

DO NOT
BOYCOTT
ARIZONA'S
MAURICE "MO" GOLDMAN

NOMINEE FOR AILA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

"Until SB1070 is repealed, I will boycott everything in the state of Arizona including my beloved mother, Barbara, with two exceptions: Los Suns and Mo Goldman."

-Peter Ashman, AILA Board Member (Nevada)

Dear AILA membership:

I was born and raised in Arizona. Like nearly everyone in the United States, I grew up with a great connection to immigrant roots. As the grandchild of Holocaust survivors, I am one generation removed from the worst genocide and suffering that anyone can imagine. I am a product of America's core immigration policies and values, and a beneficiary of all the great ideals that are currently being threatened by the growing anti-immigrant sentiment which has spread across the United States. This deep seeded association eventually became the impetus for my career.

In December 2000, I began my own law practice in Garden City, New York. At the same time my mother, Gloria, had her own office in Tucson, Arizona. Gloria told me that the first requirement in becoming an immigration attorney was to join AILA. Soon thereafter, I became AILA member 15350. Little did I know that I was becoming an immigration attorney in the midst of the 245(i) craze. Talk about trial by fire!

AILA has been an unbelievable asset in my growth as an attorney and development in my self confidence. From my first AILA chapter meeting in New York, I developed a bond with many of my colleagues. Without AILA mentoring I would have been lost, as would many of us. I immediately wanted to jump into the mix and serve on local chapter committees. Eventually, I found myself serving on national committees and mentoring others. It is a great feeling to give back to newer members of AILA and the immigration bar.

In 2005, I moved away from the hustle and bustle of New York and back to my original home of Tucson, Arizona. Gloria and I have a small office and like many members, we handle a general immigration practice with a focus on employment-based, family-based, and removal work. We have also received numerous awards for

our pro bono work on behalf of crime victims and VAWA applicants. I have also had the opportunity to serve as the Arizona AILA chapter chair. My time as chapter chair was extremely valuable as I was able to learn from serving on the Board of Governors. I learned that this organization will not progress without strong leaders who speak up and let themselves be heard.

The past two months have been a difficult time for many of our national AILA members, but especially many of our clients in Arizona. It has been one of the darkest times in the history of Arizona. The image of our state will be forever linked to one of the most far-reaching anti-immigrant laws ever passed. The signing of SB1070 served as a wake-up call to President Barack Obama and our Congress that we need Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

What we don't need is a reactionary piece of legislation that will only serve as a band-aid on our immigration problems. We need a thoughtful piece of legislation that addresses all of the issues and serves as a springboard to a new era in the immigration policy of the United States. An era that treats all aspiring immigrants like human beings regardless of their background, family relationships, education or sexual preference. An era that brings back the word unity to the phrase "family unity." The abolishment of the 3/10 year bars and the re-introduction of the phrase "prosecutorial discretion" to ICE. Most importantly, my own personal favorite, like many of you, a DREAM Act. This list could go on and on.

Speaking of lists, the following are a selection of my service and activities within AILA:

- **2000-2001 Head of American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) NY Chapter Essay Contest Committee**
- **2001-2002 AILA NY Chapter, Chair of EOIR Committee; Member of Dept. of Labor Committee; Chair of Vermont Service Center visit.**
- **2002-2003 AILA NY Chapter, Member of District Director Liaison Committee; Assistant Editor of NY Chapter CLE Handbook**
- **2003-2004, 2004-2005 AILA NY Chapter, Member of District Director Liaison Committee**
- **2006-2007, AILA National Committee on Family Immigration**
- **2006-2007, AILA Arizona Chapter Secretary**
- **2007-2009, AILA Arizona Chapter Chair and member of Board of Governors**
- **2009-2010, AILA Annual Conference planning committee for Family Track, Chair**
- **American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF) Liaison to New York Chapter of AILA**

- **AILF (now the American Immigration Council, AIC) Liaison to Arizona Chapter of AILA**
- **2009-2010 AIC Ambassador Program, co-chair**

The following are some of the goals that I would like to see as a focus for our Board of Governors during the coming years:

A continued emphasis on fiscal responsibility during terrible economic times.

As more attorneys are facing economic challenges in their own practices, AILA needs to continue to be at the forefront of offering advisement to those practitioners. One of the strategic goals and missions of this association is to enhance the professional development of its members. This has never been more critical than during the current economic crisis. AILA members are being let go by prominent law firms and struggling to find new employment. The end result is that many members are starting their own solo or small practices and need the guidance and structure on how to succeed.

AILA does an incredible job with offering support to new members and providing deals on malpractice insurance, health benefits and educational materials. I believe that the organization needs to continue to offer different deals for members and negotiate the best possible price for its membership. The association needs to continue with the webinars and possibly offer more professional development and practice tips for attorneys.

Continue to Advance the Protection of the Public from Unscrupulous Notarios and Unauthorized Representation

AILA has made wonderful strides over the past several years to bring to the public's attention the unscrupulous nature of notarios and unauthorized representatives. With the possibility of immigration reform, there is no doubt that these individuals will ramp up their efforts to prey upon unsuspecting persons. AILA needs to continue to advise membership on how they can track UPL and report to the proper authorities.

Providing Guidance to Chapter Members about Advocacy Against Anti-Immigrant Bills in State Legislatures

Let's call this one the "SB1070" movement. If there is one area that I feel AILA is definitely lacking, it's in the fight against State initiatives. It appears that in 2007 AILA attempted to provide information to the membership on state advocacy. However, until the signing of SB1070 in Arizona I had not seen anything besides the forum on "State Laws and Enforcement" on the AILA InfoNet Message Center.

We are being deluged with numerous anti-immigrant bills in Arizona and this has become even more of a problem for our clients than the federal laws. While I recognize that AILA's strategic goals are focused on advocacy before Congress, we cannot ignore the fact that state legislatures are trying to legislate federal immigration law. Even worse is the fact that some of these ill-conceived bills are becoming law.

How can AILA coordinate such an effort? Obviously we already have advocacy personnel in Washington D.C. and it would be helpful to have an appointed liaison for each chapter that could research this or reach out to a helpful state legislator to provide recommendations that can be posted online. Another approach would be to contact community-based organizations such as Arizona's Border Action Network and have them provide the proper information. And one final, and possibly the simplest approach, would be to link to websites such as www.borderaction.org and utilize the action alert system that they already have in place. This would just involve identifying community-based organizations that already have this structure in place.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider me as a member of the AILA Board of Governors. If you have any questions for me feel free to contact me at (520) 797-9229 or mo@ggoldmanlaw.com.



The wonderful family I come home to every evening!