

ANITA ATWAL

I have been involved with SABABC since 2008 in varying capacities, having served as a Director for a number of years, as well as its President. During my tenure as Director and President, I have been actively involved in all aspect of SABABC's work. For a number of years, I have chaired SABABC's annual conference, and recently launched the SABABC Women's Day Event. My work with SABABC has given me the privilege to mentor young South Asian law students and lawyers, advocate for their advancement and improve their opportunities within the legal profession. I would like to serve another term as Director so that I can continue to serve the South Asian legal community and provide good value and opportunities to our membership.

AMAN BINDRA

I am seeking re-election as a director with SABABC for the upcoming term. I find that SABABC's services and events play an integral role in providing and promoting career, networking, and mentorship opportunities for South Asian lawyers and law students. Throughout my time as a Director and Member of SABABC's Events Committee, I have seen firsthand the professional growth and connections which SABABC can foster in the South Asian community, and I am keen to continue my work with the Board.

HARDEEP GILL

My names is Hardeep Gill, and I am a partner at the law firm of Fasken Martineau Dumoulin LLP. I have been an active member of SABABC since 2015, and a director since 2016. If the membership will have me, I would like to continue to be a director for SABABC for the 2023/2024 year. I have for the majority of the time as a director of SABABC been the Chair of the Student and Junior Lawyer Committee, which has been responsible for numerous events for law students in previous years. I have also participated in many other aspects of the management and direction of SABABC and its initiatives, which involvement I intend to continue in the coming year. Last year, I served as treasurer and if I am elected, I would like to continue to serve in the same position in the upcoming year.

MANROOP GHUMAN

I'm interested in continuing my position as a director at SABABC. I have had the pleasure of being a part of SABABC for the past 3 years and it has provided me with some of the best opportunities and allows me to create relationships in the law community that I didn't know were possible. I hope to use what I have learned and the connections I have made to help my fellow South Asian lawyers.

GAGAN KHOSA

I am seeking another term as a director with the SABABC with the objective of advocating on issues of relevance to the South Asian community and to continue our efforts to limit and marginalize South Asian and immigrant communities. I believe my interests in promoting civil rights and access to justice for the South Asian community aligns with SABABC. Lastly, I believe I can provide mentorship and support and create a networking medium and professional development opportunities for individual law students and junior lawyers.

HARLEEN RANDHAWA

My name is Harleen Randhawa and I am an associate in the litigation group at Owen Bird Law Corporation. I am submitting this statement to express my interest to continue as a director with the South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia (SABABC). As a continuing director, I want to focus on finding new ways of enhancing the association's visibility as well as bringing existing members together to allow them to feel connected with one another and to the association. I would also like to build connections with law students and have them get more involved with the opportunities that SABABC has to offer.

My volunteer experience with SABABC thus far includes planning various events, including the most recent South Asian Women in Law event, increasing membership, and drafting monthly newsletters.

NAVANEETH RAVICHANDRAN

I am an associate in the Capital Markets & M&A Group at McMillan LLP in Vancouver. I obtained my JD from the University of Victoria Faculty of Law and my BA from the University of British Columbia. I was first introduced to SABABC while in law school, where I proceeded to attend almost every event that I could (a past director remarked upon how he could always count on me to attend the "Chai with SABA" series!). I loved going to SABABC events because in an industry where South Asians continue to be unrepresented, it felt enriching and welcoming to network with and be involved with members of the South Asian legal community. The people I met through SABABC were wonderful sources of mentorship through some challenging periods of law school.

As a new call, I want to take a more active role in SABABC and give back to this organization and the community. If elected, my time on the board will be dedicated to increasing and expanding SABABC's visibility, building upon the incredible work done by past boards. It's a goal to see SABABC be a type of organization resembling what the Federation of Asian Canadian lawyers has become in BC. Increased opportunities to network and build community among South Asian legal professionals is vital for SABABC's continued growth. I have served on committees and have leadership experience for several organizations in law school. I am excited to potentially be given the opportunity to help shape SABABC's future.

JESSIE SUNNER

My name is Jessie K. Sunner and I am legal counsel for the Hospital Employees' Union, where I practice labour, employment, and human rights law. Since my call to the bar in 2018, I have practiced in various areas of litigation, including family law and commercial litigation, in addition to my current practice areas. I currently serve as Director and Chair of the Advocacy Committee Chair for the South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia. I also serve on the Boards of the Surrey Women's Centre, the United Nations Association in Canada – Vancouver Branch, and the Surrey Police Board.

I am seeking re-election for directorship with SABABC because I am interested in creating greater mentorship opportunities for law students and junior lawyers, while also increasing the Board's ability to advocate for greater representation of BIPOC communities in provincial and federal appointments to Boards, Tribunals, and the Bench. With regard to mentorship, I want to connect with law students and junior lawyers in our community to help increase mentorship opportunities available to them and expand their networks so they have lawyers they feel comfortable turning to as they develop their practice. My legal experience, as well as my previous board experience, will assist with carrying out this work, while also assisting in the areas of board governance, leadership, and strategic planning.

DIXON SUNTHORAM

I am Projects and Infrastructure lawyer at the Vancouver offices of Fasken, and a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Group. I currently focus my practice on public and private infrastructure and construction projects, although I assist our global and local clients on a variety of commercial matters, including on transactions and regulatory issues. Before joining Fasken, I practiced as a construction litigator in Construction and Infrastructure group of the Vancouver offices of an international firm. There, I've represented a variety of clients at the British Columbia Supreme Court, British Columbia Provincial Court and at arbitrations. I consider myself a "reformed-litigator" and enjoy being both a mentor and a mentee at the bar in Vancouver.

I was originally born and raised in Singapore, before moving to Canada. I served in the Singapore Armed Forces after high school. After my undergrad at UBC, I obtained my law degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and am a proud Gael.

In my experience, mentorship occurs at every juncture of your legal career. Many of us as first-generation lawyers, lack access to the wealth of experience from practitioners who look like us and think like us. I am grateful for the lawyers who broke through institutional barriers and allowed us access to so much of the legal industry but, although the subject matter may have evolved, our need for mentorship hasn't. I'd like to focus on mentorship, beginning by targeted events at BC law schools allowing for junior and mid-level associates to meet the upcoming classes. I would also focus on creating informal mentorship roundtables where senior practitioners can develop relationships with mid-level/senior associates to guide them through their practice goals. Whether it's advice on how to navigate your family obligations as a commercial lawyer working at a national firm or, advice on how to improve EDI initiatives at the BC Securities Commission, I'm interested in creating a space for those conversations to happen. More

importantly, I'd like to see a space where the wealth of experience can be shared. After all, our shared common experience gives us strength.