



PRESS RELEASE

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Two Exemplary Citizens Appointed to Committee on Credentials

SACRAMENTO -- The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) has chosen two exemplary individuals to serve as Public Representatives on the Committee on Credentials (COC): patent attorney **Michael Kaufman** of San Anselmo and retired credential consultant **Rodonna Van Pelt** from Riverside. The appointments were made at the Commission's June 3-4, 2009 meeting. Commissioners Ting Sun, Irene Oropeza-Enriquez, and Shane Martin interviewed the nominees for the two vacant positions on the COC and recommended the finalists to the Commission for approval.

The COC is a statutory committee comprised of seven members appointed by the Commission. These members represent one elementary teacher, one secondary teacher, one school board member, one school administrator, and three public representatives. Duties of the COC include the review of individuals for fitness to receive and/or retain credentials issued by the Commission. The COC is required by law to investigate all allegations of misconduct against credential applicants and holders. Meetings are held for three days each month at the Commission's office in Sacramento. Members review more than 600 cases monthly.

Michael Kaufman has been working as a California attorney for over three decades. In addition, he has been a volunteer high school mentor/tutor in San Rafael four days a week for the past three years. Kaufman earned both a Bachelor and Master of Science in Engineering from University of California, Los Angeles before obtaining a Juris Doctorate from the Loyola School of Law.

Rodonna Van Pelt is a retired Credential Analyst for the Riverside County Office of Education. As a Credential Analyst, Van Pelt was responsible for monitoring credential assignments and assisting school faculty with their application materials for the Commission for 24 school districts. Van Pelt earned a Preliminary Designated Subjects Adult Education Teaching Credential in 1999. She also held the position of Confidential Secretary in the Personnel Division for three years as a member of the Association of California School Administrators.

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