MIOSOTTI H. TENECORA  
Candidate Statement for the Delegate of Diversity and Inclusion  

May 18, 2018  

Law Student Division, American Bar Association  
321 North Clark Street Chicago, IL, 60654  

It was not until my first year of law school at BU Law that I profoundly understood the importance of diversity and inclusion in law school and in the legal profession. During the first semester of law school, I was not prepared for the shock I felt when I sat down in my seat and noticed in a second that I was one of the few that made our class diverse. Even among the class of diverse students, I felt I was different. Like any diverse student, I sought community in the affinity groups. However, I found it difficult to relate to my fellow classmates in those groups. I am not only a Hispanic woman, but I am also the first person in my family to attend college and graduate school. During my first semester, I found it hard to focus and I found it even harder to believe I deserved to be there.  

It was the first time in my life when I knew I needed help, but did not know how to seek it. Prior to law school, helping others in my community was a priority. Growing up in the Bronx, there were not many role models I could look up to nor any mentors that could guide me. I spent countless hours tutoring and mentoring students throughout college and beyond. Most of the tutoring sessions were not only about helping students academically, but also helping them develop confidence to keep going. Apart from this, I have also made it a priority to help domestic violence survivors. As a child witness of domestic violence, I also understood that breaking the cycle of violence required compassionate and sympathetic advocates. Although public service has always been at the core of my education and career, I felt completely lost in my first year. I found myself wandering through the halls alone. For the first time, I was on the other end, and needed help.  

It was not until I started thinking back at the hardships I’ve been through growing up that I used myself as a role model. I thought if I could channel the energy and optimism I felt helping others, I could help myself in the process. I began researching for other first-generation law students online and quickly learned that many law schools had a “first generation professionals (FGP)” student organization on campus. BU Law did not have one. I quickly began the process of starting this student organization during my first year. I called other law schools to help me build a mission plan and programming ideas that could help students like myself. Today, FGP at BU Law has 64 members and has established over ten events that 1) enhance student education and professional needs, 2) introduce students to the legal profession, 3) encourage pro bono services to encourage high school students and undergraduates to pursue higher education, 4) mentor law students, and 5) create social awareness of the impediments of reaching higher education. Above all, FGP collaborates with other groups on campus and outside the Boston community to create meaningful programming.  

FGP is an example of working towards an often-forgotten part of diversity, which is inclusion. Achieving a functioning diverse community requires inclusion. My name is Miosotti Tenecora and I am running for the Delegate of Diversity and Inclusion. I want to ensure that every diverse student is represented and is included in the discussions of how we can build a community that invites and celebrates diversity. I
MIOSOTTI H. TENECORA
Candidate Statement for the Delegate of Diversity and Inclusion

want to create a platform that promotes the inclusion of more voices in law schools and the legal profession. These voices need to be acknowledged and understood. Throughout my education and career, I have put individuals first. I hear them and work with them towards achieving any goal they want to. No matter how small or big they are. For example, in law school I was discussing with an LGTBQ student of how networking events were so frustrating because it was always awkward to correct an attorney on their pronouns. FGP, in an effort to be inclusive during its “Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Field” event, added pronouns to our name tags. Inclusion starts by listening to diverse students and professionals in how they want to be included. I want to listen to law students and professionals of diverse backgrounds and incorporate innovative and creative ideas to build an inclusive community. I want to focus on creating a platform built alongside the caucuses and even expand to all law students through a survey to contribute to programming building. I want focus on how diverse students can achieve academic success through pipe-line programs, mentorship programs, and development programs that encourage students to voice their needs in their respective law school campuses.

I have experience promoting inclusion and community prior to law school and at law school. I have not only worked with FGP, but also with other organizations outside the Boston community to create dialogues regarding what it means to be a diverse professional in the legal field. I’ve connected with attorneys of diverse backgrounds in both the private and public sector. Each has a unique perspective that I have tried to bring to BU Law through my various positions as Public Interest Community Chair, Treasurer of the Immigration Law & Policy Society, and the BU Law representative for the Boston Bar Association. I have also contributed to our new Dean search by interviewing Dean candidates on their views of how to include diverse students into the BU Law community. I want to do the same for the Law Student Division and open this platform through the Division’s Diversity Committee. I want to be a strong advocate for those who need a platform to raise awareness about issues that are not highlighted within the legal education.

I have past experience in project management and grant management through my work with inter-government agencies and non-profits, which will allow me to contribute to the grant fund. I’ve also held representative positions in which I have represented those who have no voice. I know I can fulfill the duties required of the Delegate of Diversity with zeal and passion. I want to bring awareness to issues that affect our students and the legal profession. Above all, I want to continue to serve others and build towards a community that celebrates, understands, and encourages diversity.

Thank you for the opportunity to run for the Delegate of Diversity and Inclusion. I hope that by sharing my experience, the public and the ABA has received a glimpse of my life and my passion to serve others and my commitment to diversity and inclusion. I hope to have your vote, and for any questions, I welcome anyone to email me at Tenecora@bu.edu or call me at 917-870-7594. You can also connect with me through my LinkedIn. If you wish to read about FGP, please read BU Law’s alumni magazine article.

Sincerely,
Miosotti H. Tenecora
MIOSOTTI H. TENECORA  
Bronx, NY • 917-870-7594 • tenecora@bu.edu

EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA  
J.D. anticipated, May 2019
Honors/Awards: Public Interest Scholar (three-year full tuition scholarship); Massachusetts SJC Pro Bono Award  
Activities: Public Interest Project-Community Service Chair; First Generation Professionals-Founder/President; BU Law Orientation-Service Day Chair; Immigration & Law Policy Society-Treasurer; Boston Bar Association-BU Law Representative

Concordia University, Irvine, CA/Shanghai, China  
M.A. in International Studies, May 2014
Thesis: Chinese College Students’ Perception of Domestic Violence  
Activities: Taught business courses in Shanghai, China for a year

Fordham University, Bronx, NY  
B.S., magna cum laude, in Accounting, May 2010
Honors/Awards: Boyle Honor Scholar; Homines Pro Aliis Award-community service; ABA CLEO Scholar 2008  
Activities: Latino Accounting & Finance Club-Founder/Co-President; Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

EXPERIENCE

Boston University School of Law International Human Rights Clinic, Boston, MA  
Selected Law Student  
September 2017 - May 2018
Research migrant disappearances in Guatemala and take on cases from the International Refugee Assistance Program.

Honorable Chief Judge Dora L. Irizarry United States District Court: Eastern District of NY, Brooklyn NY  
Judicial Intern  
May 2017 - August 2017
Researched case law and drafted opinions with law clerk supervision. Opinions were published.

New York City Council Member Andrew Cohen’s Office, Bronx, NY  
Part-Time Intern  
June 2016 - August 2016
Responded to constituent inquiries. Coordinated and organized free legal service events for constituents.

Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY  
Legal Project Assistant for the Matrimonial/Economic Justice Project  
September 2014 - June 2016
Handled divorce and housing cases with attorney supervision for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.

Permanent Mission of the Principality of Andorra to the United Nations, New York, NY  
Junior Adviser/Intern  
March 2014 - July 2014
Attended and reported on inter-governmental meetings of the United Nations. Wrote a policy speech for the Ambassador.

United States District Court: Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn, NY  
Case Processing Clerk  
May 2010 - June 2012
Managed all procedural inquiries from US attorneys, judges, and other attorneys. Tracked and docketed cases.

Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office: Victim Services Unit, Brooklyn, NY  
Intern  
June 2009 - August 2009
Informed domestic violence survivors of criminal procedures. Translated affidavits from English to Spanish.

PRO BONO/VOLUNTEER

Ayuda Legal Huracán María - Legal Volunteer - Puerto Rico (40 hours/1 week)  
March 2018 - March 2018
Sanctuary for Families - Legal Volunteer - Brooklyn, NY (4 hours/week)  
June 2017 - July 2017
iMentor - High School Mentor - New York, NY (3 hours/month)  
April 2015 - June 2017
ProBAR - Legal Volunteer - Harlingen, Texas (40 hours/1 week)  
March 2017 - March 2017

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Fluent in Spanish; Notary Public, licensed in New York State; Lexis Nexis Legal Research Certification; Walking dogs