



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

City Council also approves appointment introduced during the September City Council meeting

CHICAGO – Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's appointments to city boards and commissions were approved by the City Council on Wednesday.

"The City of Chicago remains committed to building out every board with experienced individuals who will bring new thoughts and ideas that will spark neighborhood development across all 77 communities," said Mayor Lightfoot. "As we work toward a more equitable city, these individuals represent our continued commitment to the prosperity of every resident and the goal of a united Chicago."

The Chicago City Council approved the following appointments:

Appointed to the Illinois International Port District Board

- Ivan Solis, President, Solis Construction
- Danielle Meltzer Cassel, Shareholder, Vedder Price

Ivan Solis is President of Solis Construction, a Chicago based commercial general contractor founded in 1994. Solis specializes in interior build-outs, new construction and renovations of office spaces, retail, banks, schools, restaurants, clinics, multi-family buildings and light industrial facilities. In addition to its local portfolio, Solis has completed projects in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Mr. Solis' civic engagement includes serving on the board of directors of the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA). Ivan was elected to HACIA's Board in 2009 and he has served as Board President since 2013. In addition, Mr. Solis has served on the Catholic Charities regional advisory Board for the south region since 2010. He also serves on the Board of the Latino Worker Safety Center (LWSC), a nonprofit that provides multilingual workplace safety training. Ivan has been honored to serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure



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transition committees for both Governor JB Pritzker and Mayor Lori Lightfoot, where he served as co-chair.

Danielle Meltzer Cassel is a practicing attorney with 20+ years of experience dedicated to transactional real estate, land use, public incentives, and business licensing. Her work has spanned a wide range of urban and suburban contexts and included mixed-use developments, retail, office, hotel, entertainment, sports/health facilities, hospitals, schools, universities, residential, religious institutions, manufacturing, distribution and commercial signage.

The elite Legal 500 United States lists Ms. Cassel as a "Leading Lawyer," nationally, in Real Estate and Construction-Land Use/Zoning. Ms. Cassel has been selected by peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, named as a Leading Illinois Commercial Real Estate Lawyer by Leading Lawyers Network and recognized as an "up and coming" lawyer (Illinois Real Estate category) in Chambers USA, which noted her "phenomenal brain and terrific client skills."

Appointed to the Human Resources Board

- Sulema Medrano Novak, Partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Sulema Medrano Novak is an accomplished and award-winning trial lawyer with extensive first-chair experience leading trial teams to verdict. Her practice focuses on sophisticated insurance and commercial disputes, including insurance coverage, consumer fraud and bad faith claims, breach of contract, professional liability, information privacy, and wrongful death. In addition to representing clients in highly specialized commercial litigation matters, Ms. Novak has been a visible advocate for women and diverse members of the legal community, and has served as president of the Hispanic National Bar Association's Region IX and chair of its Commission on Women.

Ms. Novak's previous experience as an Illinois state prosecutor honed her courtroom skills and prescient judgment, and reinforced her commitment to advancing diversity in the legal profession. While in law school, she served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Ruben Castillo, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

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