

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Kelli Jo Amador

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PERSONAL STATEMENT:

When the bar was on Front Street, and I was a young attorney with a shiny new bar number, my mentor told me to join the bar and volunteer my time. “The bar gives us so much,” she said, “it’s our duty to give back to it.” Dutifully I’d march to the old building, sneak past the security guard into the elevator, and attend lunchtime meetings and sidebars celebrations. The words, perhaps forgotten by her, have echoed in my head at every bar event I attend. But it seems to me that no matter how much I give to the bar, in my time, attention, and shameless plugs on LinkedIn, the bar is always giving back more to me. I am a product of the bar’s abilities to improve a lawyer’s skills and career. Because I have been given so much by the Columbus Bar Association, I am honored to be nominated to run for the President-Elect, and be given an opportunity to *continue* giving back to the bar.

The Columbus Bar Association has been a constant resource in my modest career. As a freshly barred attorney in 2016, I started volunteering for the Minorities in the Law Committee at the urging of my mentor. Serving as a co-chair to the Minorities in the Law Committee came at a time when the committee itself was in flux. Maintaining the 35-year-old Minority Clerkship Program in my first term as co-chair took a lot of hard work, grace, time, and most importantly help from other members and people at the bar. That appointment led to other opportunities to be involved in the bar. I graduated from Barristers Leadership Program with my assigned “small group” of peers that continue to

meet up for lunch when time allows. I serve on the Admissions Committee, and I attend Young Lawyers events, and CLEs. I served on the Board of Governors, and am wrapping up my term as Secretary Treasurer. It seems the more I give to the bar, the more the bar gives to me in the form of education, opportunities, and friends.

Last year I ran for secretary treasurer with the full support of my firm and bar. I have had a wonderful year preparing for the next step in bar leadership: running to serve as President-Elect. If granted the opportunity to serve as President-Elect, I would use it to promote and improve my understanding of two portions of the CBA dear to me: member involvement, and diversity initiatives.

Bar associations around the country have felt the lasting impact of the pandemic—memberships waning, in-person events cancelled, and increased use of videoconferencing for meetings. Though change is hard, it is not always bad. The executive board knows that bar membership and member participation looks different than it did in 2020—and we are excited to help adapt to meet what bar members want and need at the CBA.

In addition to improving the bar for members, I want to work to improve membership rates and participation of diverse attorneys. The CBA cares about diversity, a fact demonstrated by it holding one of the oldest diversity clerkship programs in the country—a model so successful other bar associations mirror it in their own cities. Representation matters. Nothing would please me more than seeing more member participation from underrepresented attorneys around the city, to continue improving the face of diversity in the legal profession beyond the law school experience.

It seems forever ago that I was told to give back to the bar—but the words continue to ring through in my life. A reciprocal force, the bar has been there for me in every stage of my career and helped foster my growth as an attorney and professional in the community. If you give to the bar, it will give back to you. For these reasons, I hope you will vote for me to serve as President Elect of the Columbus Bar Association.

EDUCATION:

University of Utah (H.B.A, 2013)

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (J.D., 2016)

LAW RELATED BACKGROUND:

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, Columbus, Ohio

Associate Attorney

October 2020 – Present

Dickie, McCamey, & Chilcote, P.C., Columbus, Ohio

Associate Attorney

August 2016- October 2020

Summer Associate

June 2015- August 2016

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

I focus my practice in commercial litigation, insurance defense, and transportation. I also handle insurance coverage matters both pre-suit and in litigation, including

coverage opinions, examinations under oath, and defending insurers in cases involving bad faith claims.

BAR ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:

Columbus Bar Association:

Secretary Treasurer May 2023- Present
Board of Governors Member May 2022-May 2023

Admissions Committee Member July 2021-Present

Co-Chair: Minorities in the Law Committee July 2018-July 2020

Barrister Leadership Program January 2018-May 2018

OTHER BAR ASSOCIATION AND LAW RELATED ORGANIZATIONS:

Supreme Court of Ohio

Civil Justice Program Review Committee Spring 2022

Women Lawyers of Franklin County

Events Chair August 2020-Present

Hispanic National Bar Association

Young Lawyers Division Representative, Region X September 2020-September 2021

Ohio State Bar Association

Advisory Council on Diversity Initiatives July 2022-Present
July 2019- July 2021

Leadership Academy January 2019-June 2019

HONORS, AWARDS, AND PUBLICATIONS:

“The Minority Clerkship Program Versus Other Diversity Initiatives” Columbus Business First Legal Connections, June 14, 2019, Co-authored with Aracely Tagliaventi

“Supreme Court of Ohio: No Insurance Coverage Provided for Lost Revenue Caused by COVID-19 Shutdowns”, Columbus Business First Legal Connections (Reprint), January 20, 2023, Co-authored with Peter Georgiton