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| **Agenda Item No.:** | 5 | **Date:** | Jan. 26, 2016 |
| **Proposed No.:** | 2015-0457 | **Prepared by:** | Nick Wagner |

# SUBJECT

Confirmation of the appointment of Gregg H. Hirakawa to the King County Board of Ethics.

# SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2015-0457 (Att. 1) would confirm the Executive’s appointment of Gregg H. Hirakawa, effective September 18, 2015, to serve on the King County Board of Ethics, in a Council-nominated position, for a three-year term expiring on July 31, 2017.

# BACKGROUND

The King County Board of Ethics was created by Ordinance 1321 in 1972 “to insure proper implementation of the code of ethics and to investigate and report on conflicts of interest.” The board consists of five members: two to be appointed by the county executive, two to be appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the county council, and a fifth member, who serves as chair and is appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the other four members. Each member serves a term of three years. All appointments to the board are subject to confirmation by the Council. KCC 3.04.080.

# ANALYSIS

Mr. Hirakawa, who resides in Council District 4, is an honors graduate of the Seattle University School of Law. He graduated from the University of Oregon School of Journalism with a Bachelor of Science degree.[[1]](#footnote-1)

From 2004 to 2006 and from 2009 to the present, Mr. Hirakawa has worked as an attorney in private practice in Seattle. He primarily represents physically or mentally disabled clients requiring Medicaid or Social Security disability benefits. He also handles criminal defense cases and estate and trust administration and litigation. Additional information about his practice can be found in his resume (Att. 2).

Mr. Hirakawa’s prior professional experience includes the following, which is described more fully in his resume (Att. 2):

Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA, 2007-2009  
Deputy Executive Director – External Relations

Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle, WA, 2006-2007  
Communications Director

King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Seattle, WA, 2003-2004  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Criminal Division

Washington Court of Appeals, Tacoma, WA, 2002-2003  
Law Clerk to Hon. David H. Armstrong

Metropolitan King County Council, Seattle, WA, 1999-2002  
Legislative Aide to Councilmember Larry Phillips

Pacific Rim Resources, Seattle, WA, 1997-1999  
Senior Associate

Washington State House of Representatives, Democratic Caucus, 1997  
Public Affairs Officer

The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, Seattle, WA, 1991-1996  
Bureau Chief/Correspondent

Mr. Hirakawa has also held the following public service positions:

City of Seattle Civil Service Commission, Seattle, WA, 2008-2012  
Commissioner/Chair

King County Charter Review Commission, Seattle, WA, 2007-2008  
Commissioner

City of Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, Seattle, WA, 2004-2006  
Commissioner

# Invited

1. Gregg Hirakawa, Appointee, King County Board of Ethics
2. Kelli Williams, Director, King County Office of Civil Rights & Open Government

# ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2015-0457
   1. Mr. Hirakawa’s resume
   2. Financial Disclosure Statement
   3. Board of Ethics profile (prepared by executive staff)
   4. Appointment letter
2. Transmittal letter

1. The biographical information in this staff report is based on Mr. Hirakawa’s resume (Att. 2). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)