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Constitutional Rights Foundation names new president

The Constitutional Rights Foundation appointed Amanda Susskind as president, effective Aug. 31.

Susskind is the Los Angeles regional director of the Anti-Defamation League and a former public and environmental law attorney.

"I was with ADL for 18 years, it was a wonderful experience and I still have extremely positive feelings about the organization," Susskind said. "It was just time, I was ready for a change."

Susskind succeeds Marshall Croddy as president, who served as CRF president since 2013.

As president, Susskind said she hopes to increase the profile of the organization and build on Croddy's work.

"For me, the opportunity is really just to build on that good work, to provide even more exposure for the organization, to become better known to a wider community of people, both in terms of getting into more schools, affecting more children, but also in terms of the greater society understanding what the Constitutional Rights Foundation has to offer," she said.

Susskind is a former public and environmental law attorney, who was with the Los Angeles County Counsel's office for almost 6 years before entering private practice.

In 1990, she joined Richards Watson & Gershon as partner and practiced public law before leaving to pursue an unsuccessful bid for a state Assembly seat. After a narrow loss, she joined Weston Benshoof Rochefort Rubalcava & MacCuish LLP as partner, specializing in land use and environmental law. During her two years with the firm, she kept an eye out for opportunities in the public sphere, she said. She was appointed a regional director of the Anti-Defamation League in 2002.

At ADL, she led the creation of the coalition L.A. For Good. "Amanda brings a history of educational experience and a focus on equity issues -- issues that embody the Constitution, as well as a record of successful civic engagement. And it's very important to us to have somebody who has established relationships in the community with educational institutions," said Kimberly A. Dunne, CRF board chair.

Founded more than 50 years ago, CRF is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, whose mission is to educate and empower youth to uphold democracy.



Amanda Susskind