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Delgadillo Names Two-Tiered Transition Team

By Katherine Galdos
Daily Journal Staff Writer

City Attorney-elect Rocky Delgadillo named the members of his two-tiered transition team Friday, surrounding himself with enough high-powered attorneys to make the average nonlawyer shudder.

The newly selected team, headed by O'Melveny & Myers partner and political heavyweight Mark Steinberg, comprises 22 Los Angeles lawyers: eight senior advisers and 14 deputy transition leaders.

Delgadillo's senior advisers include former Secretary of State and O'Melveny partner Warren Christopher; Munger Tolles & Olson's Vilma Martínez and Ron Olson; Morgan Lewis & Bockius partner Andrea Ordín; Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton's Robert Philipposian; judicial appointments secretary Burt Pines; Gang Tyre Ramer & Brown entertainment attorney Bruce Ramer; and former Los Angeles District Attorney and state Attorney General John Van de Kamp.

The senior advisers are slated to play an on-call advisory roll for the transition process.

The deputy transition leaders will play a more hands-on role during the next 30 to 90 days in the selection and interviewing of

candidates to fill slots left open by the June 5 city election.

This tier includes Lec Kanon Alpert of Alpert & Barr; Latham & Watkins's Jim Arnone; O'Melveny's Michael Camunec and Cheryl Mason; former Los Angeles police Commissioner and Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe chair Gerald Chaleff; Munger Tolles partners Richard Drooyan and John Spiegel; Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe's Dan Garcia; Jeff Glassman of Riordan & McKinzie; Joan Kessler of Kessler & Kessler; Asian Pacific American Legal Center's Stewart Kwoh; Demetriou Del Guercio Springer & Francis' Jeffrey Z.B. Springer; Manatt Phelps & Phillips' Ron Turovsky; and Mandalay Pictures' Darrell Walker.

"The people who have agreed to join the transition team will perform varying kinds of service," Steinberg said. "While all will be involved in identifying promising candidates for senior positions, those most familiar with the office may be asked to advise on organizational matters, others to undertake projects aimed at achieving Rocky's priorities and others on determining how services might be improved or sharpened.

"The one thing that binds all of these folks together is their desire to see that the

city attorney-elect gets off to the strongest possible start," Steinberg said. Fourteen of the team members, which Delgadillo called "the best and brightest of Los Angeles' diverse legal community," hail from large law firms that traditionally have wielded political clout.

Munger Tolles is especially well-represented with four advisers on the team. Liberal establishment law firm O'Melveny & Myers, Delgadillo's former firm, boasts four, including Steinberg.

Some team members qualify as wild cards — or consensus builders. Chaleff and Drooyan, for instance, supported Delgadillo's opponent Mike Feuer. Both donated \$1,000 to Feuer's campaign.

"I have great respect for Mike Feuer," Drooyan said. "I supported him, and I suspect that, if he has future plans, I will support him again in his endeavors. This is an opportunity to be of assistance to the individual who won the election."

And not everyone on the list is a political veteran.

"I don't get involved in partisan endorsements so I wasn't involved in his campaign in that sense," Kwoh said, adding that he has known Delgadillo for many years.