

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 7.2, of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA) Bylaws, this Report includes the names of the candidate or candidates for each WBA office, as well as a photograph and short statement/biography submitted by each of the candidates. Voting will take place electronically. Members will receive an email with a unique link to the ballot. Members for whom the WBA does not have an email address will receive a paper ballot by mail.

Voting will open on **Thursday, March 26, 2020**, and close at 5:00 pm ET on **Friday, April 10, 2020**. Election results will be posted on the WBA website by **Tuesday, April 21, 2020**.

Available positions include three Director seats on the Board, with terms beginning June 1, 2020. In addition, the positions of president-elect, treasurer-elect, and secretary will be filled. In accordance with the WBA's Bylaws, Sadina Montani, as 2019-2020 president-elect, and Lauren Brown, as 2019-2020 treasurer-elect, will succeed to the offices of president and treasurer, respectively, of the WBA on June 1, 2020.

Names below are listed in random order. The slate of candidates was prepared by the Nominations Committee, approved by the Board of Directors, and presented to the membership.

For further information contact the WBA office at 202-639-8880 or admin@wbadc.org.

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT 2020-2021

(Running Unopposed)

BRIDGET BAILEY LIPSCOMB



Bridget Bailey Lipscomb is a 17-year public servant who works for the Department of Justice Civil Division Environmental Torts Section as an Assistant Director. Promoting the improvement of women in the legal profession, advancing and protecting the interest of women lawyers, maintaining the honor and integrity of the profession, and promoting the administration of justice through friendship and service is of paramount importance to Bridget.

Bridget is a prior member of the WBA Board of Directors, whose term as President of the charitable arm of the WBA, the Women's Bar Association Foundation, will end in May. Thus, she has supported WBA programs for many years. Bridget has also held leadership positions in numerous other bar associations. Her commitment to access to justice is evident in her deeds. She has represented pro bono clients and volunteered for organizations that provide pro bono services.

Bridget is honored to be nominated as President-Elect of the WBA. The leaders of the WBA have been productive servant leaders that have enhanced the lives and legal professions of the WBA membership. Through this leadership position, Bridget eagerly looks forward to supporting and expanding the many gains and successes accomplished by the WBA.

CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER-ELECT 2020-2021

Vote for One



JANINE HERRING

I am honored to be nominated for Treasurer-Elect. I have served as co-chair of the Executive and Judicial Endorsements Committee since 2014. In this capacity, I have led programming to elevate women to leadership in government, including the Demystifying Political Appointments panel. I previously served as a sponsorship team lead for the Annual Dinner Committee and co-chair of the Mentoring Committee, and mentored several attorneys through our Mentoring Program.

As Treasurer-Elect, I will foster our mission and commitment to supporting women through leadership development, mentorship, and advocacy. I will further the work of prior boards in developing sustainable infrastructure and financial support so that the WBA may grow and thrive.

Professionally, I am an Attorney Advisor in the Office of Appeals Counsel at the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, where I practice employment law and serve as the First Vice President of the MSPB Professional Association. Previously, I practiced law at the U.S. Department of Commerce, clerked for the Honorable Judith A. Smith in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and served as a Fellow at the National Women's Law Center. I earned my J.D. from American University and B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Ursinus College



MARY BLATCH

I am honored to be nominated to serve as WBA's Treasurer-Elect. I am currently a co-chair of the Amicus Committee and have also served as a co-chair of the Community Projects Committee. I love that WBA is a safe space for women to connect with and learn from each other.

Through my current role as associate general counsel and senior director of advocacy at the Association of Corporate Counsel, I have first-hand experience in the financial operations and governance of a voluntary bar association. I run my own budget and am familiar with Form 990 requirements. If elected as Treasurer-Elect, I will leverage this association experience to enhance member engagement and ensure proper fiscal management of our organization.

I am passionate about mentoring and diversity in the legal profession and closing the access to justice gap. In addition to my WBA participation, I also serve on the board of trustees of YouthBuild Public Charter School and am a member of DC Bar Pro Bono Center committee.

I am a DC native and have practiced here for more than 15 years. I graduated from Catholic University of America's law school and received my undergraduate degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY 2020-2021

Vote for One



LATOSHA ELLIS

I am honored and grateful to be nominated for Secretary and request your support. I currently serve as Chair of WBA's Salon Conversation Committee, creating intimate gatherings to increase the knowledge of women lawyers from multiple generations through the art of conversation. It will be my honor and privilege to continue to lend my leadership, vision, and experience to further the mission of WBA.

Throughout my career, I have held a number of leadership and board positions in many community and professional organizations, including the ABA, Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference, United Way, YMCA, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In those positions, I developed and fostered member involvement and engagement through strategic and thoughtful action. I will apply the knowledge and skills gained from those experiences with equal dedication to the position of Secretary.

As an Associate Attorney at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, I represent and regularly counsel corporate policyholders on insurance coverage issues. I currently serve on the ABA Section of Litigation Professional Development and Insurance Coverage Litigation Committees. I received my J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law, MBA from Xavier University, and BBA from the University of Cincinnati.



JESSICA ALMOND

I am honored to be nominated for the Secretary of the WBA. I thoroughly enjoy being part of the WBA, especially co-chairing the Communications and Technology Law Forum. That's not to say I don't enjoy all the fundraising for the Holiday Tea and the Annual Dinner. I found this year's catalog of events to be inspiring and look forward to what I can learn in the rest of 2020.

I want to dive in and help increase membership, especially in law schools. The WBA offers so much through programming, networking, and resources, and we can do a better job of reaching out and supporting our future women lawyers. I'd also like to continue the work of this year's team to create exciting events with our local partners. Partnering with other groups can help highlight the WBA and expose members to additional networks.

After graduating from the George Washington University School of Law, I spent 10 years working in various parts of the Federal Communications Commission, including for two different Chairmen. Recently I worked for two years at a local animal shelter, taking a deep dive into the operation of a hands-on non-profit while getting covered in fur and slobber.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2023

Three-Year Term, Vote for Up to Three



SASHA HODGE-WREN

I have had the pleasure to serve as the WBA Treasurer and I am pleased to be considered for the WBA Board of Directors this year. I have been involved with the WBA as a member and co-chair since approximately 2010. I began serving as a co-chair of the Executive and Judicial Endorsements Committee and then elected to the Board as the Treasurer-Elect and Treasurer.

Professionally, I serve as Counsel at Miles & Stockbridge, P.C. where my practice focuses on a combination of criminal defense, civil commercial business litigation and labor and employment litigation matters. Throughout my career in private practice I have also assisted in internal investigations for individuals and companies.

I received a B.A. from Hampton University and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law. In law school I served as the Captain of the Charles Hamilton Houston National Moot Court Team, and now serve as an Adjunct Professor/Faculty Advisor to the team.

The WBA provides an invaluable opportunity for mentorship, networking and the advancement of women in the legal field. I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with Board and WBA. Thank you for your consideration!



ANN MARIE DUFFY

It is an honor to be considered for the WBA Board of Directors. For the past two years I have been co-chair of the Litigation Forum and have enjoyed developing programming for this legal community.

I am a partner at Hollingsworth, LLP, where I specialize in complex litigation, but at my prior firms I handled numerous patent, trademark, and trade secret matters. Having grown-up in the DC Metro area, I attended college at James Madison University and law school at George Washington University.

Outside of my legal practice, I help run the Washington-Arlington Catholic Forensic League, a speech and debate organization for high school students. Over the past 20 years of serving in this league, I have coached and trained the next generation of leaders, lawyers, and law makers.

I see our work at the WBA to be like that of the speech and debate league: we are an organization dedicated to training, coaching, and mentoring lawyers throughout the DC Metro area. I am proud to serve the WBA and would be honored to sit on the Board of Directors to carry this mission forward in the next year.



ANNA RATNER

I am excited and honored to be running for a second term on the WBA's Board of Directors. In my six years as an active member of the organization, I served as an editor for Raising the Bar, a co-chair for the Young Lawyers Committee, a co-chair for the Women & Finance Committee, and as a Board Member. I also helped raise funds for the annual dinner for the past several years. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve in these roles for the advancement of this great organization.

As a matter of background, I am a securities lawyer and am currently working as Public Policy Council for Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. I graduated law school in 2012 and am licensed to practice law in Illinois and DC. On a personal note, I am a mother to a beautiful, four-month-old baby boy. In my spare time, I enjoy exploring the DMV area with him and my husband.

I graduated from University of Chicago (A.B.) and University of Pennsylvania (J.D.) and previously worked at the FCC and Akin Gump. My family lives in Arlington, and I am proud to be in the Emerge Virginia class of 2019.



STEPHANIE SCHLATTER

Stephanie Schlatter is the Pro Bono Manager at Dechert LLP. She manages and promotes lawyer participation in the pro bono program to provide free legal representation to low-income individuals, charitable organizations, and in matters that serve the public interest. Prior to joining Dechert LLP, Ms. Schlatter helped build the pro bono program at Buckley LLP, while also overseeing the firm's community service work, and assisting with the firm's foundation.

Stephanie has served as a co-chair for the WBA Annual Dinner and Stars of the Bar, and is currently on the Annual Dinner committee. As a WBA Board member, she would focus her attention on engaging current and lapsed members, and reaching out to new/potential members in order to increase the WBA's impact.

Ms. Schlatter has also been an active member of the Junior League of Washington, volunteering at the Library of Congress' National Book Festival, as a docent at the Corcoran Gallery, and at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Ms. Schlatter received her J.D. from Western New England University School of Law, her M.Ed. from George Mason University, and her B.A. from Jacksonville State University. Before law school, Stephanie was a high school teacher, department chair, and coach in Manassas, VA.



GAFFAR CHOWDHURY

I am honored to be nominated for the WBA Board. I have been a part of the WBA family since joining the WBA Foundation Board in 2012. Over the last 8 years my role with the Foundation has evolved from Board member to Treasurer and now Secretary. Throughout this time, I've been very active with the WBA, as a panelist for the 'Women in Finance' series, the Annual Dinner committee, and helping to organize/support various WBA programs, both as a sponsor and attendee.

I have been in financial planning for the last 12 years and Managing Director at my firm for the last four. I have a passion for helping others and giving back to the community. I'm currently pursuing the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP) designation to better serve my clients and the nonprofit community.

As a Board member I would like to further strengthen the Association's diversity efforts and recruit more male allies to become members of the organization. I am proof of the positive impact being a male ally and member has had on my professional development and personal growth. I would greatly appreciate your continued support and trust in allowing me to serve on the Board.



RENEE-LAUREN ELLIS

I'm happy to be again considered for the WBA Board. I look forward to deepening my commitment to the WBA through continued service on the Board. During my time as Secretary I have learnt a lot –at times on a steep learning curve! – about how to manage an almost 103-year old organization so that it successfully meets its members' needs. To my mind, opportunities for and empowering the next generation of leaders and focusing on wellness in our profession are top priorities.

For many years the WBA has provided me with a safe and challenging space for professional and personal growth. As we seem to be approaching a turning point in our country, in no small part because of a public health crisis, I believe the WBA must redouble its efforts to advocate for the rights and opportunities of women attorneys. Specifically, as economic challenges emerge while our profession actually begins to implement diverse, equitable, and inclusive policies, WBA leadership will be critical. My longtime commitment to the WBA, along with serving on the Board of another DC non-profit are invaluable experiences that provide me with skills and insight necessary for helping the WBA navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.

MEET THE 2020-2021 PRESIDENT *(By Succession)*



SADINA MONTANI

Sadina Montani has been a member of the WBA since she was a law student at The George Washington University, and has relied heavily on this supportive community throughout her career. She has served on the Board since 2015, as Treasurer, Chair of the Fundraising & Development Committee, and Chair of the 2019 Casino Night Committee. Prior to her Board service, she served for four years on the Membership Committee.

During her Bar year, Sadina plans to focus on how the WBA and its members can educate, encourage, and be better allies. She believes the WBA and the legal, business, and local communities will be stronger when more diverse voices have space at the table.

In addition to Sadina's WBA service, she serves as Board President for the Greater DC Diaper Bank and is a member of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law's Professionals' Council.

Sadina is a Shareholder with Vedder Price's Labor & Employment practice group. She helps employers navigate challenging employment-related issues. She is an author and frequent speaker on a variety of employment topics, most notably on the #MeToo movement and anti-harassment trends. Sadina has a robust pro bono practice supporting nonprofit organizations locally and nationwide.

MEET THE 2020-2021 TREASURER *(By Succession)*



LAUREN BROWN

During these times when we need the WBA more than ever, I am honored to serve as Treasurer. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the WBA and its mission of maintaining the honor and integrity of the profession and advancing and protecting the interests of women lawyers. Previously, I served the WBA as Treasurer-Elect, Secretary, and Co-Chair of the Government Attorneys Forum and the Social Media Committee. I was also a member of numerous Annual Dinner planning committees and the Centennial Celebration Committee.

For the upcoming Bar Year, I look forward to working closely with the Co-Chairs to come up with creative pricing structures for their programs to ensure the financial success of the WBA and to work to maximize the benefits WBA members receive through their memberships.

I graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law and the College of the Holy Cross. I currently work as an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia in the Government Contracts Section.

Thank you to Sasha Hodge-Wren for the great job she did serving as Treasurer this past year!