

From: [Aarti Kohli](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Yaman Salahi's Appointment to Ethics Commission
Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:33:12 AM
Attachments: [Letter of Support Yaman Salahi for Ethics Commission - Aarti Kohli.docx.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Mr. Young,
I hope this finds you well. I am writing to share a letter in support of Yaman Salahi's appointment to the Ethics Commission. I request that you distribute it to the Supervisors before Monday 5/8.

Kind regards,
Aarti

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Aarti Kohli
Executive Director
Pronouns: she/her/hers

Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus

T [\(415\) 848-7713](tel:(415)848-7713)

aartik@advancingjustice-alc.org

www.advancingjustice-alc.org

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May 5, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

**RE: Support for Yaman Salahi Appointment to Ethics
Commission**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I write in strong support of Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

Yaman and I were professional colleagues from 2013-2016 while I served as Executive Director of Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus. During that time, I witnessed Yaman's indefatigable spirit in service to his clients. He was completely reliable and committed to excellence whether writing litigation memos or performing outreach events in the community. Yaman is the quintessential rare find as he is both a kind person and a zealous advocate.

If appointed, Yaman will bring a unique and necessary perspective to the Commission. As an attorney who has represented individuals and public clients to investigate and prosecute misconduct by both corporate and government entities, Yaman has the necessary experience to carry out the important watchdog functions of the Ethics Commission.

Moreover, Yaman has been an active member of the San Francisco and broader Bay Area public interest communities for a decade, demonstrating his ability to work productively with and on behalf of diverse communities. He has consistently demonstrated professionalism and collegiality as well as the ability to listen and take into account the concerns of various stakeholders. He is diligent, hard-working, detail-oriented, and fair - essential qualities for a person who will be entrusted with carrying out the mission of the Ethics Commission, which includes vigorous enforcement of the City's campaign

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CALIFORNIA CHANGELAWYERS

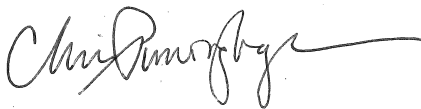
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finance, financial disclosure, and similar laws as well as respecting the due process rights of every individual or entity whose conduct may be investigated by the Commission.

Yaman would also be the first Arab-American on the Ethics Commission. Such representation is critically needed to help ensure that the Commission is broadly representative of San Francisco's diverse communities. In addition to working closely with the broader Southwest Asian Muslim and North African (SWANA) communities, Yaman has been an ally to other communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and other persons who have been treated unfairly or otherwise excluded from opportunities to participate equally in our society and economy. A genuine belief in the necessity of diversity and the importance of advancing racial and gender equity are foundational to who he is as a person.

For all these reasons, and many more, I am proud to enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. My email is chris@changelawyers.org.

Sincerely Yours,



Christopher Punongbayan
Executive Director

PS - Any lawyer can be a Change Lawyer! Watch the video at [CHANGELAWYERS.ORG](https://www.changelawyers.org)

May 5, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

RE: Support for Yaman Salahi Appointment to Ethics Commission

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I write in strong support of Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission. I have known Yaman for well over a decade, since we were students collaborating on civil rights cases as part of a law school clinic, and feel confident that he will be an excellent addition to the Commission.

If appointed, Yaman will bring a unique and necessary perspective to the Commission. As an attorney who has represented individuals and public clients to investigate and prosecute misconduct by both corporate and government entities, Yaman has the necessary experience to carry out the important watchdog functions of the Ethics Commission.

Moreover, Yaman has been an active member of the San Francisco and broader Bay Area public interest communities for a decade, demonstrating his ability to work productively with and on behalf of diverse communities. I had the opportunity to work closely with Yaman when we were both staff attorneys at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (“Asian Law Caucus”), a nonprofit civil rights organization. We represented clients from marginalized communities in complex legal matters involving racial and religious profiling and immigration concerns. From what I have observed firsthand, Yaman's approach to legal practice combines intellectual rigor, compassion for his clients, and integrity in his dealings with opposing counsel and the courts. He earned the respect of our organization's staff and the trust of our clients, for whom he provided pro bono legal services of the highest quality. He has consistently demonstrated professionalism and collegiality as well as the ability to listen and take into account the concerns of various stakeholders. He is diligent, hard-working, detail-oriented, and fair – essential qualities for a person who will be entrusted with carrying out the mission of the Ethics Commission, which includes vigorous enforcement of the City's campaign finance, financial disclosure, and similar laws as well as respecting the due process rights of every individual or entity whose conduct may be investigated by the Commission.

Yaman would also be the first Arab-American on the Ethics Commission. Such representation is critically needed to help ensure that the Commission is broadly representative of San Francisco's diverse communities. Yaman has long worked closely with the broader Southwest Asian Muslim and North African (SWANA) communities, including dedicating several years of his career to such work at the Asian Law Caucus. In addition, Yaman has been an ally to other communities of color, immigrant communities, the LGBTQ+ community, and other persons who have been treated unfairly or otherwise excluded from opportunities to participate equally in our society and economy. A genuine belief in the necessity of diversity and the importance of advancing racial and gender equity are foundational to who he is as a person.

For all these reasons, and many more, I am proud to enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Zhao', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Zhao

Senior Staff Attorney and Immigrant Rights Program
Manager, Asian Law Caucus (for identification purposes
only)

From: [Darren Teshima](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Yaman Salahi to SF Ethics Commission
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 10:41:57 AM
Attachments: [Teshima Letter of Support for Yaman Salahi.pdf](#)

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Mr. Young,

Attached please find a letter of support for Yaman Salahi to serve on the SF Ethics Commission. I would greatly appreciate it if you could have this letter distributed to the Committee Members in advance of the Committee meeting on Monday. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Darren

From: [Lin Chan](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Lin Chan; Yaman Salahi](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Yaman Salahi
Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023 10:51:39 AM
Attachments: [2023-05-06 Letter of Support Yaman Salahi for Ethics Commission.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good morning,

Attached please find a letter in support of Yaman Salahi. If this letter could be distributed to the Supervisors before Monday, I would appreciate it.

Best regards,
Lin Chan



May 7, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

RE: Support for Yaman Salahi Appointment to Ethics Commission

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Zahra Billoo and I serve as the Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest American Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. I write in strong support of Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

If appointed, Yaman will bring a unique and necessary perspective to the Commission. As an attorney who has represented individuals and public clients to investigate and prosecute misconduct by both corporate and government entities, Yaman has the necessary experience to carry out the important watchdog functions of the Ethics Commission.

Moreover, Yaman has been an active member of the San Francisco and broader Bay Area public interest communities for a decade, demonstrating his ability to work productively with and on behalf of diverse communities. I had the opportunity to work closely with him during his tenure at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, when we partnered on efforts to protect and empower American Muslims impacted by surveillance and other forms of law enforcement targeting.

In all of his roles, he has consistently demonstrated professionalism and collegiality as well as the ability to listen and consider the concerns of various stakeholders. He is diligent, hard-working, detail-oriented, and fair – all essential qualities for a person who will be entrusted with carrying out the mission of the Ethics Commission, which includes vigorous enforcement of the City's campaign finance, financial disclosure, and similar laws as well as respecting the due process rights of every individual or entity whose conduct may be investigated by the Commission.

Yaman would also be the first Arab American on the Ethics Commission. Such representation is critically needed to help ensure that the Commission is broadly representative of San Francisco's diverse communities. In addition to working closely with the broader African, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AAMEMSA) communities, Yaman has been an ally to other marginalized communities who have been treated unfairly or otherwise excluded from opportunities to participate equally in our society and economy. A genuine belief in the necessity of diversity and the importance of advancing racial and gender equity are foundational to who he is as a person.

For all of these reasons, and many more, I am proud to enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,

Zahra Billoo
Executive Director

WASHINGTON D.C.

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Michael Levin-Gesundheit

1320 18th Avenue • San Francisco, CA 94122 • (617) 599-8558 • levingesundheit@gmail.com

May 7, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

RE: Support for Yaman Salahi Appointment to Ethics Commission

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I write to express my strongest support for Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.


I have been a keen observer of Yaman's career, having met him as a colleague at the law firm Liefkabraser, which is a San Francisco-based law firm dedicated to pursuing cases in the public interest.¹ I have seen the dedication that Yaman brings to taking on misconduct by both corporations and government entities, and I know he would bring a valuable perspective to the Commission.

Yaman has also been an active member of the San Francisco and broader Bay Area public interest communities for a decade, demonstrating his ability to work productively with and on behalf of diverse communities. He is known by both his colleagues and even his legal adversaries for his collegiality as well as his insistence that before forming any opinion he must hear and take into account the concerns of all stakeholders. Yaman is diligent and hard-working and, above all, fair. He has what it takes to carry out the mission of the Ethics Commission: enforcing the City's campaign finance, financial disclosure, and similar laws, as well as respecting the due process rights of every individual or entity whose conduct may be investigated by the Commission.

Yaman would also bring diversity to the Commission, as its first Arab-American member. In addition to working closely with the broader Southwest Asian Muslim and North African (SWANA) communities, Yaman has been an ally to other communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and others who have been treated unfairly or otherwise excluded from opportunities to participate equally in our society and economy. A genuine belief in the necessity of diversity and the importance of advancing racial and gender equity are foundational to who he is.

I cannot most enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission. Please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Levin-Gesundheit
Resident of the Sunset District & Attorney

¹ The firm recently represented the City & County of San Francisco in its opioid litigation, including in its successful trial against Walgreens in 2022, where I was a member of the team.

May 7, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

RE: Yaman Salahi Appointment to Ethics Commission

Dear Board of Supervisors:

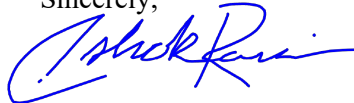
I write to support Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission. I have known Yaman for a decade through the Asian Law Caucus, which I chaired from 2016-19 and worked with for several years before. Yaman was a Caucus employee and later joined the board. Based on my having worked with him, I am confident he would be a strong commissioner.

As an attorney who has represented individuals and public clients to investigate and prosecute misconduct by both corporate and government entities, Yaman has the necessary experience to carry out the important watchdog functions of the Ethics Commission. He has also worked productively with and on behalf of diverse communities, consistently demonstrating professionalism and collegiality as well as the ability to listen and take into account the concerns of various stakeholders. He is diligent, hard-working, detail-oriented, and fair—characteristics required of an effective commissioner of the Ethics Commission.

I understand that Yaman would be the first Arab-American on the Ethics Commission. In addition to working closely with the broader Southwest Asian Muslim and North African (SWANA) communities, Yaman has been an ally to other communities of color and the LGBTQ+ community. I have seen for years that Yaman truly believes the necessity of diversity and the importance of advancing racial and gender equity; indeed, those views are foundational to who he is as a person.

For all these reasons, I enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ashok Ramani

Michael Levin-Gesundheit

1320 18th Avenue • San Francisco, CA 94122 • (617) 599-8558 • levingesundheit@gmail.com

May 7, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

RE: Support for Yaman Salahi Appointment to Ethics Commission

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I write to express my strongest support for Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

I have been a keen observer of Yaman's career, having met him as a colleague at the law firm Lief & Cabraser, which is a San Francisco-based law firm dedicated to pursuing cases in the public interest.¹ I have seen the dedication that Yaman brings to taking on misconduct by both corporations and government entities, and I know he would bring a valuable perspective to the Commission.

Yaman has also been an active member of the San Francisco and broader Bay Area public interest communities for a decade, demonstrating his ability to work productively with and on behalf of diverse communities. He is known by both his colleagues and even his legal adversaries for his collegiality as well as his insistence that before forming any opinion he must hear and take into account the concerns of all stakeholders. Yaman is diligent and hard-working and, above all, fair. He has what it takes to carry out the mission of the Ethics Commission: enforcing the City's campaign finance, financial disclosure, and similar laws, as well as respecting the due process rights of every individual or entity whose conduct may be investigated by the Commission.

Yaman would also bring diversity to the Commission, as its first Arab-American member. In addition to working closely with the broader Southwest Asian Muslim and North African (SWANA) communities, Yaman has been an ally to other communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and others who have been treated unfairly or otherwise excluded from opportunities to participate equally in our society and economy. A genuine belief in the necessity of diversity and the importance of advancing racial and gender equity are foundational to who he is.

I cannot most enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission. Please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Levin-Gesundheit
Resident of the Sunset District & Attorney

¹ The firm recently represented the City & County of San Francisco in its opioid litigation, including in its successful trial against Walgreens in 2022, where I was a member of the team.

EQUAL JUSTICE SOCIETY

1901 Harrison Street, Oakland CA 94612 415-288-8700 equaljusticesociety.org

May 8, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

Sent by electronic mail to Victor.Young@sfgov.org

RE: Support for Yaman Salahi Appointment to Ethics Commission

Dear President Peskin and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I write in strong support of Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission. As an attorney who has represented individuals and public clients to investigate and prosecute misconduct by both corporate and government entities, Yaman will bring a critical perspective to the Ethics Commission and the necessary experience to carry out the Commission's important watchdog duties.

I had the good fortune of serving as co-counsel with Yaman on a successful class action of national scope. I found him to be a brilliant advocate and problem-solver, tremendously hard-working, diligent, and meticulous, and an absolute pleasure to work with. Yaman was at ease with and showed uniquely genuine respect for everyone involved in the matter including the very diverse (racially and in terms of gender and gender identity) overwhelmingly low-income class members who were our clients, public officials, and the opposing government counsel. But most remarkable about Yaman to me is his moral clarity. He operates with the highest integrity and inspires those with whom he works to do the same.

Yaman would also be the first Arab-American on the Ethics Commission. As a Bay Area practitioner, I believe it is critically important to have such representation to help ensure that the Commission reflects San Francisco's broadly diverse communities.

For all these reasons, and many more, I enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,



Mona Tawatao

Legal Director, Equal Justice Society

May 7, 2023

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: My Strong Support for Yaman Salahi's Appointment to Ethics Commission

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you to express my strong support of Yaman Salahi's appointment to the vacant seat on the City of San Francisco Ethics Commission.

If appointed, Yaman will bring a unique and necessary perspective to the Commission. As an attorney who has represented individuals and public clients to investigate and prosecute misconduct by both corporate and government entities, Yaman has the necessary experience to carry out the important oversight and watchdog functions of the Ethics Commission.

It is worth noting that Yaman has been an active member of the San Francisco and larger Bay Area and Northern California public interest communities for more than a decade. He has a honed ability to work collaboratively with and on behalf of diverse communities. He has consistently demonstrated professionalism and collegiality as well as the ability to listen and take into account the concerns of a broad range of stakeholders. He is diligent, hard-working, detail-oriented, honest and fair – essential qualities for a person who will be entrusted with carrying out the mission of the Ethics Commission, which includes vigorous enforcement of the City's campaign finance, financial disclosure, and similar laws as well as respecting the due process rights of every individual or entity whose conduct may be investigated by the Commission.

Yaman would also be the first Arab-American on the Ethics Commission. Such representation is critically needed to help ensure that the Commission is broadly representative of San Francisco's diverse communities. In addition to working closely with the broader Southwest Asian Muslim and North African (SWANA) communities, Yaman has been an ally to other communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and other persons who have been treated unfairly or otherwise excluded from opportunities to participate equally in our society and economy. A genuine belief in the necessity of diversity and the importance of advancing racial and gender equity are foundational to who he is as a person.

Above all, Yaman is a decent, community-minded, highly ethical human-being. I am proud to enthusiastically support Yaman Salahi for appointment to the vacant seat on the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,



Saman Chaudry
CEO
TYLT Consulting