Kathleen J. Becket

We all know Altadena is a special place. We all know what we have gone through, the challenges overcome and the challenges remaining, both individually and collectively. I hope we all also know and believe in the future and persistence of what makes Altadena special.

I have been moved to seek a seat on the Altadena Town Council for two primary reasons: I want to hold our higher representatives accountable, beginning with the Board of Supervisors, but also to assist in organizing and harnessing the power of our community, so that we are more proactively equipped to address community emergencies when they do occur.

I believe my background as an advocate and "active listener" will serve Altadena well. As an attorney (a profession I came to later in life) my practice is 100% devoted to providing access to justice by representing indigent litigants, both in the areas of civil rights and appellate criminal defense. The latter allows me to fight to help ensure convictions are just, and punishments proportional. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Clean Carwash Campaign, which provides resources and protects carwash workers – many of whom are undocumented – from wage theft and other forms of exploitation and harassment.

Prior to law school, my CV is eclectic. I spent time in the entertainment business as a writer-producer, and then structured strategic partnerships with Hollywood studios and tech companies (MSN, Intel) during the first content tech boom. When that bubble burst, I pivoted, earned an M.A. in special education, and began teaching within a low-income area of LAUSD. That experience – most especially my students - taught me about the power of believing in diverse abilities and possibilities that are not always self-evident, but nonetheless there waiting to be discovered. It also taught me about the marginalization and unfairness disproportionate power dynamics can render. The practice of law has permitted me various opportunities to attack that imbalance.

Finally, I do not aspire to any other form of political office. It is only my passion for Altadena that moves me to seek this post. My aunt Jean Becket received the Davis, California, Humanitarian Award in 1998, and my father Jim Becket that city's Citizen of the Year Award in 2010. Small town public service is a legacy I would be honored to continue.

Regardless of the outcome of this election, I know in my bones I am so so blessed to be here!

Warmly, and with deep appreciation for a community I hold dear,