

2021 D.C. Bar Election Candidate Statements

President-Elect



Ellen M. Jakovic

Ellen is an experienced and effective leader dedicated to serving the community and improving the legal profession. Ellen is committed to increasing access to justice, promoting diversity and inclusion, and supporting our voluntary bar associations and D.C. Bar Communities.

For over two decades, Ellen has held leadership roles locally and nationally. In addition to serving two terms on the D.C. Bar Board of Governors, Ellen served as President of the Women's Bar Association (receiving the D.C. Bar Frederick B. Abramson Award for helping to establish the Family Court Self-Help Center), President of the Barristers, and National and D.C. Chairs of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation. Ellen also served on the governing boards of the Bar Association of D.C. and the Washington Foreign Law Society. She currently serves on the boards of the Council for Court Excellence and the American Bar Foundation.

Ellen has worked tirelessly to increase funding for civil legal aid. She served two terms on the D.C. Bar Foundation Board and chaired its Development Committee. Ellen also chaired the Development Committee for the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center Presidents Reception and served on the Steering Committee of Whitman-Walker Legal Services "Going the Extra Mile" fundraiser. As President of the Women's Bar Association Foundation, Ellen established an annual fellowship for law students to work with local legal service providers to address the needs of women and girls in the community.

Ellen is a recipient of the ABF Fellows Outstanding State Chair Award and the BADC's Lawyer of the Year and Honorable Annice M. Wagner Pioneer Awards.

Ellen is a former partner, now of counsel, in the antitrust group at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. She is a graduate of Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges, magna cum laude, and Harvard Law School.

For additional information: <https://www.ellenjakovic.com>

Secretary



James S. Bubar

My first priority as Bar Secretary would be to connect members to the community. I have extensive experience with the Bar and understand our needs and challenges. While serving as five-term co-chair of the DC Affairs Community, we won several awards, including “Best Section Community Outreach Project” (for a mayoral candidates’ forum) and “Community of the Year.” I served on a special working group to revise the Bar’s policies and procedures so Communities could continue to issue amicus briefs and other public statements. I serve on the committee overseeing the Communities. I run a litigation, business, and communications law practice. Previously, I worked at Kaye Scholer (Arnold & Porter) and was Special Assistant US Attorney. I am a three-time Democratic convention delegate, voter protection lead, and DC Dems statehood committee co-chair. I also coach triathlon at the YMCA and was DC Babe Ruth baseball commissioner. I appreciate your vote. www.jamesbubarlaw.com



Roger Lu Phillips

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for D.C. Bar Secretary in the 2021 District of Columbia Bar Election. If elected, I will bring to the role my devotion to public service as a former UN Legal Officer and now Legal Director of an NGO supporting victims of armed conflict. As a member of the John Payton Leadership Academy last year, I had the great fortune of collaborating with many inspirational members of our bar. I hope to harness that energy and foster an atmosphere of inclusion. I actively seek out and promote pro bono opportunities, having worked with NACDL and represented refugees in asylum proceedings. Starting with my fellow American University Alumni and NGO networks, I will seek to broaden engagement from the bar’s diverse membership which is a principle source of its strength. Open as always to questions, I hope to earn your vote!

Treasurer



Andrea Mangones

Greetings D.C. Bar members! I am running for Treasurer to serve you, to seek your valuable perspective, and to facilitate engagement with historically underrepresented or unengaged groups in our community. I have been part of the D.C. legal community for over 15 years with experience in D.C. government, biglaw, and non-profit legal services. The global pandemic created extraordinary challenges across the legal profession and the clients we serve, and required attorneys to develop innovative methods to provide remote services, navigate massive budgetary impacts, and to address the disproportionate effect upon D.C.’s low income residents and people of color. These challenges create rare and important opportunities for us to rethink traditional approaches, refocus on access to justice, empower individuals, encourage public service and professional excellence, and foster critical connections. I am ready to tackle those challenges if I have the honor and privilege to serve you as Treasurer.



Nina Tandon

My name is Nina R. Tandon and I am running for the position of Treasurer. I am currently in house as Privacy Counsel at FinTech company Square, Inc. Previously, I held roles as Associate General Counsel for the American Psychological Association, an Associate in private practice, and Law Clerk for two federal district court judges. Over the last nine years, I have served in various Board roles for the South Asian Bar Association national and chapter organizations.

As a born and raised Washingtonian, I now wish to serve my hometown and current legal community by joining D.C. Bar in the position of Treasurer. If elected Treasurer, I will also gain valuable financial experience that will serve me in my professional development. In addition to my bar association and public service experience, I would bring a positive attitude and a willingness to work and learn. Thank you for your consideration.

Board of Governors



A.J. S. Dhaliwal

A.J. Dhaliwal is Counsel with Weiner Brodsky Kider PC, where he represents clients in matters relating to consumer protection regulation and enforcement. A.J. currently serves on the DC Bar Board of Governors, is a former Treasurer of the Bar, and has served on the Executive, Finance, and Budget Committees. He graduated from the John Payton Leadership Academy and is a former member of the D.C. Bar's Voluntary Bar Leadership Group.

A.J. is dedicated to pro bono services and access to justice for the underserved. He volunteers with the Bar's Advice and Referral Clinic and Landlord Tenant Resource Center. A.J. has also served as a pro bono attorney representing unaccompanied refugee children in deportation and child custody proceedings.

As a former President of the South Asian Bar Association of Washington D.C., AJ advocated for the South Asian American community on various civil rights issues related to hate crimes and bias-related incidents.



Darshak Dholakia

Over the last year, there has been a natural desire to hunker down and focus on our own career development, family, and friends. But I believe we all have a duty to dedicate time and attention to help the less fortunate in DC and beyond. The DC Bar is composed of talented lawyers across every imaginable specialty, and the unique regulatory experience of DC Bar members in particular can help innumerable organizations and individuals struggling to navigate the increasing complexities of the federal and DC government. It also is important for the DC Bar to continue to take a leading role in creating opportunities for members to connect with one another and to encourage participation from

our newest members – we are stronger together. I promise to uphold these standards if elected to the Board of Governors.



Brian K. Flowers

As an attorney with the District government, I have been an advocate for an open and online government, testified in support of marriage equality, budget autonomy, increasing the authority of our independent ethics office, and reducing the collateral consequences of criminal convictions. I believe the Bar should collaborate with government more often to achieve its public service mission, and maintain the transparency practices we've learned from the pandemic that promote public participation.

I have served in many capacities, including the Office of the Attorney General, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, Council of the District of Columbia, Mayor's Office, and as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner. Serving in these different roles provided me with unique opportunities and perspectives on public service.

My DC Bar service includes: Nominations Committee, DC Affairs Section, and membership on the Administrative Law and Agency Practice Community. I graduated from Georgetown University Law Center and Howard University.



Elizabeth "Sally" Gere

Sally is completing her first term on the Board of Governors, where she served as the Planning Chair for the 2020 Bar Conference marking the hundredth anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment. Before joining the Board, Sally had a broad and diverse legal career, working as a Deputy Attorney General in the Office of the D.C. Attorney General, as a partner in an international law firm, and as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice while also teaching at Georgetown University Law Center for 20 years. Her professional contributions include serving on the D.C. Court of Appeals' Committee on Admissions, a Board on Professional Responsibility's Hearing Committee, and the board of the Abramson Scholarship Foundation, which honors former Bar President Fred Abramson by providing

scholarships and mentorship to D.C. public school graduates. Sally is committed to the Board of Governors' work and hopes to continue serving the D.C. Bar community.



Janene D. Jackson

I developed a love for government and public policy at a very young age. I grew up in one of the first major mixed-income, affordable housing complexes in NYC which sparked my initial interest in pursuing a legal career.

From NYC, it was a long professional climb to the political power center in D.C., where I ultimately built my professional career. Early on, I re-established the State Complaint Office at D.C. Public Schools. Later, I served as the SVP of Government Affairs at the D.C. Chamber of Commerce.

Afterwards, I served as deputy chief of staff and director of the office of policy and legislative affairs in the Gray administration, before joining Holland & Knight.

I was the first African American woman to clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and also clerked on the DC Superior Court.



Fatema K. Merchant

I hope to pursue three goals if elected. Lawyers have a unique role to play in promoting equity in our organizations and society – and I believe, have an ethical obligation to do so. The D.C. Bar could encourage our lawyers to dedicate 20 hours each to racial justice initiatives, similar to the obligation we take on for pro bono. Second, as a mom of three young kids, my experience and the experiences of many women during the pandemic reiterate the need to address the hurdles women and families face in maintaining healthy careers and family lives. I hope to lead D.C. Bar initiatives that focus on elevating women and providing opportunities to build relationships with one another. Third, I believe the D.C. Bar is uniquely suited to provide mentorship opportunities for young lawyers and think creatively about how to furnish the environment to allow organic relationships to flourish.



Steven R. Miller

If elected to the Board of Governors, I would bring years of public service through my Federal Government employment and my work with the D.C. Bar and the Federal Bar Association (FBA).

At FBA, I have held numerous local and national leadership positions such as D.C. Chapter President and facilitated community service activities, including being a co-founder of a program in which lawyers help other lawyers and their families in need for the FBA, court camp for D.C. students, and wills for U.S. veterans.

At the D.C. Bar, I participate in voluntary bar meetings and serve on the D.C. Bar Communities Committee.

In my FBA and D.C. Bar Communities diversity committee roles, I work to ensure complete inclusivity of all noble groups in the D.C. Bar Communities. As a member of the Board of Governors, I would be seeking greater connections among the many diverse voluntary bars in D.C.



Nathan A. Pollard

I am an attorney with significant experience in the intellectual property and non-profit fields looking to give back to the Bar that has provided me opportunities to practice and grow over the course of my career. With experience as an in-house lawyer at several DC-headquartered national/international mission-driven non-profits, in private practice and as a legal journalist on the Hill, I hope to bring a unique perspective to the Board. I care deeply about issues addressed by the non-profits with which I have worked, including LGBTQ+ rights, health care access and reform, and environmental protection.

I enjoy mentoring young attorneys, helping to connect and build up others, and working to improve society through the law, and hope to apply my skills to help the Bar pursue its mission of enhancing access to justice, empowering lawyers, and improving the legal system.



Jesse Raben

I am running for the DC Bar Board of Governors in order to make the DC Bar a more integral part of your professional life through vibrant and interesting CLE, social and in-person networking, mentoring and leadership training. I don't have the answers, yet, but I know we have a deep and involved community as a foundation upon which to build and grow. Within our community, we have an incredible opportunity to teach the next generation of lawyers and improve ourselves and I hope to have a chance to explore this with DC Bar Staff and governance.



Diane Seltzer Torre

As I complete and reflect on my term as Secretary of the D.C. Bar, I am not at all surprised to see how strongly I wish to continue to serve on the Board. Over this past year -- and under unprecedented circumstances -- my colleagues on the Board have proven time and time again how dedicated and committed they are to the Bar and its members and how intentional they are with respect to doing the Board's work. I want to continue to contribute to the Leadership's efforts. Having also served on the Bar's 2020-2025 Strategic Planning Committee; the Continuing Legal Education Committee (for which I served as Chair (2016-2017), Vice Chair (2015-2016), and Committee member (2012-2015, 2018-present)); the Screening Committee; the Communities Committee; and the Nominations Committee, I have a deep understanding of how the Bar works and will use my experience to best serve the Bar.



Shaun M. Snyder

I am currently serving as the Treasurer of the DC Bar. When I first ran for Treasurer last year I had no idea my entire tenure would be impacted by COVID. Due to the steady hand of the Bar staff and the support of the Board, we have weathered the COVID storm well in terms of protecting our association and making sure we continue to provide the services, support, and community that our members have grown accustomed to. I am asking for your vote so that I can continue my goals of: 1) ensuring the financial health of the organization and 2) making sure we are continuously reviewing our member benefits and services to make sure we're not only providing for the needs of our members today, but helping make sure we meet their needs in the future, especially post-COVID, which may be markedly different.

ABA House of Delegates



Karen M. Roos

Dear DC Bar members,

My name is Karen Roos and I am the founder of HireRoos (a staffing agency that focuses on attorney diversity and inclusion) and HireRoos Translations LLC (a legal translation company).

I am running as an ABA Delegate because I can add depth and diversity to ABA deliberations due to my diverse background, perspective, and experiences. I am a woman, an ethnic minority, and an immigrant. I received my JD from WCL and also have a law degree from France. I have worked in a variety of legal roles, including for the U.S. government, law firms, and alternative legal service providers. And now, as an entrepreneur, I provide support services to law firms.

If you choose me as your ABA Delegate, I would be committed to ensuring that minority, diverse, and underrepresented views and perspectives are heard and taken into consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.



Pauline Schneider

I have served as (1) both secretary and president of the District's Bar and chaired its governing board, (2) represented the Bar and the Section of Legal Education in the House and (3) served on the ABA Board of Governors. In none of those roles did I feel that the challenges the ABA faced were as grave as those it faces today. Clearly, thoughtful review and strategic intervention by the Board of Governors and House maybe warranted I am confident that my past service to the Bar and the ABA, combined with my relationships with hundreds of engaged ABA members, have prepared me to assist in identifying and implementing creative solutions for future success.



D. Jean Veta

Jean Veta, a senior counsel at Covington & Burling LLP, is a current DC Bar Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. Jean represents financial institutions in government enforcement actions and civil litigation. A graduate of Newcomb College and Tulane Law School, Jean clerked for Judge Harold H. Greene, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She served as Deputy Associate Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice during the Clinton administration. Jean's active pro bono practice includes defending reproductive rights, D.C.'s marriage equality, and transgender students' rights.

As a current DC Bar Delegate and former leader in the ABA Section of Litigation, Jean has a deep understanding of the House of Delegates. Jean is committed to advancing the Bar's objectives in the House of Delegates, including improving the administration of justice, enhancing the delivery of legal services to those in need, and advancing diversity in the profession.

ABA Delegates Under 36



Josephine M. Bahn

Current DC Bar's Under 36 Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates seeking your support for re-election. Senior Attorney at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the Enforcement Unit, in practice in DC since 2017. Additionally, I maintain an active pro bono caseload with the DC Bar Pro Bono Center—earning Capitol Pro Bono recognition in 2020, 2019, and 2018, and the Washington Council of Lawyers Government Pro Bono Lawyer Award in 2020. My bar service includes service on the DC Bar CLE Committee, BADC Young Lawyers Section Chair and its Board of Directors, as well as representing DC on the national stage in the ABA Young Lawyers Division—I will Chair the ABA YLD in 2022-23. I also have a standing young lawyer column in the Washington Lawyer magazine. Please cast your ballot for me for DC Bar's Under 36 Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates.



Wandaly Fernandez

I am seeking to represent the DC Bar in the ABA House of Delegates under 36 position. If entrusted with this position, I will leverage my diverse perspective and close connection to the Bar to represent the interests of our members. I look forward to working with our members collaboratively in this role.

Since I became a member of the Bar in 2014, I have worked to engage with programming and our members. I recently completed the 2020 John Payton Leadership Academy where I learned about Mr. Payton's legacy, enhanced my own leadership skills, and connected with the cohort. I am also engaged more broadly in the DC legal community. I am a member of the Hispanic Bar of DC where I previously served as a Co-Chair of the Professional Development Committee and on the Board of Directors. I am also a Co-Chair of the DC Legal Aid Ambassadors.