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کانون وکلای ایرانی در آمریکا

# IRANIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

## Introducing the 2012-2013 President and Vice President of IABA

August 6, 2012 - Washington , DC



Dawn Sepideh Mortazavi and Salman Elmi have been elected to serve as President & Vice-President of the Iranian American Bar Association (IABA). With chapters across the country, IABA is one of the most active minority bar associations in the United States

Outgoing President Nahal Irvani-Sani stated: "It has been a remarkable year at IABA through the support of our members and meaningful collaborations with various community organizations. The leadership of our Board is now transitioned to the capable team of Dawn Sepideh Mortazavi and Sal Elmi. With a history of service to IABA, their appointment is a reflection of their impressive qualifications and dedication to IABA's missions."



### IABA Leadership

#### Board of Directors

Robert Abtahi  
Shawdy Banihashemi  
Salman Elmi  
Erich Ferrari  
Ramin Hariri  
Ali Hosseini  
Maryam Karson  
Dawn Sepideh Mortazavi  
Masoud Naseri  
Amir Nayebdadash  
Nima Rahimi  
Elnaz Zarrini

#### Board of Advisors

Jamie Abadian  
Nader Ahari  
Babak Hoghooghi  
Houri Khalilian  
Ali M. M. Mojdehi  
Nader Mousavi  
Niki K. Moore  
Hamid Rafatjoo  
Sima Sarrafan  
Soroush R. Shehabi  
Hon. Ashley Afsaneh  
Tabaddor  
Farzad Tabatabai  
John Tehranian

#### Chapter Presidents

Chicago - Bardia Fard  
Dallas - Michael Payma

Dawn Sepideh Mortazavi is a criminal appellate defense attorney in Orange County, California, working primarily as appointed counsel for the Indigent Defense Panel for the California Court of Appeal, Second and Fourth Appellate Districts. She previously was a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice, prosecuting felony criminal appeals in state and federal courts. Prior to joining the California Department of Justice, Ms. Mortazavi was an associate at Bonne, Bridges, Mueller, O'Keefe and Nichols, focusing on medical malpractice and elder abuse defense. Ms. Mortazavi received her B.A. in political science, cum laude, from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1999 and received her J.D. from UCLA School of Law in 2002. In addition to her service to IABA, Ms. Mortazavi is active with a number of other organizations. She is an Orange County Ambassador for the National Iranian American Council and sits on the Board of Advisors for Keep Children in School.

*Los Angeles* - Monica Safapour  
*New York* - Raymond Iryami  
*Northern California* - Nioura Foad Ghazni  
*Orange County* - Mani Dabiri  
*Phoenix* - Samin Adib  
*San Diego* - Haas M. Sadeghi  
*Washington, D.C.* - Robert Babayi

Salman H. Elmi is currently Senior Corporate Counsel at ACell, Inc. ("ACell"), a medical device manufacturer in the DC metropolitan region that focuses on regenerative medicine technologies. Prior to his position with ACell, Mr. Elmi spent the first few years of his legal career focusing on FDA/Healthcare Regulatory matters at law firms in Washington, D.C. and New York City, before transitioning to pharmaceutical products liability litigation. Mr. Elmi completed pre-medical coursework and received his B.A. in both Political Science and Persian Studies from the University of Michigan in 1997. Mr. Elmi received his J.D. from Emory University Law School in 2000, where he was awarded a letter of commendation for excellence in the Law School's prestigious Kessler-Eidson Trial Techniques Program. Mr. Elmi was admitted to the bars of the State of Maryland in 2000, the District of Columbia in 2001, and the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2011. Mr. Elmi is the most senior member of IABA's current National Board of Directors, having commenced his tenure in March 2009.

In anticipation of her role as President, Ms. Mortazavi states: "It is with great honor that I accept this position. Since its founding in 2000, IABA has been an active participant in both the Iranian-American and legal communities. We have strived to serve as an effective voice when it comes to legal issues of interest for Iranian-Americans and operate as a resource for current and aspiring attorneys. I am excited to work with the current board and build off of the strong foundation past presidents have built to expand IABA's influence in the legal community, increase IABA's membership and donation base. I'm very excited for the upcoming year."

Incoming Vice-President Mr. Elmi states: "I'm honored to be recognized by my peers as someone who can continue to bring value to IABA. IABA has been advocating on behalf of the greater Iranian-American community for over a decade, on a purely voluntary basis. I'm proud to be a member of the organization, and I hope to continue to assist the organization in meeting its goals of promoting the interests of the community via educational, pro-bono, scholarship, and advocate activities."

## About IABA

With nine chapters in various metropolitan cities across the country, the Iranian American Bar Association ("IABA") is one of the most prominent minority bar associations in the United States. IABA chapters hold networking events, publish articles on key legal developments, and provide outreach to lawyers and law students. IABA also provides an annual scholarship to law students looking for assistance and provides lawyer mentors for those seeking guidance and helps serve the Iranian-American community and the community at-large by providing legal advocacy on important issues



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