

BIOGRAPHY OF STEVEN T. WALTHER

Steven T. Walther joined the Federal Election Commission as a Commissioner on January 10, 2006. He presently serves on the Commission's Finance Committee, Personnel Committee and Litigation Committee.

Following his graduation from law school in 1968, Mr. Walther returned to his native home in Reno, Nevada to practice law. After working for a local firm, in 1972 he co-founded the firm of Walther & Key, and he remained with that firm for 33 years until he joined the Commission.

During his legal career Mr. Walther has been active in professional legal and judicial organizations and activities, most of which were designed to improve professionalism of lawyers and judges or to provide education in the fields of rule of law, ethics and human and civil rights. He is a former member of the Board of Governors of the 300,000 member American Bar Association and currently serves as co-chair of the ABA Center for Human Rights. He also has been active in other ABA initiatives focusing on international relations, human rights and the rule of law. Mr. Walther was appointed by the ABA President to serve as chair of the ABA Standing Committee on World Order Under Law, and later as chair of ABA Special Advisory Committee of International Activities. He also served as the ABA Representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Walther was also appointed to the Executive Board of the ABA Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI) which oversees the ABA's democracy-building programs in over 21 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including the countries that once comprised the former Soviet Union. Among other programs, the CEELI programs promote development of fair and open election laws. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College and participated in numerous NJC educational programs designed to improve the professional skills of judges and their knowledge of the law, both domestically and internationally.

Mr. Walther is a former president of the State Bar of Nevada and former chair of the Nevada Board of Continuing Legal Education. He is also a former president of the Western States Bar Conference, and former president of the National Caucus of State Bar Associations. He is a past chair of the 6,000 member Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, the legal research arm of the ABA. From 1971 until his FEC appointment, Mr. Walther served as a member of the Nevada State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In the 1970s, Mr. Walther was appointed by Governor Paul Laxalt, and later by Governor Mike O'Callaghan, to the Nevada Indian Affairs Commission.

Mr. Walther received his J.D. degree from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, in 1968. He recently served as president of the 11,000 member Boalt Hall Alumni Association. He received his undergraduate degree, with a major in Russian, from the University of Notre Dame in 1965.