



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

JANE ELLISON USHER
PRESIDENT
LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Jane Ellison Usher, an attorney, is the president of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission.

A native Ohioan, Usher joined Manatt, Phelps, Rothenberg & Tunney in 1980, as a litigator and administrative lawyer. On leave of absence from the firm, she held the posts of associate vice president and associate general counsel to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, and thereafter was named general counsel to each of the United States Football League, the America's Cup, and the Association of Volleyball Professionals.

In 1989, Usher moved onto the team of Mayor Tom Bradley, as Counsel to the Mayor. Until the Mayor's retirement in 1993, Usher served him in the capacities of legal advisor, policy advocate, speech writer, and liaison to both the City Attorney and the newly created Ethics Commission. She also sat as his alternate on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the County of Los Angeles and led his merger of the former Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and the Southern California Rapid Transit District.

The mother of two sons, Usher returned to the workforce in 1998 as the Assistant Dean of the USC Annenberg School for Communication, where she managed the strategic planning, financial, personnel, admissions, and public relations affairs of this premiere educational institution during a period of significant transition and growth for both the School and the University. Usher retired in 2002, following the death of her husband, Harry Usher.

Usher has fundraised for the Center for Early Education (chair, Annual Fund, 2003-2005) and the Harvard-Westlake School (captain, 2005-2007), and performs community service alongside her sons at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple. A former board member of the Windsor Square Association (president, 1998-2002), she now sits on the elected board of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (chair, bylaws). Usher holds degrees from Cornell University and the University of Chicago Law School.