

CITY OF CHICAGO LICENSE APPEAL COMMISSION

EST. 1935

2025
90th Anniversary

First Commissioners

Harold G. Ward

Harold G. Ward, moved from Chairman of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission to become LAC’s first Chairman. He was a Chicago-born lawyer who served in World War I and was a member of the Illinois State Senate. He acquired the second most votes in his bid for the office of State Attorney General in 1940.

Edward J. Hughes

Commissioner Edward J. Hughes was also Chicago born. He studied law and then switched to engineering. During his time on LAC he also served as Illinois Secretary of State.

Joseph De La Cour

Chicago-born Joseph Logue De La Cour served in World War I, studied real estate law, banking, insurance and parliamentary procedure in night school. He also served as an Illinois State Senator and worked in the banking and brewery industries during part of his career.



Reid, Murdoch and Company Building (1913), Chicago, Illinois. George C. Nimmons, architect. Richard Nickel, photographer. Richard Nickel Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago. Digital File #201006_120201-003.jpg

1935

License Appeal Commission (“LAC”) was originally located at 418 Ashland Block. The first individuals appointed to the Commission were Harold G. Ward, Chairman; Edward J. Hughes, Illinois Secretary of State; and Joseph De La Cour, Secretary. At that time, Edward J. Kelly served as Chicago’s 46th Mayor.

pre-1991

It is believed that at some time prior to 1991 LAC was housed at the Kraft Cheese building on Peshtigo Court.



Kraft Cheese Building, Chicago, Illinois. Mundie, Jensen, Bourke and Havens, architects. Chicago Architectural Photographing Co., photographer. Historic Architecture and Landscape Image Collection, Ryerson and Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago. Digital File #60318.

1991

LAC was housed at 320 North Clark Street in Room 503. The windows of the building opened up to the sounds of the Chicago River below. For many years the water taxis stopped to drop off and pick up passengers on the walkway along the river side of the building.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pablo_picasso,_Chicago_Picasso,_1967.jpg Sailko, Pablo Picasso, Chicago Picasso, 1967.

1998

LAC moved to the Concourse Level of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, CL 99. The site was originally the Chicago Civic Center. It was renamed Richard J. Daley Center on December 27, 1976, a week after the passing of its namesake mayor.

2010

LAC office moved to a new location on the Concourse Level, CL 21. The concourse is part of the pedestrian walkway system, more commonly known as the “pedway.” The pedway is an underground set of passages that link many public and private buildings and some public transportation lines.