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RE: Expression of Interest to Join the Board of Directors of the South Asian Bar Association

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Board of Directors of the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) for a 2-year term. I am currently working as counsel in the firm of Murphy Nathan as a criminal defence lawyer.

As a young racialized female lawyer, I am all too familiar with the challenges that face racialized communities in the legal profession. In court I have on more than one occasion, been mistaken for the interpreter instead of counsel. It is essential that organizations like SABA play an active role in addressing these challenges. For example, SABAs submissions on the recommendations of the Law Society's Challenges Facing Racialized Licensees Working Group, and advocacy for judicial diversity are so important. SABA must continue to be a central voice in raising issues and offering solutions that address the many barriers facing racialized communities. I would love to be involved in continuing the great work that SABA has been doing in these areas.

I have attended a number of SABAs events, most recently the International Women's Day Panel, the Judge's Panel on Effective Advocacy and the Summer Social. The events are a great way to network with your fellow colleagues, as well as to have opportunities to interact with and receive advice from Judges and senior counsel. A vibrant events planning committee is essential to a thriving organization. I would be happy to participate in planning events both social and informational.

I have dedicated much of my personal time to serving equity seeking groups. I have volunteered with Human Rights Watch to advocate for the awareness of key human rights issues. While completing my degree at the University of Ottawa, I volunteered with AIDS New Brunswick and Harmony House, a women's shelter in Ottawa. During the summer, I have also worked with the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children. I am currently a member of the Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) – Women's Committee, which seeks to promote and protect the interests of the female members of the CLA. We organize networking events, conferences and social events for female lawyers around the province. Finally, I am also a volunteer with the Barbra Schlifer Clinic, which serves women experiencing violence.

I would be delighted to be chosen to represent the members of SABA.

Sincerely,

Anita Nathan