

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Richa Sandill – SABA Board of Directors 2017-2019

I am pleased to put forth this application for a two-year term Director Position on the South Asian Bar Association's Board of Directors.

I am an Associate Lawyer at boutique employment law firm, Rudner MacDonald LLP, in Toronto. I chose to go abroad for my law degree, and completed my LLB at University College London. When I returned to Toronto to pursue a legal career here, the very first networking event that I attended was a SABA reception in September 2013. In spite of being a complete outsider to the Toronto legal community at that point, I will never forget the warmth and the welcome that I was given. It became the inspiration I needed to step outside my comfort zone, and get as involved as possible during the challenging journey from NCA candidate to Employment Lawyer.

As a result, even before I was a member of the Ontario bar, I was volunteering on two executive committees at the Ontario Bar Association. I began as a Member-at-Large with the Women Lawyers Forum in 2014, and was recently elected Secretary for this section in June 2017. Similarly, I took up a leadership role with the Constitutional, Civil Liberties, and Human Rights section, serving two years as Newsletter Editor, and most recently as Co-Secretary for its executive. During my articling year of 2015 to 2016, I was also a member of the Women Law Association of Ontario's Articling Students Chapter Executive Committee. I thus bring a broad range of event planning, advocacy, and committee-focused experiences to SABA from these roles.

My involvement has also taught me about the importance of having open and honest conversations about issues that matter to us in the profession. It is this passion that I hope to contribute to SABA if I am elected. I have seen the organization grow tremendously in the last few years, through attending its events, following its advocacy campaigns, as well as participating in the mentorship program. My vision for the Board, if I were elected, is focused in inclusivity and advocacy. Specifically, I hope to contribute the following mandate:

- Further strengthen SABA's voice in the profession as an advocate;
- Create a formal, official network, in association with other diversity groups, for NCA students and foreign-trained lawyers in Ontario;
- Build community outreach opportunities for interested SABA members in partnership with local non-profits serving the South Asian community; and
- Ensure SABA is engaging firms and practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, including those from smaller firms, from outside the downtown core, and from diverse practice areas.

The Toronto legal community has given me so much in the last four years, be it advice when I needed it, or inspiring me to get involved at a very early stage of my career. Serving as a member of SABA's Board would be my way of giving back, and encouraging other young lawyers to have a voice in our profession. Thank you for your consideration.