



# Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

## Commission Members

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|--|---|
| Rev. Zedar E. Broadous<br>USN, Retired<br><i>President</i> | Ray Bartlett<br>Donna Bojarsky<br>Vito Cannella<br>Mario Ceballos<br>Albert DeBlanc, Esq.<br>Kathay Feng, Esq.<br>Rebecca Isaacs<br>Lea Ann King<br>Eleanor Montaña<br>Dr. Hay Yang |
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## Honorary Members

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|---|---|
| John Anson Ford<br>(1883-1983)<br>Morris Kight<br>(1920-2003) | Catherine G. Stern<br>Philip R. Valera<br>Rabbi Alfred Wolf |
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## Executive Director

Robin S. Toma



The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations was formed more than 50 years ago in response to the "Zoot Suit" riots of 1943. Following national recognition for its effective work to improve inter-group relations, the Commission became an official agency of the County government in 1958. The Commission is among the oldest and largest of its kind in the U.S. It continues to respond to new challenges created by demographic shifts and the increasing population of Los Angeles County, the country's largest, with a population of nearly ten million people.

### How Can You Contact Us?

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[LAhumanrelations.org](http://LAhumanrelations.org)



In times of crisis  
and in times of peace,  
the Los Angeles County  
Human Relations Commission  
works with  
law enforcement.



## Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
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Third District

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Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

David E. Janssen  
**Chief Administrative Officer**

# Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission Law Enforcement Program

For more than 50 years, the Human Relations Commission has assisted law enforcement in a number of ways. Here are some of the programs offered by the Commission to law enforcement. We hope you will encourage line officers, command staff, prosecutors, and probation officers to use our services.

## Handling Large-scale Crisis Response

At a time of crisis, during civil unrest or when there are community issues that may spark riots or mass demonstrations, the Human Relations Commission has assisted law enforcement, government leaders, residents and community leaders.

We are trained to monitor mass demonstrations in communities such as yours. Commission staff confers with law enforcement personnel and organizers prior to the demonstration to work out security measures, rules and regulations. We respect the need for confidentiality. In the past, we have provided assistance to such groups as the 2000 Democratic National Convention, the U.S. Department of Justice, and countless local police jurisdictions faced with massive public movements to avoid police-community or inter-group conflict.

We work cooperatively with School police officers during campus crises and assist in resolving school disturbances, with racial or other human relations-related overtones. Through our School Intergroup Conflict Initiative, we also work longterm with schools that have experienced intergroup conflict, to leave in place programs that will avoid repeating such episodes.



## Addressing Escalating Community Tensions

Disputes can arise between community leaders and local government, law enforcement or school districts, particularly after allegations of peace officer misconduct, growing tension or harassment between groups in your community, or housing issues involving competing racial or ethnic groups. Without intervention, conflicts can widen to put communities and institutions at risk. The issues that arise involve trust, public confidence and constituent responsiveness. The Commission's peace-building strategies include:

- We assist with practical communication tools such as community dialogues, forums, mediated discussions, or appropriate conflict resolution systems.
- We work with public officials, community leaders and affected residents to resolve conflicts, clarify issues of disagreement, establish common goals and help craft mutual agreements that resolve the immediate crises and prevent future dissension.
- We build the capacities of cities, communities and institutions, including law enforcement, to effectively address human relations issues that lead to civil disorders by providing practical skills to resolve these community problems.
- We work proactively to keep hate incidents in neighborhoods from escalating into hate crimes. We use a variety of tools, including conflict mediation and media strategies to lessen community tensions and encourage compromise and dialogue.

## Hate Crime Prevention Strategies

The Commission helps law enforcement by collecting, analyzing and issuing an annual report that gives your agency a summary of county-wide hate crime data. This report represents one of the longest-standing efforts to document hate crime activity in the nation, and is an invaluable tool for law enforcement. Through the gathered data of the 46 Los Angeles County enforcement agencies, we are able to identify new trends and pinpoint potential areas of conflict.



The annual hate crime report documents arrest reports submitted by law enforcement agencies, school districts, fair housing councils, ethnic and religious organizations, and other concerned groups. But it is critically important that the data be accurately reported because this helps both law enforcement and the private sector more readily identify additional sources of victim assistance, and tap into more resources.

Besides the hate crime report, arrest reports are the basis for maps, statistics and other information that help local law enforcement rapidly identify areas and situations at high risk for hate crimes. The data helps make the case for hate prevention programs to address the underlying causes of this type of criminal behavior.

Using the annual hate crime report as a springboard for action, the Commission sponsors a number of ongoing programs related to containing hate crime, such as the Network Against Hate Crime, the Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium, the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative, the Corporate Advisory Committee, and the Youth Public Education Campaign. All these programs can assist your agency in developing and implementing hate crime prevention strategies.

