



Chief Barney Melekian (Ret.)

Pasadena, CA Police Department

Melekian was chief of police of Pasadena for 13 years ending in 2009. He then served from 2009-2013 for the U.S. Department of Justice as director of Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Melekian to the position at COPS, which provides grants, training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Melekian earned a bachelor's degree in American History and a master's degree in Public Administration, both from California State University, Northridge. In August 2012, he was awarded a doctorate in Policy, Planning and Development from the University of Southern California for his work on police disciplinary systems. His doctoral work on values-based discipline was awarded the Sol Price Award as the outstanding doctoral project of 2012 in USC's School of Policy, Planning and Development.

In addition to serving as police chief of Pasadena, Melekian spent 23 years with the Santa Monica Police Department, where he was awarded the Medal of Valor in 1978 and the Medal of Courage in 1980. He also served as the acting fire chief for Pasadena for six months in 1998 and as the interim city manager from January to October 2008.

Melekian served as president of the California Police Chiefs Association in 2009. He was the president of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association from Jan. 1, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2001, the only person to have been asked to serve two terms in that position. He served on the National Board of Directors for the Police Executive Research Forum from 2002 until 2006. Melekian was also the former COPPs Director and Chair, on the Board of Directors for the National Police Foundation, and former Undersheriff with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office.

Melekian's military experience includes two extended active duty assignments, during which he received numerous citations and awards for exemplary service.