**ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON**

**POLICY FOR ENDORSEMENTS FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR ELECTION TO A BOARD OR OFFICER POSITIONS OF A BAR ORGANIZATION**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 12, 2020**

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Asian Bar Association of Washington (“ABAW”) is committed to uniting the voices of its members through advocating for the legal needs and interests of the Asian Pacific American community and promoting justice, equity, and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans. In furtherance of its mission and purpose, ABAW may choose to endorse candidates for offices or board positions of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”), the American Bar Association (the “ABA”) or other local, state or national bar organization to which ABAW is an affiliate member or with which a member of ABAW participates. Endorsement of a candidate may be extended to both members of ABAW and non-members.

Endorsement of candidates does not come with any expectation of assistance, including, but not limited to financial, material, or resources, from ABAW to such endorsed candidate. However, ABAW may choose to provide such assistance to candidates it endorses based on ABAW’s capacity and desire to give assistance.

1. POLICY FOR ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES
	1. Candidate must be running for a position within an election for a board or officer position of a local, state of national bar organization where (x) ABAW is an affiliate member of such organization, such as NAPABA, or (y) members of ABAW participate in such bar organization, like the ABA, and the mission of ABAW could be furthered through more active ABAW interaction with such organization.
	2. Candidate should show respect for, express agreement with, or demonstrate public action which shows agreement with ABAW’s mission and purpose statement.
	3. ABAW’s endorsement may go to members of ABAW and/or non-members.
	4. There is no limitation in the number of endorsements ABAW may make during a campaign.
	5. ABAW has established a committee with the responsibility for assessing the qualifications of ABAW and non-ABAW candidates seeking the endorsement of ABAW (“Candidate-Endorsements Committee”). The Candidate-Endorsements Committee will assess each candidate using the criteria set out in this policy. This assessment may include inquiries into the background, practices and principles of candidates seeking endorsement.
	6. Basic background checks (the quality and character of such background check is to be determined by the Candidate-Endorsements Committee and may change from time to time at the discretion of the committee) may be made in advance of an endorsement.
	7. After endorsing a candidate, ABAW may revoke that endorsement—even during the election—if it deems that the candidate has acted contrary to ABAW’s mission and purpose statement or has acted in a way that brings ABAW into disrepute.
2. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING ENDORSEMENT CANDIDATES
	1. Each candidate seeking endorsement must submit his or her cover letter and personal statement to ABAW at the following email address john.laney@stoel.com, explaining (x) why the candidate is running for the applicable position and is qualified to hold such position and (y) for candidates seeking an endorsement for offices or director organizations outside of NAPABA or the ABA, a description of the applicable organization and how members of ABAW could benefit for increased participation in such organization and how the mission of ABAW could be furthered through more active ABAW interaction with such organization.
	2. The candidates’ written materials will be circulated to the Candidate-Endorsements Committee for review.
	3. Candidates will be invited to call-in for a 5-minute interview with one or more members of the Candidate-Endorsements Committee.
	4. For contested positions, all competing candidates known to the Candidate-Endorsements Committee (without any obligation for the Candidate-Endorsements Committee to perform any specific diligence in this matter] will be given an opportunity to request consideration for endorsement (i.e., if only one candidate for a contested position has requested an endorsement, ABAW will reach out to the opposing candidate to see if he or she also wants to be considered for endorsement).
	5. For uncontested positions, ABAW will consider an endorsement request but will not solicit candidates to see if they want to be considered for endorsement.
	6. Following the candidate-phone interview, the Candidate-Endorsements Committee will deliberate and vote whether to seek the approval of the ABAW Board for a decision to either endorse or not endorse such candidate. Following an affirmative vote of the Candidate-Endorsements Committee, a motion to endorse the applicable candidate will be made by an appropriate member of the Candidate-Endorsements Committee at the next meeting of the ABAW Board, or in special circumstances (as determined by the ABAW President in its sole discretion) the ABAW Board may consider an action by any other means not prohibited by the ABAW Bylaws (e.g., through an action in writing in lieu of a meeting).
	7. Successful and unsuccessful candidates seeking ABAW endorsement will be promptly informed about ABAW’s decision. ABAW is under no obligation to justify or explain its decisions to the candidates.