2020-2021 Presidential Nominations FAQ

Does my ABA profile impact my ability to effectively participate in the appointments process?

All participants must verify that their myABA profile is up to date with current contact information, demographic, and practice area details prior to getting started with the appointments process. We encourage you to fill in gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability information if you are comfortable doing so. It will be helpful for the Appointments Committee to have this information. Visit myABA to update your profile.

Before I begin the nomination process, where can I find information about the various committees?

Committee information is located at List of Committees on this webpage. Click on a specific committee to view its webpage or jurisdictional statement.

Do I need to know if the committee of interest is a Standing, Special, Board of Governors or a Section Committee?

Yes. In the nominations system, committees are grouped as follows: 1) Board of Governors Committees; 2) Special Committees and Commissions; 3) Standing Committees; or 4) Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice Committee. Before proceeding to the committee application, please refer to the List of Committees to determine the entity under which your committee falls.

What are the terms on special committees, commissions and task forces?

Terms on special committees are one year with the possibility of continuing for two additional years. As such, each year you will need to complete an application if you have only served one or two years. Presidents-elect stick to the “three-year-and out” rule on all committees so that other talented people have an opportunity to serve.

I am an ABA member and I want to nominate someone else for a Presidential Committee Appointment. How do I find their name in the application system?

From the online nomination process, nominators will be able to search for existing ABA members as well as non-members who have a customer record. Visit the Step-by-Step Guide for more information. Please note: Before nominating someone else, please make sure they are willing to serve.
What nomination options do I have as a non-member? Or what if I am a member interested in nominating a non-member?

You may join the ABA at any time by visiting the myABA page. Non-members will be required to create an account with the ABA before starting the nominations process. Visit the Step-by-Step Guide for detailed instructions. Please note that you need to be an ABA member to serve on Presidential Committees. The only exception is for service on Commissions. Non-lawyers are permitted to serve on Commissions, although a majority, including the chair, must be members.

Where do I list current and/or previous service on a Presidential Committee or in an ABA Section?

Participants should provide additional detail within the statement of interest field located within the on-line nominations form. Please use this field to highlight your ABA service.

Is there a time limit to complete a nomination?

Once you begin the process, you will have approximately 30 minutes to complete your nomination. If this timeframe is exceeded the system may time out and cause errors. Prior to proceeding, we suggest that you draft your statement of interest in a word processing application and paste it into the area provided.

Are you requiring a resume or other supplemental material within my application?

No. In fact, we ask that you do not attach a resume or supplemental materials since the Appointments Committee will only review the statement of interest area on the nominations form. Please highlight relevant prior experience, bar service, all known prior presidential appointments, and prior service on the committee for which you are applying or nominating someone for. Please also include information on civic service in the community outside the organized bar, if relevant. Any attachments to nominations within the process will not be considered within the review.

If I am applying for more than one committee, is there a way to convey priority interest?

Please use your Statement of Interest to indicate rank order of preference if you are applying for a position on more than one committee.
How will I know if my nomination is submitted successfully?

You will be brought to a “Thank You” page to indicate your submission was successful. Shortly afterward, you should also receive an email confirmation. If you nominated someone else, please forward a copy of the email confirmation to your nominee for his/her records.