

IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Name: Abby J. Moscatel, Esq.

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1. How did you learn about the open position on the Library Board?

Hi there! As it says above, I'm Abby Moscatel! I have been following the drama unfolding about whether or not to allow children access to pornographic images like the ones in *Gender Queer* and the fallout from Whitefish's fundraising program. My husband and son came to last week's meeting to offer support. When I read that there is an open spot on the board, I decided to apply.

2. In what ways do you feel connected to the library's mission?

The mission to provide safe and fair access to information through books, programs, and other media is so important to our community. Imagine IF is a wonderful library, but the city is changing fast. Work needs to be done to keep it on the right track. We moved here from Los Angeles. The libraries smelled like urine and were patroned mainly by the homeless. Injection drug use and smoking marijuana on the benches outside the library quickly became the norm. By the time we left the city, going to the library was not an option. So, I'm simply motivated to keep our libraries here in Montana safe and enjoyable.

The historical mission mentions fair access. Does this come from the dark history of segregated libraries which happened well in to the 1960s? Thank goodness we have moved beyond segregation in our country. I subscribe to Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream that people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

3. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I am interested in serving on the board because I see what happens when community comes together as much as what occurs when the community checks out.

4. Do you have any previous leadership or board service experience? Please provide information about current and previous board experience.

I do have some board and leadership experience. My first opportunities to serve presented itself during undergrad. I was the vice-chair for an expanding national student organization fighting to remove an obstacle to financial aid applying only to applicants with drug convictions. I worked with other young folks to write grants, raise money, and craft a

narrow mission statement. After we reached our goal, I noticed some mission spread, and I moved on.

At other points over the past 20 years I have been charged with fundraising. I have experience with large gifts, phone banking, mailers for nonprofits and schools. I have organized events ranging from large, multi-day conferences to remote meetings.

When I moved to Montana, I quit my corporate trial attorney position with State Farm insurance and launched www.blacktaillaw.com. One of the best things about working for myself is that I can offer reduced-fee or pro-bono work for non-profits. Presently I work with these nonprofits: <https://www.fairforall.org/> ; <https://pacificjustice.org/> and <https://americafirstpolicy.com/> .

5. What kinds of skills or expertise can you offer to the Board? How will the organization benefit from your participation?

I am an analytical thinker with the ability to review contracts, develop long-term goals and strategic plans to reach those goals, and the common sense and experience that comes with 20+ years of leadership positions a decade of practicing law. I understand how to work with other organizations and regulatory bodies in a manner that is efficient and productive. Additionally, I have a decent understanding of technology and how it is shaping our rapidly changing world. Here is a link to my most recent book on technology:
<https://www.amazon.com/Tomorrows-Jobs-Today-Blockchain-Internet/dp/1789045614>

6. Will your schedule allow you to regularly attend board meetings? And, participate in committee work between meetings?

I'll do my best to plan work around the meetings and committee work. However, I still practice law and try cases. If the court sets something during one of our meetings, then I will need to do that. Otherwise, I'll prioritize the board.

7. Our trustees are all certified through the Montana State Library and attend trainings both locally and at the State level.

http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/library_development/certification

Will your schedule allow you to attend trainings?

Yes.

Please provide three references who could speak to your ability to serve on the ImagineIF Libraries Board of Trustees:

Name: Ronalee Skees

Title: Nonprofit development consultant

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address:

Name: Dan Wolfe

Title: Assistant Pastor at Crossroads Christian Church in Bigfork, MT

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address:

Name: Lloyd Bondy

Title: School Board trustee

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: