

TO: TARA DA RE

FROM: EMILY DAHM

DATE: JUNE 29, 2019

RE: QUALIFICATIONS AND VISION FOR CACJ

Having served on the CACJ Board of Governors for the past few years, I am so proud of what this organization has accomplished so far, and I am so hopeful about what more we can still do.

CACJ is an organization that has never been more vital. This is an extraordinary time where criminal justice reform is truly on the legislative agenda with significant public understanding and support. Most recently, I have worked on the Legislative Committee. I have been so impressed with the commitment and determination of its members to head off bad legislation at the pass, to propose thoughtful new legislation or amendments to existing legislation, and to amplify the good legislative proposals of others. This has been such a rewarding and educational experience, and if chosen to serve as the Secretary for CACJ, I look forward to continuing CACJ's efforts to affect the laws and policies that directly impact not only our practice as criminal defense attorneys, but, most importantly, our clients and their families.

Similarly, CACJ has been at the forefront of the fight for our clients' rights and safety in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The quick, aggressive work this organization has done to protect our incarcerated clients from the spread of this pandemic and to get the judiciary to take action (even though they punted) is exactly what I expect from CACJ. We should be in the vanguard in moments like this, and I am proud to see CACJ taking the lead on this issue.

Beyond CACJ's remarkable legislative efforts, the organization has been growing, improving, and modernizing in a way that is so encouraging. From the upgrade of our social media presence to the website redesign, CACJ is making critical steps forward in not just our "look" but in how we reach our colleagues and the public. The Membership Committee has put in smart, hard work to increase membership, particularly among younger attorneys, attorneys of color and from diverse backgrounds, and attorneys who are working primarily in indigent defense. CACJ's umbrella is big, and I commit to expanding it until all of the criminal defense attorneys in the state are proud card-carrying CACJ members.

Related to our efforts to expand membership, I have been impressed by the significant strides made over recent years by fellow CACJ Board members to expand the resources that the organization makes available to its members. Specifically, the development of an extensive and useful brief bank for our members is such a critical project. We are fortunate to have some truly great legal minds among us, and we are doubly fortunate that they are so willing to share their work with us. The ongoing development of the brief bank is a project I strongly support and will continue to do so if chosen as Secretary.

The same can be said for the most outwardly visible contribution that CACJ makes to the criminal defense community: our world-class seminars where attorneys get to hear from the best and the brightest in the community and get to fine-tune their skills. In fact, it was these seminars that first introduced me to CACJ and prompted me to join the organization. If chosen as Secretary, I will support the efforts of our Seminars Committee and continue to foster our partnership with our sister organizations like CPDA and

NACDL so that we can continue to bring the best show in town time and time again with our continuing education seminars.

I am flattered and honored to be considered for the position of Secretary. I hope that I will have an opportunity to give back to this organization in a new capacity. But, regardless of whether I am chosen to be Secretary or not, I will always be a strong supporter of CACJ and am proud to count myself as a member.