

Judith Hellerstein: Statement of Interest

Thanks to Glenn McKnight for the nomination to represent NARALO within the ALAC. I believe that NARALO and the ALAC leadership team are at a point of transition and reform, and that I can play a valuable role in this transformation. ALAC and At Large have been working hard to ensure the success of the multistakeholder model through advocacy, working closely with the GAC, NCSG & other constituencies, and ensuring our message is understood. If elected, I hope to continue this important work.

I have been active within ICANN for 10 years having taken on various leadership roles within both NARALO and At Large. I have been championing diversity and inclusion since the beginning of my time within ICANN. Whether it is pushing for inclusion for persons with disability or advocating for gender diversity. Currently, NARALO has no women in leadership in any of the Regional Leadership positions, including NomCom. I hope to change this. One of the best ways to encourage new people to become involved in policy development and also in leadership is for them to see themselves in the leadership of NARALO whether in the RALO or ALAC and currently this is not the case. Our leadership team in NARALO should come close to mirroring our own gender diversity. That is why I am asking for your vote.

I have a deep commitment to ICANN's mission and an understanding of the potential impact of ICANN decisions on the global Internet community and have contributed talking points and other suggestions to the At Large Comments on Net Mundial, the GDC, and other proceedings. I have also developed and organized sessions on various topics such as the DNS and the digital economy.

I work hard to ensure that I am continually promoting a bottom-up consensus policy and working with others to arrive at a consensus based decisions. I have done this when as primary penholder, I have worked closely with others to come up with language that would satisfy everyone's concerns.

I am a strong advocate for the needs/interests of end-users both in our region and globally. This can be seen by my work advocating for marginalized populations such as persons with disabilities. I bring to ALAC my expertise and experience working on strategic/project planning, implementation and other work on prioritization that are extremely important to assisting ALAC/At Large and other constituencies in helping ICANN implement its strategic plan and the numerous other recommendations the ICANN board has passed. Over the past 10 years, I have spent countless number of volunteer hours working to advocate for the end user, and those from marginalized groups such as women, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities. I do this because of my passion about advocating for the end user and ensuring that they are able to obtain all the benefits that the Internet offers.

I have worked in many volunteer positions in ICANN as a Chair of a Task Force, NARALO Secretary, NARALO NomCom representative, an appointed member of two Cross Community Working Groups, namely Auction Proceeds and Internet Governance, but also on the ALAC Appointment and Selection Committee and others. I have also helped plan several NARALO General Assemblies and taken active roles in the At Large Planning Committees which plan our ICANN sessions. In each of these positions, I have never shied away from work and when I commit to projects, I see them through to completion.

I have been active in both the CPWG and the OFB-WG and I have written more than fifteen (15) policy comments and have assisted in writing many other policy comments. If elected, I plan on assisting in writing more Policy comments. The majority of my policy comments have been on ICANN Operational, Governance, Strategic Planning, and Finance issues, such as NomCom rebalancing, Auction Proceeds, Internet Governance, and many others. I am also working to build a bridge between the NCSG/NPOC and the At Large Communities as we share similar interests and concerns. We are better off and stronger when we are united in our comments and advocacy than in going our separate ways. I have worked to bring the communities closer together and will continue to do so once elected.

Below are several challenges facing the At Large Community and if elected, here are my suggestions possible ways to mitigate or solve them.

Time Commitment—volunteering in ICANN consumes much volunteer time. As volunteers are not paid they have a limited amount of volunteer time and so it is hard to get people to donate a significant chunk of their volunteer time to ICANN instead of to another organization or hobby.

Volunteer Recognition—We need to find a way to motivate and recognize our volunteers, maybe through small promotions and gifts or just simply by highlighting some of the work they have done. Volunteers will put in more time if they feel that their efforts are valued and so that is important to find a way to recognize them. When I led the Indigenous fellowship I worked with At Large staff to have our volunteers recognized for all their efforts to make the project a success. I arranged for a small recognition ceremony and for small gifts to be given out to volunteers.

Matching people with opportunities--I think we might do a better job of finding out what members are interested in and matching them to these opportunities.

Outreach—We need to do a better job at outreach and having a simple message that we can take and bring to internet-related events to attract new participants to ICANN and explain what they will gain by joining and why we need their help.