



SABA North America's Statement Acknowledging Community Concerns

February 21, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SABA North America acknowledges the concerns raised by our community about our recent communication regarding the confirmation of Kash Patel as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As a member-based organization, we value our community's engagement and vocal input about the most pressing issues affecting the South Asian legal community.

SABA North America was founded in response to the unlawful hate-motivated violence and discrimination against the South Asian community arising in the aftermath of 9/11. As a result, the advancement of civil liberties and upholding the rule of law has always been a core part of our mission. Also core to our mission is the professional advancement of South Asian professionals in law and government. In these challenging times, SABA North America strives to strike a balance between our mission, vision, and values while also recognizing the achievements of South Asian legal professionals.

As a non-partisan organization whose constituent members belong to both sides of the political aisle, SABA has consistently issued communications about past or present members' appointments within any Administration, particularly when the appointee has previously affiliated with SABA North America. The intention behind these communications is to acknowledge the historic nature of a particular appointment or election – it is not an endorsement of any party, policy or position. Mr. Patel's confirmation aligns with this long-standing intention, as it is the first time that an Asian American or South Asian American has ever been confirmed as the FBI Director in this country.

Regardless of the historic nature of any appointment, we understand our community's concerns in light of reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation could be weaponized for partisan purposes. SABA North America remains committed to the rule of law and unequivocally condemns the use of agency authority for partisan criminal investigations. We will continue to vociferously advocate to protect the rule of law with the Legislature and the current Administration in accordance with SABA North America's mission. To facilitate that advocacy, SABA North America has been developing resources to assist our community, toolkits to help activate our community and advance our mission, and letters to appointed officials emphasizing the importance of these values.

We remain committed to engagement with our membership. To that end, we invite you to join representatives of SABA North America on Monday, March 3rd, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. EST for a virtual town hall to discuss how we can collectively work together to protect the rule of law and SABA's core values.

This statement is issued on behalf of SABA North America and does not necessarily reflect the views of its individual members or chapters. I