



## **Romy Kapoor – Candidate for Secretary of AILA – Asking for Your Vote!**

My name is Romy Kapoor, and I am seeking the office of national Secretary of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. I am honored to be one of the two candidates put forth by our Nominating Committee. My passion for immigration law was formed early in my teenage years as a first-generation Indian-American and a second-generation immigration lawyer, and it is quite humbling to find myself in this position.

In making the decision who to support for Secretary, I believe one must look for traits in their candidate that are indicative of their being an effective leader for our organization - a consensus and coalition builder, a listener, a motivator, a strategizer, a mentor, a role-model. I am confident I possess and can utilize these necessary qualities to keep AILA going in the right direction; while at the same time exploring new and exciting tacks for us to take and make us an even better, more effective advocate of sound immigration policy and provider of superior immigration related legal services.

Furthermore I believe the timing is right for my candidacy at this especially critical point in our history. And so do many other proven and establishd leaders within AILA, including - Deborah Notkin, Palma Yanni, Ted Ruthizer, Dale Schwartz, Jerry Grzecka, Dagmar Butte, Robert Divine, Susan MacLean, Gerry Chapman, Jeanne Malitz, Gayle Oshrin, Aimee Todd, Leslie Holman, Mark Koestler, Jeff Goldman, Susan Fortino-Brown, Andy Wizner, John Ovink, Rusty O'Brien, Mike Runde, Jonathan Montag, Alan Goldfarb, Dilip Patel, Stacy Shore, Dinesh Shenoy, Sharon Poorak - and growing.

I respectfully urge you to participate in this important process for AILA and its future, and vote - further, I ask that you vote Romy Kapoor for AILA Secretary.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Romy Kapoor".

## **Vision and Priorities for AILA**

At this critical time in immigration history, AILA needs to pull together the best and the brightest within the organization- advocates, policy strategists, communicators, workhorse committee chairs/members, and litigators. We must unite them, their passions and their ideas, find consensus and focus all of this engergy on AILA's core mission - to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of our members. This includes bringing together not only the stalwart, proven leaders within AILA, but also the rising, emerging leaders we have been identifying and nurturing at the chapters level. This is where my strengths lie.

The expansion of large immigrant populations in many states and regions of the country which have not traditionally had large immigrant communitis has provided AILA with new opportunities and challenges. Immigration is no longer confined mainly to major cities along the southern border and east and west coasts. Our members in the interior of the country and outside major metropolitan areas are on the front

lines of the most recent immigration battles - places like Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, Nevada, the Carolinas, and other such areas where we see a proliferation of ICE worksite raids and anti-immigrant state legislation. AILA must continue to put priority on helping them fight these battles with timely resources and training.

AILA must ever strive to engage and invigorate our members at the grassroots level. We need to vigilantly reach out and listen to our membership -- what are their concerns; what are their needs; what can we do to improve their practices and their lives; what can we do to equip them with the resources and skills necessary to ensure they provide the very best representation to their immigration clients - both corporate and individual.

AILA must continue to encourage and help its members to ensure the rights of foreign nationals are protected by providing resources and training so we are confident and competent litigators.

AILA obviously has a tremendous responsibility to educate and inform our members on all matters pertaining to the practice of immigration law - not just the substantive areas of the law, but at least as importantly, the areas of ethics, professionalism and law office management. Let's arm our members with the tools needed to ensure that we become Profitable with Professionalism!

AILA must continue to push for creative, innovative ways of reaching out to our members, to give us the information, knowledge, tools, and motivation to practice immigration law in a way that is financially rewarding and that constantly focuses on doing what's best and right for our foreign national clients. We need to get back to the days where someone looking for immigration legal assistance could be assured of competent, professional representation when he or she engages an attorney who is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association!

Constructive - diplomatic, but strong - liaison with the various government departments and agencies is of primary importance to our members. We need to continue to press hard on this front to keep the government's feet to the fire, and to look for opportunities to shape policy in our best interests.

As an organization we have the ability to steer immigration policy and law in a way that will benefit all in this country for generations to come - immigrants, non-immigrants, U.S. citizens, employers, everyone. In order to get positive immigration legislation through the Congress and passed into law, it is going to take a tremendous grassroots effort - one that we need to take the lead on.

## **Leadership Activities and Service to AILA**

- Elected Director on the BOG from 2006 to present.
- Chair of the Annual Conference held in San Antonio, TX in June 2006.
- Member of the DOL Liaison Committee from 2006 to present.
- Member of the AC08 Committee.
- Member of the 2007-08 Nominating Committee.
- Atlanta Chapter Chair from 2003 to 2005.
- Speaker at the AC each year since 2004, as well as other Mid-year, Spring and Fall Conferences.

- Served on Program Committee and helped to develop the first Fundamentals Conference, which has gone on to become one of AILA's most successful educational offerings.
- Served on the 2005 Chapter Chair Orientation Committee.
- Attended each Lobby Day/National Day of Action since 2003.

### **Biographical Bits**

- First Generation Indian-American, and Second Generation U.S. Immigration Lawyer
- Admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1992
- Founded Kapoor & Associates in 1998, with Offices in Atlanta and Orlando
- Georgia SuperLawyer each year since 2006
- Triathlete, Husband, Father of 3 Girls (not necessarily in that order)