

Candidate Statement for Position of Treasurer--Todd F. Stevens

Experience

I presently serve as the vice-chair of the Audit Committee and have spent substantial time learning the finances of the State Bar. After two years of service on this board, I have formulated ideas about how the Board of Trustees can best discharge its role as stewards of the Bar's finances and chart the best financial future for the agency.

I served as a board member for three years, and then as President of the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) one of the largest voluntary bar associations in the nation. I presided over budget and audit meetings to ensure that SDCBA's multimillion dollar budget safeguarded, prudently invested and wisely spent our member dues and other income producing sources.

The SDCBA owned its own large downtown facility at that time, as well as a ½ city block parking lot and I over saw the financial considerations attendant with property management and ownership. The SDCBA is regarded as a very well run and financially successful association with 10,000 members.

I also served as a many year board member and President of the San Diego County Bar Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the SDCBA. I oversaw the finances of this multimillion dollar non-profit successfully overseeing the fundraising and grant making organization.

For the last decade I have been the managing partner of a 50 year old, two office law firm. I balance the budget, work with auditors and meet a payroll every two weeks. I understand the challenges that State Bar member's face who run solo or small law firm practices.

Goals If Elected

1. The Audit Committee is being underutilized. I would expand its role to include the implementation and oversight of:

- Risk mitigation to ensure compliance with law and external policies
- Periodic reviews to ensure that procedures and external policies are consistent with our public protection mission
- Annual review of the Bar's cyber-security policies

2. The coming year will present us with the challenge, but also the opportunity to recruit a Chief Financial Officer and I will work on the search to ensure we select:

- A strong candidate who will serve as an equal part of the management team and an effective communicator with the Board of Trustees
- A candidate capable of performing a 360 review of the Bar's current financial policies to ensure best practices and efficiencies
- A CFO with a proven track record in building a strong finance department, identifying and implementing cost saving measures so more funds can be used to discharge our public protection mission

3. The Budget and Planning Committee and the Audit Committee work should closer with each other, the Treasurer and with the new CFO. This Board has an outstanding “brain trust” on these two committees that can and should be tasked with important policy review and drafting functions.

In her 2017 report, the State Auditor concluded that the Bar “has revised its expense policies to ensure prudent uses of its funds [but] it still lacks effective controls.” During my tenure on this Board, I have seen management and this Board make great strides improving both the financial condition and transparency of the Bar’s finances. We can do better and, if elected, I will work tirelessly to ensure that goal.