

Whatever "next steps" might evolve, I am gratified that I had the privilege to introduce the NYL to leaders of Parliaments in two countries. The seeds have been planted!

**Request**

It has been an extraordinary privilege to be involved with the NYL program, the current and alumni Youth Legislators, Nevada State Legislators, and LCB staff. It is my hope that you will reappoint me to serve on the Nevada Youth Legislature Foundation Board so that I may continue this work to enrich the lives of these youth leaders of our state and all those young people they serve in their role as Nevada Youth Legislators.

Thank you for your consideration.



Senator Valerie Wiener (Retired)

P.S. The NYL program, through magnificent teamwork, continues to demonstrate and deliver exemplary educational processes and outcomes. This is more than a subjective observation. Since 2009, the NYL program has earned 42 state, national, and international awards.





# Nevada Legislature

## Public Appointment Committee Application

NOTE: If you are applying for more than one position/committee, you will need to fill out an application for each position/committee.

### Committee Information

Date of Application: March 14, 2019

Committee You Are Applying For: Board of Directors for Corporation for Public Benefit for Nevada Youth Legislature



Please see attached letter.

Please indicate  
your qualifications  
for this committee:

### Contact Information

Full Name: Zhan Okuda-Lim

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State: NV

ZIP Code: 89119

E-mail: zhanokudalim@gmail.com

Home Phone: 702-799-1042

(Format: 775-123-4444)

Cell Phone:

(Format: 775-123-4444)

### To submit form(s):

#### By E-mail (preferred method):

Click the Submit Form button in the top-right corner (enter your E-mail Address and Full Name, then click Send). If this form does not open your e-mail program automatically, save the form and e-mail it to: [admin@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:admin@lcb.state.nv.us)

#### By U. S. Mail/in person:

Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Attn: Director's Office  
401 S Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

For U.S. Mail or By Person option, click to print form:

Print Form

If you have any questions, please contact the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Director's Office at (775) 684-6800.

For your information, the Legislative Counsel Bureau maintains applications for two years, at which time all applicants must reapply for any positions in which they are interested.

## ZHAN OKUDA-LIM

March 14, 2019

Rick Combs  
Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Dear Rick:

It is with greatest enthusiasm that I submit this letter for consideration to serve on the Board of Directors of the Nevada Youth Legislature Foundation.

Serving on the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) from 2009 to 2011 was a formative experience that inspired me to pursue my academic studies in policy and career goals in public service. As an alumnus and current NYL Foundation Board member, I am dedicated to ensuring that new Youth Legislators can make the most of this immersive experience in public service.

Since graduating from high school, it has been a privilege to support multiple teams of Youth Legislators as they grew as young leaders. In August 2011, at Senator Valerie Wiener's invitation, I contributed to the NYL summer training as an alumnus mentor to the incoming team of Youth Legislators. Throughout the eight years since, including six years of service on the Foundation Board, I have mentored Youth Legislators on their duties and responsibilities, volunteered during summer trainings, participated as a mock-hearing witness, and served as an alumnus presenter for leadership workshops.

My experiences learning about and practicing meaningful public service as a Youth Legislator inspired me to study public policy and give back to the State in which I was born and raised. In 2017, I earned my Master of Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government. I previously earned my Master of Education in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and my Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University, where I majored in Public and International Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

During my college summers, I returned home to work for the Clark County School District (CCSD) on various education equity and policy topics, including reducing disproportionality in school discipline, ensuring students in foster care receive proper supports and resources, and aligning literacy curricula for special education programs. I also incorporated timely Nevada policy topics into my academic work. For my master's capstone at the University of Pennsylvania, I collaborated with CCSD to develop a research plan to examine the influence of school-based budgeting (per the CCSD reorganization) on student achievement.

After earning my M.P.A., I returned home to answer the call to public service. Since October 2017, I have served at The Public Education Foundation as Director of Policy and Analytical Leadership and as Resident Fellow with the Leadership Institute of Nevada. In these capacities, I collaborate with teacher and community leaders, principals and school-district officials, and local and state policymakers to identify, research, and address pressing issues of policy and practice facing Nevada's schools and students.

Director Rick Combs  
March 14, 2019  
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In our home State, the NYL plays an integral role in showing young people the importance of education, serving others, and giving back. As President John F. Kennedy declared, "The educated citizen has an obligation to serve the public."<sup>1</sup>

If reappointed to the NYL Foundation Board, I will continue applying my passion for public service and my energetic support of this amazing program that inspires young people to serve, and I will collaborate with colleagues to ensure that the incoming team of Youth Legislators can maximize *learning through doing*—the hallmark of the NYL.

Thank you for your consideration. If you or your colleagues have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours respectfully,



Zhan Okuda-Lim

Member, Board of Directors, Nevada Youth Legislature Foundation

Past Chair, Nevada Youth Legislature, 2010-2011  
Past Nevada Youth Legislator, 2009-2011

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks in Nashville at the 90th Anniversary Convocation of Vanderbilt University, 1963 PUB. PAPERS 406, 408 (May 18, 1963).



# Nevada Legislature

## Public Appointment Committee Application

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### Committee Information

Date of Application: 5/8/2019

Committee You Are Applying For: Board of Directors for Corporation for Public Benefit for Nevada Youth Legislature

Please indicate  
your qualifications  
for this committee:

I have dedicated my career to public service in state and local government and have a strong interest in helping youth achieve and learn about the legislative process. I have served on the Board of Directors for the Nevada Youth Legislature since 2013. My focus has been on recruiting a diverse group of Youth Legislators that reflects the community. I have also contributed to the annual Nevada Youth Legislature Scholarship and have participated in the scholarship selection process. I have also assisted in the summer orientation training for Youth Legislators and in Youth Legislature Day at the Nevada Legislature.

### Contact Information

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Home Phone: 702-547-5543

(Format: 775-123-4444)

Cell Phone: 619-843-6716

(Format: 775-123-4444)

### To submit form(s):

#### By E-mail (preferred method):

Click the Submit Form button in the top-right corner (enter your E-mail Address and Full Name, then click Send). If this form does not open your e-mail program automatically, save the form and e-mail it to: [admin@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:admin@lcb.state.nv.us)

#### By U. S. Mail/in person:

Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Attn: Director's Office  
401 S Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

For U.S. Mail or By Person option, click to print form:

[Print Form](#)

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