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Charlene Wear Simmons, Ph.D.

Background

Charlene Simmons has been working with policymakers for over 25 years to bring research to bear on improving public policy and organizational effectiveness. She has managed a policy research organization, is the author of numerous policy reports, has written successful legislation and foundation grants, served on state and local nonprofit boards, orchestrated legislative hearings, and been an effective advocate. She is personable, objective, a perceptive analyst, and a good writer and editor who places great importance on meeting client deadlines.

Dr. Simmons' research and policy work has encompassed a broad range of issues (see Publications link), a testimony to her broad understanding of government and public policy and her ability to apply a consistent methodology when approaching policy and organizational problems. She recently completed an organizational effectiveness assessment of the California Council for the Humanities, with Pamela Hilton Snow, for the National Endowment of the Humanities, and is beginning work on a Department of Defense project to improve the capacity of the government of Guam.

Dr Simmons' career in California state government includes serving as Acting and Assistant Director of the California Research Bureau in the California State Library, Chief Consultant of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Senior Consultant of the Assembly Select Committee on Ethics, and Federal Liaison for the Employment Development Department.. She created the California Family Impact Seminar with a grant from the Ford Foundation and oversaw 15 years of foundation-funded projects focusing on children and families. She has been a Subject Matter Expert for the Commission on Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) and participated in developing and teaching on two POST telecourses. Her work on governmental ethics reform in California and in Congress (as a staff member in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives) is noteworthy, as is her continuing research and legislative work on improving policies and programs for families of the incarcerated.

Dr. Simmons teaches graduate courses in administrative research and analysis at the University of Southern California, and public policy at the Universidad Anahuac in Xalapa, Mexico. She was a founding member of the editorial board of the *Election Law Review*, and is past Chair of the California Council for the Humanities. She currently serves on the statewide board of Friends Outside and is Co-Chair of the board of the Yolo Family Service Agency.

Dr. Simmons received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Davis, along with undergraduate degrees in Spanish and Political Science with Highest Honors, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.