



Kelly Ilacqua: The Sun Also Rises – Wills & Estates; Former SMBA Trustee

I'm the founder and shareholder of The Sun Also Rises - Wills & Estates, a Santa Monica estate planning practice. In my "spare time" I run Do Better Together, a Santa Monica nonprofit advancing social justice and environmental reform.

I joined the SMBA, and eventually became an SMBA Trustee, because I believe in the power of local institutions. We are stronger when we are united in our defense of the Constitution, and the legal profession more generally. I believe a strong and independent judiciary is crucial to maintaining a strong and healthy democracy. That is why in my role as Trustee, I proposed that the SMBA sign on to the ABA's Statement in Defense of the Rule of Law.

Among other things, the ABA Statement rejects "the notion that the U.S. government can punish lawyers and law firms who represent certain clients," and endorses Chief Justice Roberts' assertion that "Attempts to intimidate judges for their rulings in cases are inappropriate and should be vigorously opposed." The full text of the statement can be found here: <https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2025/03/bar-organizations-statement-in-support-of-rule-of-law/>.

If elected, I would move for our Board to sign on to the ABA's Statement on behalf of our members. I would also seek to reinstate the SMBA's Legislation and Judiciary Committees, which were formed for the purposes of: (1) providing recommendations on legislation affecting the legal profession, and (2) determining the qualification of candidates for election or appointment to judicial offices.

Read more about Kelly here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kelly-ilacqua/>