Sally R. Reed became chief administrative officer (CAO) of Los Angeles County on Oct. 18, 1993. As CAO, she oversaw a complex organization of approximately 85,000 employees and an annual budget of more than $13 billion for the most populous county in the United States.

Prior to coming to Los Angeles County, Reed served for 12 years as chief executive officer of Santa Clara County government after spending nearly a decade in increasingly responsible management positions with the City of San Jose, culminating in two years as deputy city manager. Reed was an economist for four years for the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Reed left Los Angeles County in June 1996 to head the state Department of Motor Vehicles. In December 1998 she left that position to become the CAO for Monterey County. Reed remained there until her retirement in December 2004.

Reed characterized her management philosophy as one of commitment to ethics and accountability in government.

"I believe in a management philosophy which places a high value on the talents of all employees in the organization. I believe that all employees deserve honest and constructive evaluations of their performance on a regular basis, and those incentives and recognition, as well as accountability and discipline, are essential management tools.

I believe that leadership requires a recognition that authority must be earned and cannot be taken for granted based on the nature of the position held. I expect management to have a respect for the client and for the organization.

I place a premium on honesty and integrity in organizations. I believe integrity is broader than the absence of corruption, and encompasses fairness and open honest communication with the public and the press."

The recipient of numerous public service achievement awards, Reed received a bachelor’s degree in economics/law from the University of Missouri. She was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and raised in Rolla, Missouri. Reed and her husband have two children.