

Elisa Odabashian
Director, West Coast Office and State Campaigns
Consumers Union

Elisa Odabashian is the Director of the West Coast Office and State Campaigns for Consumers Union, the advocacy arm of Consumer Reports. She is a widely-quoted expert on food and product safety, corporate accountability, dietary supplements, milk prices, and genetically modified organisms. On behalf of Consumers Union, Ms. Odabashian has served on governmental and foundation advisory bodies over the years, including the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Advisory Committee, the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Board of the California Consumer Protection Foundation.

In 2006, Ms. Odabashian conceived of and helped to design, develop, and implement a computer tool called LobbyLog™, which tracks Consumers Union's federal and multi-state lobbying activities. She created Consumers Union's advocacy web site at www.consumersunion.org, which launched in 1998. In addition to her advocacy work, Ms. Odabashian oversees Consumers Union's Food and Product Safety Campaign, Financial Services Campaign, grassroots organizing team, and West Coast Office operations. Prior to becoming Director in 2006, Ms. Odabashian was Senior Program & Financial Manager of the West Coast Office.

Before joining Consumers Union in 1993, Ms. Odabashian worked for the socially progressive internet service provider, Institute for Global Communications, as the Telecommunications Director for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Project. The UN conference took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. During most of the 1980s, Ms. Odabashian owned and operated a franchise business. For a number of years prior to starting her business, Ms. Odabashian worked for Pomona College in Claremont, California as an Admissions Officer and as Assistant Director of Career Planning.

Ms. Odabashian received her undergraduate degree in English from Scripps College, a Master degree in English from Claremont Graduate University, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.