



NELA Board Service INFORMATION SHEET

- **Who is eligible to serve on the NELA Board?**

- Regular Members of NELA who have been a [Regular Member](#) for a minimum of two years, AND
- Who can certify that they are not an owner, partner, or shareholder of a law practice that includes forced arbitration or at-will employment provisions in contracts with its employees or in its handbooks and agreements, excluding any notifications required by law.

- **What are the core responsibilities of a NELA Board member?**

The Board is the governing body of NELA and is responsible for setting policies, goals, and strategic priorities that keep the organization on course with its mission to advance employee rights and serve lawyers who advocate for equality and justice in the American workplace. The Board also holds fiduciary responsibility for the organization and its assets. To fulfill these roles, the following is expected of NELA Board members:

- Preparation for and attendance at three annual Board meetings (spring, Annual Convention, and fall), and active participation in Board discussions and votes between meetings.
- Working knowledge of and adherence to NELA's governing documents, policies, and priorities.
- Working knowledge and evaluation of NELA's programs and financial systems.
- Selection, support, and oversight of NELA's Executive Director.

- **In addition to governing the organization, what expectations are there of NELA Board members?**

Board members are expected to:

- Serve as ambassadors for NELA and its related charitable public interest organization, The Employee Rights Advocacy Institute For Law & Policy (The Institute).
- Engage in membership and Affiliate outreach.
- Participate on at least one NELA committee or task force.
- Support NELA's and The Institute's fundraising initiatives.

- **How long is a term of service for the NELA Board?**

- A term on the NELA Board is 3 years. Each Board member may serve up to 3 terms (9 years total).

- **Who should consider running for a seat on the NELA Board?**

- You! There are many opportunities to reap the benefits of NELA membership and to return the generosity that other members have extended to you. Board service is one of those opportunities. If you are passionate about NELA and its work, have experience with nonprofit governance or an interest in developing that experience, and you want to offer your skills and talents to shaping NELA's progress, consider Board service.
- [Read more](#) about becoming a great nonprofit Board member.

- **How are candidates nominated to run for the NELA Board?**

- NELA members who meet the qualifications above may nominate themselves or other members who meet the qualifications. Nominations can be forwarded to NELA by completing and submitting the online Nominations Form. *Self and member nominations are strongly encouraged.*
- As part of its charge, NELA's Nominating Committee actively recruits potential Board candidates.

- **Who is NELA's Nominating Committee?**
 - NELA's Nominating Committee is appointed annually by NELA's President and is composed of two NELA members, two Board members, and NELA's Executive Director.

- **What factors are considered by NELA's Nominating Committee?**

The Nominating Committee will seek to nominate the best qualified candidates whose primary focus of their professional lives is advancing the rights of employees and/or their interests. Factors considered by the Nominating Committee include:

 - Contributions to NELA, including involvement in NELA activities.
 - Professional and volunteer accomplishments and experience outside of NELA.
 - Diversity of practice and background.

- **I would like to get to know the organization better before I consider Board service. How do I become more involved in NELA?**
 - Vote in NELA Board Elections.
 - Join a NELA Committee or Practice Group.
 - Volunteer your expertise to NELA's *Amicus* Program.
 - Participate in Lobby Days on Capitol Hill.
 - Actively participate on The NELA Exchange.
 - Attend a Committee or Practice Group meeting at the Annual Convention.
 - Submit proposals for NELA's Annual Conventions.
 - Respond to fellow NELA members' request for assistance.
 - Contact [NELA's Staff](#) if you have any questions about various aspects of the organization.

- **Who are our current NELA Board officers and members?**
 - For a listing of current NELA Board officers and members, please visit <https://www.nela.org/about/executive-board/>.

- **Whom do I contact for more information about Board service?**
 - For more information, please contact Jeffrey Mittman, Executive Director, at (415) 625-5401 or jmittman@nelahq.org.