



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

County Executive Office

1195 Third Street, Suite 310
Napa, CA 94559
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Main: (707) 253-4421
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Minh C. Tran
County Executive Officer

December 14, 2021

Robert Palmer



Re: Napa County Mental Health Board

Dear Robert:

You have been a valued member of the **Napa County Mental Health Board** representing **Interested and Concerned Citizen**. The term of your position expires on January 1, 2022. If you wish to request reappointment for a 3-year term, please check the following box:

- ☒ Yes, I would like my name, this letter and application forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for possible reappointment to the Napa County Mental Health Board for the term commencing immediately and expiring January 1, 2025.

If you have chosen to request reappointment, please check one of the two boxes below regarding your last application:

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- ☐ I confirm that all the information on my last application is current.
- ☒ Some of the information on my last application is no longer current or is five (5) years old or older. I will submit a new or revised application.

(To complete a new application form either contact the Napa County Executive Office or go to the following link to complete your application online:

<http://ca-napacounty.civicplus.com/1420/Committees-Commissions>

After checking the appropriate box, **sign and date** on the lines below and return this letter to the County Executive Office by mail, email, or fax.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Palmer".
SIGNATURE

23 DEC 2021
DATE

Application for Appointment to Board, Commission, Committee, Task Force or Position

Applicants appointed by the Board of Supervisors will be required to take an oath of office. All applications will be kept on file for one year from the date of application.

Public Records Act

Applications are public records that are subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. Information provided by the applicant is not regarded as confidential except for the addresses and phone numbers of references and the applicant's personal information including home and work addresses, phone numbers and email address.

Form 700 Conflict of Interest Code

[California Fair Political Practices Website](#)

Please note that appointees may be required by state law and county conflict of interest code to file financial disclosure statements.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Napa County Mental Health Board: Submitted

Category of Membership for Which You Are Applying

Interested and concerned citizen

Profile

Robert

First Name

Palmer

Last Name

Middle Initial

Email Address

Home Address

City

State or Zip

CA

State

Postal Code

Which supervisorial district do you reside in? *

☒ District 3

To find your supervisorial district go to <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2051/Find-my-supervisor-and-district> and enter your address.

Primary Phone

Law Office of Robert L. Palmer
Employer

owner
Job title

Lawyer
Occupation

Education/Experience

Georgetown University, A.B. 1968 Columbia University Law School, J.D. 1971

Name and occupation of spouse within the last 12 months, if married. (For conflict of interest purposes)

Mary Palmer

Resume

[Palmer Resume Dec. 2021.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Letter of Recommendation or Supplemental
Attachments

Professional or occupational license, date of issue, and expiration including status

See or go na app cat on, no change

References: Provide names and phone numbers of 3 individuals who are familiar with your background.

See or go na app cat on, no change

Community Participation

Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you could contribute.

I am the current chair of the Mental Health Board and seek re-appointment in order to fulfill that role. Otherwise the information submitted with my or go na app cat on is still current.

Nature of activity and community location

See or go na app cat on, no change

Other County Board/Commission/Committee on Which You Serve/Have Served

See or go na app cat on, no change

Public Actions that may impact Credit Rating (List all court or other public administration actions impacting your credit rating within the past ten (10) years)

None

Electronic Signature Agreement

Robert Palmer

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please Agree with the Following Statement

By checking the "I agree" box below, you agree and acknowledge that 1) your application will not be signed in the sense of a traditional paper document, 2) by signing in this alternate manner, you authorize your electronic signature to be valid and binding upon you to the same force and effect as a handwritten signature, and 3) you may still be required to provide a traditional signature at a later date.

☒ I Agree

Electronic Signature (First M. Last)

Robert L. Pa mer

Date

Dec. 23, 2021

Robert L. Palmer

Phone: [REDACTED] E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Purpose

This resume is submitted in support of my application for re-appointment to the Napa County Mental Health Board as an "interested and concerned citizen."

Background Summary

I have been a practicing lawyer since 1971, admitted to practice in California, Arizona and the District of Columbia. I am now semi-retired, continuing to work on several matters of particular interest but able to devote the bulk of my time to other activities.

My wife Mary and I have owned our house in Yountville, and have been regular Napa visitors since 2003. When I scaled back my legal work, we moved to Northern California to live full time, and Yountville is our permanent residence. We have three grown daughters, two of whom live in Napa with their families.

Work Experience

Law Office of Robert L. Palmer

September 2021 to present

- I retired from McKool Smith in September 2021 and now operate a solo practice pursuing matters of personal interest, primarily relating to refugees and others seeking asylum in the U.S.

McKool Smith P.C., Los Angeles, California

October 2011 to September 2021

- McKool Smith is a national law firm focused on litigation. In October 2011, my previous firm merged with McKool Smith.
- I am a Principal with the firm. My work with McKool Smith has been False Claims Act litigation, victims' rights litigation and human rights litigation.

Hennigan Dorman, LLC, Los Angeles, California

May 1996-September 2011

- Hennigan Dorman was a Los Angeles law firm devoted entirely to litigation. Hennigan Dorman was established in the Spring of 1996 and I was recruited to join the firm when it was established.
- My practice centered on general commercial litigation and mediation, False Claims Act litigation and victims' rights litigation.
- I was a partner in Hennigan Dorman throughout my tenure and, from approximately August 1996 until the merger with McKool Smith, was the Firm's Managing Partner.

Osborn Maledon, Phoenix, Arizona

March 1976-April 1996

- Osborn Maledon is a general practice law firm in Phoenix, Arizona, representing clients in a wide range of areas including but not limited to commercial litigation, criminal defense, False Claims Act disputes, contracts and mergers & acquisitions.

- My work involved general commercial litigation, False Claims Act litigation and victims' rights litigation.
- I was an associate attorney with Osborn Maledon in 1976 and was a partner thereafter until I left in April 1996 to join Hennigan Dorman in Los Angeles.

Covington & Burling, Washington, D.C. August 1972-May 1973, November 1974-February 1976

- Covington & Burling is a national law firm with a general practice, including litigation and matters related to governments programs and contracts.
- I was an associate attorney with Covington & Burling, focused entirely on commercial and *pro bono* litigation.
- The break in my tenure with that firm was due to my service with the Watergate Special Prosecution Force.

Watergate Special Prosecution Force, Washington, D.C. June 1973-October 1974

- The WSPF was formed in May 1973 to investigate matters related to the Nixon Administration and its personnel.
- I was an Assistant Special Prosecutor. My duties included investigations of various alleged criminal activities of persons in and associated with the Nixon Administration, including illegal campaign contributions and matters related to the attempt to suppress or discredit the Pentagon Papers disclosures by Daniel Ellsberg.
- I also served for a time as Assistant Counsel to the Special Prosecutor, representing the office in judicial proceedings.

Hon. Harold Leventhal, Washington, D.C. August 1971-July 1972

- After graduation from law school, I served as law clerk to Judge Harold Leventhal, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.
- As his law clerk, my duties were to assist Judge Leventhal with the evaluation of appeals brought before his Court, to perform research and to prepare draft opinions.

Education

Columbia Law School, New York, NY September 1968-June 1971

- Juris Doctor, June 1971; Notes and Comments Editor, Columbia Law Review.

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. September 1964-June 1968

- Bachelor of Arts, Economics, June 1968.

Relevant Skills and Additional Information

- My recent legal work has focused entirely on human and victims' rights issues including: representing individuals detained without charge at Guantanamo Naval Station; seeking redress

for family members of innocent bystanders of U.S. drone attacks; seeking compensation for victims of genocide and state violence in Sudan (Darfur, etc.); and litigation to compel adequate medical care for a seriously ill Guantanamo detainee.

- I have good analytical and communication skills, and am experienced in comparative evaluation of proposed solutions to complex problems.
- I have extensive experience and have been successful in collaborative problems solving. That comes, among other things, from my role as a law firm managing partner, from representing clients in settlement and mediation proceedings and from formal professional training in conducting mediations.
- I have a long-term interest in constructive social change. In addition to *pro bono* litigation work, I served on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest for approximately 6 years and was its President for three. The work of the Arizona Center during my tenure with its Board involved complex issues and disputes related to mental health programs and funding.
- My wife and I have been regular participants in the workshops and roundtables of the “Live Healthy Napa County” study and program. Effective community response to mental health issues is of course a basic building block of any healthy community and an opportunity to participate in the Mental Health Board’s work is of great interest to me. Being semi-retired, I would be able to devote the time and attention necessary to be an active and contributing member of the Board.