



Be sure to vote in the upcoming
2020 NBA Board Election!

Renew your membership at
NashvilleBar.org/Renew no later
than October 31 for eligibility.



Michael Russell is a full-time mediator and arbitrator. He founded Russell Dispute Resolutions after almost 20 years as a litigator. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude* from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and earned his

law degree from the University of Memphis where he graduated *magna cum laude* and was a Humphreys Law Fellow.

In addition to his mediation practice, Michael has served on the adjunct faculty at the Belmont University College of the Law. He has published articles in the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*, the *Ohio Northern University Law Review*, the *Seton Hall Constitutional Law Journal*, and *Employee Rights Quarterly*.

Michael currently co-chairs the NBA's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and is a former chair of the Tennessee Bar Association's Labor and Employment Section. In 2018, he chaired NBA's cultural immersion trip to Cuba. Michael served two terms on the board of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association, co-founded the Podcast Committee of the American Bar Association Section on Dispute Resolution, and previously hosted reg-

ular podcasts for the ABA on mediation and arbitration.

Michael is especially interested in the way bar associations can better serve small firm and solo practitioners. He is also passionate about access to justice issues among the more vulnerable residents in our community. ■



Marlene Eskind Moses graduated from Tulane University and earned her law degree from the Nashville School of Law where she later received the Outstanding Alumni Award. She currently manages MTR Family Law, and is a past president

of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, receiving its Outstanding Fellow of the Year Award in 2001.

Marlene is a Diplomat in the American College of Family Trial Lawyers and a member of their Executive Committee. She is a Fellow in the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers serving as president-elect, and was past president of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers' US Chapter. Marlene also served as a member and past president of the Board of Law Examiners for the

(continued on next page)

2020 Board Nominees

Ballots Coming in November!

State of Tennessee. In 1993, she served as first vice president of the NBA.

Marlene is a member of the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women, and the Lawyers Association for Women. Marlene is a certified mediator and arbitrator by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is certified by The National Board of Trial Advocacy as a family law trial specialist. ■



Gulam Zade is the CEO of LOGICFORCE, a legal IT consultancy serving law firms across the country. He received his BA from Western Kentucky University and his JD from the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

Gulam is currently president of NBA Young Lawyers Division and has served multiple terms as the chair of the NBA's Bankruptcy Court Committee. He was a member of the inaugural class of the Nashville Bar Foundation Leadership Forum and currently serves as the Forum's co-chair.

In addition to the NBA, Gulam serves on the advisory board for the Association of Corporate Counsel annual meeting, is vice-chair of the National Small Law Department Network, and treasurer of the Tennessee Chapter of the ACC. He is on the board of directors and president of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute, which conducts an advanced two-day CLE seminar on commercial and bankruptcy law. He also chairs the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Young Professionals Board.

Gulam is a recent recipient of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's Nashville Emerging Leader Awards (NELA), the *Nashville Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 Award, a multi-year winner of the publication's Best of the Bar Award and was named one of Nashville's Top 30 Under 30 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Middle Tennessee Chapter. ■



Jola Moore was licensed in Tennessee in January 1990 after moving to the US after her marriage to Jeffrey Moore, MD in December 1988. She graduated from the University of Lagos, Nigeria with a Bachelor of Law degree in 1980 and obtained

a Barrister at Law Certificate to practice law in Nigeria in 1981. She practiced with the law firm of Onagoruwa & Co in Lagos, Nigeria from 1981 until 1988.

Jola worked with the Tennessee Department of Health and was counsel to the Board of Medical Examiners, The Board of Nursing, and The Board of Chiropractic Examiners, prosecuting malpractice and other disciplinary issues. She has been in private practice since 1994 and focuses on estate planning, wills, trust and probate, and personal injury.

Jola chaired the NBA's Minority Opportunities and Solo/Small Firm Committees and is a member of the Lawyer Referral Committee, the Probate Committee, and the Sister Cities Committee. She was named a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation in November 1999, and is also a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Napier-Looby Bar Association, and the Lawyers' Association for Women. Jola was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Protection & Advocacy from 1999 to 2003 and was elected as chairperson from 2002 to 2003. ■



Jaz Boon is an associate attorney in Waller's Trial and Appellate Practice Group, where his practice focuses primarily on complex commercial and construction litigation, as well as environmental enforcement defense and compliance.

Prior to joining Waller, he served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Richard H. Dinkins on the Tennessee Court of Appeals. In 2014, Jaz obtained a law degree as a member of Belmont Law's Charter Class and a degree in biology from Lipscomb University in 2003.

Jaz is a member of the NBA Young Lawyers Division and a 2019 graduate of the Nashville Bar Foundation's Leadership Forum class. In addition, he currently serves as chair of the Tennessee Bar Association's Environmental Law Section and is on the Board of Directors for the Nashville Children's Alliance. Jaz's interests include improving opportunities for and the retention of diverse attorneys in law firms as well as encouraging healthy life habits for attorneys. ■

J.K. Simms is a partner with Thompson Burton, PLLC and leads the firm's employment law practice. He received his

(continued on next page)

2020 Board Nominees

Ballots Coming in November!



undergraduate degree from Lipscomb University and his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

For his nearly two decades of practicing law, JK has been active in the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Associations. He was recognized as Best of the Bar by the *Nashville Business Journal* in 2015 and 2016, as a “Super Lawyer” by the *Super Lawyers* publication every year since 2014, and by *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in employment law every year since 2017.

In addition to JK’s legal work, he currently serves as Board Chair of a global nonprofit organization based in Nashville which focuses on prevention of human trafficking. Bar issues of interest are the increasing need for younger lawyers to be mentored by more experienced lawyers who are committed to investing in the future of the NBA and exploring opportunities for the bar to be actively involved in activities that serve our communities. ■



Yanika “Nikki” Smith-Bartley received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Fisk University and her JD from Vanderbilt University Law School. She currently holds the position of Vice-President & Special Counsel, Diversity and Inclusion at Asurion. She also serves on their Human Resources Leadership Team. Under her leadership, Asurion has been recognized both nationally and locally for its diversity and inclusion program.

Before joining Asurion, Nikki practiced employment law at Baker Donelson, where she also served as a diversity inclusion trainer, vice-chair of the Diversity Committee, and as a member of the Recruiting Committee. She is a past president of the Marion Griffin Chapter of the Lawyers’ Association for Women, served as secretary for the Nashville and Napier-Looby Bar Associations, is an alumnus of Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law, Young Leaders Council, and Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, and a past board member of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville and Nashville Electric Service.

Nikki currently serves on the boards of Nashville Public Television and CABLE. She is also an active member of the Williamson County Area County Chapter of Jack and Jill of America and Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter of

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Nikki also received the following *Nashville Business Journal* awards: Women of Influence – Trailblazer (2019), Best of The Bar (2017) and Top 40 Under 40 (2013), and is a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation. ■



Junaid Odubeko is a partner at Bradley. He practices in the areas of commercial and real-estate litigation, administrative law, and election law. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2001 and his JD from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2004.

Junaid is an active member of the NBA, a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation, and a graduate of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2010. Outside the bar, he has served on the boards for Hands on Nashville and the Imagination Library of Middle Tennessee. He has also served as legal counsel and deputy legal counsel to Governor Phil Bredesen, serving as the governor’s liaison to the Tennessee Attorney General and each state agency. In addition, he has served as an adjunct professor of Campaign Finance and Elections Law at Vanderbilt University Law School.

Junaid’s areas of interest include promoting and increasing diversity in the within the legal profession and fostering civility amongst the members of the bar. ■



Lora Barkenbus Fox is a senior litigator for the Metropolitan Government Department of Law. She received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and her JD, *cum laude*, from Georgetown University.

Lora served as co-chair of the NBA’s Government Law and Candidate Evaluation Committees, and as member of the NBA’s Appellate Practice Committee. She is active in the Belmont Law School Inn of Court and Davidson County Youth Court. She has also served as secretary, newsletter editor, breakfast co-chair, archivist, and lean-in mentor for the Lawyers’ Association for Women. She is the co-founder and president of the nonprofit Friends of Green Hills Park and enjoys vigorous athletic pursuits, including chasing her three children.

(continued on next page)

ROCK THE VOTE

2020 Board Nominees

Since the mission of the NBA is to improve the practice of law through Education, Service, and Fellowship, Lora's goals as a board member are to (1) create a forum—such as a speaker's bureau—so that members can easily share their expertise with the community, serve as a resource for the local media, or speak at conferences or community meetings, (2) continue the very fine services that the NBA already provides to the bar and community, and (3) focus on quick social mixers for attorneys with children and pets (i.e., lunches or other brief gatherings out of the office in a relaxed setting). ■



William J. "Paz" Haynes, III is a member of Bone McAllester Norton. He received his BA from Johns Hopkins University in 1992 and his law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1995. His law practice concentrates on business, labor and employment, administrative, healthcare, and commercial and civil litigation.

Paz has served as president of both the Napier-Looby Bar Association and Foundation, and was Secretary of the Tennessee Bar Association. He has served on the board of the NBA and is a Fellow of the Nashville Bar and Tennessee Bar Foundations. In 2017, Paz was appointed to the Board of the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance.

In addition to bar association and civic activities, Paz has served on the Father Ryan High School Board of Trustees, the Pastoral Council, the Christ The King School board, and the board of the Belcourt Theatre. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors.

Paz has also been involved in the arts, representing and promoting visual artists and musicians during his practice. He has published two poetry collections. He is a civil servant, poet, lifetime student, "yogi," and steward of his faith. His hobbies and interests include history, philosophy, theology, and sports. ■

After graduating from Vanderbilt University School of Law, **Luther Wright, Jr.** began his career with a general practice firm in the litigation section. He spent the first several years of his legal career practicing in the general litigation area



before joining the labor and employment team at Ogletree Deakins.

Luther has significant experience in the areas of labor and employment law, corporate business litigation, and complex litigation, including class action and collective action lawsuits. He typically represents management in all forms of employment discrimination litigation, including litigation based on federal anti-discrimination statutes, state statutes and common law, violence in the workplace, Fair Labor Standards Act claims, and independent contractor disputes. Luther also devotes a significant amount of his practice to day-to-day client advice and supervisor/employee training. ■



Julie Bhattacharya Peak is Resident Attorney for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company where she manages a diverse team of trial attorneys in the defense of its insureds across the State of Tennessee. She is a 1997 graduate of Rhodes

College and 2000 graduate of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphrey's School of Law. She served as the judicial law clerk to the Honorable William C. Koch at the Tennessee Court of Appeals and was an equity partner at Ortale Kelley.

Julie is an active member of the NBA, having been named a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation in 2012. She is a member of the Diversity Committee and has served as a speaker for various NBA programming. She was part of the inaugural class of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law program, chaired the Tennessee Bar Association Tort & Insurance Practice Group, and served on the Tennessee Bar Association's Diversity and Bench and Bar Committees. She also serves on the board of the Lawyer's Association for Women and co-chairs its annual Empowerment Conference.

Julie also serves as a trustee of The Oak Hill School, chairing the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and is legal advisor to the board of Mother to Mother. She is eager to bring her passion for growth and support of diverse professionals within the organization, fostering a culture of inclusivity and respect within the profession. ■