2019-2020 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. The Appointments Committee will want to have this information. Visit myABA to update your profile.

- **Why does the ABA encourage members to provide demographic information, such as race and ethnicity; gender; sexual orientation; disability etc.?**

  ABA Goal III seeks to eliminate bias and enhance diversity and inclusion in the Association, legal profession, and justice system. Accordingly, we encourage our members to voluntarily provide demographic information to adequately measure the ABA’s effectiveness and identify any challenges it has in meeting this important goal.

  Providing this demographic information is completely voluntary. It will be used exclusively for the committee appointments process. In accordance with the ABA Privacy Policy, this information is deemed “sensitive personally identifiable information” and is, therefore, not included in membership directories, registration lists, or otherwise publicly disseminated. If you choose to provide this information, but later change your mind, you may opt out at any time.

- **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. 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 tightly to the “three-year-and-out” rule on all committees so that other talented people have an opportunity to serve.
• What nomination options do I have?

You can nominate yourself or someone else for a Presidential Committee Appointment. Please visit the Step-by-Step Guide for more information.

• 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 online nominations form. Please use this field to highlight your ABA service.

• 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.

• I am not an ABA member. Can I still participate in the nominations process?

Yes, but you need to have a customer account created in order to complete an application. In order to have a customer account created, contact the ABA Service Center at 800-285-2221 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET to have one created. Please note that you need to be an ABA member to serve on Presidential Committees. You may join the ABA at any time by visiting https://www.americanbar.org/auth/register. The only exception is for service on Commissions. Non-members are permitted to serve on Commissions, although a majority, including the chair, must be members.

• What if my nominee doesn’t have an ABA membership record?

All nominees must have an ABA account so your nominee will need to contact the ABA Service Center at 800-285-2221 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET to have one created. Once your nominee has a customer account, you will be able to locate them in the system, so you can begin the nomination process. A reminder that applicants need to become ABA members in order to serve on a presidential committee.

• 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.