



The Mandate

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President's Message



It was 6 years ago that Henry Angelino & Anna Rushworth brought me to my first ALA membership meeting. I was in awe of how professional everyone seemed, noticing how many people knew each other, and I felt a bit awkward and out of place. Liz Whitten was President at the time, and she went out of her way to make me feel welcome. Less than a year after I joined the Chapter, Leslie Kaiser asked me to be the Treasurer. Being a CPA, I figured I could handle the job with no problem, but little did I know that I would be swept up into

every board position over the next five years, and now here I am the President of the Chapter, and honored for the opportunity!

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a first generation immigrant who

has lived in 3 different continents. I was born in England and when I was 3, my parents returned to India where I lived my childhood in a life very different than what I have now. When I was 11 we came to the US as tourists to “see America”, but ended up staying because my dad was offered a full-time position. Fast forward to today, and I am the proud mother of 4 sons including one with autism. My parents instilled in us a love of travel and cruising, and they have given us the opportunity to travel extensively so the kids could experience new places and cultures. I’ve been on 17 cruises and as a hobby I am a travel agent booking cruises for my friends and family.

And this brings me to my theme for the coming year – *Sail to New Horizons*. I started the year as Captain of this chapter and have a talented and motivated crew that make up the board and committees. This is a difficult time for our profession and we hope to give you more tools to navigate the seas of change ahead. We had our Leadership Retreat in April and I am excited to have brought on several new members to the crew.

My first initiative is *Learn From One Another*. The Chapter has always spent money to bring in speakers but I often leave meetings wishing there was more time to network with the other members. The roundtable session which I did as Education chair received an overwhelmingly positive response from the participants, saying it was the most valuable session of all, and asking for more. I have listened and we will be giving you more opportunities to dialogue with peers on issues you are facing in your firms.

My second initiative is *Make 3 New ALA Friends*. I would like to challenge you to sit with different people at meetings or socials, get to know them, and maybe schedule a lunch together or stay in touch by email or on social media. It would be nice if long time members befriended some newer members to share some of your experiences and wisdom. I hope you will each take me up on this challenge and get out of your comfort zone to make

3 new ALA friends by the end of the year.

The third initiative is ***Come Back***. About 2/3 of our membership rarely participates in meetings except for the Legal Resource Fair. Many of you might have friends that are part of this group, and we really would like to get some of them coming again to get our participation up.

To enable us all to share ideas, our website has a Member Forum under the Membership section. Please make sure that you are subscribed to this forum so that you will receive an email when members post questions or responses. This is a great way for members to network and post questions in a private setting. It also provides our members with a history of information to refer back to at a later date.

I look forward to the year ahead and serving as the President of this great organization, and I encourage you all to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I am excited about the events we have planned, and am very grateful to all the volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules to help make our Chapter a success. A special Thank You to Tammie McQuain who made so many important contributions to our Chapter and we wish her the very best in all aspects of her future.

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