



LOS ANGELES AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# GOVERNMENT & FISCAL AFFAIRS



Chair: Jerry Nauman, Liner LLP  
Vice Chair: Samuel Garrison, Caruso Affiliated  
Vice Chair: Phillip Recht, Mayer Brown LLP  
Vice Chair: Chris Thornberg, Beacon Economics

**May 22, 2014**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

## **1. Welcome & Introductions**

## **2. Discussion on Starting LA's Charter Reform Process**

George Kieffer, Former Chair  
Los Angeles Appointed Charter Reform Commission

Raphael Sonenshein, Former Executive Director  
Los Angeles Appointed Charter Reform Commission

## **3. Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce: Charter Reform Series**

- Review goals and timeframe.
- Establish working groups.
- Identify the top 8-10 issues the Committee would like to focus on during the Charter Reform Series. (i.e. privatization, the civil service system, and pension system reform)
- Discuss next steps.

*NOTE: Discussions outside of regular council meetings will be held on conference calls.*

Next Meeting:  
**"MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHARTER REFORM"**  
Expected Speaker: The Honorable Richard Riordan  
June 19, 2014  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

**George Kieffer**  
Partner  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLC

Born in New York City, New York, Kieffer was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and graduated from Serra High School in San Mateo, California. He received a B.A. in history from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1969, where he was named the Outstanding Male upon graduation. He served one year as legislative assistant to Congressman Michael J. Harrington and received a J.D. from UCLA in 1973. During his third year he clerked for Honorable David Bazelon, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit. He joined the law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Rothenberg in 1973 (now Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP).

In 1980, then Governor Jerry Brown appointed Kieffer to the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, where he served as Chair from 1983 to 1985. He subsequently served on the Blue Ribbon Commission to Review the California Master Plan for Higher Education. He served as Chair of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions from 1985-1987.

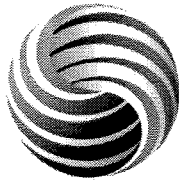
In 1996, then Los Angeles City Attorney James Hahn appointed Kieffer to the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission, charged with rewriting the Los Angeles City Charter. Kieffer was subsequently elected chair of the commission. The story of the drafting and voter adoption of the new city charter is recounted in *The City at Stake: Succession, Reform, and the Battle for Los Angeles* by Professor Raphael J. Sonenshein. In 1999, Kieffer was awarded the Social Responsibility Award by the Los Angeles Urban League. Following the events of 9/11, then Mayor Hahn asked Kieffer to head the Economic Impact Task Force charged with recommending steps to minimize the economic effects of 9/11 on business in Los Angeles; the report became the blueprint for City Council and Mayoral response.

In 2003 Kieffer was selected as the Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and served two terms in that position. Kieffer expanded the board to include as ex officio members the leaders of previously underrepresented ethnic organizations as well as competing business organizations and recruited other significant civic and business leaders to the board of directors. In 2003, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce was the only business organization in the state to oppose the recall of Governor Gray Davis one year after his re-election on the principled ground that it was a misuse of the recall process.

In 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Kieffer to the Board of Regents of the University of California. His term runs to March, 2021.

Kieffer is the author of *The Strategy of Meetings* (c. 1988 Simon and Schuster). He was contributing author to *Governing Public Colleges and Universities* (c. 1993 Jossey-Bass).

Kieffer continues to practice law at the Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP law firm office in Los Angeles with a particular emphasis on state and municipal regulatory work.



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

**Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein**  
Executive Director  
Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs,  
Cal State University, Los Angeles

Raphael J. Sonenshein (born 1949 in Nutley, New Jersey) was a political science professor at California State University, Fullerton. He is also served as chairman of the department. An instructor at the university from 1982 to 2012, Sonenshein holds a bachelor's degree in public policy from Princeton University and a doctorate in political science from Yale University. His books, *Politics in Black and White: Race and Power in Los Angeles* and *The City at Stake: Secession, Reform, and the Battle for Los Angeles* detail the political history of Los Angeles in the last fifty years. He is currently working on a third book. Sonenshein recently returned to the United States after completing a semester teaching in Paris on a Fulbright Scholarship. Sonenshein recently transferred to California State University, Los Angeles, where he was appointed Executive Director of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs.

He was executive director of the Los Angeles Appointed Charter Reform Commission, which, along with the Los Angeles Elected Charter Reform Commission that operated simultaneously and with the same mandate, created a "unified charter" proposal for the ballot that provided the first successful and comprehensive update to the city's 1925 charter. The charter measure achieved a 60 percent approval at the polls in June 1999. It boosted the mayor's power and led to the creation of neighborhood councils and area planning commissions.

He is a nephew of retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Nathan Sonenshein. He currently resides in Santa Monica. Sonenshein is also a frequent editor and writer for the Jewish Journal.