

**Wayne Blair, University Ombuds, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**Personal Statement**

The work we do is intriguing, thought-provoking, and more often than not, very fulfilling. I have been an ombudsman for seven years, first at Columbia University and now at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I had the opportunity to lead the creation of our program. I am committed to this profession.

The International Ombudsman Association, though in its infancy, is crucial to the development of the profession in all its diversity. Ours is a dynamic profession and we face many challenges. If given the opportunity to continue my service on the Board, I will strive to have the IOA better serve all members and help create an organization that is as warm and welcoming as its individual members.

**Questions for Nominee**

1. Why are you interested in serving on the IOA board?

I am presently an active IOA board member and wish to continue the good work of the organization and its diverse constituency. Also, as I am a “strategic” thinker and working with its constituencies, I want to help in making the IOA the premier Ombuds organization that better serves all of its members.

2. Do you have any previous leadership or volunteer experience in TOA/UCOA/IOA or in other organizations?

I am a member of the Professional Development Committee and one of a number of instructors. In this capacity, in the past three years, I have co-instructed the Ombuds 101 and Ombuds Plus courses. In addition, I chair the Finance Committee and presently serve as treasurer to the IOA. I have co-presented at IOA conferences in 2006, 2007, and 2008 and facilitated “Discussions with the Board” in 2008 and 2009. Presently, I lead, in addition to being a member of a number of task forces linked to board initiatives.

3. Do you have an area of expertise that IOA could possibly utilize - such as finance and accounting, grant writing, etc.?

I have extensive experience in financial management and human resources. Also, I have strong presentation and teaching skills.

4. What IOA activities or areas are you most interested in committing time toward?

I wish to continue my work with the Finance Committee and role as treasurer. Also, I plan to continue teaching Ombuds 101 and other courses and assist in the continuing development of the professional development curriculum.

5. Describe how you would advance IOA's Strategic Plan.

An important means of advancing IOA's Strategic Plan is to develop "buy in" amongst the membership. Two important factors in accomplishing this are communication and transparency. If we effectively communicate to all members of the organization how the plan developed; who were involved; and how it was decided to proceed in a particular direction, this would go far in realizing our goals. Just as important, is a person having an opportunity to offer their input. A lack of clarity is detrimental to our advancing the strategic plan.

6. Describe an issue impacting the profession that you are most passionate about and the actions you would take have taken related to this issue.

I believe an issue that has profound implications for our profession is the increasing dichotomy between those who practice in its purest form and those who work in organizations that may not allow them to do so. We should not avoid talking about it but we should avoid drawing inflexible "lines in the sand". This is a very important issue that must be addressed but we must address it in a collegial and collaborative manner. I can assist in setting the tone for these discussions and role model a willingness to hear and be open to different perspectives. Frankly, this is potentially a defining issue for our profession and organization and how we address it says a great deal about who we are as professionals.