

December 2021

Dear Members of the Austin Fire Fighters Relief & Retirement Fund,

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Anumeha Kumar and I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve as the new Fund Administrator of the Austin Fire Fighters Relief & Retirement Fund (AFRS). I am a dedicated leader with strong work ethics and I'm passionate about public service. I strongly believe that transparency and accountability are necessary for effective and good public policy.

I'm currently serving as the Executive Director of the Texas Pension Review Board (PRB), a state agency mandated to oversee the financial and actuarial health of Texas' 99 defined benefit public retirement systems. I have over 11 years of experience with the PRB serving in various managerial roles at the agency and I have gained extensive experience in the areas of public pension policy and finance.

In my current tenure at the PRB, I have provided strong executive direction and leadership to its 7-member board and staff to advance the agency's core mission of providing on-going oversight for Texas retirement systems to help ensure that retirement benefits are securely provided, among other duties. One of the leading credit-rating agencies continue to cite PRB oversight as a positive factor for the state's financial stability. I have also successfully led the agency through four Legislative sessions, which included working with key stakeholders, including the legislators and their staff, retirement systems, and their plan sponsors.

Today's PRB is highly respected and is considered a model agency both within and outside Texas. A clear vision, strategic planning, strong partnership with the board and stakeholders, and a motivated staff helped accomplish this goal. The unique opportunity to parlay my experience leading a state agency into administering an organization that directly impacts the lives of approximately 2000 firefighters who risk their lives to keep the citizens of Austin safe is appealing to me both personally and professionally.

I clearly understand that AFRS is your primary source of retirement income, given you do not participate in social security and rely solely on the Fund to provide for a decent living in retirement. I will commit to providing exceptional service to you and to doing my best to assist the AFRS board to preserve the long-term funding health of your retirement system.

I will be joining AFRS early next year. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions at all.

Respectfully,
Anumeha Kumar

ANUMEHA KUMAR

Profile

Executive Director experienced in organizational management, providing direction and leadership to Board and staff, testifying before legislative committees, working with lawmakers, legislative staff, Texas public retirement systems, and city officials. Over ten years of experience and extensive expertise in the areas of public pension policy and finance. Proven ability to manage staff and projects; solid record of collaborating and working well with board of directors, and stakeholder groups; successful at designing and implementing board governing documents, and policies and procedures; effective at strategic planning and overseeing agency budget; and possesses strong communication and analytical skills. Holds a Master of Laws degree from UT Austin School of Law.

Professional Experience

Texas Pension Review Board – Austin, TX

Executive Director: January 2015 - Present

Manage day-to-day operations of state agency with twelve staff and seven Board members. Support the Board in areas of policy, budget, and strategic planning. Responsible for agency operations, recruitment, personnel, and external relations, including legislative affairs. Oversees all agency initiatives and publications. Presents regularly to legislative committees and Board. Lead the agency through four legislative sessions, including briefing legislators and legislative staff on public pension matters and communicate with the media.

Key Accomplishments:

- Developed and implemented a transparent and collaborative process for Board's legislative recommendations with stakeholder input.
- Provided direct technical assistance on and objective analyses of major pension reform legislation to stakeholders, including key legislators, retirement systems, and city officials.
- Provided lawmakers detailed analysis on state's public retirement systems, including solvency projections, actuarial analysis, and impact of pension legislation.
- Conducted training for legislative, retirement systems, and other state agency staffers on agency role and responsibilities and actuarial/public pension matters.
- Oversaw actuarial impact statement submissions on public pension legislation, agency budget, educational training program, responded to legislative requests, and worked closely with Texas Legislative and Executive branch agencies.
- Oversaw actuarial intensive reviews of retirement systems facing funding challenges, including providing recommendations and aiding systems and their sponsors during and after the completion of reviews.
- Oversaw development of agency guidelines to retirement systems for conducting statutorily required Investment Performance Evaluations and the successful publication of PRB's 2020 Investment Performance Report for the Texas Legislature.
- Provided training and presented at multiple conferences, including conferences organized for paid-part-paid firefighter plans across the state.
- Oversaw development of agency's Strategic Plans and Legislative Appropriations Requests (LAR) since 2015.
- Developed agency's business continuity plan, which was successfully executed during the pandemic.
- Oversaw successful development of PRB's datacenter to enhance transparency by allowing users to compare key indicators of pension health across time and across per systems.

- Oversaw revamp of agency's IT infrastructure and the website, including moving towards a cloud-based infrastructure.
- Successfully completed the LBJ School's Governor's Executive Development Program (GEDP) Class XXXVI. A three-week intensive educational program for top executives in Texas state agencies.

Texas Pension Review Board – Austin, TX

Director of Policy and Finance: September 2014 – December 2014

Senior Management Analyst: 2013 – 2014

Management Analyst: 2010 - 2012

Manage policy and finance division projects; support executive director with agency operations, including development of agency strategic plan for research, analysis, and oversight of over 300 public retirement systems; perform state and federal policy and legal analysis related to public retirement systems; serve as the agency liaison with the pension plans, state agencies and the Legislature; and assist in hiring, developing, and evaluating staff members.

Key Accomplishments:

- Helped develop a report of the study of the financial health of Texas public retirement systems, required by the 83rd Legislature.
- Assisted executive director in the Sunset review of the agency, required by law for all state agencies, concluding with the passage of legislation continuing operations for an additional twelve years and adding significant new responsibilities to the agency.
- Created and updated policies and procedures to improve agency operations; developed board bylaws and ethics policy statement.
- Developed and updated agency rules and Board policies for public retirement systems.
- Worked on expanding the agency's education and research endeavors, including "white papers," pension training, and best practices for pension trustees and administrators.
- Developed and submitted agency publications to the Legislature and other state agencies.
- Helped guide the agency through two legislative sessions, reviewed pension legislation, and attended legislative committee hearings.
- Assisted the executive director with the development of agency's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR).
- Assisted executive director with agency reports to pension committees analyzing health of state's public retirement systems, including solvency projections, actuarial analysis, and governance structures.
- Authored reports on federal laws, including IRS regulations and SEC rules impacting Texas public retirement systems.
- Developed model ethics and conflict-of-interest policy for Texas public retirement systems.
- Handled complaints and open records requests received by the agency.
- Presented reports at Board meetings.
- Assisted in staff review of actuarial condition of state's public retirement systems.
- Successfully completed the 2014 Governor's Management Development Program.

State Prosecuting Attorney –Austin, TX

Legal Secretary: November 2009 - February 2010

Reviewed complex legal opinions; prepared legal documents, including petitions; and assisted the state prosecuting attorney with legal research.

**Professor Barbara Hines & Professor Denise Gilman, Immigration Clinic,
University of Texas School of Law**

Student Attorney: 2008 - 2009

Responsible for client intake and interviews; handled cases on removal proceedings; and attended hearings in immigration court, including bond hearings. Drafted and filed affidavits and motions, including motion for continuance, change of venue, request for prosecutorial discretion, and employment authorization applications.

Law Firm of Joan L. Jakel, P.C., Tempe, Arizona

Law Clerk: July 2006 - January 2007

Assisted in creation of Arizona limited liability companies, corporations, and partnerships; drafted their governing documents, including articles of incorporation, bylaws, and resolutions.

Vaish Associates, Advocates, New Delhi, India

Associate: July 2004 – February 2005

Researched and created legal memoranda on diverse legal matters concerning Labor Law, Arbitration, Intellectual Property Rights, Corporate Law, and Environmental Law. Conducted empirical research and developed papers on “Budgeting of the Indian Judiciary,” “Reasons for Stunted Growth of Law of Torts in India,” “History of Case Laws pertaining to Indian Educational System,” and “Delay of Cases in the Indian Judiciary.”

Education

The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas

Master of Laws, LL.M. (GPA 4.07): August 2009

Relevant courses: UT Immigration Clinic, Business Association, Contract, Negotiation, Corporate Governance and Introduction to U.S. Law and Legal Research.

TEXAS INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL Staff, 2008 - 2009

University of Pune, Indian Law Society (I.L.S.) Law College, Pune, India

Bachelor of Social & Legal Sciences & Bachelor of Laws, Five Year Program: June 2004