

LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR STUDENT PROFESSIONAL WORKER – EXEMPT JOB OPPORTUNITY HOURLY RATE: \$15.41

The Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) for the Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners is seeking a graduate student intern, preferably from a law or public policy school (first year law students may apply). Students interested in public safety (fire and police) law and policy, public employment law, municipal law, and/or transparency in government are encouraged to apply.

In 2009, the residents of the City of Los Angeles voted to amend the City Charter to create the position of Independent Assessor (IA). The IA has the power and duty to:

- a) Audit, assess and review the Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD or Fire Department) handling of complaints of misconduct committed by employees;
- b) Conduct any audit or assessment requested by majority vote of the Board of Fire Commissioners; and
- c) Initiate any assessment or audit of the Fire Department or any portion of the Fire Department.

The Independent Assessor reports directly to the Board of Fire Commissioners, the civilian head of the LAFD, and assists the Fire Commission in providing independent civilian oversight of the Fire Department. The small size of the OIA affords a Student Professional Worker (SPW) an opportunity to play an integral role in the day-to-day work, including interaction with LAFD personnel and observance of daily operations. Duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Researching best practices of fire and other public safety agencies;
- Conducting legal research;
- Reviewing and analyzing LAFD policies; and
- Assisting with audits of a variety of LAFD functions.

The SPW may work full or part time.* An SPW is restricted to work a maximum of 1039 hours for the City of Los Angeles in a 12-month period. Please note that this position is not a permanent Civil Service position with the City of Los Angeles. Therefore, the position is not eligible for any employee benefits.

The selected candidate will be required to take and pass a pre-employment medical exam and clear a background investigation.

To apply, please email a resume, cover letter and writing sample to:

Sue Stengel
Independent Assessor
Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners
sue.stengel@lacity.org

The OIA is now accepting applications for fall semester 2015. This posting will remain open until a sufficient number of applications are received. May close at any time. Please feel free to contact the office with questions.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Current full-time enrollment in an accredited four-year college or university or an accredited law school and must maintain 3.0 GPA.
2. Must be enrolled in and successfully complete a minimum of 6 semester (or 8 quarter) units of degree-oriented classes each semester (quarter) while employed as a Student Professional Worker. For quarter system programs, students must attend at least 3 quarters each year.
3. Satisfactory proof (enrollment verification, official college transcript, etc.) must be submitted upon hire.
4. Student Professional Workers **must maintain** enrollment as a full-time student to continue employment, and must submit proof of enrollment not later than two weeks after the commencement of each Semester or Quarter.

NOTES ON EXEMPT EMPLOYMENT

If employment is said to be exempt, it is meant that the employment is exempted from the civil service provisions of the City Charter. In order to receive a regular civil service appointment, employees must have successfully participated in a civil service examination, received a high enough score on the examination to be placed on and receive an appointment from an eligible list, and they must serve a probationary period.

Exempt employees do not compete in a civil service examination, they are not placed on an eligible list and receive an appointment from that list, nor do they serve a probationary period. As a result, exempt employees do not have what is referred to as a "property interest" in their job. Exempt employees serve at the will of the appointing authority and can be terminated at any time without cause. Employees with a property interest in their job, i.e. civil service employees, cannot be deprived of their employment (discharged or suspended) without due process.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT EXEMPT EMPLOYMENT

Exempt employees serve at the will of the appointing authority, and as such, they may be discharged, suspended or otherwise disciplined without cause.

Exempt employees have no property interest in their employment, and any procedural benefit or other prerogative extended to them by their appointing authority is not intended to create and does not create any such property interest.

No officer or employee of the City may make to any other officer or employee any representation of a property interest in employment which does not correspond to Charter provisions unless the City Council, by ordinance, permits such representation. No unauthorized representation can serve as the basis of an employee's reliance on, or expectation of, a property interest.

*The SPW is required to work no less than 10 hours per week and a maximum of 40 hours per week, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.