

# **VOTE FOR TAMMY FOX-ISICOFF FOR AILA SECRETARY**

**ONLY 15% OF AILA MEMBERSHIP VOTES—LET'S CHANGE THAT! VOTE FOR TAMMY FOR AILA SECRETARY. CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF AILA LEADERSHIP.**

## **1) WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE IN THIS YEAR'S AILA ELECTION?**

Because Tammy Fox-Isicoff is running for the position of AILA Secretary.

## **2) WHY SHOULD YOU CARE IF TAMMY IS ELECTED?**

Because you practice immigration law and what AILA does or does not do directly impacts your practice.

## **3) WHAT IS TAMMY GOING TO DO IF ELECTED?**

- Tammy knows that to be most effective AILA must be an association of more than a handful of active members. AILA must take advantage of the wonderful associations and alliances that our almost 8,800 members have developed with media, Congress, civic, religious, bar and community organizations. Too many of our members feel disenfranchised. AILA needs to activate and include these members. When we meet with agencies, we need have our coalition partners at our side. When we meet with Congressional members, we need our coalition partners at our side. We need to integrate the resources that are available to our members. How many times have you been so frustrated when you have received a decision that is so wrong—yet, you don't know what to do about it? While we may be helpless alone, we are not helpless as a group. **TAMMY UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS.** She knows that there are too many untapped resources out there and intends to tap these resources.
- Tammy understands the value of cross-agency liaison. Does EOIR know that the AAO has recently held that prevailing in proceedings does not toll unlawful presence? Thus, even if your client prevails in proceedings, he may still be barred from entering the U.S. for 10 years. Does AAO know that CIS memos have stated that the failure to pay the prevailing wage is not an immigration violation, but instead a DOL violation? Did CIS know that DOL was coming out with PERM regulations that would deem certain labor certifications withdrawn, putting into question whether or not an alien is entitled to a 7<sup>th</sup> year extension? Did DOS know that DOL was now regulating when a priority date could be preserved? Do state driver's license officials understand immigration documents? Does DHS know that ICE will not write up an illegal alien even if you deliver the illegal alien to their door (they consider this a benefit)? Our agencies are regulating in ways that directly impact on us without talking to each other. This has been made worse by the dismantling of the INS. This cannot continue. **TAMMY WILL LEAD THE EFFORT TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE CROSS-AGENCY LIAISON.**
- Do you know that all of those policy memoranda that you have become accustomed to relying on mean nothing? These memos do not bind the agency. The agencies, without regulations, are free to change their policies at any time. Tammy wants our members to accumulate contradictory agency decisions on the same issues, so that we can convince the agencies why regulations are a necessity. If this fails, Tammy wants to lead the effort to bring these contradictory decisions to the attention of the courts- agency deference is not required where the agency does not have a consistent position.
- Board members need to be concerned about individual Chapter concerns. Members need to know what is happening in other Chapters—agency action is contagious. When was the last time you read the minutes of an AILA Board meeting and learned anything about what concerns the leaders of our organization? Would you be surprised to learn that half an entire Board meeting was devoted to whether or not public defenders should be excluded from AILA membership? In recent times, the association has gone almost 6 months without a Board meeting. This isn't because there is nothing that concerns our organization. **AILA LEADERS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING THE ASSOCIATION.** Tammy wants to reenergize and reactivate the Board to deal with issues that affect our practice and our clients.

- When was the last time you thought of volunteering to work for AILA, but changed your mind because you thought AILA wouldn't want you? Well regardless of whether AILA wants you, we need you! I NEED YOU, AND IF ELECTED, I INTEND TO ENLIST YOUR SUPPORT!

#### 4) WHY IS TAMMY DIFFERENT?

Tammy believes in strong advocacy! Tammy does not dance around issues. She knows that legal issues should be dealt with as a matter of law. She has been successful in developing creative legal arguments on a myriad of issues. Tammy is not afraid to fight. Tammy does not have a history of making friends; Tammy has a history of getting things done!

Tammy has served on the Board of Governors of AILA for over 10 years. She has practiced immigration law for 22 years, 5 of which were as a Trial Attorney and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney.

#### **Tammy understands the importance of litigation and is not afraid to litigate!**

- Tammy proposed that AILA establish a litigation fund to enable it to participate in impact litigation on a large scale and subsequently assisted in the establishment of AILA/AILF's litigation arm.
- Tammy co-chaired one of AILA's first litigation CLE's.
- Tammy litigated one of the only successful national interest cases and one of the few successful legalization cases litigated in federal court.
- When Region IV ceased all LCA adjudications for a number of months, Tammy prepared for the S. Florida AILA Chapter a Writ of Mandamus to require DOL to process LCAs in Region IV. After threatening to file this Writ, Region IV agreed to adjudicate all pending petitions in a 2 week period of time.
- Tammy encouraged the Executive Committee to institute suit against the Attorney General for failing to issue the health care certification regulations.

#### **Tammy doesn't just lead; she knows how to work and get things done!**

- Tammy's advocacy still positively affects our practices. The 3 years that Tammy served on AILA's General Counsel Liaison were the 3 years where AILA received positive legal interpretations from INS General Counsel on a number of legal issues. This is especially true in the grandfathering and unlawful presence areas. These positive interpretations were due in large parts to Tammy's legal memoranda and advocacy at General Counsel Liaison meetings.
- Tammy knows the value of local liaison and advocacy. She has either chaired or actively served on South Florida AILA's Labor, ICE, DD Liaison, CLE and Congressional liaison committees. For a period of time, ICE liaison in South Florida was the only ICE liaison in the country.
- Tammy has been the recipient of three AILA Presidential Awards for her advocacy work on behalf of immigrants and the Association.
- Tammy recently assisted AILA's General Counsel in briefing a number of issues for General Counsel Liaison, including applicability of 245(i) to cases where an adjustment application had been denied as abandoned, re-capture of time spent outside the United States in H or L status, and the impact of employment without employment authorization after an adjustment application has been filed.
- Tammy currently serves on AILA National's Issues Committee. As a member of this committee, she has briefed the issue of exemption from the H-1B cap for school systems by arguing for an expanded definition of affiliated entity. She has also briefed the issue of tolling of unlawful presence for those in proceedings.
- Tammy assisted in drafting AILA's comments to the new EAD regulations.
- Tammy assisted in drafting AILA's comments to the 245(i) regulations.

- As a past member of AILA National's EOIR committee, Tammy participated in drafting AILA's comments to a number of EOIR regulatory proposals, including BIA streamlining and attorney registration. She also drafted regulations for consideration by EOIR on limiting the time that an NTA needs to be served after it is issued and filed with the court after it is served.
- Tammy has served on AILA National's Committee to formulate an official policy on illegal immigration

#### **Tammy knows how to work with the media!**

- Tammy has appeared as a legal expert on immigration law on virtually every major television network.
- She has written and published numerous op-eds and editorials on all aspects of immigration reform. Most importantly, she maintains strong media contacts, and has been instrumental in obtaining favorable media coverage on a number of topics of concern to our organization.
- Tammy worked extensively on developing a media strategy to defeat Operation Compliance. These efforts resulted in a major newspaper article criticizing Operation Compliance.
- Tammy has been an active and vigorous advocate for positive immigration reform. She has spoken on the subject at a number of immigration forums, including a key HIAS fund-raiser with Congressman Barney Frank.

#### **Tammy doesn't just go to Congress for assistance-Congress comes to Tammy for assistance!**

- When 245(i) was on the verge of defeat, Tammy's office, at the request of Congressman Diaz-Balart, re-drafted the provisions to include protection for derivatives and a generous grandfathering provision. These provisions became law.
- At Congressman James Sensenbrenner's request, she met with him on his trip to Miami, to discuss his plans for INS reorganization.
- For the past 10 years, Tammy has led S. Florida's Congressional delegation—creating strong relationships with S. Florida's Congressional representatives.

#### **Tammy has innovative ideas!**

- She was instrumental in establishing AILF's school essay contest. South Florida, under her leadership, initiated the first school essay contest, which then became a model for AILA National.
- Tammy has worked extensively for AILA. Subsequently, she was amongst the first individuals in our organization to take on the task of advocacy within the community, the media and our legislative representatives. Thus, she was appointed to chair AILA's first Advocacy Committee and subsequently co-chaired its first Media Committee.
- In response to efforts to pass "Proposition 187" in Florida, Tammy assisted in co-founding "Citizens for Florida", the institution primarily responsible for defeating Florida "Proposition 187".
- Tammy proposed the recent amendment to AILA's by-laws, which was subsequently adopted, to allow federal public defenders to become members of our organization. She also advocated strongly against a by-law amendment that would have prevented all state employees from joining AILA, as this would have precluded many state university professors, researchers and legal aid employees from joining AILA.

#### **Tammy knows how to work with other organizations!**

- In February of 2002, based upon Tammy's work as AILA's representative to the ABA Immigration Coordinating Committee, the ABA adopted new policy based upon her proposal condemning the Immigration & Naturalization Service's practice of involuntarily transferring immigration detainees between detention facilities and condemning the continued construction of INS detention facilities in remote areas

where legal counsel is inaccessible. She also drafted standards for transferring detainees between detention facilities.

- Tammy has served as an active board member of Catholic Charities Legal Services-one of two pro bono organizations serving South Florida for the past 5 years.
- Tammy continues to participate in community and Florida Bar activities. She served on the Florida Bar Certification Committee, where she was responsible for writing and grading immigration & nationality certification exam questions. She continues to actively participate in Florida Bar activities as they relate to the practice of immigration law. She has chaired for a number of years the Florida Bar's and S. Florida AILA's Annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar, one of the largest immigration seminars in the country with approximately 400 attendees.