

BRIAN K. BATES

Campaign Statement

Having been around AILA for about 20 years, I have many friends and acquaintances and I figure they will either vote for me or not regardless of what I say or write now. They know that I am a film and music buff, and that I often think and speak in terms of movie quotes or song lyrics. As a Campaign Statement, I seriously considered just quoting that famous scene from the movie "Jaws" where Robert Shaw's character, Quinn, interrupts a meeting by scraping his fingernails on a chalk board. Then, when he has everyone's attention, he says simply, "You all know me. You know how I make a living." Brief; succinct; stylish-- perhaps an approach to be emulated.

But then I realized that AILA has over 8000 members now, and you DON'T all know me. And where would I find a "chalk board" anyway, in this age of PowerPoint, PDA's and laptops? Many of you may actually wonder what we have in common and why I should presume to think I can understand and represent your interests on the AILA Board of Governors. So I offer the following:

I have been practicing immigration and nationality law for 25 years, all in private practice. I practiced for about 11 years in Dallas, where I represented every kind of immigration client in every kind of case. In 1990, I joined Quan, Burdette & Perez, P.C. in Houston, where I am now a shareholder. My caseload continued to include every kind of case under the Immigration and Nationality Act until about seven years ago. After IIRIRA, the firm's growth and the harsh new laws caused me to focus primarily on removal defense and litigation -- areas that had previously accounted for about 30% of my practice. I am now head of the firm's Litigation Section, although I still do family-based adjustments and naturalization cases. While I am primarily known as a "Guerrilla Lawyer" and litigator, however, I also understand business immigration and the problems confronting AILA members whose practices lie in those areas. I understand those problems because I have done literally hundreds of labor certifications, L-1's and H-1B's in my career, and our firm continues to represent businesses and every other sort of immigration client that exists.

I would not have agreed to run for the Board of Governors if I didn't want to win. I would not want to win if I wasn't ready and anxious to do the work. And I wouldn't be anxious to do the work if I didn't think I could do some good for AILA, its members and our clients. This is a time to be angry with our country's treatment of immigrants and immigration of every sort. If you're not angry, you're not paying attention (but I still want your vote!). Anger alone is not enough to effect change, but neither is endless patience. Action is also required, and I would like to help AILA lead the way to action -- productive, effective but dramatic action. Getting angry is a good first step.

*If you don't know what I mean
Won't you stand up and scream
'Cause there's things goin' on that you don't know*

■ Lynyrd Skynyrd

Biographical Information for BRIAN K. BATES (Texas Chapter). Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1984. Listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, and *Texas Super Lawyers*. AILA Service: Past Chair, Texas Chapter, EOIR Liaison Committee for five years, Chairman 2000- 2003. Texas Chapter Litigation Awards, 1988 and 1996. Sam Williamson Mentor Award (1998). Speaker (and writer) at numerous National and Chapter conferences, including series of “Guerrilla Lawyer” papers, yadayadayada. Knows how to behave, but also when not to. Tries to be cynical, but can’t keep up. Loves children, animals and most clients. Would love your vote, and thanks for the support.