

January 17, 2018

Via Email ralimohammad@wongflemming.com

Mr. Rehan Alimohammad
Chair, State Bar of Texas Board of Directors
77 Sugar Creek Center Blvd., Suite 401
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Re: Nomination for Chair of the Board of Directors for the State Bar of Texas

Dear Chair Alimohammad:

Please accept this letter as my notice of intent to seek the position of Chair of the Board of Directors for the State Bar of Texas for the year 2018-2019. Pursuant to Section 1.11.02 of the State Bar Board Policy Manual, I am submitting this statement of position setting out my views and strategies related to the issues that I believe will be of greatest significance to the Board and State Bar.

I grew up in a small town in Southeast Texas. After undergraduate and law school, I returned to the same small town and have been practicing law here for the past 27 years. Not only have I always lived in a small town, but up until this year, I have always worked for small firms. Small town/small firm life shaped my view of the practice of law and the State Bar of Texas. Five or six years into my practice, a candidate for State Bar President came to Beaumont and wanted to meet with some young lawyers. I recall telling him that I would certainly support him (he was a friend of a friend), but it really did not matter much to me who became President as I had no idea what the State Bar did or what its purpose was. I worked for a very small firm at that time where the lawyers were not involved in the bar association on a local level, much less on a state-wide level. Participation in anything outside the practice of law was not overly encouraged. Outside of providing CLE, I was not aware of other benefits to being a member of the State Bar. My ambivalence was due to a pure lack of information. I believe there are a vast number of lawyers in Texas with the same experience.

My views have changed drastically over the past 17 years. In 2001 I became active in the Jefferson County Bar Association, eventually serving as President. In 2004 I became active with the State Bar, via the Litigation Council, eventually serving as Chair. I also became a Director on the Board of TADC, where I still serve. Once I became active in both the local and State Bar, I gained an entirely new perspective. The more involved I became, the more I learned what the State Bar was about, the great work it does and the number of programs, benefits and resources offered to not only its members but to our communities. However, it was not until I became a

Director and did my first presentation on the State Bar services that I realized just how much we do and just how much we offer.

I relate the above because while the State Bar is an organization like no other, I will always believe we can do better and we can do more. My primary objective is to reach out to those lawyers practicing in small towns/rural areas and in solo/small firms. Now that I have joined a larger firm (at least larger by Beaumont standards), I now see partners encouraging the younger lawyers to get involved. That is something I never saw with any of my prior firms and I believe it is vital. We must reach out to and engage those in small towns/rural areas and solo/small firms to educate them on all that is available and encourage their involvement. The lawyers in small towns/rural areas and solo/small firms have a unique perspective on the practice of law and they encounter problems different from those of big cities and big firms, and we, as an organization, must listen to those perspectives and be responsive to the problems.

Part of the difficulty we encounter in reaching Texas lawyers is that many live in much smaller towns than mine, in areas that are remote and that have no local bar association. There are just not enough people to support it. That is the struggle we face, to reach those lawyers. We have heard much lately about the “disenfranchised members” and those who feel the State Bar does not do anything to benefit them. I believe this sentiment comes from a lack of knowledge about the State Bar and benefits, programs, resources and opportunities available. It will become a larger problem going forward as we see more and more young lawyers hanging out a shingle and going it on their own. We must do a better job of reaching out to and educating our members about the benefits, programs, resources and opportunities available. Doing so would help change the perception of the State Bar, but more importantly, would serve the greater goal of providing much needed assistance to lawyers in Texas.

We must raise awareness of all the State Bar has to offer. Social media, in this day and age, is certainly helpful, but its usefulness can be limited. We must strive to find new ways to reach the lawyers whom I believe need our help the most. The ability to reach our members is key and we need to focus on more effective ways to communicate with those members in small towns/rural areas and solo/small firms. Personal contact is of vital importance in accomplishing this goal. While I recognize that is not an easy task, it is one we must figure out. The State Bar has to be more approachable and make more of an effort to reach those that in the past have been unreachable, whether through meetings, seminars, small lunches, a traveling “road show” through the more remote areas, etc. As one of my mentors told me in my early years of trying cases, “You never know if something is going to work until you try it. You just have to be bold enough to do it. If it works, great. If not, chalk it up to a lesson learned, move forward and next time, try something else.”

It would be a privilege and an honor to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors. In doing so, I recognize the critical importance of serving not only the Board members and State Bar, but the entire membership. We must have an open forum for voicing our views, opinions, concerns, differences and ideas. My commitment will be to seeing that every voice is heard, as we must begin thinking outside the box to meet the many challenges facing our profession and to accomplish the goals of education and inclusion.

I respectfully submit this letter in support of my nomination for Chair of the Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Board.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Amuny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Amuny".

Christy Amuny

CA

cc: Mr. G. Thomas Vick, Jr., President – *Via Email* tvick@vickcarneylaw.com
Mr. Joe K. Longley, President-Elect – *Via Email* joe@joelongley.com

January 5, 2018

Mr. Rehan Alimohammad
Wong Fleming
77 Sugar Creek Center Blvd
Suite 401
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Via Email: ralimohammad@wongfleming.com

Re: Nomination for Chair of the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas

Dear Chair Alimohammad:

I am seeking the nomination for the position of Chair of the State Bar of Texas for 2018-19. Pursuant to Board Policy Manual Section 1.11.03, I respectfully submit my statement of beliefs and strategies which I consider to be of the greatest significance to the Board and to our Bar in the context of our Strategic Plan for 2018-2019.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Board for two terms. During that time, I have benefited from the excellent leadership of Presidents with great vision and Chairs who demonstrated exceptional diplomacy. If I am elected Chair, I will encourage open discussion from which we can engage in a thoughtful exchange of views and work to build consensus among our members. I will treat all opinions with respect and give everyone an opportunity to be heard while making sure that our meetings are run efficiently such that we maximize what we can accomplish during the time we are together.

I am a great believer that board members can make their most meaningful contribution if they are able to work on issues that are both important to them and that allow them to use their unique talents in a way that benefits our Bar and the public. As a result, I will ask our board members to give consideration to the areas in which they would like to serve and lead and make appointments accordingly.

At a time where discord in our society and in our profession is at an all-time high, I will work with Executive Director Trey Appfel and President-Elect Joe K. Longley to continue to improve our communications with our members. In last year's election, we saw that a considerable number of our members do not believe that our Bar is open to all or transparent in its operations. We need to continue to communicate the fact that the Bar is not a group of insiders or a private club, but instead it is available to anyone who wants to serve. We also need to be transparent in everything we do.

As board members, it is important that we remember that we are ambassadors in our mission to serve the public and our members. The importance of educating the public about the rule of law has never been greater. President Vick has spoken about the diminution in participation by lawyers in holding elected office. Our country was built on, and gained strength from, the many lawyers who have held

public office. I believe that it is important that we continue to encourage our members to be active in serving in all branches of government.

The challenges facing our members are significant. With over 100,000 members, the competition among lawyers is great and the number of clients who can afford our services is small. As the second largest bar in the country, with fewer members than only California, we need to continue to be leaders in innovation. As we all know the Bar, under the leadership of then President Frank Stevenson, launched the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator, which Frank fondly named "TOJI," less than a year ago. It is well on its path of achieving its mission to expand access to justice for low-and moderate-income Texans, while at the same time helping our newest members establish sustainable practices that serve this ever demanding population of clients. When our third cohort begins in April, TOJI will be among the largest legal incubators in the world. It truly is bridging the gap between the legal profession and our underserved citizens.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am an extremely hard worker. During my first term as a board member, I was asked to work with Bar staff on a career transition project. I worked with Amy Turner to plan and host a leading-edge program called "Alternative Careers for Lawyers: What are my options and how do I get there?" It was a full day seminar offered in Houston and Austin that sold out immediately. The Bar also provided individual coaching assistance to attendees in the form of three one-on-one consultations after the seminar. The best way for our members to value our Bar is to serve them. I am committed to the continued development of innovative programs like these.

When I served as Co-Chair of the Texas Minority Counsel Program ("TMCP"), I led a change in the way program sponsors were solicited such that our members no longer made cold calls, but instead used their own network to solicit sponsors without fear of opening their personal relationships to other committee members. As a result, in 2009 the TMCP secured its first Presidential (\$10,000) sponsor. The money raised from sponsorships of recent TMCP programs has continued to increase.

In 2011, as President of the Association of Women Attorneys ("AWA"), I created the AWA Premier Women in Law Luncheon, which was designed to honor deserving lawyers, while at the same time raising money for scholarships for Houston based female law students. To date, the luncheon has resulted in the award of approximately \$180,000 in scholarships and recognized the achievements of numerous, primarily women, lawyers. The 2018 luncheon will honor lawyers with a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Among the Honorees will be Phyllis Randolph Frye, a noted advocate for LGBT issues and the nation's first openly transgender judge.

I have attached a summary of my background and leadership experience for your consideration.

I have the time, energy, and dedication to serve as Chair and would be honored and humbled to be elected by my peers to do so.

Very truly yours,



Laura Gibson
Partner

cc: President Thomas Vick
Vick Carney LLP
111 York Avenue
Weatherford, TX 76086

tvick@vickcarneylaw.com

President-Elect Joe K. Longley
Attorney at Law
3305 Northland Drive, Suite 500
Austin, TX 78731

joe@joelongley.com

Executive Director Irvin A. (Trey) Apffel, III
State Bar of Texas
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, TX 78711-2487

tapffel@texasbar.com

106120603\V-1

LAURA GIBSON
DENTONS US LLP
1221 MCKINNEY STREET, SUITE 1900
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77010
(713) 658-4635
LAURA.GIBSON@DENTONS.COM



BAR SERVICE

State Bar of Texas

1. **DIRECTOR DISTRICT 4, PLACE 5 (2012-15)**
 - Texas Bar Journal, Board of Editors (2012-15)
 - Employment/Salary/Evaluation Committee (2012-13)
 - Women In The Profession Committee, Board Liaison (2012-13)
 - Executive Committee (2013-15)
 - Labor and Employment Section, Board Liaison (2013-15)
 - Advertising Review Committee, Alternate Advisor (2013-14)
 - Administration Committee, Chair (2014-15)
 - Texas Bar Foundation, Board Liaison (2014-15)
 - Business Law Section, Liaison (2014-15)
 - College of State Bar, Alternate Board Liaison (2014-15)
 - Military Section, Alternate Liaison (2014-15)
 - PJC-Business, Consumer & Employment, Board Liaison (2014-15)
2. **DIRECTOR DISTRICT 4, PLACE 1 (2016-19)**
 - Client Security Fund (2016-17)
 - Texas Board of Legal Specialization Appeals/Grants Committee (2016-17)
 - Texas Lawyers Assistance Program, Board Liaison (2016-17)
 - Labor and Employment Section, Board Liaison (2017-18)
 - Nominations & Elections Committee (2017-18)
 - Executive Committee (2017-18)
 - Annual Meeting (2017-18)
3. **OTHER BAR ACTIVITIES**
 - State Bar of Texas Advanced Trial Strategies, Presenter (2017)
 - Texas Minority Counsel Program – Steering Committee (2007-12, Co-Chair (2009 and 2010); Chair of Counsel Award Recognition Subcommittee (2011)
 - Texas Bar Foundation District 4, Nominating Committee (2005-15)
 - Advertising Review Committee (2004 – 2010) (Vice Chair 2006-07, Chair 2007-10)
 - Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
 - Texas and Houston Bar Foundations Sustaining Life Fellow

Local Bar Associations

1. **HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION** – Member 1985 – Present
 - President (2015-16)
 - Treasurer and Co-Chair of Harvest Celebration (2013-14) (responsible for raising \$616,000)
 - Secretary (2012-13); First Vice President (2011-12); Second Vice President (2010-11)
 - Board of Directors, Position One (2006-08) Position Four (2008-10)
 - Labor and Employment Section (Chair 2006-07)
 - Litigation Section (Council Member 2006-09)
 - Administration of Justice Committee Co-Chair (2014-15)
 - Lawyers Against Waste (Chair 2012-13; President's Award 2013)
 - Gender Fairness Committee (Co-Chair 2011-12)
 - Law Day Committee (Co-Chair 2010-11; President's Award 2011)
 - Juvenile Consequences Program (Co-Chair 2009-10)
 - Judicial Polls Committee (Co-Chair 2006-07)
 - B.C. Elmore Adopt a School Committee (2007-09)
 - Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Committee Member (2006-08)
 - CLE Committee Member (2006-07; 2009-10); Institutes (Co-Chair 2007-08)
 - HBA Advising Small Business Institute, Co-Chair and Speaker (Sept. 2006)
2. **HOUSTON LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE**
 - Board of Directors (2007-10; 12 -13)
 - President (2008-09)
3. **ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ATTORNEYS** (2003 – Present)
 - Board Member (2009-13)
 - President Elect (2010-11)
 - President (2011-12)
 - Judicial Screening Committee (2010-12)
 - Premier Women in Law Luncheon Planning Committee and Scholarship Co-Chair (2011) (2016)
4. **FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION**-Southern District of Texas Chapter, Board of Directors (2013 and 2014)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Trial Instructor for National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA)

- Assistant Team Leader -- National Session July 1986; Faculty Member 2008
- Louisiana Bar Association NITA Program May 1987
- NITA Southern Regional -- Assistant Team Leader 1987 – 1988; Faculty 2005; 2007; 2008; 2011
- NITA Gulf Coast Regional -- Faculty Member - January 1988, 1991
- Deposition NITA-University of Houston Law Center -- Faculty Member 2003 – 09
- Deposition NITA-SMU -- Faculty Member 2006
- LSU School of Law Trial Advocacy Training Program, Section Leader 2013

Adjunct Professor - University of Houston Law Center--Legal Communications (1986 – 1987); Trial Advocacy (2008-10)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Women's Business Enterprise Alliance (2005 – 2015)

Greater Houston Partnership – Executive Women's Partnership Committee (Leadership Council 2008-11; 2014-15; Vice Chair 2010; Chair 2011; Immediate Past Chair 2012; Council of Chairs, Chair 2014)

Leadership Houston - Class XVIII; General Counsel (2009-12)

Southwest YMCA. -- Member of Board of Directors (1993 - 1996)

Multiple Sclerosis Foundation -- MS150 Rider (1996, 1998, 1999, 2004 – 2008)

Chapelwood United Methodist Church, Member and Board of Stewards

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Texas Minority Counsel Program - Recipient of Trailblazer Outside Counsel Award (2013) (award given annually to a lawyer who has done the most to promote diversity within the legal profession)

Houston Bar Association President's Award Recipient For Outstanding Service as Co-Chair of Law Week Committee (2010-11)

Houston Bar Association President's Award Recipient For Outstanding Service as Chair of Lawyers Against Waste Committee (2012-13)

Woman On The Move, Texas Executive Women (2012) (recognizes ten women on the move annually)

Best Lawyers In America, Employment Law (2009-15; 2017) (© 2008 by Woodward/White, Inc. of Aiken, SC)

Texas Monthly Super Lawyer (2004, 2007-17), by *Law & Politics Magazine*

Board Certified TBLS - Labor and Employment Law (2001 - Present)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Partner, Dentons US LLP (2016-Present)

Ogden, Gibson, Broocks, Longoria & Hall, Founding Partner (1993-2016)

Locke Lord, Associate and Partner (1985-93)

EDUCATION

B.S., Texas A & M University (1982)

J.D., University of Houston Law Center (1984)

CHAMBERLAIN ♦ MCHANEY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Listed in the Martindale-Hubbell® Bar Registry of Preeminent Lawyers

301 Congress Avenue, 21st Floor
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-9124
Fax (512) 474-8582

RUDOLPH K. METAYER

rmetayer@chmc-law.com

San Antonio Office:

310 South St. Mary's, Suite 1815
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 227-3331
(210) 227-3334 (Fax)

December 31, 2017

The Honorable Rehan Alimohammad
77 Sugar Creek Center Blvd.
Suite 401
Sugar Land, TX 77478
PHONE: 281-340-2074
ralimohammad@wongfleming.com

RE: Consideration for Chair of the Board for the State Bar of Texas

Dear Chair Alimohammad:

After much prayer, deliberation, and conversation with my family, I would like to be considered as a nominee for the position of Chair of the Board for the State Bar of Texas.

To be frank, this was not an easy decision to arrive at right now in my life. I have been blessed to be in a position where I am not only able to provide for my family, but also serve the general public as well. This has allowed me to fulfill a desire that my parents have bred in me since birth: Give back to a Country that has given my family and the American people so much. As immigrants from Haiti, my parents know all too well the blessings that come in living a democracy such as the United States of America. They also understand, and taught us, the necessity to be ever vigilant and fight to make sure that we are able to protect these freedoms and continue opportunities for those that follow us. This mindset led me to becoming a lawyer and is the foundation for all the work that I do today. The Law has given me a life that I could never have truly imagined. Therefore, I feel a necessity to serve the Legal Profession to best of my abilities and in whatever capacities afforded to me.

As applied to the position of Chair of the Board of this distinguished organization, I have been blessed to be mentored by numerous past Chairs and Presidents of the State Bar. Each of them have not only taught me how to excel as a litigator in the courtroom, but also the need for work in service to the public, and our fellow attorneys, outside of the courtroom. Too often there is a perception, justified or not, that we are a callous vocation with little care for those we serve or our fellow brethren. However, when this caricature is presented, I continually offer examples of what we do as a Bar (especially this Board of Directors) in a variety of vehicles and people are shocked by not only the amount of work we do, but the capacities we hold in service to the citizens of this State. My goal is to not only expand this understanding by having "Pop-up visits" with the general public through Local Bar

Associations across the State (especially with those in underrepresented communities), but also working to engage more fervently with our fellow lawyers across State, especially those in the more rural areas that often times feel left out in the conversations and dynamics of the Bar. As someone who grew up in a small Texas town, I know all too well how it feels when it appears that rural people are left out from “big city folk” conversations. The dynamics in rural areas of Texas are often times very different from that of urban areas. However, one link that I see we share no matter the place we live is an idea of service to our clients and in support of the Path of the Law. No matter our regional location, each of us understands the unique place in society that we operate in as being both officers of the Court and defenders of an often skeptical public. It is my desire to better leverage existing in person and electronic means to reach these individuals and make their concerns and desires better heard. It is simply amazing how dynamics change when a person believes he or she is being heard. It’s even more outstanding what happens when more ideas and concepts are brought to the table.

I believe that I possess a broad and unique perspective from the various opportunities and positions that I have been afforded in my life that will help me serve each of you well. Which I believe is a vital, and frankly understated part of the position: I work for each of you. Yes, my primary job will be to run our meetings in as efficient a fashion as possible. Also though, it is to help advocate each of your ideas and goals which will shape the future of this Bar and its member attorneys. My job is to be responsive and supportive of your endeavors. In doing so, it will be key to have someone who not only has a great rapport with the State Bar staff, but also available to meet with them on a regular basis. Knowing the staff quite well from my days as President of the Austin Black Lawyers Association, an alum of LeadershipSBOT, and as a director on the Board of Directors of TYLA is an asset for each of you. As is working down the street from the State Bar offices. Any issues or concerns that you believe need to be addressed, I can do for you.

It has been a privilege to serve with each of you on this amazing Governing Body. Seeing the work and dedication that you have to Our Profession has been humbling to say the least and a testament to the Law that we love so dearly. It makes me proud to be lawyer and more importantly, proud to be a member of the State Bar of Texas.

With best personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

/s/ Rudolph K. Metayer
Rudolph K. Metayer

RKM