



MICHAEL N. FEUER
CITY ATTORNEY

May 7, 2019

Dear Bar Association President:

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, I seek your support in helping to improve the administration of criminal justice in our local communities.

In 2013, the City of Los Angeles transferred the adjudication of Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) violations from criminal filings in Superior Court to an administrative enforcement process called the Administrative Citation Enforcement program (ACE). Now, frequently-cited LAMC sections with the greatest propensity to improve neighborhood-level concerns are sustained through an administrative fine process in lieu of traditional misdemeanor prosecution.

ACE allows police officers to focus their resources on serious matters of safety rather than detaining, arresting and booking individuals for 'minor' matters of public nuisance. Furthermore, ACE adheres to several notions of criminal justice reform including: (1) decreasing caseloads in courts; (2) freeing up police to focus resources more effectively; and (3) creating alternatives to address quality-of-life crime outside of the typical criminal process.

Municipal Code violations are now having "their day in court" by allowing ACE-cited individuals to appeal their citations to an ACE Hearing Officer. However, since the program's inception, the number of ACE Hearing Officers has declined. Successful tenures within the ACE program have led to the attrition of many Hearing Officers, either seeking or receiving, more lucrative opportunities in the field of adjudication. At this time, we are requesting your assistance to fill these vacancies.

ACE is actively recruiting attorneys to volunteer as independent, neutral decision-makers that oversee appeals of ACE violations. By Los Angeles City Ordinance, Hearing Officers must either be Pro-tem Judges of the Superior Court, California Administrative Law judges, or individuals with Dispute Resolution training.

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To help us bolster the ACE volunteer Hearing Officer pool, it would be greatly appreciated if you disseminated to your bar membership this notification seeking their voluntary effort with my office, via the ACE program. This opportunity might be of particular interest to those members of your Bar Association seeking experience in adjudication, and perhaps, future careers in the judiciary.

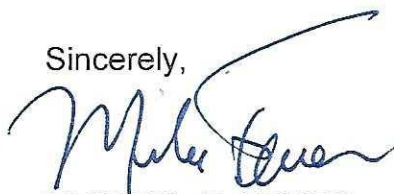
All interested attorneys will receive Dispute Resolution and ACE training, along with at least 8-hours of MCLE credit, at no cost to them. Our Dispute Resolution training will be free for your members interested in volunteering for ACE, and is an award-winning program facilitated by experts in the field of mediation, peace-building, diversity, and restorative justice.

If interested, attorneys should contact the ACE program administrators by **July 1, 2019** to sign up. ACE administrators are Supervising ACE Attorney Rita Venegas (213.978.6907 / Rita.Venegas@lacity.org) and ACE Administrative Director William Mangan at (213.978.6907 / Bill.Mangan@lacity.org).

Thank you for your partnership and more importantly, thank you for your continued drive for excellence as attorney members of the Bar in Los Angeles. The City Attorney's Office values the work that you do to improve access to justice. Please consider this opportunity, via the ACE program, to improve the public's experience with the criminal justice system as it pertains to the adjudication of Municipal Law, specifically, and to the improvement of Los Angeles neighborhoods, overall.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Feuer", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

MICHAEL N. FEUER
Los Angeles City Attorney