

Laura M. Richards

3524 Carpenter Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020
202-583-3524 ♦ *lmmrichards@gmail.com*

PLANNING AND ZONING EXPERIENCE

- Member, Zoning Review Task Force, 2009-2014. Mayoral appointee to group charged with providing an ongoing public voice during a comprehensive revision of the District's 1954 Zoning Code. Urged preservation of low-density neighborhoods as envisioned by the Comprehensive Plan.
- Worked with churches in Prince George's County, Maryland in opposing a proposed Military Overlay Zone.
- Member, Comprehensive Plan Task Force, mid-2000s. The Task Force provided ongoing public comment during the process leading to adoption of the 2006 Plan.
- Trustee and former Chair, Committee of 100 on the Federal City (C100), a 90-year-old nonprofit advocate for responsible urban planning.
- Active in efforts to preserve the 1910 Height Act. Drafted and presented testimony to Congress for C100 opposing amendments to the 1910 Height Act. Testified before the D.C. City Council and National Capital Planning Commission against proposed amendments. Made presentations to civic groups regarding the amendments and assisted them in preparing and submitting testimony. Headed C100's 2010 centennial celebration of the Height Act.
- Member and Chair, D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment, 1993-1998. Maintained sensitivity to community concerns during a period of expanding community-based residential facilities.
- Citizens Planning Coalition, member and chair, 1980s. Citywide group that worked successfully for the inclusion of Ward Plans as part of the enacted Comprehensive Plan. Met with residents of all eight wards regarding nuts and bolts of writing ward plan and the importance of asking for what you want. Convened several citywide forums on planning and zoning issues.
- Led civic association in defeating a proposed cell tower on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, a designated "Great Street."
- Worked with citizens groups in developing Pennsylvania Avenue SE Small Area Plan. Developed language included in the plan establishing development standards for a neighborhood shopping center.
- Received community service awards from the D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations and the D.C. Chapter, American Planning Association.

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WORK EXPERIENCE**D.C. Board of Ethics and Government Accountability****July 2012–January 2015**

Appointed as a charter member of three-person board charged with implementing the District's ethics and open government statute that created a new agency with expanded powers to administer and enforce a rigorous ethics regime.

- Issued substantive and operating rules, developed a staffing plan and recruited and hired staff.
- Investigated, and where appropriate, prosecuted and decided, alleged violations of ethics laws and rules.
- Established a public image of the agency as vigorous, transparent and fair.

U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission**1988-2012**

Served as Deputy General Counsel, Opinions and Review, 2006-2012. Formerly held posts as Senior Assistant General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel. In those capacities:

- Managed the agency's appellate adjudicatory docket, assigning and reviewing draft opinions for consideration and issuance by the Commission. Assured that opinions consistently interpreted and applied the Commodity Exchange Act.
- Served as Chief FOIA Officer during the agency's migration from a paper-based system to electronic FOIA compliance.
- Advised on compliance with federal open Government laws.
- Served as Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official, overseeing compliance with federal ethics laws.
- Worked on rulemakings implementing derivatives legislation.
- Served as counsel to two agency Chairpersons.
- Served on drafting teams for special reports to Congress.

Attorney in private practice**1983-1988**

Associate Attorney, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, 1983-85; Arnold & Porter, 1986-88. Drafted documents for complex corporate transactions, e.g., S&L conversions to bank holding company subsidiaries, creation of financial entities designed to avoid banking statute restrictions, etc. Provided tax advice in novel or complex transactions. Drafted public and private stock offering statements.

Newspaper reporter/copy editor for the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, *Philadelphia Daily News* and *Washington Star*, 1971-1981. **Adjunct Instructor**, newswriting, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA; legal writing, Howard University Law School, Washington, DC.

OTHER FIDUCIARY POSITIONS

Board member, former Capitol Hill Hospital

Vestry member, two terms, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism, Evanston, Illinois

Howard University Law School, Washington, DC

Cum Laude, Howard Law Journal

Married to Robert T. Richards. Son, Robert Samuel. Member, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC.