



SABANY
SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

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Statement of Interest. Please include a personal statement of candidacy outlining your interest in SABANY and your goals for your term (maximum 300 words).

Hi everyone, I'm Rachna Agarwal, and I'm applying to serve as SABANY's Vice President of Public Interest.

Public interest has been a consistent thread throughout my legal career. I began as a public defender at The Bronx Defenders, representing hundreds of New Yorkers navigating the criminal legal system. Today, as a court attorney in Queens Criminal Court, I see the system from a different perspective, but my commitment to fairness, access to justice, and service remains central to my work.

That commitment has also shaped my involvement with SABANY. I've had the privilege of serving as Vice President of Pro Bono Initiatives and, most recently, as Vice President of Equity & Inclusion and Pro Bono Chair.



Those roles have shown me how SABANY's power when we pair professional community with meaningful service.

As VP of Public Interest, I would focus on making that work more visible, accessible, and sustainable. I want SABANY to be a place where law students interested in public interest can find mentors, attorneys seeking pro bono opportunities can find meaningful ways to contribute, and members working in government, legal services, nonprofit, and other service-oriented roles feel supported and connected.

I would also work to strengthen partnerships with legal services organizations and community groups and develop programming that reflects both the impact and realities of public-interest careers.

I believe public interest is ultimately about how we use our skills, networks, and collective influence to make our profession and our communities more equitable and accessible.

I care deeply about SABANY and would be honored to bring my experience and commitment to this role.