

Jeremy McKinney Candidate for AILA Board of Governors 2016

I am honored to have been selected by AILA's Nominating Committee to run for AILA's Board of Governors (BOG). In this era of "enforcement-first" politics, I believe my experience as a removal defense attorney practicing in one of the epicenters of immigration enforcement (NC/SC/GA) will help to further the efficacy of AILA's efforts on both a national and regional level.



Background

I have been a member of AILA since 1997. During my almost two decades of membership, I have actively participated in AILA on a national and local level. Specifically, I have served as:

- Incoming Chair and Current Vice Chair of the EOIR Liaison Committee
- Committee Chair of the ICE Liaison Committee
- Committee Chair of the AILA Membership Committee
- Member of the Amicus Committee
- 2014 AILA National Election Judge
- Chapter Chair of AILA Carolinas

"Jeremy is an excellent lawyer practicing primarily in removal defense. He has served AILA with distinction, both as a chapter chair and as a liaison to EOIR. Jeremy brings passion and deep expertise and deserves your support for the Board."

—Bernard Wolfsdorf (Past President)

Background

My AILA work is primarily in national liaison - connecting our membership with our nation's immigration courts and immigration enforcement. I have had the privilege of chairing ICE liaison and vice chairing EOIR liaison. Beyond liaison, in 2010, I was on the Amicus Committee which received the Jack Wasserman Memorial Award for excellence in litigation. I was an Election Judge in 2014. AILA leadership has invited me to be an Annual Conference discussion leader 5 years in a row.

In private practice, I built a boutique immigration-only law firm, with three offices covering underserved areas of North Carolina (Hendersonville, Greensboro, and Wilmington). My firm handles a range of matters including removal cases, family based petitions, and employment-based immigration law. In addition to my participation in AILA and running my own practice, I have also spoken extensively to non-AILA audiences on multiple platforms (conferences, radio, TV), explaining our broken system. Finally, I taught an immigration law class as an adjunct professor at Elon University's School of Law.

AILA's Role

In a time when our government is heavily divided, I believe we best help the cause of immigration reform by reestablishing AILA as first and foremost a source of expertise. Positioning AILA as a trusted source of information for both political parties maximizes our advocacy impact. To this end, our leadership and public face should reflect regional and partisan diversity. Over the past 19 years practicing law in North Carolina, I have had to work with both Democrats and Republicans to get results for my clients. I can bring this nonpartisan approach and a distinct southern voice to the BOG as our association prepares for a new President and Congress.

In addition to advocacy efforts, I believe AILA should use its position as a source of expertise to help attorneys new to immigration law connect with mentors and information. It should also provide strong continuing education to experienced immigration practitioners simply needing a brush up as case law, policy, and public sentiment change. When I joined AILA in 1997, as a young attorney with no legal education or practical experience in immigration law, AILA served as my immigration law professor. AILA's annual *Immigration & Nationality Handbook* was a key resource as I gained competence and the experienced attorneys I met at AILA meetings became important mentors. These relationships, which have now evolved and become peer-to-peer, have made me a better litigator and client counselor. AILA has always been an important place of connection and growth for me, as I am sure it has been for thousands of immigration attorneys. If I am elected to the BOG, I will work to ensure AILA maintains its place as the premier source of educational materials and the best platform for building relationships within the private bar.

Summary

I have spent the past nineteen years as a small business owner in North Carolina, fighting for individuals, public schools, and small businesses. Beyond my practice, I have dedicated myself to represent the concerns of AILA members locally and nationally. It would be an honor to be your voice on AILA's Board of Governors.

Endorsements

Jeremy McKinney for AILA Board of Governors

Colorado

Jeff Joseph (Past Elected Director)

Georgia-Alabama

Daryl Buffenstein (Past President)
Charles Kuck (Past President)
Marshall Cohen (Chapter Chair)

Iowa-Nebraska

Amy Peck (Elected Director)

Missouri-Kansas

Rekha Sharma-Crawford (Vice Chair, Fed. Litigation Committee)

New England

Anthony Drago (Past Elected Director)

New York

Allen Kaye (Past President)
Deborah Notkin (Past President)
Cheryl David (Past Chair of EOIR Liaison Committee)

Ohio

Heather Prendergast (Chair, ICE Liaison Committee)
Matthew Benson (Vice Chair, ICE Liaison Committee)

San Diego

Matthew Holt (Past Chair, AILA NMD)

Southern California

Bernard Wolfsdorf (Past President)
Joseph Porta (Chair of EOIR Liaison Committee)
Merlyn Hernandez (EOIR Liaison Committee)

South Florida

Mary Kramer (EOIR Liaison Committee)

Texas

Steven Ladik (Past President)
Magali Candler (EOIR Liaison Committee)
Jodi Goodwin (Past ICE Liaison Committee)
Kelli Stump (Past Chapter Chair)
Michelle Saenz-Rodriguez (EOIR Liaison Committee)

Washington D.C.

Ava Benach (Amicus Committee)
Mark Shmueli (EOIR Liaison Committee)

Wisconsin

Erich Straub (Past Chapter Chair)

Carolinas

Jack Pinnix (Past President)
Jordan Forsythe (Incoming Chapter Chair, 2016-2018)
Amanda Keaveny (Chapter Chair, 2014-2016)
David Long (Past Chapter Chair, 2012-2014)
Ann Robertson (Past Chapter Chair, 2010-2012)
Laura Edgerton (Past Chapter Chair, 2006-2008)
Elizabeth Edwards (Past Chapter Chair, 2002-2004)
Alice Glover (Past Chapter Chair, 2000-2002)
Gerard Chapman (Past Chapter Chair, 1998-2000)

Cynthia Aziz
Buxton (Buck) Bailey
Lynn Calder
Ann Marie Dooley
Shoshana Fried
Patrick Hatch
Allison Lukanich
Kimmons

Anna McLeod
Beckie Moriello
Helen Parsonage
Marty Rosenbluth
Ben Snyder
J. Simon Taft
Helen Tarokic
Jessica Yanez

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—Jeremy McKinney