

2.28.23 SB 808 Senate Hearing Remote Testimony

Good Afternoon Senators,

My name is Alicia LeDuc Montgomery. I am a civil rights attorney practicing in Oregon, with an office in downtown Portland.

I support the changes presented in SB 808.

Law enforcement misconduct and accountability is a matter of significant public concern. It is therefore concerning that the current Commission membership disproportionately reflects law enforcement interests, with no representation from community organizations or civil rights lawyers who represent the public interest in law enforcement misconduct litigation, and are often those closest to the legal issues with victims and law enforcement officers involved.

This is particularly true in the standards-setting and accountability context of the Commission, because as was noted in the Commission's public hearings in September, law enforcement often fails to adequately hold itself accountable or prosecute its own members for misconduct.

In 2019, **Sgt. Mark Banks, President** of the **Oregon State Police Officers Association** that represents both sergeants and troopers, said state police need to do better:

**"We don't do a good job of policing ourselves because we let relationships within the organization affect investigations. We need to find a way to have outside eyes on things."
"The only people who don't see a problem with the clique are the people inside the clique."**

See <https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2019/03/state-cop-alleges-caustic-culture-use-of-n-word-nepotism-intimidation-retaliation.html>

Civil lawsuits by victims, their families, and community groups are often the *de facto* enforcers of the public interest in this context of holding officers accountable. Given that individual civil lawsuits are often a primary means through which the public learns of police misconduct and the officers and jurisdictions they work for are held accountable, public interest attorney representation on the Commission is necessary.

I support the changes proposed in SB 808 and encourage the bill be further amended to require that commission membership include victims of police violence or their family members.

Thank you.



Alicia LeDuc Montgomery