



***The California State Bar - Administrative Arm of the Supreme Court:  
Disconcerting Revelations Raise Questions About its Ability to Protect the Public***

A Joint Oversight Hearing of the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees

Tuesday, May 23, 2023  
1:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
1021 O St., Room 1100

***Panelist Biographies***

***Aaron May, Partner, Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg, LLP***

Aaron M. May is a founding partner of Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg LLP. Mr. May focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense, and internal corporate investigations. He has tried numerous jury and bench trials, in federal and state courts, and appears regularly in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. May was recently selected by the State Bar of California to conduct an independent investigation of the State Bar’s handling of disciplinary complaints against Tom Girardi and Mr. Girardi’s influence at the State Bar, which resulted in the publication of the “May Report.” The State Bar explained that “Mr. May was chosen for his expertise, experience, and impeccable credentials.”

Previously, Mr. May was an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles. In that capacity, he led some of the largest fraud investigations in the region and prosecuted individuals and corporations for sophisticated federal financial crimes, including health care fraud, false claims, securities violations, criminal trademark and counterfeiting, tax violations, money laundering, and loan fraud. At the U.S. Attorney’s Office, he held several leadership positions, including the office’s Securities Fraud Coordinator, Financial Institution Fraud Coordinator, and Procurement Fraud Coordinator. In these positions, he coordinated criminal prosecutions with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Internal Revenue Service, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and other federal and state law enforcement agencies. Mr. May has also held Top Secret and SCI-level security clearances, which allowed him to work on matters pertaining to national security. This depth of experience on the prosecutorial side informs every aspect of his current defense work. Mr. May previously spent six years as a litigator at Munger, Tolles and Olson LLP. While there, he handled a wide array of complex civil litigation in disputes involving contract, trademark, tort, securities, malpractice and constitutional claims in state and federal courts across the country.

Mr. May received his J.D. from Stanford Law School, graduating second in his class and Order of the Coif. He completed his undergraduate studies at Brown University, where he received a B.A. in Public Policy and a B.S. in Environmental Science with honors and graduated magna cum laude.

***Jillian Engledow, Former Girardi Keese Client***

Ms. Enlow was a former client of Girardi Keese. She was recently granted her claims from the State Bar of California's Client Security Fund as a result of Girardi Keese's failure to provide her with funds from a legal settlement.

***Leah Wilson, Executive Director, State Bar of California***

Ms. Wilson was appointed to the position of Executive Director for the State Bar of California in 2017 and reappointed in 2021. In that capacity, she manages a \$280 million budget and over 600 staff who are responsible for regulation, licensing, and discipline of California attorneys, as well as for promoting access to legal services and diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Before joining the State Bar Ms. Wilson served as the Court Executive Officer for the Alameda County Superior Court. There, in addition to being responsible for overall court operations, personnel, budget and policy, she took a particular interest in collaborative courts, and advocated for the use of risk assessment tools and an expansion of effective alternatives to incarceration. Ms. Wilson holds a master's degree in public policy and a Juris Doctorate, both from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a member of the California State Bar. She also served as President of the Berkeley Unified School District's Board of Education.

***George Cardona, Chief Trial Counsel, State Bar of California***

George Cardona is currently the Chief Trial Counsel for the California State Bar, a position he has held since his appointment by the State Bar's Board of Trustees on October 4, 2021. He came to the State Bar after serving as the Interim City Attorney for the City of Santa Monica. Previously, he worked for more than 20 years as a federal prosecutor in the Central District of California, where he specialized in financial fraud cases, spent more than 12 years as the First Assistant, and served on two occasions as the Acting/Interim United States Attorney. He attended Yale University, where he majored in Physics, and Yale Law School, where he received his JD in 1986. After law school, he clerked for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

***Ruben Duran, Chair, State Bar of California Board of Trustees***

Ruben Duran is an attorney member of the State Bar of California Board of Trustees, appointed by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon in 2018. The California Supreme Court appointed him chair in 2021 and reappointed him to a second year as chair for 2022–2023 term. Mr. Duran is a managing partner of Best Best & Krieger LLP's Ontario office. Mr. Duran also serves as the City Attorney for the cities of Fontana and Ontario, and general counsel to the Oxnard Harbor District, which operates the Port of Hueneme in Ventura County and the Crescent City Harbor District. He has worked for and with public agencies throughout his career. Mr. Duran brings an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to practicing public law; his expertise includes such topics as open government, elections law, land use planning issues, and complex conflicts of interest. He was awarded the International Municipal Lawyers Association's Brown, Mulligan, Rocha Distinguished Public Service Award in 2022. Mr. Duran's other work includes serving as board counsel for the Southern California Association of Governments. A past president of the Los Angeles County City Attorneys

Association, he also serves on the boards of the Southeast Arts and Cultural Foundation, the Institute for Local Government, and Coro Southern California.

In addition to chairing the Board of Trustees, Mr. Duran previously served as the Vice-Chair of the Board's Committee on Regulation and Discipline.

Mr. Duran received his law degree from the UC College of the Law, San Francisco, and his undergraduate degree from UC San Diego.

### ***Scott Cummings, Professor, UCLA Law School***

Scott Cummings is the Robert Henigson Professor of Legal Ethics at the UCLA School of Law, where he teaches and writes about the legal profession, legal ethics, access to justice, and local government law. A recipient of the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, Professor Cummings is the founding faculty director of the UCLA Program on Legal Ethics and the Profession, which promotes empirical research and innovative programming on the challenges facing lawyers in the twenty-first century, and a long-time member of the UCLA David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. In 2021, Professor Cummings was selected as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the European University Institute and a fellow at the Stanford Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences to study the role of lawyers in strengthening the rule of law. He was awarded a 2023 Guggenheim Fellowship to study the role of lawyers in democratic backsliding.

### ***Anita Lee, Legislative Analyst's Office***

Anita Lee is a Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), where she has worked since 2011. In her role with the LAO, Anita focuses on the courts, the Department of Justice, and gambling within the State of California. As an analyst she participates in the development of the annual state budget by providing insight into various subject areas including the California Gambling Control Commission, the Judiciary, the Commission on Judicial Performance, the California Law Revision Commission, and various subjects regarding the state's trial court system. While with the LAO, Anita has developed and published numerous reports regarding the State Bar and its overall financial efficacy. Prior to joining the LAO, Anita held positions with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and California Forward, where she assisted in developing and implementing structural governance reform projects. Anita received a Bachelor's Degree in political science from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

### ***Arnie Sowell, State Bar of California Board of Trustees***

Arnold (Arnie) Sowell Jr. is a public member of the State Bar of California Board of Trustees, appointed by the Senate Rules Committee in 2020. He chairs the Board's Finance Committee and is a member of the Board's three-member Ad Hoc Committee on Oversight and Accountability Reforms. Mr. Sowell brings years of legislative, political, program, and coalition building experience to the Board.

Currently, Mr. Sowell is the Executive Director of the nonprofit NextGen Policy, which fights to advance progressive policy solutions in the areas of social, racial, economic, gender, and environmental justice. Before joining NextGen, he worked in the California State Assembly, serving for almost two decades as Policy Director for five Assembly Speakers. During Arnie's

tenure in the state Assembly, his responsibilities focused on legislative, policy, and regulatory issues at the local, state, and federal government levels, including criminal justice, consumer protection, voting and immigrant rights, climate change, housing insecurity, and veterans' issues, among many others.

Previously, Mr. Sowell served in various state and local government positions, including as the Deputy Secretary and then Undersecretary of the California State and Consumer Services Agency in the Governor Davis Administration and as a Budget Manager in the San Francisco Mayor's Office. Mr. Sowell began his career at the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Arnie received a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Washington and, in 2022, was named one of Capitol Weekly's Top 100.

### ***Melanie Shelby, State Bar of California Board of Trustees***

Melanie M. Shelby is a celebrated founder, corporate executive and small business advocate that led \$12.7B in business strategy, legislative advocacy, supplier diversity, procurement, coalition building and outreach for brands such as American Medical Response, Anschutz Entertainment Group, Comcast NBC Universal, Personal Insurance Federation of California, MERA Corporation, PG&E Corporation, Sempra Energy, and other blue-chip clients. Melanie is skilled at navigating complex legislative, regulatory, community and for-profit networks, building consensus with decision makers, mobilizing constituencies, and shaping public dialogue to impact systemic change.

In 2021, Melanie introduced Primos Beverage Company to ensure BIPOC owners thrive in the ultra-premium spirits industry, while utilizing diverse, women and small businesses throughout operations, production, and supply chain. PBC's inaugural brand, Enelalma Tequila, launches September 2023.

Melanie was appointed as a public member in December 2020 to The State Bar of California Board of Trustees by California Governor Gavin Newsom. She chairs the Audit Committee, serves as a Board Appointment Liaison, and on the Ad Hoc Committee on Oversight and Accountability Reforms.

Melanie is a University of California at Los Angeles Graduate. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Black Women Organized for Political Action, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, UCLA Black Alumni Association and Board Chair at Alameda Health System Foundation.

### ***Hailyn J. Chen, State Bar of California Board of Trustees***

Hailyn Chen has served on the State Bar of California's Board of Trustees as an appointee of the California Supreme Court since 2017. Hailyn is a member of the Board's three-member Ad Hoc Committee on Oversight and Accountability Reforms, which the Board charged with developing reform recommendations in response to the investigations into the State Bar's handling of past discipline complaints against Tom Girardi. Hailyn chaired the Provisional Licensure Working Group, which was convened at the direction of the Supreme Court to create and implement a temporary supervised provisional licensure program following the cancellation of the September 2020 bar exam in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hailyn Chen also is a litigation partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP (MTO). Since 2019, Hailyn has served as one of two Managing Partners of MTO, which comprises around 200 lawyers, with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Hailyn has extensive experience handling sexual misconduct matters, including representing the University of California and other universities in litigation, government investigations, and internal investigations. She has also represented companies in a broad range of industries in complex litigation and in internal and government investigations involving alleged fraud, corruption, and abuse. Hailyn was recently recognized for leading an investigation into allegations of discriminatory and abusive conduct by the UC Berkeley Head Women's Swimming Coach, Teri McKeever, and for her work with The Thacher School, leading an investigation into decades of sexual abuse at the elite boarding school.

In 2021, Hailyn was listed among California's "Top Women Lawyers" by the Daily Journal for the fourth consecutive year and, in 2020, she was named "Managing Partner of the Year" by Corporate Counsel. Hailyn serves on the the UCLA School of Law's Board of Advisors.