



Allen Orr

Statement of Candidacy for AILA Secretary
Let's build a strong team for Immigration Reform
www.voteallenorr.com

I am asking for your vote and support for the position of AILA Secretary. For almost two decades, I have volunteered my time and knowledge for the benefit of AILA and its members, working hard to increase collegiality, ensure an ethical and knowledgeable membership base, and educate members on the vast services tools and products AILA provides to foster the practice and advance the core purpose with the organization. I learned early in life that “people may not remember what you said or what you did but they will remember how you made them feel.” I have the ability to make people feel included and involved, which leads to high productivity and excellent results. I was honored for this form of leadership to be acknowledged as a recipient of AILA’s Minsky Young Lawyer Award and the GayLaw Recognition of Service Award.

For the last four years, I have served as the first elected African American Director at the national level, introducing the concept of metrics to the Board as a way of evaluating the success of the organization’s goals each year, which was enthusiastically received by fellow board members and the organization. Over the years I have also served on the national professionalism and practice committee, the bylaws committee, and the investment committee. At the state and chapter level, I have participated in every NY conference since 2010 as well as every DC conference except one since 2009. In addition, I have presented at regional conferences in Atlanta, Denver, and Minneapolis, all while serving actively as the Immigration Chair for the National Bar Association, a board member for American Immigration Council, and one of the DC Bar’s Immigration Pro Bono Mentors. I have gained insight about the needs of the members from the mentor-mentee relationships I have formed while speaking at national conferences and open houses.

As a solo practitioner, in addition to the time and research involved in speaking at various conferences and participating in board meetings, I have covered all of my own transportation and lodging costs at these events, as an indication of my sincere dedication and interest.

My dedication and service to AILA in particular stretches back 15 years and covers a wide range of positions and committees:

AILA Board of Governors (2011-2015)

AILA Investment Committee (2012-2014)

AILA Practice Management Committee (2013-2014)

AILA Executive Director Search Committee (2009)

AILA National NMD Steering Committee (2001-2008)

AILA National Teleconference Chair (2005-2006)

AILA National Co-Chair for Immigration Basic Conference (2002)

DC Chapter Ombudsman Committee

Speaker at national and regional AILA Conferences (2000 – 2015)

AILA Bylaws Committee (2014-2015)

PERM Conference Committee (2013)

AILA National New Members Division Chair (2008)

AILA Board of Governors as NMD (2008)

AILA National New Members Division Vice Chair (2007)

DC Chapter Young Lawyer Co-Chair (2001-2005)

DC Chapter Conference Committee



ENDORSEMENTS

"I've spoken with both candidates for AILA Secretary, carefully considered their respective platform and vision for AILA, and I'm supporting Allen Orr. I'll be releasing a detailed letter outlining my reasons. In short, Allen has a longer history of active participation in AILA, substantial experience in non-profit governance, a commitment to diversity and inclusion, and a willingness to stand up despite the pressures of conformity to lockstep leadership and speak truth to power." — Angelo A. Paparelli

"Allen Orr is the strongest possible choice for AILA Secretary. He believes that true diversity involves financial diversity, and lowering costs to all AILA members, which will benefit most of us who are from small firms and solo firms. He knows how to get critical media exposure for our very timely battles that are looming now and will continue well into the future. He brings diversity, integrity and stability to the Board, along with years of recognized specialization in Immigration law at the very highest levels, and he is not afraid of "rocking the boat" when necessary. At this critical juncture, we need the strongest leadership and advocacy. We need someone who is intimately familiar with the financial side, management and governance of our nonprofit organization. He is not afraid to assess the performance of every AILA employee. He will be there to question the status quo. He is the person who can guide our organization through these difficult times, and who has his hands on the very pulse of AILA. He will help AILA to evolve for the future." — Daniel (Danny) Weiss - Founder of GLIG

"It is my pleasure to endorse Allen Orr for AILA Secretary. I met Allen in 2004 in connection with my previous employment with the AILA national office. As Director of Education for AILA, I called upon Allen numerous times for speaking engagements and various projects to advance AILA's educational programs. Allen was, and continues to be, one of the most engaged, hard working and devoted attorneys in the AILA membership. He has all of the qualifications required to be AILA Secretary and to sit on the executive committee." — Michelle Gergerian

"I support Allen Orr 100% for AILA National Secretary. Allen is highly qualified for the position. He is a recognized leader in AILA and his community. As chair of the New Members Division, Allen pushed the Steering Committee to the next level and helped lay the foundation for the committee's success over the last few years. He is dedicated to helping lawyers, especially newer lawyers, become better lawyers. Allen is a solo practitioner, thus, he understands the challenges that face 30-40% of AILA's membership. He is also dedicated to helping lawyers work through the business side of running a practice." Lisa York

"It is high time we had an African American ex com member. Allen Orr would be the first ex com member in AILA history. — Amy Peck