

Victor D. Nieblas For AILA Secretary



Victor D. Nieblas Candidate Statement

See Victor's Message to AILA Members: Click the link or cut/paste the link on your browser:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9ZFd-3cF14>

I believe I can strengthen our AILA leadership team with a totally new and critically necessary dimension. These are difficult times. Immigration reform hangs in the balance. An avalanche of restrictive immigration rules, regulations and government policies have created an almost impossible environment for America's businesses, families and immigrants. The Arizona law is evidence of what is in store if we do not act, and act now. Liaison and conferences are important, but most of our leaders have those skills. I have extensive experience in grassroots organizing, in building coalitions, in using the media to help control the message rather than be controlled by it. I have worked hard to build connections at the political and grassroots levels. We need to unite family and business and due process groups. We need to outwork, out-think and outpace the restrictionists. We need to turn up the heat. I will work well with the AILA executive committee, as I have done already in my board role. I will listen to you, the members, and I will serve you and your clients' interests with courtesy, energy, enthusiasm and a huge dose of strategic thinking. I am proud to be an AILA lawyer, I am proud to be an immigrant in this great country, and I will make you proud to have elected me!

AILA members have a choice in this year's Secretary race and the issue comes down to what strengths are going to be most important in leading our organization as we fight for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Our message must be positive yet firm. We need an immigration policy that meets the needs of America's families and businesses and, at the same

Victor D. Nieblas For AILA Secretary

time, we must be vigilant in our defense against the restrictionist forces that would capitalize and build on the dysfunctional immigration system that plagues our country.

I have served on and chaired a number of AILA committees, but what is most important for AILA is my experience and leadership in the areas of advocacy and media. I am a known figure in the areas of advocacy and media and have and will continue to represent AILA's mission and positions well.

My passion to serve comes from my personal experience as an immigrant growing up eight blocks from the California/Mexico border. I became a naturalized citizen of this wonderful country in 1990. Since I was a child, I experienced firsthand the impact of our immigration laws. For this reason, I have committed myself and my practice to removal defense (representing many indigent clients), federal litigation, and family unification of immigrants before the EOIR, BIA and the Federal Courts. As an Adjunct Professor of Law at Loyola Law School, I strive to inspire students to become ethical immigration attorneys.

NEW DIMENSION OF LEADERSHIP

Among the assets I will bring to the AILA Executive Committee are my commitment to and extensive experience in Congressional advocacy and media. I have a deep understanding of the various forces involved in the difficult road ahead for comprehensive immigration reform. I have and will continue to work hard in support of AILA's goals in these areas, including business and family immigration reform, legalization of the undocumented families and due process reform. As an experienced and known activist in the struggle for immigration reform, I know how to create coalitions. I have the ability and will to work with and bring together the immigrant rights organizations with the business community. It is only through coalition building that we can hope to win reasonable reform. I fervently believe that we are stronger when we advocate for all rather than a few.

I have a demonstrated track record in media through my experience as a Radio Broadcaster, TV Host and News Analyst focusing on immigration and advocating in support of immigrants and just laws. As we move deeper into the advocacy arena to address important issues like those now present in the State of Arizona, AILA officers are called upon to be spokespersons for the organization and I will strongly enhance this dimension on the executive committee. I have tirelessly used media opportunities to promote AILA's mission and have provided media exposure for other AILA leaders in order to promote AILA's messages. Currently, I am a member of AILA's Media Advocacy Committee where I am proud to be a designated spokesperson for AILA.

SERVICE TO AILA

I have served on the Board of Governors for eight years. During this time I have served on key AILA Committees.

- I have chaired the Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL) Committee that conceived of the AILA UPL Brochure entitled *Don't Be a Victim/No sea Victima*. This Brochure is still considered one of the best pieces on consumer protection and is used widely today.

Victor D. Nieblas For AILA Secretary

- I have served on a wide range of AILA Committees including EOIR Liaison (2 years), our Due Process Committee (2 years), Ethics Committee, our original Advocacy Task Force, AILA's California Chapters Conference planning Committee, Chaired the AILA Minuteman Taskforce, and participated in the difficult task embodied in AILA's Governance Planning Committee last year.
- I am in charge of AILA's Hispanic Latino Interest Group (HLIG). The HLIG responds to issues facing the Latino Community and shares related breaking news information through its list serve. The HLIG is the largest interest group in AILA and its makeup includes many non-Hispanic/Latino members. The HLIG was instrumental in assisting the AILA leadership to ultimately pull out of the Arizona conference. We host yearly meetings at AILA's annual conference to promote networking among list serve members.
- I was Chapter Chair of Southern California during the Special Registration efforts by DHS. Working in coalition with community groups, we were able to minimize the negative impact it had on the community.
- I am honored to have received the 2002 AILA's Joseph F. Minsky Award for my work and excellence in the immigration field as a young attorney.
- I have participated every year in AILA Annual Conferences and California Annual Conferences as a faculty member. I have also been part of the faculty on AILA's Litigation Conference.

OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES

Along with my AILA leadership roles, I have also served as Chair of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) Immigration Committee from 2007 to 2009. Our mission was to address the many immigration issues impacting the Hispanic Community, including CIR, misguided DHS policies, hate crimes and eliminating UPL. I have also been active with the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA) in Los Angeles, California serving as Chair of the Immigration Subcommittee as well as being an elected trustee in the MABA Executive Board.

I am deeply committed to changing U.S. laws and strongly believe that comprehensive change will result when many different kinds of groups, including all the stakeholders work together. I have and will continue to promote alliances among the immigration stakeholders, provide guidance and bring leadership to our members who are involved in grassroots advocacy nationally as well as on a statewide basis.

I am also committed to bettering services for AILA members. AILA should provide a clearer method of assistance on liaison matters. While we cannot always provide immediate assistance with problem cases from liaison committee members, we need to establish a reasonable time period in which members can expect to have their issues addressed. Frequently, members do not know the process by which AILA liaisons can assist. The liaison procedures could be highlighted on Infonet so that all they are easier to find. This will avoid frustration of both the hard working liaison committee members and our members in need.

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In closing, my commitment to AILA and immigrant issues is in my DNA. I will use my energy and passion to work with you to improve our immigration laws and make our country a better place for immigrants. I seek your support and vote and stand ready to confront the challenges we face in so many areas. Thank you for your consideration.

**Best regards,
Victor D. Nieblas**

To see Victor in action and hear from my supporters:

Click the links or cut/paste the links to your browser for AILA Election videos:

AILA Past President, Daryl Buffenstein on Victor D. Nieblas for AILA Secretary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a6MLNMz-p4>

AILA Past President, Deborah Notkin on Victor D. Nieblas for AILA Secretary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cbyhpb9MgM>

AILA Past President, Allen Kaye on Victor D. Nieblas for AILA Secretary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rV2pso2ym5I&feature=channel>

Victor D. Nieblas organizing the Legal Community Against Arizona's Law and CIR Press Conference:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN9BLc2DoBM>

Victor D. Nieblas- Arizona Burning - Immigration Commentary on Arizona's Newest Anti-Immigrant Bill in Espanol

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqi4KYx-O_c

Victor D. Nieblas on Arizona Anti-Immigrant Law Commentary II in Espanol

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvxY6dxmzJA>

Victor D. Nieblas Update on Arizona Law - What happens next in Espanol

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqx_bXaS0As

Victor D. Nieblas "Inmigracion 411" Television Show:

<http://www.hitn.tv/inmigracion411/>