

May 25, 2018

Dear HNBA Board Nominations Committee:

Greetings, my name is Michael “Frank” Francis and I am humbly seeking the position of HNBA Region II (NY) President. For the past two years, I have had the privilege to serve as Deputy President of the New York region and it is my goal to continue my commitment to the HNBA.

Prior to becoming Deputy President, I was involved with the Region II Young Lawyers Division and helped plan networking events, attorney panels, mentorship opportunities, and the Joint Latino Bar mixer. In 2016, the current National YLD Chair and I started the Young Lawyers networking reception which has been part of the Corporate and Annual Conventions ever since. Concurrently, I serve as Vice-President of the LGBT Bar of greater New York as well as the co-chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the Brooklyn Bar Association. I am also an active member of the NY Trial Lawyers Association, NY County Lawyers, and the Founder of the “Battle of the Bars” – an annual competition between the NY Metro Bar Associations which raises funds for legal charity.

Recently, I was asked to join the national fundraising team and started the process of learning how to procure funding and sponsorship for the San Francisco convention. It is my intent to develop that process and start a NYC fundraising team to raise funds for the 2019 Annual Convention here in New York.

My vision and goals for this position primarily focus on professional development and programming for our members, expanding our membership and partnerships, and increasing our engagement and influence in the greater legal community. I am seeking this position because of my desire to strengthen both the Legal Latino community, and the Latino community as a whole. Having been involved in developing CLEs, panels, Latino networking events, and cross-bar social events, I am qualified to plan and execute events of significance on behalf of Latino lawyers. My goal is expand our partnership and influence with the other affiliate and non-Latino bar associations which is mutually beneficial all of the groups. HNBA members will be a force among the other national, state, local, and affinity bar associations and my prior work with those bars and their leaders will accomplish this goal. There will also be a strong focus on professional development for attorneys at all stages of their career.

With respect to programming, I believe the HNBA Region II will be on the front lines of the changes in law, public policy, and government. In New York State, we have seen rapid changes in law, especially in labor, employment, finance, and insurance. I have planned events that highlight the work of Latino lawyers in implementing these changes. Our members must be abreast of a rapidly changing legal landscape, and the work of the HNBA will reflect our expertise in developing the law. The Latino community as a whole benefits as areas of Paid Family Leave, Wage and Hour violations, small business regulation, online and social media privacy, and other changes in New York law are developed by and on behalf, of Latinos.

Challenges and opportunities are a natural part of any Regional President’s tenure and I believe that my experiences working so closely with the past two presidents has made me acutely aware of how to handle the sheer volume of work required by this position. Both Immediate Past President Neysa Alsina and outgoing President Matthew Fernandez Konigsberg have dedicated countless hours to their positions and I am on notice that this will be a massive commitment. I will also seek their mentorship and guidance through my tenure as well as leaders of other bar association with whom I have developed both

professional and personal relationships. Moreover, the 2019 Annual Convention will be a major part of the Regional President's tenure and I am prepared to devote the time necessary to that task. This will require partnership with sponsors, local bar associations, and the national team to put on a conference worthy of our members and partners.

Kindly accept this statement as my intent to run for Region II President and an affirmation of my commitment to the HNBA, Latino attorneys, and the Latino community at large.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael "Frank" Francis

Associate Attorney  
Severance, Burko, Spalter, Masone & Laurette