

Candidate Statement
State Bar of California Board of Trustees
Office of President
Danette E. Meyers

Throughout my tenure on the State Bar of California Board of Trustees, criticism for failure to adequately protect the public from unscrupulous lawyers as well as effectively addressing the increase in the unauthorized practice of law cases has consistently plagued the entity. As a result, the proposed fee bill (Senate *Bill-36*) outlines a comprehensive restructuring of the Agency and its' Board of Trustees. Therefore, one of the most important decisions facing this Board is who will lead the organization through the first year of structural changes. I am asking my fellow Trustees to look at my experience, dedication to public service and qualification in casting your vote for the 2017-2018 President.

The President and future Chair of the State Bar should be someone who is universally respected in the legal profession as well as the community. The President must have a reputation for honesty, integrity, transparency in governing and a commitment to public service. Most importantly, he or she should have a demonstrated and longstanding record of strong, effective leadership. As a candidate for President, I have the requisite leadership skills and experience to guide next year's Board of Trustees as it transitions to a smaller more efficient unit. During my time on the Board, I have enthusiastically undertaken the following leadership positions and duties:

Vice President

2016 - Present

- Chair - Regulations and Discipline Committee
- Co-Chair - Board of Trustees January Retreat
- Co-Chair - Chief Trial Counsel Search Committee
- Member – Member Liaison Committee
- Member – Executive Committee
- Reviewed and Appointed all 2201 Special Deputy Trial Counsel
- Represented the Board and President at the New Judges Installation in Los Angeles

Treasurer

2015-2016

- Chair - Audit Committee
- Co-Chair - Board of Trustees January Retreat
- Vice-Chair – Planning and Budget Committee
- Member – Member Liaison Committee
- Member – Executive Committee
- Member – Governance in the Public Interest Task Force
- Member – Regulations and Discipline Committee

Board of Trustees Member

2014-2015

- Elected from District 2 (Los Angeles, Santa Barbara & Ventura Counties)
- Co-Chair - General Counsel Search Committee
- Member – Regulations and Discipline Committee

- Member - Admissions and Education Committee
- Member – Planning and Budget Committee
- Member – Member Liaison Committee
- Member – Client Security Fund Task Force
- Member – Governance in the Public Interest Task Force
- Represented the Board and President – Iranian Lawyers Association Installation Dinner

As the last elected trustee, that can seek the Presidency, I would bring a wealth of leadership experience and negotiation skills. In addition to my responsibilities on the Board, my experience also includes leadership positions in other professional associations. I was President of the Los Angeles County Bar Associations (LACBA) in 2007-2008 and elected Assistant Vice President, Vice President, Sr.-Vice President and President –Elect of the Association from 2002-2008. I was privileged to be elected Chair of both the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section and Delegation to the State Bar Conference of Delegates. I was also appointed to Chair the Government Lawyers Member Task Force and LACBA’s first Diversity Pipeline Conference. My experience also extends to finance where I was a member of LACBA’s Audit and Compensations Committees and Treasurer of the Association of Deputy District Attorney’s. Finally, my 32 years of work as a Deputy District Attorney, my appointment to the Webster Commission (Commission charged with investigating the Los Angeles Police Department’s actions in the Rodney King case), my two-year service on the State Bar of California Complaints, Audit and Review Board as well as five years of work on LACBA’s Judicial Appointments Committee exemplifies my dedication to public protection and service.

Although the leadership positions I have held are important, they are not as significant as ***how I have lead***. I am a consensus builder who governs with honesty, transparency and integrity. In Chairing both the Audit and Regulations and Discipline Committee, I have encouraged my fellow Board members to express their views and work to achieve consensus. However, I have also advocated voting your consensus and never abandoning one’s conviction to “***doing the right thing***”.

Agenda and Goals for 2017-2018

During the next year, I will work with staff and the Board to comply with the recommendations of the State Auditor. Additionally, I will assist and support our Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer in working with the Union to implement the classification and compensations reforms requested by the State Legislature.

I am committed to ensuring that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel, (OCTC), effectively and efficiently process all disciplinary matters. I will request regular updates on complaints involving the Unauthorized Practice of Law as well as the continued progress in reducing the backlog of cases. As President, I would continue to advise the Board and our stakeholders regarding the implementation of the CMS in OCTC as well as the completion of all improvements to the Howard Street property. Most importantly, I will consistently update the Board on all discussions with the legislature and the court on relevant legislations that impacts the State Bar.

For three years, I have served on the Board with honesty, integrity and conviction. The Board has faced challenging issues, and I have never changed my view or criticized any member in order to advance a personal agenda or avoid casting a minority vote. As the next Board leader, I want to publicize the amazing work of this organization and ensure that the legislature, the court and public understand our commitment to protecting the public from lawyers who consistently do harm. Finally, I want to encourage the State Bar to support access to justice and critical programming that is needed to assist solo practitioners and small firms with continuing legal and business education.

Whether or not I am elected your next President, it has been an honor to serve with each of you as a member and officer of the State Bar of California Board of Trustees.