



Be sure to vote in the upcoming
2021 NBA Board Election!

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



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. She is an active member of the NBA and serves on its Diversity Committee, actively advocating for advancement of women and People of Color in the profession.

Julie recently authored the NBA petition to modify Rule 21 to require annual CLE training on issues of implicit bias, an idea born from the NBA Diversity Summit in March of this year. She is a regular speaker for the NBA on various topics including the effect of COVID-19 on women in the law, diversity within in-house counsel, and more. To contribute to her greater community, she serves as a Trustee of The Oak Hill School, where she chairs the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and serves on its COVID Task Force. She is eager to bring her passion for growth and support of diverse professionals within the organization and foster a culture of inclusivity and respect within the profession.

Julie is a 2000 graduate of The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphrey's School of Law and worked as the judicial law

clerk to the Honorable William Koch at the Tennessee Court of Appeals. She was a partner at Ortale, Kelley, Herbert, and Crawford before joining Liberty Mutual. ■



Bahar Azhdari serves as Associate General Counsel for Brookdale Senior Living, where she provides advice and counsel on labor and employment issues and strategic initiatives for Brookdale's approximately 60,000 associates. Prior to Brookdale, Bahar was an associate at Waller, and received a dual undergraduate degree in International Studies and Middle Eastern Studies from Emory University and her law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

A Nashville native, Bahar has had opportunities to be involved in the both legal and greater communities in various ways, including serving on the board of directors for the NBA Young Lawyers Division, as co-chair of the NBA In-House Council Committee, on the board of directors and executive committee of First Steps, as co-chair and member of the Harpeth Hall Head's Young Alumnae Council, and as a member of

(continued on next page)

2021 Board Nominees

Ballots Coming in November!

the Operations and Marketing Councils of the Junior League of Nashville. She also participated in the NBF's Leadership Forum in 2017-18 and was named an NBF Fellow in 2020. She believes attorneys have an integral role to play in ensuring everyone receives equal protection under the law. ■



Sam Felker is a shareholder at Baker Donelson and focuses his practice on complex litigation involving products liability, food safety, and commercial disputes. He received his law degree from the University of Virginia after studying a year at the University of Tennessee College of Law, completed his undergraduate work at Mississippi State University, and is an ardent "Bulldog" supporter. He serves on his firm's Diversity Committee and is a founder and president of the Stonewall Bar Association. For many years, he has been active in the NBA and the ABA, where he served as chair of the Products Liability Committee. Sam believes in giving back to the community and served on the Metro Nashville Board of Health for over a decade. ■

He serves on his firm's Diversity Committee and is a founder and president of the Stonewall Bar Association. For many years, he has been active in the NBA and the ABA, where he served as chair of the Products Liability Committee. Sam believes in giving back to the community and served on the Metro Nashville Board of Health for over a decade. ■



Kaya Grace Porter practices with Lewis Thomason in education law, employment law, and general civil litigation, defending matters before state and federal courts. She focuses her law practice on education law, counseling boards of education on employ-

ee discipline and termination, student discipline, and special education, and studied in The University of Georgia Honors Program and The University of Tennessee College of Law.

Since participating in the inaugural *Friday Fundamentals* class, Kaya has been an active member of the NBA. She was appointed to lead its Diversity Committee in 2018, 2019, and 2020, and was twice recognized for her work as Diversity Committee Chair, receiving the NBA President's Award in 2018 and 2019. She is particularly interested in the NBA High School Summer Intern Program and mentoring youth of underrepresented backgrounds in their journeys to becoming attorneys. In 2019, she was a Nashville's Top 30 under 30 honoree, and a member of Nashville Emerging Leaders Class in 2020. ■

David Anthony recently launched Anthony | Watson, PLLC, a boutique creditor bankruptcy and commercial litigation firm based in Nashville. For over a decade, he was a partner at Bone McAllester Norton. A Memphis native, he attended Uni-



versity of Memphis and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law.

David has been recognized as a "Best of the Bar" by the *Nashville Business Journal* for his bankruptcy work, and, for his *pro bono* service, the Tennessee Supreme Court

named him an "Attorney for Justice" in 2016, 2018, and 2019. He also serves on the board of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute and is the Executive Committee Chair for the Creditors Section of the TBA. He is a career member of the NBA, and in support, has published a feature story for the *Nashville Bar Journal*, is a frequent presenter of its CLE seminars, and—since its creation in 2017—has hosted the NBA's Lawyer Karaoke Happy Hour.

As a board member, David would work to support greater diversity in the profession, including programs aimed at under-represented groups in high school and college, as well as programs that support collegiality and mentorship within the bar. He and his wife, Lena, live in Hillsboro Village with their children, Thomas and Ellen, who attend Eakin Elementary. ■



Jeff Allen is a senior attorney with Bradley, practicing entertainment law. He received his BA from Vanderbilt University in 2002 and his JD from the University of Florida in 2007. He currently serves as Treasurer of the NBA, is a graduate of the Nashville

Bar Foundation Leadership Forum's Inaugural Class of 2015, and is a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation. He has served as co-chair of the NBA Entertainment, Sports, and Media Law Committee and is a past recipient of the NBA President's Award and CLE Excellence Award.

Additionally, Jeff serves on the Tennessee Bar Association's Entertainment and Sports Law Section Executive Council, and is a graduate of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law program. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the W.O. Smith Music School and on the Troubadour Advisory Council for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Jeff is interested in strengthening diversity in the legal profession, access to justice, and adapting the practice of law to rapidly advancing technologies. ■

Michelle "Shellie" Handelsman is the owner of Handelsman Law. She practices in the areas of estate planning and

(continued on next page)

2021 Board Nominees

Ballots Coming in November!



probate law, entertainment and sports law, intellectual property law, and business law. She received her Bachelor of Music in Performance *summa cum laude* from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. She earned her law degree *cum laude* from Belmont University College of Law and is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and the US District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Shellie serves as co-chair for the NBA Entertainment, Sports, and Media Law Committee, on the executive board for the Lawyers' Association for Women, and graduated from the NBF Leadership Forum Class of 2019. She has received numerous awards, including the Rising Star Award from the Lawyers' Association for Women in 2020, the CLE Excellence Award from the NBA in 2019, and the NBA's President's Award in 2018.

When she's not working, Shellie runs Spartan races, plays lawyers' league softball, and spends time with her golden retrievers. ■



Amy Willoughby Bryant serves Metro Nashville and Nashville's community of individuals with a disability as the Office of Conservatorship Management Director. She demonstrates her passion for our community through her service as a leader, instructor,

and volunteer, and is committed to advancing diversity within the NBA and ensuring justice to the community.

Amy has served as a member or leader for numerous organizations including: NBF Fellow, *Nashville Business Journal's* 40 Under 40, Conservatorship Association of Tennessee Board, National Guardianship Association, Nashville Children's Theatre Board, Global Education Center Board, TBA Leadership Law, Nashville Emerging Leaders, Young Leaders Council, NBA Regional Secretary, NLBF Board Member, W.O. Smith School of Music volunteer instructor, Latin dance instructor for Metro Parks, Walk Bike Nashville, Napier Looby Bar Association (past president), and a NAWJ Conference Committee co-chair. This Memphis native is a Tennessee State University alum and Saint Louis University School of Law Alum. Amy is a wife and mother of four. ■

Gil Schuette is a trial lawyer whose practice includes a wide range of commercial disputes in state and federal courts, ad-



ministrative agencies, and all forms of alternative dispute resolution. He represents individuals and businesses of all sizes in varied claims such as breach of non-competition agreements, business torts, trade secrets, breach of contract, professional liability, and personal injury claims.

Gil graduated with honors from Wake Forest University and *cum laude* from the University of Tennessee School of Law where he served on the Editorial Board of Transactions: *The Tennessee Journal of Business Law*. Before law school, he served in the US Marine Corps as a Reconnaissance Platoon Commander and a Military Transition Advisor to the Iraqi Army.

Gil has served on the NBA's Young Lawyers' Division for eight years in a variety of capacities including as president in 2020. He has a special interest in continuing to improve fellowship and community service opportunities for NBA members, and is a board member and Chair of the Social Enterprise Committee for Operation Stand Down Tennessee. ■



Josh Burgener is a litigator in Dickinson Wright's Nashville office, whose practice focuses on complex commercial and business litigation, employment disputes, class action litigation and real estate litigation. Born and raised in New York City, he received his undergraduate and law degrees from Vanderbilt University. After law school, he clerked for The Honorable Thomas Brothers in the Davidson County Circuit Court. He has served as co-chair of the NBA Circuit and Chancery Court Committee since 2018, and has also been a member of the NBA CLE Committee.

In addition to the NBA, Josh serves on Dickinson Wright's Governing Board. He was a member of the inaugural class of the NBF Leadership Forum, as well as the 2015 Class of Nashville Emerging Leaders. He has been honored as a Mid-South Rising Star in Super Lawyer every year since 2016, and was named to Benchmark Litigation's Under 40 Hot List in 2019 and 2020. Josh lives in Nashville with his wife, Lindsay, and children Charlotte and Benjamin. ■

Kim Harvey Looney is a partner with Waller, where she serves on the Women's Leadership Executive Committee. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and her JD from Vanderbilt University School of Law.

(continued on next page)

2021 Board Nominees



She currently serves on the NBF Leadership Forum Steering Committee and is a Fellow of the NBF. She is the immediate past president of the Tennessee Lawyer's Association for Women and served as co-chair of its Empowerment Conference Committee. She

is currently a board member of the American Health Law Association and is chair of its Membership, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

Kim is a native Tennessean and she and her husband have raised two sons in Nashville. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and has been active in the community co-chairing fundraisers for the benefit of the American Heart Association, the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation, the Opera Guild, CASA, Family and Children's Service, and Fifty Forward.

Kim is particularly interested in expanding the reach of the NBA through education for diverse students and ensuring there is a pipeline of talented diverse candidates for future service to the NBA and our community. ■



Tim Warnock is a member of Riley Warnock and Jacobson and focuses his practice on commercial and intellectual property litigation. He received a BA from Vanderbilt University in 1984, and a JD, with high honors, from the University of Tennessee College of

Law in 1987. He has chaired the NBA Intellectual Property and the Sports and Entertainment Committees, and has co-chaired the Sports, Entertainment, and Media Committee and the Federal Courts Committee. He has spoken at various NBA CLE seminars and has written for the *Nashville Bar Journal* on topics including copyright-infringement litigation, civil procedure, and trial practice.

Tim is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and served as president of the Tennessee Chapter in 2009. He is a graduate of Leadership Music, a past member of the board of the Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross, and is active in the Vanderbilt Alumni Association. Regarding the NBA, he is particularly interested in the work of the practice committees. ■

Cornell Kennedy practices health care and corporate law with Sherrard, Roe, Voigt, and Harbison, where he serves as co-chair of its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. He is a



proud native of Nashville and a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Cornell's involvement with the NBA began with participation in the Diversity Committee's High School Intern Summer Program in 2000, where he first developed a passion for the law, and he actively serves as a mentor to current participants. He co-chaired the NBA Diversity Committee for several years, and served as secretary on the board of directors in 2013. He was chosen to join the NBF Leadership Forum Class of 2015-16, and was selected as a Fellow of the NBF in 2020.

In addition to service in other national, state, and local law associations, Cornell has served on the Young Leader's Board for JDRE, co-chaired the Second Harvest Food Bank's Legal Food Fight Fundraising Executive Committee, and coached Antioch High School's mock trial team.

Cornell is dedicated to encouraging and guiding the next generation of diverse lawyers in Nashville, and election to the board of directors would allow him to pursue this work while giving back to Nashville and its local legal community. ■



Jaz Boon is Senior Counsel, Environmental for Bridgestone Americas's in-house legal, and provides environmental, health, and safety regulatory and compliance advice to Bridgestone's corporate teams, as well as assistance with Bridgestone's sustainability

initiatives. Prior to joining Bridgestone, he was an associate in Waller's Trial and Appellate Practice Group, where his practice focused on complex commercial and construction litigation, as well as environmental enforcement defense and compliance.

Jaz also served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Richard Dinkins on the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He obtained his JD in 2014 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 is a graduate of the 2018-19 NBF Leadership Forum. In addition, he is a member of the board of directors for the Nashville Children's Alliance, a nonprofit organization that provides free trauma therapy to child victims of domestic violence. His interests include improving opportunities for, and the retention of, diverse attorneys in Nashville's legal community, as well as encouraging healthy life habits for attorneys. ■