

DEVIN J. BURSTEIN – TRUSTEE STATEMENT

La Jolla is special. Our town is blessed with natural beauty, worldly culture, and a vibrant, caring community. These are the qualities that first drew me here from New York and these are the qualities that I hope to protect.

I came here shortly before my 30th birthday, moving from concrete and skyscrapers to beautiful Windansea. As an east coast surfer, I was thrilled with the waves, weather, and outdoor lifestyle. As a New York City lawyer, I was equally happy to find a highly skilled and intellectually stimulating legal community in San Diego. As a person, however, I most excited about finding a place that so quickly came to feel like home. I could not believe my luck in finding La Jolla.

In the years since, my commitment to the community has only grown. I continue to live at Windansea. Along with my fiancé and our rescued dog, we are a family dedicated to public service. I have the honor of working as a federal public defender, helping to protect the basic rights of the indigent. My fiancé works for the American Red Cross, coordinating the youth program. Our commitment to the public good is what ultimately brought us to the La Jolla Community Planning Association.

When a notice went up in our complex at 6767 Neptune Place, stating the owner's intent to demolish the property and build a new complex, as concerned residents and ocean lovers we wanted to know more. After contacting the City, I was told that the place to begin was the La Jolla CPA. I organized a group of concerned tenants to attend the first subcommittee meeting. Once there, we were impressed and encouraged, as the CPA listened to our concerns and carefully considered the scope of the proposed project and its neighborhood impact.

In the end, the full CPA voted to recommend denying the project and thereby protect the existing character of Windansea beach. These first experiences, along with the meetings that followed, have convinced me that the CPA is an important asset to our community. By serving as a trustee, I believe I can strengthen that asset. Indeed, as a trustee, I would bring not only my legal knowledge, but also a passion for protecting La Jolla's character and environment. I would bring my deep respect for individual property rights, along with my belief that just because something can be done, does not mean that it should be done. Perhaps most important, however, if elected trustee, I would bring with me the excitement of someone with a fresh perspective, someone who appreciates, in a different way, the wonderful place that we live.