

## Jim Fox Statement of Candidacy

I have committed my entire professional career to public service, primarily involved in public safety and public protection. I have submitted my name for your consideration to serve as the next Vice President of the State Bar of California.

I bring a unique perspective in my service to the State Bar. I was appointed by the Board of Trustees to the Judicial Council and will complete a three year term in September. I have also served as an executive in OCTC for almost three years. Although I was asked to serve for only one year in OCTC, I was asked twice to extend my service to assist the Chief Trial Counsel in the reorganization of the office into the dramatically improved public protection organization it is now. I served as the acting manager of the San Francisco office for five months until my departure. OCTC is now much more efficient, transparent and stable than it was when Jayne Kim and I began our service in September, 2011. I left employment with OCTC in July, 2014 after I was appointed to the Board of Trustees by the Supreme Court.

I have an excellent relationship with members of the Judicial Council as well as the Supreme Court, which appointed me to the Board of Trustees. I also have a continuing relationship with our justice partners, including the California District Attorneys Association. It is important to strengthen the relationship of the State Bar with all of our stakeholders.

I have practiced law for over 45 years in the county in which I was raised. When I was admitted to the Bar, I applied for only two legal positions, Deputy District Attorney for San Mateo County and Deputy Attorney General for the State of California. Although I was always interested in being a trial attorney involved in criminal litigation, I also was interested in government law. Fortunately I was hired by my predecessor, Keith C. Sorenson, who served as District Attorney of San Mateo County for 29 years.

I spent four years as a trial attorney in the criminal division of the District Attorney's Office and then had the opportunity to become a contract City Attorney for the City in which I was raised, Half Moon Bay. I was also in

private practice with the firm of Haning, Fox and Guheen in San Mateo. I had a general litigation practice, including criminal defense, personal injury and municipal law.

In 1981 my predecessor announced he would not seek re-election to an eighth term as District Attorney and I ran for the position against the Chief Criminal Deputy District Attorney. (At that time the office was both the criminal prosecutor and the County Counsel.)

I was fortunate enough to prevail and served seven terms with only the first election contested. During my first five years I served as County Counsel and I sat with the Board of Supervisors as legal advisor for almost all of their weekly meetings. The County Charter was amended in 1987 to create the Office of County Counsel in January, 1988 and my Chief Civil Deputy was appointed to serve in that capacity.

I have always been active in local and State Bar committees. I served on the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Bar Association and also served as Chair of the Private Defender Committee, which provides by contract indigent criminal defense services. I served on the first JNE Commission when it was created in 1980 and served until 1982.

I have been appointed by the Chief Justice to Judicial Council Advisory Committees, including the Court Profiles/Judgeship Needs Committee from 1990 to 2000, the Ad Hoc Cameras in the Courtroom Committee, and the Criminal Law Advisory Committee from 1994 to 2010. (I believe I am the longest serving member of that committee.)

I have also had a leadership role in professional organizations, including serving as President of the California District Attorneys Association 1996-1997; President of the National District Attorneys Association 2007-2008, Chair of California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training for 18 months 2003-2004. I also served as a member of the San Mateo County First Five Commission (became Children and Family First) from 1999 to 2004.

I served for twenty years as the Chair or Co-Chair of the California District Attorneys Association Legislative Committee and testified a number of

times before legislative committees in Sacramento. I also served as legislative committee Chair of the National District Attorneys Association and I have testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and several House of Representative committees regarding Federal legislation involving criminal justice issues.

I was also appointed by the State Senate in 2004 to serve on the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice to examine the criminal justice system in California and to make recommendations regarding improvements to improve the criminal justice system. The initial Chair of that commission was former President of the State Bar, Justice Jon Streeter of the First District Court of Appeal. The final Chair was former President of the State Bar and former Attorney General of California, John Van de Kamp.

I have always believed the practice of law is a noble profession. I believe I spent my entire career doing the right thing for the right reason. I was never driven by politics, but rather by doing what was right. I pride myself that I was the only elected District Attorney in California who was willing to speak out in opposition to the enactment of the Three Strikes Law. I testified before the public safety committees in the State Legislature in opposition and I signed the ballot argument against the passage of the initiative. I believe this demonstrates my commitment to do what I believe is correct in spite of political expedience.

There are several important issues I think we need to look at in the coming year. Professor Fellmeth from the University of San Diego is advocating a complete destruction of the Bar as we know it. I understand the concern about the lack of transparency but I believe we can begin to address that by making the Board Book public. I don't believe there is any reason to allow others to attack us when there is nothing to hide. A significant improvement was made after this years Planning Retreat by Michael Colantuono and the committee he chaired regard the reimbursement of the President for expenses incurred rather than what appeared to be compensation.

Another issue I would like the Board to look at is the elimination of the self-reporting of MCLE credits and a change to require the providers to

electronically transmit records of completion to the State Bar. It would be very simple to automate, especially with improved technology. It would also reduce the amount of work the Bar has to do to audit the self reporting of credits.

I am the first person in my family to become an attorney. I made the decision to do so when I was in the third grade. I believe I have made significant contributions as a result of my involvement in many professional organizations. I know that I can contribute more by being involved in a leadership role with the State Bar and I ask for your consideration.