

DEVIN PERSAUD

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To: SABA –Toronto Members

Re: Statement of Interest – Devin Persaud

Please accept the following as my Statement of Interest for the SABA Board of Directors – 2 year term.

I am seeking to continue as a Director for SABA – Toronto. I have been a Director of SABA-Toronto since August 2016, and although my tenure has been brief I believe it has been very productive. I have organized many events aimed at professional development, student outreach, mentorship, and bolstering foreign relationships throughout the past year. I've worked closely with our law-firm partners, corporate sponsors, and sister organizations to advance the SABA-Toronto agenda, while fostering great relationships along the way. I have also been part of the advocacy side of SABA by advocating for our members in the articling-reform debate, and also by leading SABA's CPD and Student Outreach committees.

I was first introduced to SABA in 2012, as a 2nd year law student. It was during this time, while I was President of the uOttawa SALSA (South Asian Law Student Association) that I reached out to SABA and its members, who promptly embraced me and my goal of creating a cross-Canada SALSA network. Together, we undertook the task of trying to create a bigger partnership between SABA and the Ontario SALSA chapters. Yet, it was not until 2013 when I was awarded the *SABA- Toronto Student of the Year* award at the Annual Gala that I truly understood what a mammoth and profound positive effect that SABA has on professionals across our community. As an articling student I was BLG's leader in organizing a table for the annual Gala, and was a part of SABA's Student Outreach and CPD committee, where I participated as a mentor in the student mock interviews.

From a diversity point of view, I am currently the chair of BLG's MOSAIC affinity group and was recently a member of the OBA's working group on bringing change to racialized licensees, after the LSUC published its report in 2014. I have also spoken on the need for improved representation in the profession at various conferences and events.

My continuing vision for SABA Toronto is: 1) to create stronger ties with all South Asian law students (in all Ontario Schools) as they enter the profession through collaborative programs and events; 2) to create an outlet for both racialized licensees and law students to bring their grievances, and to also offer support and guidance in these matters; 3) to build on the goodwill created by the Gala and create larger links with other equity seeking groups in the legal community. Hopefully these three things will lead to the creation of more young leaders in our field.

Thank you for your consideration,

Devin Persaud