

# JOLSNA JOHN THOMAS, ESQ.

## EXPERIENCE

- 10/2018 – present **Rosendin Electric, Inc.** Austin, TX  
*Business Development Manager*
- Relationship builder for the company throughout Texas for developers, owners, general contractors, governmental and community organizations.
  - Mayor's Appointee to the City of Austin Construction Advisory Committee.
- 02/2018 – 10/2018 **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 520** Austin, TX  
*Business Development Coordinator*
- Responsible for duties associated with creating and maintaining good customer, contractor, governmental, and community organization relationships.
  - Construction law professional tasked with developing relationships with real estate developers, property owners, and general contractors to ensure market share growth.
- 11/2017 – present **City of Austin Firefighter's, Police Officers' and Emergency Medical Services Personnel's Civil Service Commission** Austin, TX  
*Commissioner*
- Regulate the promotion, suspension and termination of firefighters, police officers and EMS personnel consistent with applicable provisions of Texas Local Government Code Chapter 143, local Civil Service rules and any current agreements between the City and employee associations.
- 11/2017 – 02/2018 **Texas State Teachers Association** Austin, TX  
*Member Advocate*
- Provide advice, counsel, and legal representation to approximately 68,000 Texas educators from elementary through university level.
  - Conduct legal research and prepare legal opinions concerning compliance with local and state laws.
  - Counsel educators on their discrimination and harassment rights under federal law.
  - Submit requests for records under the Texas Public Information Act and Texas Open Meetings Act.
- 03/2007 – 06/2017 **Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3** Alameda, CA  
*Special Counsel to the Business Manager (04/17 – 06/17), Senior House Counsel (06/16 – 04/17), House Counsel (09/14 – 06/16), Associate House Counsel (03/07 – 08/14)*
- Supervised, mentored, and recruited the Legal Department attorneys, support staff, and outside counsel; managed the Legal Department budget and outside counsel; tendered insurance notice and performed risk analysis; performed complex general counsel work involving planning and organizing work; provided all internal governance support and compliance with state and federal laws.
  - Advised Officers, Executive Board, business agents, and other personnel in transactional & litigation matters including contract & trademark enforcement.
  - Attended and rendered of legal advice at Executive Board, Building Holding Association Board, Credit Union Board, and Scholarship Foundation Meetings.
  - Provided support, advice, and legal counsel/opinion for three affiliated entities' boards (two 501(c)(3) charity entities and one 501(c)(2) building holding entity).
  - Represented approximately 40,000 workers in Northern California, Northern Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii in both the private and public sector.
  - Developed all Legal PowerPoint presentations and provided legal training to staff.

- Reviewed, drafted, and negotiated contracts for the organization, including but not limited to hotels/catering, website design, real estate sale/purchase/rent, and procurement.
- Reviewed and modified policies and procedures, including but not limited to records retention, privacy, workplace safety, and employment manuals.
- Oversaw the processing of all contractual grievances and internal charges.
- Represented members and the union in trials/administrative proceedings (NLRB, PERB, EEOC, State Personnel Board, and civil service commissions), mediation proceedings, arbitrations for contract interpretation and employment matters.

#### **Leonard Carder LLP**

09/2005 – 09/2006 *Labor Law Fellow* Oakland, CA

- Represented unions in multiple-day termination appeal and other matters.
- Conducted discovery, electronic document review and maintain client relations in multi-district litigation/complex litigation and arbitrations.
- Negotiated and drafted representation elections settlement agreement.
- Drafted legal motions and supporting briefs for the private and public sector.
- Provided legal advice and counseling on CBA issues and EEO law.

05/2004 – 08/2004 *Law Clerk* San Francisco, CA

- Researched and drafted amicus curiae brief for the Ninth Circuit.
- Developed litigation strategy and solutions to complaints brought against clients.

#### **National Labor Relations Board**

Washington, DC

01/2005 – 05/2005 *Contempt Litigation and Compliance Branch Law Clerk*

- Assisted attorneys in investigating contempt allegations, assessing settlement options for contempt litigation, preparing internal legal memoranda, drafting discovery documents, preparing for trial and drafting appellate briefs.

#### **American Federation of Government Employees**

Washington, DC

05/2003 – 05/2004 *General Counsel's Office Legal Clerk and Women's and Fair Practices Department Legal Intern*

- Researched and drafted appellate briefs and legal responses to members.
- Organized discovery and research for grievance and arbitration proceedings.
- Drafted intake memoranda, appeal notices and appellate briefs.
- Compiled and analyzed discovery, pre-trial, and trial materials for EEO appeals.

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#### **ADMISSION**

California State Courts (Bar No. 242626); U.S. District Court (Northern District of California); Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; Texas State Courts (Bar No. 24100703)

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#### **EDUCATION**

05/2005

##### **American University – Washington College of Law**

Washington, DC

Juris Doctorate.

Awards/Honors: Legal Rhetoric - Appellate Brief, *Highest Grade*; Emalee C. Godsey Scholarship, *Scholarship Recipient 2004*.

Activities: American University Business Law Brief, *Junior Editor*

##### **The University of Texas at Austin**

Austin, TX

05/2000

Bachelor of Business Administration. Major: Management Information Systems.

Activities: Minority Information Center, *Director of Asian American Affairs (1998-2000)*;

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#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- **South Asian Bar Association North America (SABA)**, *National Advisory Council Member* (2012-present), *Co-Chair Endorsements Committee* (2012-present), *President* (2011-2012), *President-Elect* (2010-2011), *VP – Community Outreach* (2009-2010), *VP – Affiliate Relationships* (2008-2009), and *Board Member* (2007-2012).
- **Junior League of Austin**, *Sustainer Member* (2017-present).
- **Junior League of San Francisco**, *Board Member At-Large, Governance* (2016-2017), *Board Member Parliamentarian* (2014-2015), *Strategic Development Council Director* (2013-2014), *General Meetings Co-Chair* (2012-2013), *Member* (2006-2017).