

# Karl Spock

## Resume Brief

Karl Spock specializes in evaluating the operations of state and local governmental agencies, in consulting with businesses and associations on the Texas Sunset process, and in providing research and advocacy on issues for legislative consideration. He also offers facilitation and mediation services for public entities.

Mr. Spock has more than 25 years of experience in assisting legislative organizations and private companies in addressing financial and public policy issues. From 1976 through 1993, he led teams evaluating state agency programs as a senior analyst for the Legislative Budget Board and as an assistant director for the Texas Sunset Commission. Beginning in 1993, he left state employment and began consulting with Dennis Thomas and Associates, a firm offering strategic and public affairs consulting services, primarily to telecommunications and electric utility industries. From 1995 on, Mr. Spock has continued to offer consulting services as the sole proprietor of Karl Spock Public Affairs Consulting.

Mr. Spock's clients have included the Lower Colorado River Authority; SBC, Inc.; the U.T. Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution; the Texas Sunset Commission; the Texas Association of Regional Councils; the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; the Texas General Land Office; the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services; and six electric utilities serving customers in Texas.

Mr. Spock frequently collaborates with [Ray Associates, Inc.](#), a firm offering public-oriented management services to both public and private organizations. He leads the firm's public policy research initiatives as well as its performance and management reviews for public organizations. He also assists the firm in its engagements to obtain public input. With Ray Associates, clients have included Capital Metro, the Nevada State Industrial Insurance System, the Nueces County Hospital District, the Wells Branch Municipal Utility District, and the Bexar Area Agency on Aging.

Mediation and facilitation services also are offered by Mr. Spock. He is an associate with [Corder/Thompson and Associates](#), and assists this firm as a coach in mediation training courses they offer. Among his volunteer activities, Mr. Spock has served as a volunteer mediator for the Travis County Dispute Resolution Center since 1995, and currently is a board member for that organization.

Mr. Spock has an M.A. in Public Affairs and a B.A. in Economics, both from The University of Texas at Austin. He is a mediator trained in certified mediation courses in compliance with the Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Act.

## Experience

### Karl Spock Public Affairs Consulting

September 1995 to Present

Mr. Spock has operated his own consulting practice since 1995. His projects include the following:

- Assisting SBC, Inc., parent company of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, in preparing information depicting competition in telecommunications in the company's 13-state service area.
- Working with the Lower Colorado River Authority in evaluating aspects of its parks and economic development programs and preparing Board policies related to those programs.
- Assisted the Texas Association of Regional Councils in writing its legislative newsletter, in developing drafts of recommended legislation and related amendments, in tracking legislation, and in conducting research on issues of interest to the association.
- Helped the U.T. Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution in advocating inclusion of a standard dispute resolution provision in the statutes of agencies undergoing Sunset evaluation.
- Developed an "[occupational licensing model](#)" for the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission to use in reviewing the operations of occupational licensing agencies, and used the model to review and make recommendations on the [licensing programs](#) of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation;
- Assisted the Real Estate Services Department of the Lower Colorado River Authority in drafting an encroachment resolution policy for Lake Buchanan after facilitating two meetings to gather information from internal and external stakeholders;
- Developed a procedures manual for the Real Estate Services Department of the Lower Colorado River Authority;
- Reviewed and made recommendations on the operations of the Texas General Land Office's Appraisal Division and Survey Division at the request of the agency's executive management;
- Led a team of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission staff in evaluating two agencies under Sunset review: the [Office of the Fire Fighters' Pension Commissioner](#) and the [State Pension Review Board](#);
- Assisted the Texas Funeral Service Commission prepare its [Self-evaluation Report](#) to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission.
- Assisted the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services in an analysis of a pilot project aimed at providing better services to children removed from the home in El Paso.
- Assisted the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services in setting up a pilot program to help communities, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations collaborate to solve child and family-related issues;
- Conducted a team-building mediation with the Lakeway Municipal Utility District;

- Worked with the Texas Comptroller's office to conduct performance reviews of the Texas School for the Deaf and the Texarkana Independent School District;
- Assisted six electric utilities in a polling process to obtain public input for their resource planning; among other duties, he served as one of a group of moderators leading discussion groups. Utilities included TU Electric, Southwestern Public Service Company, Southwestern Electric Power Company, West Texas Utilities, Entergy, and Central Power and Light.
- Assisted the Texas Comptroller's office in its performance review of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. He reviewed and edited evaluations of that agency's management information system prepared by other consultants and Comptroller's office staff; and
- Led a team of Comptroller's office staff in its evaluation of the Texas Education Agency's adult education program.

**Ray Associates, Inc.**  
**May 1997 to present**

Acting as a senior consultant with that firm, Mr. Spock assists in the Texas Sunset process, interaction with the Texas Legislature, and policy development and program analysis for agencies of state government. He also provides the firm with mediation and facilitation services.

As an associate with Ray Associates, clients have included Capital Metro, the Alamo Area Council of Governments, the Wells Branch Municipal Utility District, and the Nueces County Hospital District. He also has been part of a team that assisted the Nevada State Industrial Insurance System move from being a monopoly provider of workers' compensation insurance to being a competitive provider operating in a competitive environment.

**Dennis Thomas and Associates**  
**September 1993 through August 1995**

Mr. Spock provided consulting services to state agencies, associations, and businesses as an associate of Dennis Thomas. He also assisted the Texas Comptroller's office in conducting a program evaluation of the Texas Department of Information Resources; in assessing a reorganization plan for the justice and public safety functions of Travis County, Texas; and in preparing a business plan for the Texas Department of Insurance. Other clients included TU Electric and the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

**Texas Sunset Commission**

**Assistant Director, September 1989 through August 1993**  
**Senior Analyst, September 1981 through August 1989**

As Assistant Director and as a Senior Analyst, Mr. Spock helped lead the sunset staff in recommending changes in state policies to the legislature. He worked as a Sunset liaison with private interest groups, state agencies, and legislative staff to develop policies and

legislation that were workable and practical. Mr. Spock was heavily involved in recommending far-reaching changes to two regulatory agencies: the Public Utility Commission and the old Texas Department of Water Resources. He was also instrumental in changes recommended for the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Education Agency, and the state prison system.

## **Legislative Budget Board**

**Program Analyst  
January 1976 through August 1981**

As a Program Analyst and Senior Analyst, Mr. Spock was responsible for evaluating state agency programs and recommending changes in these programs to the Legislative Budget Board. He evaluated state programs involving the regulation of business, public safety, education, and state administrative functions.

## **Governor's Advisory Committee on Postsecondary Educational Planning**

**Deputy Executive Secretary  
July 1974 through December 1975**

Mr. Spock researched the role of state agencies in developing and directing postsecondary educational programs in Texas. He recommended to the committee ways to better integrate the responsibilities of these agencies.

## **U. S. Department of Labor**

**Intern  
Summer 1973**

Mr. Spock served an internship with the Department of Labor in fulfillment of course requirements at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. As an intern, he assisted in the evaluation of department policies and the development of recommended changes to department administrators.

## **Peace Corps Volunteer**

**July 1969 through June 1971**

Mr. Spock served as a volunteer in Moquegua, Perú. Assigned to the Ministry of Agriculture, he helped agricultural cooperatives figure out how to better market their products and serve their members.

## **Academic**

### **Master of Public Affairs**

**The University of Texas at Austin  
September 1972 through May 1974**

Academic interests included the development of environmental regulatory policy and education policy.

### **Bachelor of Arts**

**Economics  
The University of Texas at Austin  
September 1965 through May 1969**

Graduated with honors.