

MICHAEL THOMAS MURRAY

Michael Murray (Mike) has worked for Verizon in California for 25 years. He started in Operations as a departmental clerk and his most recent position is Director of Government and External Affairs for Long Beach and Southern California.



Murray's term in External Affairs began in 1983 (then Public Affairs with GTE) when he coordinated GTE's film library, an extensive collection of educational and career films that was used by teachers and GTE employees. From there, he worked with GTE's philanthropic program evaluating and managing grant requests submitted to GTE. From 1991 to 1996, Murray was part of GTE's media relations team in California.

In 1997, Murray became Public Affairs Manager for Long Beach, Signal Hill and Southeast Los Angeles cities. With the merger of GTE and Bell Atlantic, the position became part of Public Policy and External Affairs. He has held numerous leadership positions in Long Beach, including Chair of the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce; President of Better Learning After School Today; President of Leadership Long Beach; Co-Chair of Long Beach's 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (adopted 2010); Chair of US VETS Long Beach Business Advisory Council; and President of the Long Beach Education Foundation.

In 2003, Murray was awarded the Long Beach Chamber's "Dewey Smith Award" for community service. In 2005, he received the Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent's "Distinguished Community Service Award" and the "President's Distinguished Service Award" awarded by the President of California State University, Long Beach. Murray was awarded the Leadership Long Beach "Corporate Leader of the Year" in 2008. In the 2009, he received the "A Voice for Long Beach Children Award." Murray was the first recipient of the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Spirit Award in 2010.

Murray has a B.A. in Asian Studies from California State University, Fullerton. His interest in Asia began with his thirteen-month tour of duty in Vietnam as a United States Marine. He also has a second B.A. in History from California State University, San Francisco. While in San Francisco, Murray worked for the San Francisco Recreation Department and AT&T Long Lines.

Murray has worked extensively in recreation and physical fitness. He managed the Culver City Recreation Department's weight room while attending Cal State Fullerton.

Murray lives in Los Angeles and has a son, Nicholas, and a daughter, Kele.