



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR
January 11, 2021

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 305 of the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Support Act of 2001, effective October 3, 2001 (D.C. Law 14-28; D.C. Official Code § 2-1374), which established the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development ("Commission"), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

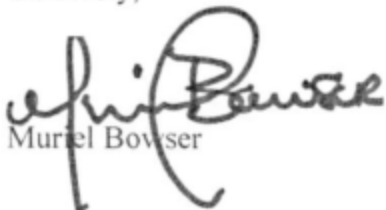
Mr. Ronak Desai
Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(Ward 6)

for reappointment as a public voting member of the Commission, for a term to end April 17, 2022.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the reappointment of Mr. Ronak Desai to the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development Ronak Desai Confirmation Resolution of 2021".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

Mr. Ronak Desai
Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(Ward 6)

as a public voting member of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development, established by section 305 of the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Support Act of 2001, effective October 3, 2001 (D.C. Law 14-28; D.C. Official Code § 2-1374), and in accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1- 523.01), for a term to end April 17, 2022.

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

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA; *Juris Doctorate*, May 2011 (JD/MPP Joint Degree)

- *Magna cum laude*, top 10% of graduating class
- *Harvard Journal of International Law*, Senior Editor (2010-2011); Articles Editor (2009-2010)

Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA; *Master in Public Policy*, May 2011 (JD/MPP Joint Degree)

- Concentration in International Security Policy (ISP) in South and Southeast Asia

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; *Bachelor of Arts in International Studies*, May 2006

- Elected *Pbi Beta Kappa*, graduated with university-wide and departmental honors; graduated top 5.5% of class of more than 1150
 - *Robert W. Tucker Distinguished Senior Thesis Award* - Honorable Mention
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. House of Representatives, Select Committee on Benghazi, Democratic Staff, Washington DC, *Counsel*, Aug 2014 – Present

- Conducted investigation of the September 11, 2012 Benghazi terror attacks on behalf of the Democratic staff of the Committee
- Served as lead counsel for majority of Committee's public hearings
- Prepared Democratic Members for October 2015 hearing with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
- Led and conducted interviews of key fact witnesses, including top State Department and United Nations officials
- Provided strategic counsel to Committee staff on various aspects of the investigation, including political risk and crisis management

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, *Lecturer, Department of Political Science*, Jan 2013-Present

- Taught Winter term course, "U.S. Foreign Policy Towards South Asia Since 9/11" (30 students)
- Received highest student evaluation scores each year course has been taught

O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Washington DC, *Litigation Associate*, Oct 2011-Aug 2014

- Conducted numerous FCPA & white collar investigations on behalf of individual and multinational clients around the world
- Represented clients in both state and federal court at both the trial and appellate levels on civil, criminal, and immigration matters
- Conducted motion practice at the trial and appellate levels in both state and federal court
- Drafted numerous anti-corruption and anti-bribery FCPA compliance materials for individual and multinational clients in the Asia-Pacific
- Drafted internal white papers and client alerts on various white collar, regulatory, and public policy matters for Asia-based clients
- Represented clients in front of House and Senate Ethics Committees
- Performed thousands of hours of pro-bono legal services assisting indigent clients from minority communities (Recognized by DC Bar)

Office of Professor Lawrence Lessig, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, *Research Assistant*, Sept 2009-May 2011

- Conducted exhaustive research for Prof. Lessig's book *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress—and a Plan to Stop It* (Released Spring 2012)
- Reviewed book drafts and provided substantive and technical edits, which were incorporated into final draft

O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Newport Beach, *Summer Associate*, May-Aug 2010

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda and sections of briefs on various areas of law, including labor and employment, civil procedure, intellectual property, white collar/FCPA, and immigration

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Border Security & International Law, Washington DC, *Legislative Fellow*, Jun-Aug 2009

- Led efforts to enact legislation to investigate U.S. government mistreatment of European and Asian communities during World War II
- Assisted committee attorneys with preparations for negotiations related to the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund
- Helped draft and edit legislation and crafted immigration speeches and talking points for committee members, including Chairman Conyers

Office of Professor Philip B. Heymann, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, *Research Assistant*, Sept 2007-Aug 2009

- Researched topics and authored multiple papers concerning: national security law and policy; civil rights issues affecting minority communities; coalition building; DOJ drug prosecutions

Office of Dr. Kamil Hasan, At-Large Member, Democratic National Committee, Silicon Valley, CA, *Political Director*, Sep 2006-Aug 2007

- Provided strategic advice to Dr. Hasan on various political matters, including the 2006 midterm & 2008 Presidential elections
- Conducted exhaustive analysis and provided technical counsel on the U.S.-India civilian nuclear deal
- Organized meetings with Congressional leadership and community members to help secure passage of the U.S.-India civilian nuclear deal
- Invited by the White House to bill signing ceremony with President Bush in recognition of efforts to secure approval the deal

American Jewish Committee, Washington DC, *Research Fellow*, Jun-Aug 2005

- Performed work, including organizing receptions on Capitol Hill, aimed at coalition building with other minority communities in D.C.

United States Senate, Committee on Foreign Relations, Washington DC, *Intern*, Sep-Dec 2004

- Conducted research and drafted memos on various issues, including implications of PATRIOT Act reauthorization on civil liberties
- Drafted remarks and prepared senior staff for hearings relating to the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa regions

Booz Allen Hamilton, Annapolis Junction, MD, *National Security Scholar*, Jun-Aug 2004

- Researched and evaluated performance-based procurement contracts with the federal government

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (Full List Available Upon Request)

- "Why 2016 May See More Indian-Americans Elected to Congress," *Forbes*, Dec 2015
- "A Miscarriage of Justice in Bangladesh" *Forbes*, Nov 2015
- "A Year Makes All the Difference in U.S.-India Relations," *Foreign Policy*, Jan 2015
- "Doing Business in India's Corruption-Rich Environment Remains a Perilous Endeavor," *The Economic Times*, Feb 2014
- "A Justice Denied as Bangladesh Prosecutes War Crimes," *The Huffington Post*, Dec 2013
- "Can Anti-Corruption Laws Help Combat Terrorists and...their Corporate Supporters?" with Maltby, et al, *Knowledge@Wharton*, Dec 2012
- "Iran Sanctions Unprecedented and Crippling, but are They Effective?," *Harvard Nat'l Security Law Journal*, Oct. 2012
- "Opening Up Myanmar to EU Investment," *Law 360*, with Theodore Kassinger and Greta Lichtenbaum, May 2012
- "So Far, Sanctions Prove to be the Right Tool in Burma," *The Atlantic Council*, May 2012
- "[Maritime] Piracy Presents Perfect Opportunity for NATO-Russia Cooperation," *Harvard Nat'l Security Law Journal*, Feb 2011
- "India-Iran Today: Political and Strategic Implications" Chapter 6 of *Shia Power Rising: Next Target Iran?* Ed. by Michel Korinman and John Laughland, Vallentine Mitchell Publishing, 2007
- "The Future of Indian-Israeli Relations," *The New Diplomat Journal of International Affairs*, Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2004

SELECTED MEMBERSHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS, SKILLS & INTERESTS

Truman National Security Project

- *National Security Fellow* (2008-Present)

The Partnership for a Secure American (Bipartisan foreign policy think tank founded by Sen. Warren Rudman and Rep. Lee Hamilton)

- *Member, Board of Directors* (January 2014-Present); *General Counsel* (2011-Present)

The Belfer Center's India and South Asia Program, Harvard University (Chaired by Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns)

- *Associate* (2013-Present)

The Washington Leadership Program (501(c)(3) which trains and mentors minority college students and places them in internships across DC)

- *Member, Board of Advisors* (2011-Present)

Founders Circle, Smithsonian Asian American Center

- *Member* (2014-Present)

The U.S.-India Aspen Strategy Group

- *Member* (2014-Present)

The Huffington Post, Foreign Policy, Forbes

- *Contributor* (2012-Present)

Languages Skills: *Fluent:* Gujarati; *Proficient,* Hindi

Interests: Presidential trivia, the Los Angeles Lakers, world travel, the Founding Fathers, governance, Asian politics and culture, Netflix

References: Judge Sri Srinivasan (DC Circuit); Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA); Konrad Ng (Dir. of Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center)



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Ronak D. Desai



Ronak D. Desai is an Associate with Steptoe and Johnson LLP and a current member on the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development.

Mr. Desai advises clients on a broad range of complex investigative, regulatory, litigation, compliance, and public policy matters. He also assists clients across a diverse range of industries to develop appropriate anti-corruption compliance policies and procedures. Previously, Mr. Desai was an investigative counsel to a prominent Select Committee on Capitol Hill. In addition to serving as counsel to the Committee's public hearings, he led scores of witness interviews of high-level executive branch and UN officials. Prior to his tenure with the US Congress, Mr. Desai practiced law with an international firm.

A Ward 6 resident, Mr. Desai received a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from John Hopkins University, a Master in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Ronan Gulstone, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: November 2, 2020
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of resolutions nominating Ronak Desai, Jennifer Hara, Benjamin Takai, John Tinpe, Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Tiffany Hsieh, Karen Kwok, Elena Son, and Sina Uipi to the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish