

The Board of Governors elections will again be conducted online. Does the State Bar have your e-mail address of record? (Rule 32(c)(3), Ariz.R.S.Ct.)

Elections will be held this year to elect one member from District 1 (Apache, Coconino, Mohave and Navajo Counties), one member from District 2 (Yavapai County), and nine members from District 6 (Maricopa County). The elected members will serve three-year terms except for the member elected from District 1; that member will fill the remaining two years of President Whitney Cunningham's term as he moves into the immediate past president position this June.

Elections will not be held this year in District 8 (Pinal County). Pursuant to Rule 32(f)(2), ARIZ.R.S.Ct., the president-elect shall automatically become the president and the first vice president shall automatically become president-elect at the conclusion of the annual meeting. This rule applies to President-Elect Richard Platt (District 8) in 2014.

The candidates were asked to respond to the following questions:

Why are you interested in running for election to the Board of Governors? What do you believe are the significant issues facing the members today? If elected, how would you hope to address these issues?

District 1—Apache, Coconino, Mohave and Navajo Counties

Brian Y. Furuya

Aspey, Watkins & Diesel PLLC



Meeting the challenges of a new and changing legal world is our task. The practice of law will never again quite be what it once was. In the transition, we face increasing costs, increasing professional and non-professional competition, and technological innovation. I see it as the duty of our Bar to help both the new and the veteran alike navigate those choppy waters. While change and innovation are important and inevitable, we must remain true to the core of our heritage. Respect, integrity, civility, hard work; if we don't want to lose ourselves in building our new world, we must anchor our identities in these. I hope to be a voice committed to those tempering values that make Arizona attorneys unique. In doing so, we must meet the needs of our members by streamlining services and increasing public trust. In running for the Board of Governors, I hope to contribute the perspective of what's most important to our

Northern counties. As one on the rise in his career, I bring a familiarity with the new, but a dedication to the most essential of the old. That is my commitment to our membership, and my reason for asking for your vote.

Serena S. Serassio
*Coconino County
Attorney's Office*



I have decided to throw my hat into the ring for the Board of Governors to provide the board with the perspective of a young attorney who has learned many hard lessons and would like to help others gain from those experiences.

An issue I have seen not only in my own practice but also from watching other attorneys is that when life's inevitable struggles happen, our professional behavior can suffer. It is during many of these stressful moments when the pressure of practice, combined with our personal life, can cause significant consequences for our licenses and our clients. When we have well-trained lawyers who have found balance, our clients benefit by receiving the best representation, even when those challenging moments arise.

One way we could address this

issue is by utilizing widely available technology to provide more economical access to CLEs, conferences and pro bono trainings for the entire state. For instance, use Skype or video conferencing in Phoenix to provide training in conjunction with the *Wills for Heroes* and allow any attorney to sign in and participate. Or encourage networking by providing a discounted rate when attending a live-feed CLE at a predetermined satellite location.

District 2—Yavapai County

André Carman
*Warnock, MacKinlay
& Carman PLLC*



The Bar certainly serves an important function and purpose, but it must operate efficiently and provide value to all of its members, including those outside of Maricopa County. Our Bar should not be among the most expensive in the country. Instead of voting to raise dues like our current District representative when times are already tough, I would work to keep the Bar's expenses in check and seek reasonable ways to cut costs or

develop alternative revenue sources.

The Bar should also seek to enhance access to services for members outside of Maricopa County. The Bar can save money by collaborating with sister bar organizations, like the Yavapai County Bar Association, to provide affordable CLE opportunities rather than forcing members in our District to teleconference into programs or drive down to Phoenix.

This District only gets to elect one member to a 30-person board. As your representative, I will seek your input, listen to your concerns, and use sound judgment when representing your interests on the board.

Alex B. Vakula
The Vakula Law Firm PLLC



It has been my privilege to serve as the Board of Governors delegate from Yavapai County for the past three years. I am again running for the Board of Governors to represent all of Yavapai County and complete my progression as an Officer of the State Bar. Significant issues today include spending our financial resources wisely, technological innovations, access to CLE and legal resources, and mentoring for younger lawyers. I will work to con-

tinue to expand and retain technological options and legal research resources to benefit rural attorneys. Mentoring for young lawyers is also important for the future of our profession. We should encourage more mentoring programs to provide proper training and to teach the importance of professionalism and respect for legal colleagues.

District 6—Maricopa County

Chad L. Belville
Attorney at Law



As a committee chair I have seen and experienced how the Board of Governors operates and have been thoroughly disappointed. The board operates with little transparency, rarely seeks input and does not communicate well with members of the Bar. Finances are always going to be an issue, but I believe the best approaches are pragmatic, long-term plans with input from the members and committees. I want to see each section, committee and department justify its existence. I want to change the budget process so departments, committees and sections are more involved with their own destinies and publish the State Bar's budgets and expenditures in more user-friendly formats. Too many decisions come from the Board of Governors down to the members without notice or input from the members, and the dues increase issue is a prime example. I understand that dues have not been increased in 10 years, but the board first approached this issue without even attempting to educate or build support for a dues increase. In a governing body like the BOG, arriving at the right answer the wrong

way still makes it wrong. I would be a better communicator and pragmatic problem solver.

Alexander Benezra
Alexander S. Benezra PLC



The State Bar's value to its members spans the spectrum from the compulsory organization where dues seem outrageously high, to the group of dedicated professionals who passionately advocate for those whose job is advocacy on behalf of others. Regardless of your level of involvement with the State Bar, my goal as a member of the Board of Governors is to make you and all other members of the Bar believe the Bar is on your side and that the Bar is providing value for those dues.

Creating value will transform the Bar from a nondescript entity to an organization that members will know is promoting the good work that Arizona attorneys perform and give us more tools to better perform our jobs. As a member of the Criminal Justice Section and Technology Committee, I know that members seek opportunities to improve our profession in numerous ways. I will work toward this goal by encouraging sections and committees to seek attainable solutions and goals, identify areas where the Bar's subsections can collaborate, and perform all of these tasks while working to keep dues as low as possible.

Stephen Brower
Moyes, Sellers & Hendricks

My interest in serving on the Board of Governors stems from a desire to serve the members of our legal profession. Fundamentally, our State Bar must stay directly relevant and responsive to the needs of its mem-



bers. The meetings of the Board of Governors must not lose focus on the financial and professional impact of its decisions on its members.

There is a special responsibility that should be owed by the Bar to its members in spending their non-voluntary dues. There must be open accountability and continued stewardship in the use of these funds. I am opposed to an increase in membership dues in the immediate future.

The board must strive to maintain transparency in its workings. All lawyers—seniors, women, large-firm members, sole practitioners, minorities, disabled members—should have adequate opportunity to be heard before discussions are made that might affect their interests.

The members of our District 6 should elect members to the board who will help ensure that the decision-making process is transparent and focuses on careful stewardship over non-voluntary dues and elevating the interests of members above other considerations.

Ted Campagnolo
Arizona Attorney General's Office



I have been involved in Bar activities since I was licensed in Arizona.

I have much to contribute, and I can do it best by serving on the board.

The most significant issue facing the members today is the shortage of attorney jobs and the failure of the economy to rebound for many practicing lawyers. Though it was passed in February, this is not the time for a substantial dues increase. Arizona's Bar dues are already one of the highest in the country.

We have a tremendous Bar that provides great services to the legal community and to the public in general. But this is a time to look inward at providing those services in a more efficient way, and to find ways to generate more income with the assets that the Bar owns or controls. The board certainly has a duty to make decisions in the best interest of the Bar, but that includes a duty to respect the wishes of its members, and to show concern for their economic needs.

This is a time to take a step back and take a harder look at other alternatives before raising our dues for the next four years.

Richard D. Coffinger
Law Office of Richard D. Coffinger



Our mandatory SBA has served the legal community and public well since 1933, however, it should focus on its core function of lawyer discipline. I voted against the dues increase for each of the next four years, and I oppose future automatic dues increases based upon the CPI. The SBA has higher dues, more employees per member, and more highly compensated senior administrative employees than most other mandatory bar associations. Most private and public law firms have had to deal with less rather

than more revenue, and the SBA should share the pain.

The BOG is in urgent need of re-apportionment. District 6 (Maricopa County) currently has 58 percent of the SBA's total membership (13,269 of 23,038), however its nine elected members are only 36 percent of the 25 members of the BOG. The last BOG re-apportionment of the elected members occurred in 1989, when Maricopa County's elected members were increased from six to nine members.

I have volunteered to be a member of a re-apportionment committee, and I am still urging this action. If re-elected, I will continue to vote to have the SBA focus on its core function of lawyer discipline in more efficient and a less intrusive manner.

Robert F. Cople
Cople & Associates PC



With segmentation of legal markets and growth of non-Bar services, the Bar must focus on its continuing relevancy to its membership and have the flexibility to change. The Bar's future is tied to three themes: Content, Community and Sustainability.

Content: High quality content is crucial to professional growth. The Bar is a major CLE provider. However, availability of non-Bar content has diminished the Bar's role. Thus the Bar should provide cutting-edge CLE to as wide an audience as possible, including greater use of virtual resources such as web-casting. Furthermore, the Bar should partner with the Sections as the best source of that legal expertise.

Community: For many, the Bar is an important community. And that community of volunteers is the backbone of the Bar. The Bar needs to focus on the growth and diversity of that community by offering the most relevant services and by encouraging the concept of the Bar as a "place" where that community can gather and exchange views.

Sustainability: Nonprofits tend to grow to the limit of their revenues. In order to compete with non-Bar providers, the Bar should prioritize those most relevant services and forego growth for the sake of growth.

David D. Derickson
Ridenour, Hinton & Lewis
PLLC



My service in my first term on the board has provided an intense education on the state of the legal profession generally. We have known that there is significant economic pressure on the practice of law—a drawn-out recession, law school graduates having to deal with student loan debt, a more restricted starting salary range, and the costs of maintaining an ethical and successful practice generally.

The solo and small firm practitioners have had to endure the brunt of these pressures at a time when opportunities for professional advancement seem to be diminishing. Our State Bar needs to become a better advocate for our members who have struggled, and a resource for our collective progress into and through a very difficult time for our communities and our profession.

While I voted against a dues increase, one was passed. The

organization had to respond to criticism about budget methodology, a need to prioritize programs, and a lack of communication with the average member of the Bar. Many of us have insisted on a more transparent process going forward. I pledge to continue making our Bar more responsive and responsible to our members. Assistance to our members must be a priority.

Diane L. Drain
Law Office of D.L. Drain PA



The practice of law is facing some very difficult challenges. Technology, outsourcing legal assistance, too many unemployed or under-employed lawyers and multi-jurisdictional practice are all pushing the borders of the traditional practice of law. The State Bar is dealing with these issues now in order to plan for the future of our practice. This must be done with a commitment to use members' dues conservatively.

An extremely small group of members believe that the Bar should become a voluntary bar. They fail to understand that our State Bar is more than the discipline police. Lawyers facing discipline issues are often those who segregate themselves from other lawyers. They do not ask for help. They teach themselves bad habits and no one is there to show them other options. They lose sight of the ultimate goal of being a true professional.

Arizona is a leader in the national bar community: establishing rules, providing services that many members cannot afford (free legal research and mental health services to name just two), facilitate mentoring, assisting young lawyers

in developing leadership skills, and many more options. Are these necessary? Some say "no"; the majority says "yes." These tools help lawyers be excellent professionals.

Nicholas "Nick" Constantine
Dranius
Goldwater Institute



If elected, I will work to reform and restore relevancy to the Bar. The main challenge members face is the difficulty of seeing the Bar's relevance to our essential role as officers of the Court. The Bar seems to exist for its own sake, rather than for the benefit of its membership and the public. With your support, I will work to:

- Lower bar fees;
- Enhance protection of economic liberty and free speech;
- Minimize political and lobbying activities by the Bar;
- Focus ethics enforcement on consumer protection and preventing the abuse of coercion;
- Set objective performance standards for all Bar functions; and
- Establish sunset review for ethics rules, Bar functions, and the Bar itself.

I have the passion and experience to achieve these objectives. I have worked as a public interest attorney for more than eight years, tackling the toughest issues that have come my way. I've won some and lost some, but I've always left everything on the field. Although I definitely have a certain point of view, my past life as a leader of the Young Lawyers Section of the CBA shows I can find common ground and even play well with others.

To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/NickDranius4BOG

Richard G. Erickson
Snell & Wilmer LLP



I am interested in serving on the Board of Governors because I want to help improve our professional brand as lawyers. Gallup's recent poll on Honesty and Ethical Standards in Professions ranks lawyers 16th out of 22 professions. We rank significantly lower than our professional counterparts working in health care, education and finance. Serving on the Board of Governors provides an opportunity to change that. If elected, I will propose genuine opportunities for our members to volunteer legal services in a way that demonstrates how we benefit all Arizonans in need of good counsel. I will emphasize the many ways that we as legal professionals drive public policy and support numerous causes that affect our daily lives in Arizona. I will also be sensitive to the concerns of our members, including the most ideal ways to keep our dues manageable while maintaining support for the diverse needs of our legal community. By the end of my term on the Board of Governors, I want to make a difference in the way we are perceived as lawyers and professionals and in the way the State Bar serves all of its members.

Frank Fanning
Francis G. Fanning—Attorney
at Law

After 35 years in which I engaged in precious little participation in State Bar activities, I decided that I owed some service. At the encouragement of a colleague who has served on the Board of Governors, I am declaring my candidacy.

The significant issues facing



attorneys today include: the need to keep pace with rapidly changing and expanding technology affecting practice; the always-difficult balancing of law as a profession with law as a profit-making enterprise; the embrace of new ways of making practice efficient (such as ADR, electronic filing and service, e-discovery) without abandoning those traditional institutions (such as jury trials, court reporters and personal service) that continue to serve justice; and the relationship between the profession and the public.

As a member of the Board of Governors, I would seek to keep Arizona on the cutting edge of new practices and the use of technology for making legal services affordable and leveling the playing field. I would encourage active engagement with the Legislature to address issues that affect lawyers, from merit selection (which I think should be expanded to all courts statewide) to keeping our laws in step with national trends (such as civil rights laws).

Greg Gnepper
Gammage & Burnham PLC



I would not come to the Board of Governors with my own predeter-

mined agenda. Rather, if elected to serve, I would welcome input from all constituents regarding significant issues and how the board should respond. The profession is largely self-governing, so the board should solicit input from and strive to represent the interests of all members, not a select few (and, when opinions diverge, not only the majority). In serving its mission and to maintain members' confidence, I believe the Board of Governors should particularly follow three traits: *transparency* in operations, *efficiency* with membership dues, and *responsiveness* to member needs.

Aeryn A. Heidemann
Attorney at Law



I am interested in running for election to the Board of Governors because service on the board would provide me with the unique opportunity to participate in developing the direction and focus of the profession I love. I believe the significant issues facing members today include understanding the developing economics of the profession. The number of alternative career paths that are available to attorneys continues to expand as technology allows for the practice of law to be increasingly mobile, including associate attorneys who commute remotely and attorneys who offer services on a contract basis to smaller firms, thereby expanding the volume of clientele and the expertise a small firm is able to offer. I would like to see the Bar assist members in understanding and efficiently utilizing alternative types of practice while still ensuring that clients receive quality legal representation. I also feel the Bar

should continue and further its work to provide quality legal services to the most at-need populations. I believe these needs can be addressed through the legal education system and through creative partnerships with national and statewide organizations dedicated to the delivery of services to persons who would not otherwise be able to afford them.

Isaac P. Hernandez
Hernandez Law Firm PLC



In my opinion, the most significant issues facing the SBA and its members are dues increases, merit selection of judges, and upholding the Arizona Constitution's mandate to promote diversity on the bench. As a solo practitioner since 2012 with almost eight years prior working for large national firms, I appreciate the value of services available through the SBA and am particularly sensitive to the impact of dues increases on solo practitioners. If elected, I promise to apply the appropriate level of scrutiny to the administration of services to avoid further dues increases. I further intend to focus my tenure with the Board of Governors on a continued dialogue to monitor whether we are achieving diversity through targeted SBA programs and the judicial selection system, and exploring new ideas to promote diversity in every facet of the legal profession. With this focus in mind, I believe we can ensure a high-quality and diverse bench, effective and efficient courts, and ultimately strengthen the relationship between the legal profession and the communities we serve. I appreciate your support and your vote.

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Steven A. Hirsch
Bryan Cave LLP



Having served the bar and community at many different levels since starting practice in 1981, I seek the honor of continuing my service to the bar, its members and the public as a member of the board. I've worked with many different leaders and staff of the SBA for more than 30 years, and believe that my experience in bar leadership at the county, state and national levels will provide a voice of reason, effective collaboration and compromise that is especially needed at this point in our Bar's history. I believe the SBA has become less relevant to our members than it was when I started practice. At that time it served as an important vehicle for mentorship, developing a successful practice, enhancing professionalism, sharpening practice skills and fostering inclusivity and fun—all of which lead to effectively serving the public and the Arizona justice system. I appreciate that times change and some components of what the Bar stood for then won't return, but if elected I will not be outworked in striving to restore the ties that bind us as professionals through what I see is the best agent for that objective: the State Bar of Arizona.

Melissa Ho
Polsinelli PC

In addition to creating the policies which govern our members, the Board of Governors serve as ambassadors for our profession. Current members of the board reflect both diversity and dedication to public service. Currently the board is missing a connection to members new to the practice. As current econom-



ic times remain challenging, more members of our profession struggle to understand how their membership dues result in value.

Purposefully, I choose activities with diverse missions. Through those experiences I have an ability to work with personalities spanning all spectrums, and I pride myself on my ability to communicate broad concepts while remaining respectful of varied opinions.

My objective is to assist the board in conveying information regarding services such as ethics assistance, member assistance and ongoing legal education. I will serve as a conduit between members and the larger board.

Communication with all of our members and sister-bar organizations is paramount. Despite publishing minutes from board meetings, nothing will replace a live spokesperson for the Board of Governors. Through the broader dissemination of information, members of our profession as well as the public we serve will benefit.

Steven D. Keist
Steven D. Keist PC



I believe my 36 years in solo and small-firm practice give me experi-

ence that is helpful in governing the Bar. Members of the Bar are challenged by the economy and a rapidly evolving legal services market. The business of law is very challenging for most lawyers in private practice. They need help from the organized Bar and encouragement, not more regulation or higher fees. They also need to be challenged to give back to the community.

If the Bar needs to increase dues to provide essential services, then I would support it. However, I need to be convinced that a fee increase is necessary to provide those services. I would continually monitor the discipline system to make sure it is fairly applied and cost effective.

CLE options are excellent, however often costly. I would encourage pro bono service by granting discounted CLE for those with verifiable pro bono service of 25 hours or more per year.

Michael Kielsky
Kielsky Rike PLLC



The legal profession continues to experience significant pressures from many sources and for a variety of reasons. Among these reasons are: economic pressures due to the general state of the economy, an increase in law school graduates who are burdened by higher student loan debts and limited job prospects, the rise of legal outsourcing and off-shoring, online legal document preparation, and more.

The State Bar of Arizona must lead the way in the necessary efforts to align our profession with the new realities we are facing.

Pioneering, championing and shepherding rule changes to better reflect modern practices must be a part of this, and we must anticipate some of the likely trends that are already looming on the horizon.

The Bar must consider whether increasing membership fees is viable when economic recovery is yet uncertain. The Bar must continue to advocate for expanding the list of those who should be admitted by motion (which has statistically been a net benefit for Arizona bar members). The Bar must continue to promote the adoption of new technologies and a revision of rules to match, including the use of e-filing and electronic access to court records, which will increase access to justice.

Alex Hegland Lane
The Law Office of Alex Lane



I've been practicing criminal and DUI law for more than 13 years—three as a prosecutor and the rest as a defense lawyer. I'm a second-generation Arizonan and have degrees from all three Arizona universities: NAU (BA Philosophy), ASU (MBA), and UA (JD). Go Lumberjacks.

A significant issue members face is the rapid pace of technological change. Past lawyers spent entire careers using the same tools. When I started 13 years ago my phone wasn't smart and clouds were in the sky and only stored rain. Members are spending untold amounts of time, money and frustration to adapt.

My vision is that the Bar place greater emphasis on identifying and solving problems members face.

For example, I propose an

online resource center where members can post short CLE-like videos about ways to improve law practices (e.g. useful software, trial techniques, legal ethics, etc.). I'll lead off with "Converting a law office to Apple computers."

This won't add overhead. Members will voluntarily create content. If CLE credits are offered, and a small monthly fee is charged, it could become a revenue source and help prevent future increases to dues.

Jack Levine
Jack Levine PC



I am running for re-election to the Board of Governors because I favor reducing the size and cost of the State Bar by transferring Section activities to our local county bar associations and transferring all aspects of lawyer discipline, the specialization programs, CLE and membership records to the Arizona Supreme Court. This should result in a reduction of dues from \$460 per year at the present time to less than \$200 per year.

I believe the most significant issue facing us is how to restore the public's faith in our profession. I will lead an effort to have the State Bar revisit the subject of reasonable regulation of personal injury advertising because of the severe consequences this has had for the reputation of lawyers and its adverse effects on our tort system. I will also propose changes to our Merit Selection System, which will help to better identify exceptional judicial candidates and make it easier to remove non-performing judges in the judicial retention elections. Finally, I will propose security bypasses for lawyers to eliminate demeaning and time-consuming

searches at the entrances to our courthouses.

Lisa S. Loo
Arizona State University



The future of the Bar is impacted not by a single issue but by many issues. The practice of law today is dynamic and has been challenged and assisted by technological advances, globalization of business and personal relationships, economic retrenchment, and public perceptions. I have demonstrated a commitment to addressing these challenges.

During my five years on the board, I have worked hard to serve our members, to ensure an inclusive profession and to protect the public. I served on the IOLTA Task Force to resolve concerns raised by members and their financial institutions. I was chair of the Rules Committee that is charged with analyzing every petition or comment concerning a rule change that is filed by the Bar with our Supreme Court. I am the current chair of the Appointments Committee that is charged with recommending nominees to all commissions for which the Bar has a nominating role. I am the Second Vice President and am in line to become president of our Bar in 2016. I promise to continue to work hard to protect our profession, to serve our members, and to protect the public. I ask that our members return me to the board. Thank you.

Martin Mathers
Martin H. Mathers PC

Lawyers are under attack on many fronts. Our profession needs to move away from "business as usual" to thoughtfully address systemic issues that pose clear and present threats to



who we are, what we do, and how we are paid.

As lawyers, we need to help law schools develop a curriculum that balances traditional teaching methods with more practical clinical experience, all with an emphasis on providing "value" to law students.

Value will also be increasingly demanded by clients. We have to help establish a framework that allows clients access to our services, in ways that make financial sense—for the clients and the lawyers.

Finally, our perception among the public also continues to suffer and must continue to be addressed in bigger, brighter, and more impactful ways.

I do not claim to have all the answers. But I do have the practical experience, good sense and a strong desire to have our voices heard at the State Bar so we can identify important issues and find reasonable solutions that not only serve our members and our clients—but also serve the greater public good.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Clarence Matherson, Jr.
Tempe City Attorney's Office



The State Bar faces a number of challenges related to the current

economic situation in Arizona and the nation. One of those challenges is how best the State Bar can provide quality services to its members and general public on its current budget. It is important that the State Bar remain accountable to its membership for the dues it receives and justify any necessary increase. In addition, it is equally important that the State Bar maintain a high-quality lawyer regulation system. An effective lawyer regulation system benefits the entire membership because it provides the general public with the sense that the lawyers in Arizona can be trusted to handle the important matters we deal with on a daily basis. Finally, it is important that the State Bar continue to offer high-quality CLEs to its members and support to its committees and sections. The State Bar must continue to offer CLEs that members find helpful and relevant and it must support those members who give their time to serve on committees and sections. While no one member of the board can handle these issues alone, I hope to add my voice to tackling the tough issues the State Bar faces.

Robert J. McWhirter
Certified Specialist in Criminal Law



Service to the profession is very important to me. Over the past 25 years, I have served on numerous boards and committees connected with the Bar and other organizations, including the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Committee and Standards Committee. I believe in the legal profession and the State Bar's role in supporting it.

A significant issue is maintain-

ing a sense of professionalism in an ever more fractured world. A key part of this is to maintain a positive image with non-lawyers and clients, while at the same time not compromising our professional standards and legal obligations. This implies issues related to attorney discipline and ethics, as well as services the State Bar can provide to attorneys. Another challenge we face is how technology is changing the profession, and how the State Bar will support lawyers in this change.

If elected, I will continue to support the State Bar and its services to lawyers and the community. I will work hard to communicate with the membership about Bar services and find innovative ways to make lawyers' lives easier. This includes supporting Bar outreach to lawyers, the judiciary, government, and the public in the form of seminars, publications and presentations to non-lawyers.

Ronald W. Meyer
Attorney at Law



The primary mission of the State Bar of Arizona is to serve attorneys. This is their association. This mission is accomplished by providing education opportunities and a staff to assist attorneys in the practice of law through policies and procedures that promote and enhance the competency and integrity of attorneys.

The second goal is to serve the public by providing an association that fosters competent professional attorneys, which includes procedures, fair to both attorneys and the public, wherein conflicts and issues with attorneys can be resolved.

I am interested in running for election to the Board of Governors

because I believe the State Bar of Arizona has lost sight of these goals. The State Bar of Arizona has become involved in taking public positions and passing resolutions regarding social issues, many of which are controversial, such as abortion, gay rights, immigration, etc.

When I was admitted, there were only 2,298 other attorneys in the State of Arizona. I have been involved in the State Bar of Arizona for more than 45 years, which gives me a perspective I believe will enable me to address these issues.

Bert E. Moll
The Law Firm of
Bert E. Moll PC



Most of us were touched in some way by the economic upheaval of 2008, and we recognize the practice of law is changing. I approach the task of serving on the Board of Governors with a commitment to make our organization a continued leader in the use of innovative technologies and to ensure a vibrant membership dedicated to serving the public with integrity and professionalism. It is time for me to give back to my community and fellow members.

In order to maintain a strong membership, we must be far thinking into the future. What are the challenges we face, and how can we meet them? What can we do to ensure the continued integrity and professionalism of our membership in the face of the challenges? How can we help the new attorneys who will take up the torch when the old guard (like me) have passed on?

My three areas of emphasis are (1) ensure a continued voice from members of the Bar who operate

firms of 15 attorneys or less; (2) ensure the Bar makes continued use of advances in innovative technology to keep costs down; and (3) ensure the Bar makes wise use of its financial resources.

Elizabeth Burton Ortiz
Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys'
Advisory Council



I am proud that my legal career has been devoted to public service. At this time when the State Bar is faced with ever-competing demands on its scarce resources, public lawyers' voices must be at the table. I am running for the Board of Governors so that I may help represent public lawyers' interests, and also because I believe my professional and volunteer experience will enable me to positively contribute to the policy and resource decisions facing the State Bar. During my 20+ year legal career I have had the opportunity to work in several divisions of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, both as a line prosecutor and a supervisor. As the Executive Director of the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council, I coordinate prosecutor training, oversee legislative issues, and am responsible for the organization's budget. My school board and State Bar committee volunteer work have further honed my administrative and policy-development skills. In sum, I would like to use the experience I have gained to assist and support our legal community by serving on the State Bar Board of Governors.

Christopher L. Raddatz
Fennemore Craig PC

As a member, I would focus on specific goals. First, because mem-



bership in the State Bar is mandatory for all attorneys, unlike other professional organizations, the Board of Governors must pay close attention to the Bar's budget and dues requirements. As a member of the board, I would be a steward of the members' fees and Bar finances. This would include carefully considering how funds are spent while preserving the services most valuable to the members. Second, the Board of Governors in 2010 adopted "Trust and Partnership: A Five-Year Vision for the State Bar of Arizona," which focused on the goals of attorney competency, ethics, professionalism and the administration of justice. As we approach the end of this period, I would focus on what we have accomplished in reaching those goals and what steps the Bar can take as it plans the next five years. As a third goal, I would focus on ensuring the Bar remains relevant to each attorney, especially as the membership of the bar has grown in recent years. Each attorney should be able to find something (or, hopefully, many things) about the Bar that is helpful or desirable to his or her practice.

Jennifer R. Rebholz
Farley, Seletos & Choate

If I am elected to serve on the Board of Governors, I would work to make members feel like the Bar is working for them. At a time where our bar dues are close to the highest in the nation, I will work to ensure that we are getting value for what we pay. I will work to increase programs that provide value to members, including free networking, mentoring and referrals programs. I will also work to control Bar expenses so that we can avoid the increases like the



one just passed, because even small increases are hard for newer lawyers and solo or small firms. I will advocate keeping costs low so we can avoid future dues increases.

As a member of other bar organizations, including the Maricopa County Bar and Arizona Association of Defense Counsel, I understand the importance of cooperation and outreach, not only with the State Bar Sections but with sister bars. I will work to increase communication and cooperation between sister bars including local county bars to help advertise events and CLEs that may be of interest to members. This will benefit all members by giving greater variety of topics and locations for CLE programs.

David L. Rose
Sacks Tierney PA



This board should be a service-oriented organization benefiting its members and protecting our practice. I was a sole practitioner, managed a small firm and a partner in a mid-size firm. Each shared the same problems, because the practice is a one-on-one profession: one lawyer—one client. Often lonely, a bar organized to serve is crucial. Service means listening and hearing other members.

Our bar should never be punitive (how members often believe) or a “good ol’ boys” club (how the public often believes). Members should lead by example, demonstrating that lawyers are honest and hardworking, balancing our needs, clients’ needs and the public’s needs with an unwavering respect for justice. Our bar should encourage, mentor, teach and only occasionally discipline.

Practicing family law for 23 years, I understand members’ difficulties. A volunteer with the CLE committee, I helped manage programs that are the envy of many other bars. As a family-law judge *pro-tempore*, I listened to and helped hundreds of litigants resolve problems, allowing each to maintain their dignity in a difficult process. My experience in running a business and balancing a budget will allow me to continue to serve the members of this profession.

I would appreciate your vote.

Marvin C. Ruth
Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP



Our State Bar has a proud tradition in Arizona of advancing justice and ensuring quality legal services within our State. I am not running on a single issue, or to serve any particular constituency other than those who care deeply about our profession in the State, how it is perceived, and how we can help those in need, whether in terms of education or access to legal services. To that end I bring a diverse perspective as a younger attorney, in a niche practice area (bankruptcy and creditors’ rights), and with a background of involvement with professionalism issues. It would be a personal honor to serve on the Board of Governors,

and I promise to bring an open mind and a willingness to listen to ideas that will shape our practice for years to come.

Sam Saks
Cantelme & Brown PLC



If re-elected, I will continue working to increase the Bar’s value to all members. Among other things, I will work to:

- Keep dues low
- Simplify reporting requirements
- Increase free networking and referral opportunities
- Support the independence of the Sections
- Control the Bar’s expenses

With good leadership the Bar can improve every member’s practice—without instituting additional regulations. I will work to reform the rules governing our practice to make them more efficient and sensible while keeping the public protected. For example, I will advocate for revamping CLE reporting to make it easier to earn and track credits. I will also push for free electronic access to selected Bar publications. The Bar should enhance our professional development. If re-elected, I will ensure the Bar provides additional networking and referral opportunities.

This election is critical because the recent dues increase required a tie-breaking vote by the outgoing president. I will continue to advocate for controlling expenses rather than pursuing additional dues.

I have the passion and experience to achieve these objectives. I have served the Bar for over eight years, most recently on the Board of Governors and as the

Technology Committee chair. Learn more and view my voting record at www.SamForBOG.com.

Geoffrey M. Trachtenberg
Levenbaum Trachtenberg PLC



I am seeking a second term as your representative on the Board of Governors, and I respectfully ask for your vote.

I’ve shown by actions (more than words) that I am committed to improving the practice of law in Arizona. Since my first month as an Arizona lawyer I’ve sought and obtained changes to our rules of practice with the Arizona Supreme Court. Recently, I’ve authored and developed consensus on several important initiatives, including changes to Ethical Rule 1.15 and Rules of Civil Procedure 4.1 and 67.

Serving on the Board of Governors has been integral to achieving these results.

One of the current issues facing our members is the proposed increase to our bar dues. I believe that the SBA’s expenses need to be cut and I have opposed increasing dues, but finding a balance between managing the expenses of the bar and the cost of bar dues will require experience and good judgment. That is what I bring to the table.

Our membership needs to elect representatives who know how to build consensus and achieve real results. That’s what I’ve been doing and that’s what I hope to continue doing representing Maricopa County on the Board of Governors.

—Candidates continue on pg. 82

Debbie Weecks

Law Office of Debbie Weecks

Mine is not an interest in competing for elections. Rather, my application is my offer to participate in the process of our governance. I am grateful for many of the services available to us as attorneys in Arizona, but also recognize the competing forces. I heard extensive analysis by many colleagues between and at the December and January



BOG meetings during the hotly contested topics of merging committees, eliminating Sections, increasing dues (now passed, but with a modified proposal), and being more transparent timely. There are serious issues facing us as a mandatory Bar, including as to practice issues, legislation, budgetary matters, and the ongoing debate about the breadth of Bar functions.

I offer, again, to step up to the plate to tackle these and other Bar challenges. My application is not a signal of being somehow more deserving of your vote than is any other candidate, because certainly, all candidates bring meaning and unique attributes to the process. My application is, rather, merely an offer to participate if elected. I thank you for your consideration in casting your important vote.