

April 17, 2012

## Campaign Statement Sarah Z. Brown

I am writing to ask for your vote for the 2012-2015 term of AILA's Board of Governors. Having served one 3 year term on the Board of Governors from 2009-2012, I believe I can effectively represent our members again for an additional 3 years. I have practiced exclusively in the area of Immigration and Nationality Law since 1991 in Dallas, Texas, and I am Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas State Board of Legal Specialization since 1996.

I have served AILA on the following committees during the last 20 years: Investment, Finance, Paralegal Conference, NBC Liaison, Election, TSC Liaison, Annual Conference, Membership Committee, Dallas Field Office Liaison and well as having served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Texas AILA Chapter. I have attended every AILA Annual Conference from 1992 to the present, every AILA Board of Governors meeting from 1996 to the present with the exception of one, every Fall, Mid-Year and Spring Conference from 1992 to the present with the exception of one Spring Conference, and Every Texas Chapter Fall and Spring Conference with the exception of one from 1992 to the present.

The major challenges of AILA and it members over the next year and how would I improve AILA's services and relevance:

The economic problems in the US and globally have caused a true financial hardship to many of our members. That fact combined with the blatant hardships faced by companies wanting to hire US workers and nonimmigrant workers, by families who are illegal or have illegal members among them, and the harsh government policies at the federal and state levels makes the tasks of our members running practices and finding avenues of relief for clients a serious challenge. Continued efforts to push agendas that will benefit not only the foreign national population within the US but also the companies and hence the economy of the US are a primary concern for me as a BOG member which would improve AILA's relevance to its members.

Also, the technological advances of information sharing and research abilities need to be continually updated for AILA's members. I sat in the BOG meeting

in Costa Rica in January 2012 and felt a great deal of gratitude and pride that our organization is so well-run that we as members are provided with technology avenues by the AILA National Office that enhance our practices, making our ability to effectively manage our practices, conduct research efficiently and assist our clients through excellent representation. As a BOG member, I would want to see that focus on technology advances continue. I see one of AILA's primary missions is to provide such information to its members to strengthen our ability to practice immigration and nationality law effectively.

My strengths and leadership style:

I am not quick to judge or to speak. My nature is to listen carefully and thoughtfully to all sides of matters and issues and evaluate the pros and cons to any issues. I am not the first at the microphone, but I am very willing to voice my opinion after a careful analysis if I feel I can add something to the discussion that has not already been expressed.

I ask for your vote for a second term on the Board of Governors.