

KATAYUN I. JAFFARI

FOR VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

Experienced Leader • Passionate Advocate



I am excited to announce my candidacy for vice chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

My parents believed that the highest and most rewarding duty is service to your community and society. As a first generation American and lawyer, I have taken this to heart over the course of my career.

We are living in a world where the rule of law and justice are being challenged in a way that many of us have never seen. As lawyers, we have a duty and a calling to uphold the rule of law and support those who have been stripped of their rights by the politicization of our legal system. It would be the greatest privilege to represent our bar and profession in raising our voices to uphold justice and equity.

I am proud to be a part of an Association that has reacted swiftly to the current legal environment from the condemnation of Senate Bill 106 to the statement on the mass shootings around the country including in our very own city. The Association continues to be on the forefront of the issues, focusing on the acute challenges in our profession, from the assault on equal justice to the critical needs to address systemic racism and the justified call for racial justice and equity to the important role of the Association in defending the judiciary.

I want to confront the challenges head-on and meet the calls to action. My experiences in chairing the Board of Governors and the Business Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association and receiving the Dennis Replansky Memorial Award from the Business Law Section have been among the most rewarding experiences of my career. Working on the Executive Committee of the Public Interest Section and as Co-Chair of the Women's Rights Committee has provided me the opportunity to champion causes of equal justice and access to courts. Dedication my pro bono services volunteering as an advocate for children, immigrants and communities in need have made me a better person. Throughout these endeavors, I have demonstrated my ability to listen, to engage and empower others, to create, build and support initiatives, and to champion the voices of others.

As a governance lawyer and business advisor, I have the experience to further the mission of the Association and advocate for all of its members. It would be an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to continue my call to public service by representing the voices of the Philadelphia Bar Association members and supporting advancements in our profession and our legal and judicial systems. I welcome all of your thoughts as we build a dynamic association built on a diversity of voices and a call to action, and I humbly ask for your support.

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND AWARDS

- Former Chair, Vice Chair, and Member of the Board of Governors
- Recipient of the Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award from the Business Law Section
- Co-Chair of the Women's Rights Committee
- Member of the Executive Committee of the Public Interest Section
- Former Chair, Vice Chair, and Communications Officer of the Business Law Section
- Member of the Membership Committee
- Former member of the Budget Task Force of the Board of Governors
- Former member of the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors
- Former member of the Bylaws Committee of the Board of Governors
- Former Chair, Small Business Committee of the Business Law Section
- Former Vice Chair, Securities Regulation Committee of the Business Law Section
- Recipient of the Chair of the Year Award from the Business Law Section
- Recipient of the Committee of the Year Award from the Business Law Section

Dedicated to defending the rule of law, the judiciary, access to justice, and a fair and equitable legal process for our community.

Dedicated to supporting your professional growth, the development of your business and the pursuit of a career you want.

Dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the legal profession.

Dedicated to pro bono services through our respected Philadelphia legal services organizations.

Dedicated to promoting health and well-being of lawyers and supporting your needs.

THE FRONT-BURNER ISSUES

Access to Justice, Fairness, and the Rule of Law. The Association has a long history of advocating for its members and those in our community who may not be able to advocate for themselves. The rule of law is being challenged in our country in ways many of us have never seen before. We must stand for access to justice and fairness of our laws. We must continue to promote integrity in the profession by championing causes such as fair elections and the protection of the judiciary and judges, and by fighting against hate and poverty through the rule of law and the right to counsel. As I have done as Co-Chair of the Women's Rights Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Public Interest Section as well as through other roles, I am committed to being the voice that stands for defending the rule of law wherever and whenever we can.

Our Professional Growth. As a professional association, the Association can and should provide us with the opportunities to build our practices, to learn and network with each other, and to gain useful leadership and other opportunities. As Chair of the Business Law Section, I accomplished this through connections and partnerships between lawyers, judges, and the business community as well as collaboration amongst the many incredible nonprofit and affinity bar associations throughout the Philadelphia area. I am committed to promoting cross-mentorship and networking between members and other organizations.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice have garnered a front and center focus for all organizations. As the child of Middle Eastern immigrants, I have always hoped for this momentum to celebrate and foster belonging. As a child, I knew early on that life would not be easy with a name like "Katayun" and beloved parents who spoke broken English. As a woman in the law and business, I experienced too often the feeling of being underrepresented and the only female voice at the table. Having stood on the shoulders of many before me who saw in me what others would not, my life's mission has been to lift up, mentor, sponsor, and empower others. I have and will continue to promote and support all forms of diversity, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age, at all levels of our profession from the law student to the associate, the partner, the in-house counsel, the bench, and beyond.

Legal Services Organizations. Legal services organizations are the cornerstone of justice and they should always be a priority supported financially and through volunteerism. Only with the full support from the Association can we champion justice, the rule of law, and community service. From Family Court in Philadelphia representing abused and neglected children to the detention centers in Folsom, Georgia representing detained immigrants, I have worked hand-in-hand with many and have seen firsthand the important and great work of these legal services organizations.

Lawyer Health and Well-Being. Well-being and self-care are critical components for our profession and we as a society can support others to grow and heal as necessary. I am passionate about helping lawyers optimize their well-being. I built the Mindfulness Series of the Business Law Section with fellow colleagues and advocated for the launch of the Wellness Committee at the Association years before wellness was discussed in the profession, which resulted in the Chancellor creating the Wellness Committee.

“Kathy has extraordinary leadership qualities that will make her an exceptional Chancellor of our Bar Association: she is humble, courageous, philanthropic, confident, innovative, and a brilliant lawyer. But most importantly, her integrity and honesty are core values that will serve our Association well.”

Vincent R. McGuinness, President and Managing Partner, Cozen O'Connor, and Co-Chair of the Large Law Firm Management Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association

NONPROFIT BOARD LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Committee of Seventy (Executive Committee and Board member)
- DirectWomen (Special Corporate Counsel)
- Crafts for Economic Empowerment (Board member)
- Forum of Executive Women (Board member, Governance Committee Chair, Chair and Creator of the Board Education Series of Women in Executive Leadership)
- InterAct Theater Company (Board Chair, Vice President, Secretary)
- ION, network promoting women on boards (Board member)
- Maternity Care Coalition (Board Member, Governance and Nominating Committee Member; Chair, Corporate Advisory Committee)
- National Scleroderma Foundation (Chair, Governance and Nominating Committee)
- Scleroderma Foundation of the Delaware Valley (Vice Chair and Secretary)
- Support Center for Child Advocates (Leadership Council, President, Vice President, Secretary, Volunteer Committee Chair, Child Advocate)
- The School Mindfulness Project (President and Vice President)
- Yoga Unites (Chair)

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Co-Chair, ESG Subcommittee of the Business Law Section's Corporate Governance Committee
- Former Vice Chair of the Business Law Section's Corporate Governance Committee
- Former Co-Chair, Governance and Sustainability Subcommittee of the Business Law Section's Corporate Governance Committee
- Former Chair, Diversity in the Boardroom Taskforce of the Business Law Section's Corporate Governance Committee
- Former Co-Chair of the External Communications Committee of the Business Law Section's Corporate Governance Committee
- Former Content Director of the Business Law Section's Corporate Governance Committee

HOW I CAN HELP THE ASSOCIATION

I believe that organizations thrive when their members thrive. I will represent the Association's membership and advocate for the needs of all members. I will be a responsive and inclusive leader who listens first in order to engage and empower the entire membership.

I know that effective organizations must run like a business to thrive, and I know business. As a corporate governance lawyer and business advisor to all types of organizations including nonprofit and for-profit entities, I will bring to the role of Vice Chancellor a wealth of relevant experience. I also value a 360-degree perspective. Although I wanted to be a business lawyer, I completed a federal clerkship to gain first-hand experience in the courts. This experience, combined with my pro bono practice in the courtroom as a child advocate representing abused and neglected children, gives me perspective into the challenges and needs of not only business lawyers but those of litigators. My drive to seek out what the members of the Association and the Philadelphia community needs are at the forefront of my efforts. I am a longtime active Association member and am poised to hit the ground running as Vice Chancellor.

“Kathy has solid business sense, vision that looks around corners, deep well of empathy grounded in the real world, authentic commitment to social justice, absolute integrity— that's my checklist for a great leader!”

Frank P. Cervone, Executive Director,
Support Center for Child Advocates

“Kathy is a true leader. She leads with passion and compassion. Her effectiveness stems from her ability to inspire others to action. Time and again Kathy has led the way. She inspires others with her fearlessness — whether it is to protect access to justice, or the most vulnerable, our children.”

Leonard A. Bernstein, Partner at Holland and Knight, past President of the Support Center for Child Advocates, and past Chair of the Business Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association

OTHER VOLUNTEER SERVICES

- Support Center for Child Advocates
- Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative of the Southern Poverty Law Center
- Philadelphia VIP, including LawWorks, Legalline, and KidsCAP
- Philadelphia Reads
- Impact 100
- Arts & Business Council, Business on Board Committee Advisor and Board Ambassador

WHO I AM

I am a Philadelphian and a Philadelphia Lawyer. A first-generation American raised in the Far Northeast, I am a proud graduate of the Philadelphia public school system and then Temple University where I completed my BBA and MBA, with honors. After receiving my JD from George Washington School of Law and completing a federal clerkship at the Court of Federal Claims, I returned to Philadelphia to build my practice. I currently Chair the Corporate Governance and Securities group at Cozen O'Connor and was named to The Philadelphia Business Journal's "Best of the Bar 2020" in recognition of my leadership skills and corporate accomplishments.

My parents instilled in me both a strong work ethic and a commitment to service. In addition to my robust legal practice, I have served on many boards of directors; volunteered in many programs throughout Philadelphia; served in leadership roles in both the Philadelphia Bar Association and the American Bar Association; and served countless organizations on a pro bono basis. My largest pro bono commitment has been to the Support Center for Child Advocates, where I served as a child advocate and on the board culminating in Board President, and serve now on the Leadership Council. I am also an adjunct professor at Temple's Fox School of Business, Legal Studies Department.

My decision to run for Vice Chancellor is inspired by my commitment to giving back to the city and profession from which I have gained so much. The past year has brought into focus the importance of being a part of something larger than oneself, of contributing to one's community, and of being a positive change agent. I respect the Association's role in fostering positive change in our city through its mission of promoting justice, professional excellence, and respect for the rule of law, and I believe I am ideally suited to help advance that mission. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and I humbly ask for your support.

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Leslie John, Antitrust and Competition Practice Leader, Ballard Spahr LLP, current co-President, Philadelphia Diversity Law Group, and Past President, Philadelphia Bar Foundation

EDUCATION AND CLERKSHIPS

- U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS, Clerkship with Judge Moody Tidwell, III, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT, Internship with Chief Justice Dolores Sloviter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- George Washington University Law School, Managing Editor of The George Washington Journal of International Law and Economics
- Temple University, BBA, summa cum laude, and MBA, with honors

AWARDS

- First Judicial District's Roll of Honor, First Judicial District's Pro Bono Committee
- Philadelphia Business Journal Best of the Bar
- Philadelphia Business Journal Women of Distinction
- SmartCEO Magazine Star Influencer Award
- Pennsylvania "Super Lawyer," Securities and Corporate Finance
- Support Center for Child Advocates Distinguished Advocate
- Adjunct Teaching Award for Excellence in the Classroom, Legal Studies, Fox School of Business and Management at Temple University
- SmartCEO's Legal Elite List, Go-To Attorney for Business Legal Advice
- Philadelphia Business Journal 40 Under 40
- Pennsylvania "Lawyer on the Fast Track," American Lawyer Media