



**OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** : August 20, 2009

**TO** : Council President Ben Hueso & Honorable Members of the  
San Diego City Council

**FROM** : Mayor Jerry Sanders

**SUBJECT** : Appointment to the Board of Library Commissioners

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It is my pleasure to appoint Abby Silverman to the Board of Library Commissioners, subject to your confirmation.

Abby Silverman Weiss has more than 30 years experience in the field of law specializing in business and employment law litigation, counseling, and resolution. Ms. Silverman began her legal career at Macdonald Halstead & Laybourne in 1980 as an Associate and later became a Partner. From 1998-2008, Ms. Silverman was Partner at Baker & McKenzie, LLP, a global law firm with over 3,900 lawyers practicing in 36 countries. While at Baker & McKenzie from 1988-2008, Ms. Silverman counseled clients on employment law, business disputes, corporate governance, employment agreements, hiring practices, human resources issues, and alternative dispute resolutions. Her most recent position at Baker & McKenzie was Of Counsel for the North American Region where she conducted on-site audits, designed the Human Resources Audit Program, led the Women's Initiative, and headed a team that selected the first North American Diversity Director. Ms. Silverman also held various elected and appointed management positions at Baker & McKenzie including Managing Partner of the San Diego Office, Head of the San Diego Litigation and Employment Practice Group, and Member of the North American Diversity Oversight Committee. In 2008, Ms. Silverman began her own practice in mediation, arbitration, and consulting specializing on employment law and business disputes.

As a result of Ms. Silverman's outstanding expertise in employment law, she is frequently asked to write and speak for various industry, trade, and human resources groups and associations. She has presented for the 2008 Annual Meeting of the California Society of Healthcare Lawyers, participated as a panelist for the 2007 University of California San Diego Rady School of Management "On Board" program for women, and

presented at the 2006 California Association of Business Trial Lawyers annual seminar. She has also taught advanced Continuing Education of the Bar courses for lawyers with experience in litigation and employment law. She is also a member of numerous legal associations including the American Bar Association, San Diego Bar Association, and San Diego District Attorney's Women's Advisory Council.

Beyond Ms. Silverman's professional accomplishments, commitments, and contributions within the legal arena, she is committed to serving the community and has made a difference through active civic engagement and service with various community boards, committees, and universities. Ms. Silverman currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Scripps Health, Episcopal Community Services Board of Directors, Board of Overseers of the University of California, San Diego, and she is a Honorary Lifetime Member of the Board of Directors for CONNECT.

As a result of Ms. Silverman's achievements in the field of law and community service, in 2000, Ms. Silverman received the University of San Diego School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award, Tribute to Women in Industry Award from the YWCA, and Individual Pinnacle Award from UCSD Athena. She is also listed on the Best Lawyers in America list and the Southern California Super Lawyers list for 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Ms. Silverman's expertise, commitment to community service and strong interest in advocating the library system will be outstanding additions to the Board of Library Commissioners. Ms. Silverman holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, Master of Social Work from Bryn Mawr College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She will replace Mel Katz, who is termed out, for a term expiring March 1, 2010. Ms. Silverman resides in La Jolla.

I ask that you confirm this appointment and join me in thanking Ms. Silverman for her willingness to serve in this critical role on behalf of the City's library system.



JERRY SANDERS  
Mayor

JS:lg

cc: City Attorney Jan Goldsmith  
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland