

July 21, 2017

**VIA E-MAIL (sabatoronto@gmail.com)**

South Asian Bar Association of Toronto  
c/o The Ontario Bar Association  
20 Toronto Street,  
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2B8

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Statement of Interest to Become a One-Year Term Director**

Please accept this letter as my statement of interest to become a director of the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto ("**SABA**") for a one-year term from August 2017 to August 2018.

I am currently a Partner in the Taxation Department of the Toronto office of Miller Thomson LLP ("**MT**"), a national Canadian law firm. My practice involves advisory work and planning on the income tax-related aspects of mergers and acquisitions, corporate reorganizations, executive compensation and financings. I also frequently act on tax controversy matters, GST/HST and sales tax matters, and tax-related pro bono matters. I received my Bachelor of Laws degree from the Common Law Section of the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa (with *cum laude* distinction) in 2007 and am called to the bars of the Provinces of Alberta (2008) and Ontario (2011). Additional information regarding my professional experience and educational background can be found on MT's website at <http://www.millerthomson.com/en/our-people/neil-gurmukh>.

I view SABA as an organization that advocates on behalf of South Asian lawyers and members of the South Asian community vis-à-vis the legal system. As a member of the board of SABA, I would carry on this purpose.

For example, many members of our community are experienced and highly skilled foreign-trained lawyers who encounter significant difficulties in obtaining entry into the legal profession in Canada (e.g., certification by the National Committee on Accreditation, securing articling positions, obtaining employment as legal professionals, etc.) because of their lack of "Canadian experience". As a director of SABA, I would advocate on behalf of these foreign-trained lawyers and work closely with the Law Society of Upper Canada ("**LSUC**"), the Ontario Bar Association ("**OBA**"), law firms, government agencies, recruiters and other stakeholders to remove this barrier and emphasize the importance of general legal skills and substantive legal knowledge.

Members of the South Asian community also experience a disproportionate incidence of workplace discrimination, racial profiling and inaccessibility to justice. As a director of SABA, I would not only raise awareness of these issues in the broader legal community, but also assist LSUC, the OBA, Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Foundation of Ontario, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and other interested parties in developing collaborative and practical solutions to

these challenges. In addition, I would work with and encourage SABA members to take on pro bono cases involving such issues facing members of the South Asian community.

In terms of my pertinent experience with equity seeking groups, I have been a director of SABA since August 2016. I have also participated in LSUC's recent survey of the legal profession to identify challenges faced by racialized licensees as they pertain to South Asians. Additionally, I have co-led seminars for the Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada, assisted with the re-drafting of SABA's bylaws on a pro bono basis with Miller Thomson LLP and regularly provide legal advice to various not-for-profit organizations, charities and religious organizations.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve as a director of SABA. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Gurmukh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Gurmukh