

Running for PSC.

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I would like to announce that I have put my name on the ballot in the PSC election. My platform will outline the core position(s) that I will take but I will not put forward specifics here. For now I can say that while I intend to run I do not see this as a campaign *per se*. Yes we have to have a ‘vote’ but to me it’s more like a periodic clan gathering … where we come together, discuss concerns, issues and visions and come to a kind of consensus as to our general plan and direction.

So as I see it we are a new ‘clan’ of sorts … and with small but growing numbers. We are just coming to grips with who we are in this new world and what we should and can do. We are stretching and testing our muscles … testing our strengths and our vulnerabilities. We are challenging our own self-conceptions and conscious of how we appear to others … both individually and collectively. And the decisions we make now will have significant implications long into the future.

I put myself forward because I am an analytical and strategic thinker with an eye to the long term. I have a depth of experience and breadth of knowledge that gives me a realistic perspective. I have listened, with increasing concern and consideration especially for those early in their career. Based on that, I have what I believe to be a coherent and holistic direction forward. I certainly don’t purport to have all the answers nor even all the questions. I will frame what I see as the issues, put forward my ideas for solutions and hopefully back them up with reasoned arguments. I am a rationalist so you can bet I will parse the cogency of the position of others as I expect them to do for mine.

But I do not see this as a ‘campaign’ because I would be quite happy with any of the candidates that I have seen. For me … this is not about politics or egos. For me … this is about setting the guiding principles of how we act as a group. It’s about making sure we create a professional body that has a coherent, ethical long-range vision. What we do will set the foundations for what we are and what we become. To be effective, our strategies must incorporate and be in line with the PSC mandate (protect and promote the public interest). We need to shape our policy goals such that the paralegal profession is seen as a strong and vibrant force for positive change both inside the legal community and as seen by the public at large. I will focus on and hope to raise consideration of the underlying principles, and long term implications of the specific policies that we, as a clan, debate.

I have something to offer with my participation regardless of the ballot result. I hope that my contribution is of benefit to our profession as a whole as is the benefit I myself gain from making that contribution.