

# NICOLAS C. HEIDORN

NHeidorn@pacific.edu

## EDUCATION

**Harvard Law School** – Cambridge, MA

2011

*Juris Doctor (JD)*

- ♦ Cum Laude
- ♦ Journals: Harvard Journal on Legislation; Berkeley Journal of International Law

**Claremont McKenna College** – Claremont, CA

2006

*Bachelor of Arts (BA)*

- ♦ Double Major: Government Major (Honors) and Literature Major
- ♦ Summa Cum Laude; Government Major Award - Best Thesis

## **Fellowships/Awards**

- ♦ *New America California Fellow (2018)*: research fellowship awarded by New America in recognition of work on reforming California's local redistricting process.
- ♦ *Capitol Fellow (2006)*: yearlong California state policy and academic fellowship.
- ♦ *Truman Scholar (2005)*: federal scholarship awarded for public service leadership.
- ♦ *National Merit Scholar (2002)*: national scholarship awarded for academic achievement.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**McGeorge School of Law** – Sacramento, CA

2014 – 2018; 2025 - present

*Assistant Professor of Law and Public Policy (2025 – present); Adjunct Professor (2014-18)*

- ♦ Courses taught include Intro to Law, Legislation and Statutory Interpretation, and Local Government Municipal Ethics.

*Founder & Director, California Local Redistricting Project (2016-18)*

- ♦ Founded and directed the California Local Redistricting Project ([localredistricting.org](http://localredistricting.org)) at McGeorge School of Law, a research program to study and publicize local redistricting best practices and provide technical assistance to local policymakers and community groups interested in reforming the local redistricting process.
- ♦ Directed a six-figure budget and oversaw and managed the work product of policy consultants, program developers, and student researchers.

**Oakland Public Ethics Commission** – Oakland, CA

2023 - 2025

*Executive Director*

- ♦ Led the Ethics Commission, which is responsible for the administration and enforcement of all City laws relating to campaign finance, government ethics, lobbying, and transparency.
- ♦ Responsible for managing Commission staff, budget, operations, and policy development.

**California State Senate Elections Committee – Sacramento, CA** 2021 – 2022

*Staff Director/Chief Consultant*

- ♦ Managed Committee staff and oversaw all policy and administrative work of the Committee.
- ♦ Advised Senate leadership and the Chair and members of the Senate Elections Committee on elections, campaign finance, and government ethics policy.
- ♦ Wrote or reviewed the official analysis of each bill heard in Committee.

**Heidorn Consulting – Sacramento, CA** 2019 – 2020; 2022 - 2023

*Owner and Principal*

- ♦ Provided policy and legal research, legislative drafting, legislative strategy, regulatory compliance, and government advocacy services to leading public interest nonprofits.
- ♦ Clients included ACLU, California Common Cause, and FairVote.

**California Common Cause – Sacramento, CA** 2015 – 2019

*Policy & Legal Director (2017 – 2019); Legislation & Policy Counsel (2015 – 2017)*

- ♦ Directed Common Cause's policy and legal advocacy for transparency, campaign finance, government ethics, and elections reform and at the state and local levels.
- ♦ Responsibilities included legal analysis, policy research, bill drafting, testifying at legislative hearings, managing policy staff and organizers, fundraising, and regulatory compliance.

**California Environmental Protection Agency** 2013 – 2015

*Assistant General Counsel (2014-15)*

*Special Assistant (2013-14)*

- ♦ Governor Jerry Brown appointee.
- ♦ Provided legal and policy advice to the Secretary of CalEPA on drinking water, land use, oil waste management, and environmental justice law and policy.
- ♦ Wrote agency reports, legal analyses, and draft regulations.

**Cooley LLP** 2011 – 2013

*Litigation Associate*

- ♦ Engaged in motion practice and assisted with discovery in complex litigation involving Fortune 100 companies in California state court, federal district court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation.
- ♦ Practice areas included: appellate litigation, complex litigation, contract law, privacy law, and class action defense.

**California State Senate** 2006 – 2007

*Senate Fellow*

- ♦ Selected as part of the prestigious Capitol Fellows Program, jointly run by the State Senate and the Center for California Studies at the California State University, Sacramento.
- ♦ Staffed bills for State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas on elections, education, energy, and fiscal policy from introduction to the Governor's signature.

**Oakland Mayor, Office of Mayor Jerry Brown** Summer 2002; 2003

*Intern/Aide to the Mayor*

- ♦ Assisted with policy initiatives around different municipal services, including combatting illegal dumping, city tree planting, and maintenance services.

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

### **Sacramento Active Transportation Commission – Sacramento, CA 2022**

#### *Commissioner*

- ♦ Advised City of Sacramento on policies, programs, and infrastructure to encourage walking and biking in the City.

### **Sacramento Integrity Project – Sacramento, CA**

2015 – 2017

#### *Co-Founder*

- ♦ Co-founded coalition effort advocating for ethics and election reform in Sacramento.
- ♦ The Project's work resulted in the Sacramento City Council adopting an Ethics Commission, Ethics Code, and Sunshine Ordinance, and placed Measure L (2016) on the ballot to create an independent redistricting commission, which was passed by the voters.

### **Oakland Budget Advisory Committee – Oakland, CA**

2007 – 2008;

#### *Mayoral Appointee*

2010 – 2013

- ♦ Advised city on budgeting and fiscal policy.
- ♦ Published influential report advising changes to the city's reserve policy.

## **SELECTED LECTURES & PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

- ♦ *Claremont McKenna College*: Speaker: "California's Choices: 2022 Ballot Measures" (Sep. 28, 2022: Claremont, CA).
- ♦ *Future of California Elections*: Panelist: "Fair Maps or Not?" (Jul. 25, 2022: Burbank, CA).
- ♦ *Rose Institute of State & Local Government*: Panelist: "Criteria for Redistricting" (Sep. 17, 2020: Online Conference).
- ♦ *Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento*: Panelist: "Buying the Grassroots: Voters and Money in Local Politics" (Jun. 21, 2018: Sacramento).
- ♦ *Future of California Elections*: Panelist: "Engaging the Public and Underrepresented Communities in CVRA Transitions" (Mar. 8, 2018: Los Angeles).
- ♦ *Election Law @ Boalt at the University of California, Berkeley*: Panelist: "Voting Rights & Empowerment" (Apr. 7, 2017: Berkeley).
- ♦ *League of California Cities*: Presenter: "Municipal Government: Then, Now, & Best Practices" (Mar. 31, 2017: Ontario, CA).
- ♦ *Common Cause, Campaign Legal Center, & Duke University*: Panelist: "Redistricting Reform: Mapping Our Future" (Mar. 12, 2017: Durham, NC).
- ♦ *California State Senate*: Presenter: "Municipal Democracy Today" (Aug. 12, 2016: Sacramento).
- ♦ *Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School*: Panelist: "Automatic Voter Registration: Why & How" (May 18, 2016: New York).

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, Kenneth P. Miller, and Bipasa Nadon, *Re-Assessing San Francisco's Government Design*, [Rose Institute of State and Local Government](#) (Aug. 2023).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *The Promise of Fair Maps: California's 2020 Local Redistricting Cycle: Lessons Learned and Future Reforms*, [California Common Cause](#), [ACLU](#), et al. (Jan. 2023).
- ♦ Jack Noland, ..., Nicolas Heidorn, *Gerrymandering Threat Index*, [Represent.Us](#) (May 2021).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *From Socialite to Public Servant: Luella Johnston and the Evolution of "True Womanhood" in Sacramento*, 97 [CALIFORNIA HISTORY](#) (Winter 2020).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *California Local Redistricting Commissions: Landscape, Considerations and Best Practices*, [California Local Redistricting Project](#) (2017).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *California Municipal Democracy Index*, [California Common Cause](#) (2016).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *No Limits: Campaign Contributions in Local Elections*, [California Common Cause](#) (2016).
- ♦ Paula Lee, Nicolas Heidorn, and Gary Winuk, *"Third way" will produce strong ethics reform for Sacramento*, [SACRAMENTO BEE](#) (Oct. 11, 2015).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *Oakland must begin to take ethics matters seriously*, [OAKLAND TRIBUNE](#), A15 (Feb. 2, 2014).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn and Kalie Moore, *Oakland needs reform and a rainy-day fund*, [OAKLAND TRIBUNE](#), A7 (Mar. 17, 2011).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *Preparing for the Storm: Budgeting to Mitigate Future Fiscal Hardship*, [Oakland Budget Advisory Committee](#) (Feb. 9, 2011).
- ♦ Kenneth Miller and Nicolas Heidorn, *Du 'People's Rule' en Californie*, 9 [POLITIQUE AMERICAINE](#) 65 (2007).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *A Crisis in Local Democracy*, [SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE](#), B7 (Dec. 23, 2005).
- ♦ Arthur Foulkes and Nicolas Heidorn, *Vaccine Shortage Leads to FDA's Doorstep*, [INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY](#), A16 (Oct. 22, 2004).
- ♦ Nicolas Heidorn, *The enduring political illusions of farm subsidies*, [SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE](#), B9 (Aug. 16, 2004).