

Please consider the following as my statement of interest for a position on the SABA board of directors, for a one year term.

I became a member of SABA as an articling student and have been an active member for the past four years. I have regularly attended events including the annual gala, the holiday social and the annual Judges' panel, to name a few. I was also a member of SABA's exceptional mentorship program. Throughout this time I have had the pleasure to meet and engage with other members including the SABA board of directors.

Throughout these four years I have had the opportunity to witness the growth of the organization and I hope to be part of its continuing development. Specifically, I hope to continue building upon the strong advocacy work SABA has demonstrated over this past year. I believe as members of the Board we will have a responsibility to address the barriers to equality that racialized lawyers face in practice today. In particular, I hope to strengthen the voice of racialized female lawyers within SABA. Racialized women often face unique barriers in practice and one of my goals as a future board member is to incorporate more events in SABA that are designed to provide racialized women a safe space to discuss these issues.

I am well suited for this position for a number of reasons. As summer student, articling student and associate I began my legal career as a litigator at a mid-sized litigation firm in Toronto. In my second year of practice as an associate, I transitioned into criminal law as a sole practitioner. Given this experience I am in the unique position to understand the needs of both young associates at larger firms as well as those of sole practitioners.

Further, I have considerable prior board experience that will allow me to be an effective director of the SABA board. As an undergraduate student I was a three-time elected member of the York Federation of Students; a board responsible for the democratic representation of over 50,000 students and an operating budget in the millions. As a law student I continued building on this experience, as an elected member of the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa. As the director for the Faculty of Law, I represented the interests of the law faculty among the general student population. In this role I engaged in making advocacy and financial decisions on behalf of the students I represented. Since my call to the bar in 2015, I have continued this practice of giving back to the community as a volunteer. This past year I've regularly volunteered with the Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program. I am also currently on the board of directors for the Breakfast of Champions in support of SickKids Hospital; a charitable event that gives young professionals the opportunity to expand their networks while supporting SickKids Hospital.

My prior board experience has taught me the administrative and political components of board membership and above all else, has taught me the importance of commitment to a cause which I feel strongly for. I hope to add my voice to SABA's Board of Directors to continue to build upon its tradition of excellent advocacy. I look forward to working alongside fellow board members to accomplish these goals.

Best regards,



Divya Khurana