



## **2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**NAME:** Barbara Nilsen

**Please Note:** All responses will be shared with NCBA Members through the website and published via a link in the weekly newsletter.

### **Mandatory questions:**

1. Has your firm been a NCBA Firm Member in good standing for two (2) consecutive years? Yes
2. Have you attended an NCBA Event (Conference or Executive Experience) in the past two years? Yes

### **Optional questions:**

3. In what city and state do you practice? Blitt & Gaines, P.C. has attorneys licensed to practice in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin and Arizona. I am personally licensed to practice law in Illinois and Missouri.
4. How long have you been a creditors' rights attorney? 16 years
5. What is the name of the law firm member for which you work? Blitt & Gaines, P.C.
6. What is your current job title and duties? Partner/CCO
7. What are your two main practice areas (e.g. bankruptcy, credit card, compliance, etc.)? Blitt & Gaines represents a large array of clients ranging from local credit unions to national banks. My day to day focuses on oversight of our attorney team, firm defense, compliance and all things regulatory.
8. Have you served as a Committee or Task Force Chair or Co-Chair in the past three (3) years? Of which Committees or Task Forces? Yes, I co-chaired education and participated in several task forces.
9. Provide a list of professional articles or presentations that you have done. Please list the date and whether the presentation was for the NCBA. I participated on several webinars on the topic of Reg. F for NCBA, the Indiana Bar Association and other groups. I presented during the spring NCBA conference in May and will be on two panels during our fall conference in Tampa.
10. Are you involved in state advocacy through an SCBA or NCBA chapter? I am a member of the ILCBA, MCBI and our firm is a founding member of the CBCI.
11. Have you served on a Board of Directors (or similar governing body) previously? Please describe. Yes, I served on the NCBA Board of Directors and currently hold the position of Secretary.
12. Describe some of your leadership roles or describe what qualities you possess that make you a strong leader. I am honest, hard-working and an independent thinker. I am supportive, but able to express my opinion. Most importantly, I am committed to the organization and the members.
13. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors for NCBA? This is currently my second term on the executive committee and President-Elect is the next step in my NCBA leadership progression. I have been mentored and groomed for this position by several past presidents and I can only describe that journey as priceless.

14. How will you help NCBA advance its mission statement? A mission statement needs to be more than just something an organization has posted on a website or wall. As President-Elect I intend to keep our mission at the core of everything done by our organization.

15. What motivates you to do excellent work? I believe I am self-motivated by my desire to succeed at whatever I am trying to accomplish. I have a strong sense of pride in my work and will not lower that expectation for myself.

16. What is your ideal level of interaction with the other board members? As long as we have consistent communication and transparency, the level of interaction will vary depending on the goal we are trying to achieve.

17. What is the biggest challenge facing our industry? What do you recommend we do to overcome that challenge? The biggest challenge facing our industry is that the biggest challenge frequently changes. Our organization has been successful by staying the course in our advocacy efforts and the updates from RFA demonstrate that success. A favorite phrase from Fred is, "don't make it into a fire drill." Our industry will continue to face challenges on the regulatory and legislative front, but our continuous approach to advocacy will provide us with more success than choosing to be reactive and making it a fire drill.

18. What do you recommend doing to increase participation in NCBA by younger and/or newer attorneys, or new members of NCBA? Increasing participation by younger/newer attorneys is a big initiative by the current executive committee as well as the membership committee. We have been working to identify members and familiarize them with the opportunities for participation as well as support members who reach out to us with questions or an interest in participation.