

From the Desk of the President

Dear DHHBA Members,

As the warm summer days gently fade away, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable accomplishments and collective efforts of our board during this last season. It is with great pleasure and much gratitude that I share this update with you. As always, please direct your comments and suggestion to us at: admin@deafbar.org.



A few exciting updates from the second quarter of the first year of the Board term:

Last quarter we began publishing board meeting minutes on our DHHBA website at <https://www.deafbar.org/minutes/>. This quarter we have brainstormed and resolved to reorganize this page to not only include meeting minutes but other documents such as these quarterly updates and any attachments that the Board may officially include with listserv emails (e.g., the modernized posting rules). It is our hope that this reorganization advances our commitment to access, meaningful participation, and transparency.

Over the past few months, the board has worked to enhance the experience and value we provide to our members. We have been focused on developing new initiatives and refining our existing processes. Related to the listserv, this quarter we did not receive any suggestions for listserv subgroups, such as solo practitioners or working parents. Yet, we are still considering ideas to better support our dynamic Membership. If you have suggestions for subgroups, please email them with a short description to admin@deafbar.org. We also modernized our posting rules and amended the Bylaws to ensure our continued growth and prosperity.

Central to our mission, we amplified our advocacy and support for member John Stanton's application for a position as a judge on the DC Superior Court. DHHBA recorder Jessica Kennedy represented DHHBA on a panel of attorneys with disabilities at the ABA Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy Conference. We also shared our first and second Member Spotlights, Judge Richard Brown and Taye Akinola. We received positive feedback to both and intend to continue sharing these inspiring stories. Finally, this last quarter the Board said "goodbye" to Treasurer Taye Akinola and Member At Large Azeema Akram, who both resigned to pursue new and exciting chapters. We're rooting for their success, and simultaneously welcoming Alison Ecker as our new Member at Large. We continue our efforts to fill the Treasurer role. Furthermore, I, Zainab, will be starting maternity leave in mid-August until November. Lisa Bothwell, as Vice President, will be Acting President during Zainab's absence.

Save the dates! A solo practitioner webinar is scheduled for September 12, 2-3pm ET, with both CART and ASL secured. More details to follow. The 2023 Membership Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on October 24, 2023, at 3-4pm ET. We are also working diligently to finalize dates for the 2024 DHHBA Conference ("DHHBACon") in Chicago, Illinois near the end of June/beginning of July. DHHBACon is being designed to include networking opportunities in addition to workshops. We're excited. Further details about DHHBACon pending soon.

The DHHBA Board of Directors is grateful for your advocacy, and especially the honor to serve and support you in 2023.

Zainab Alkebsi
President

Lisa Bothwell
Vice President

Jessica Kennedy
Interim Treasurer & Recorder

Alison Ecker
Member at Large

Julie Kegley
Member at Large

Caitlin Parton
Member at Large