



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
15.		Favor	Ana Richard	<p>Dear Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>I support Item 15, "Protecting Generational Wealth and Equitable Rights to Success," on the March 3, 2026 agenda.</p> <p>I support the recommendation directing the County to advocate for state-operated student loan programs. California must ensure continued access to higher education if federal loan access is reduced.</p> <p>I also support the Board's commitment to monitor and potentially join litigation to protect the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program and challenge federal rule changes that would de-professionalize various occupations. These actions are essential to safeguarding the financial stability and career mobility of Los Angeles County residents.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting equitable pathways to success.</p>
			John P Lin	<p>It is hard to overstate the impact of the new SBA rule, which restricts SBA financing to business owners who are U.S. citizens. Immigrants own 18% of U.S. small businesses that generate more than \$1 trillion in annual revenue and employ more than 27 million workers nationwide. Immigrants are 80% more likely to start a business than U.S.-born citizens, and in 2023, one-third of all new small businesses were founded by immigrants or their children.</p> <p>Few cities in the country will feel the consequences more intensely than Los Angeles, where immigrants comprise over 51% of all business owners, generating \$4.3 billion in annual revenue. Industries with high concentrations of immigrant-owned businesses, including food service, retail, and transportation, will likely be hit hardest. Without access to affordable SBA loans, entrepreneurs in these low-to-moderate income neighborhoods will find it even harder to start new businesses or grow existing ones that act as economic anchors for their communities.</p> <p>The new eligibility restrictions also extend to Economic Injury Disaster Loans, a critical lifeline providing up to \$2 million in low-interest financing for small businesses affected by natural disasters. Mrs. M., an immigrant entrepreneur, runs a foster care home for minors with disabilities in San Gabriel. When the devastating January 2025 wildfires nearly destroyed her home and business office, she applied for and received an SBA Disaster Loan. Under the new SBA policy, Mrs. M. would have been left with no federal assistance at all, forced to either close her doors or take on high-interest debt when she could least afford it.</p> <p>SBA disaster loans are available not only to businesses but also to</p>

			<p>homeowners who suffer property damage from declared disasters. Under the new citizenship requirement, immigrant homeowners, including lawful permanent residents who have lived in the US for years or even decades, will be excluded from this recovery program. For families who lose their homes to natural disasters, the absence of affordable federal financing options could mean the difference between rebuilding and permanent displacement.</p> <p>The timing of this policy change is also particularly damaging as Los Angeles prepares to host two of the world's largest sporting events: the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics. These events are expected to bring millions of visitors to the region and generate billions of dollars in economic activity for local small businesses. Many immigrant-owned restaurants, hotels, retail shops, and service providers typically turn to SBA loans to expand operations, renovate storefronts, hire additional staff, or stock inventory in anticipation of a surge in customers. Without access to affordable SBA financing, these business owners will be unable to fully capitalize on these opportunities, leaving money on the table and limiting the benefits that could flow to immigrant communities across Los Angeles.</p> <p>Approximately 60% of Bet Tzedek's clients identify as immigrants, underscoring the depth of the immigrant community's reliance on accessible legal and business support services in Los Angeles. As SBA financing becomes unavailable to green card holders, organizations like Bet Tzedek will play an increasingly vital role in connecting affected entrepreneurs with alternative resources, legal guidance, and advocacy. Our mission at Bet Tzedek to support these small business owners aligns with the County's to ensure that ALL small business owners are able to get the financial support they need to succeed. We urge the County to support considered legal action that would minimize the harmful effects of this new SBA rule on our county's residents and economy.</p>
		Mathew L Millen	I strongly support this motion.
		Item Total	3
Grand Total			3

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February 26, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles CA

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Item: #15 Protecting Generational Wealth and Equitable Rights to
Success

To The Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Thank you Supervisor Solis for making this motion.

As a practicing Immigration Attorney for 50 years, I strongly support
this Motion to oppose the Small Business Administration from
discriminating against lawful permanent residents in the administration
of SBA programs.

Respectfully submitted,



Mathew L. Millen

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RESUME

Mathew L. Millen

Born: Providence, Rhode Island

Education:

University of Charleston, Charleston, W. Va. B.S. Degree in
Business; May 1968

University of Kentucky, College of Law, Lexington, Ky.
J.D. Degree; May 1974

Military Service

U.S. Army; 1968-1971 Honorable Discharge; Rank Specialist 5

Admission status:

Admitted to practice in California, Kentucky and Washington D.C.
9th Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court for the Central
District of Calif., and the Southern District of California

Employment:

Vista Volunteer, Legal Aid of LA, East LA Office 1974-1975

Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach

San Pedro, Calif. 1976-1980

Areas of practice: Welfare law and Immigration and Naturalization law

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

East Los Angeles Office 1981-1982

Director: UCLA/ Immigration Clinic- supervised law students

Private practice 1982- present

Los Angeles, CA

area of practice: Immigration/ Citizenship/ Deportation Defense

Represent non citizens applying to legalize their status, non citizens applying for Naturalization, persons applying for citizenship acquired or derived through parents, deportation defense.

Have lectured at numerous Los Angeles County Bar and American Immigration Lawyers Assn. seminars on the deportation consequences of criminal convictions.

Published cases:

Galvez v. Howerton (INS) 503 F.Supp. 35 (D.C.Ca. 1980)

Mejia-Carrillo v. INS 656 F.2d 520(9th Cir. 1981)

Zavala-Bonilla v. INS 730 F.2d 562 (9th Cir. 1984)

Matter of Rodarte 21 I&N Dec. 150 (BIA 1995)

Matter of H-M-V- Interim Decision #3365 (BIA 1998)

Alcaarez-Garcia v. Ashcroft 293 F.3d 1155 (9th Cir. 2002)

USA v. Hovsepien, 359 F.3d 1144 (9th Cir. 2004) (en banc), and 422 F. 3d 883(9th Cir. 2005)(en banc) [naturalization case]

Published Articles

Naturalization Pitfalls, *Immigration Law Today*, Vol.35/No.6, November/December 2006 issue

Supreme Court Sends A Message to Criminal Defense Attorneys Whose Clients Are Not Citizens: Do Not Ignore the Defendant's Immigration Status, *The Federal Lawyer*, Vol.57/No. 6 July 2010 issue

Expert witness: testified in at least 10 U.S. District Court cases on behalf of the defendant in an illegal reentry case, 8 USC 1326 including USA v. Arietta, 224 F.3d 1076(9th Cir. 2000), and USA v. Muro-Inclan, 249 F.3d 1180 (9th Cir. 2001). Consulted with criminal defense counsel in more than 100 illegal re-entry cases. Consult with criminal defense counsel in 1473.7 PC motion, and numerous cases to fashion a plea agreement that protects the defendant's immigration status., *Padilla v Kentucky* and *People v. Soriano*.