



South Asian Bar Association - Toronto &lt;sabatoronto@gmail.com&gt;

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**saba: application for director position (2 years)**

1 message

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**Aman Patel** <crimcounsel@gmail.com>  
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21 July 2017 at 02:51

please see below my statement of interest for a two (2) year director's position:

I have almost completed a year as a director of the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto (SABA). In this time, I have had the privilege of working with the other talented women and men who act as SABA's directors, executive members and volunteers.

In the past year, SABA has gone through a major governance change in order to keep its governance structure up to date and efficient. In addition to participating in this major project, I have also participated in SABA's mentorship program, many advocacy efforts and social events to ensure that SABA remains at the forefront of building a strong South Asian Bar and ensuring better access to justice for members of our diverse South Asian community.

I am in my 16th year of practice in the field of Criminal Law. Before being called to the Bar, I completed my articles at a large Bay Street firm and summered in various law-related positions with the Province of Ontario, including the Crown Law Office - Criminal. I enjoyed my experiences at each place and gained insight to the trappings of these large institutions.

Given that I come from a small business background, I felt more comfortable and independent as a sole practitioner. It was natural for me to understand the demands, challenges and rewards of a small business owner - a sole practitioner or a small law firm.

I believe in a strong South Asian Bar. To be so, we must continue to expand the mentoring program to provide more junior lawyers with a strong foundation, knowledge base and work ethic. We must also continue to advocate for the preservation of the Law Society's Law Practice Program and participate in other efforts such as Legal Aid Ontario's Racialized Communities Strategy.

Moreover, SABA must further strengthen ties with the other legal associations representing the interests of South Asians and other visible minorities. It is important to be able to speak with one voice when addressing issues important to the South Asian legal diaspora. Indeed, I would like to see an annual national conference or symposium being organised. Any such unity will give SABA a stronger and more resonant voice within the corridors of power and influence.

Throughout my career I have also tried to give back to the legal community. For instance, I mentor lawyers from both SABA and the Criminal Lawyers' Association. I am also the Vice Chair and director of the Rights Advocacy Coalition on Equity, a fledgling organisation of volunteer professionals committed to addressing racism and other systemic defects in the Canadian criminal justice system. Recently, I also became a member of the Internship Committee of the ADR Institute of Ontario.

If elected as a director, it would be very important to me to have a working and cooperative board. I feel that I am pragmatic and practical in my approach to goal setting and achievement, problem solving and consensus building.

I remain committed to SABA and its important work. To this end, I have attended every board meeting, even if I had to call in from overseas.

I would consider it a great privilege to be able to continue serving the South Asian community and Bar as a director of SABA.

Thank you for your time. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly. I will do my best to respond to you as soon as possible.

Aman S. Patel  
Barrister & Solicitor

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