



Board of Directors Candidates

Kara Portwood

DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP



Candidate Country US

ILTA Profile Link [Kara Portwood ILTA Profile](#)

LinkedIn Profile Link [Kara Portwood LinkedIn Profile](#)

Legal Sector Experience Thirty years in IT at Armstrong Teasdale LLP

ILTA Volunteer Experience I have served in various volunteer capacities including:

- Two terms on the ILTA Board of Directors
- Peer Group Vice President
- Peer Group Steering Committee member
- Volunteer Leadership Task Force
- Chaired and Co-chaired the SharePoint Symposium
- Regional Vice President
- Strategic Business Partner Liaison
- Board Liaison to PAC
- Board Liaison to Strategic Business Partner program

Board of Directors Experience (ILTA and other organizations) Two terms on the ILTA Board of Directors

- One term as Director at Large
- One term as Secretary.

Background

- 30 Years at Armstrong Teasdale LLP
- Current role: Director of Innovation
- Prior roles: Practice Area Solutions Consultant, Applications Development Manager

I was nominated and served for the 2021- 2023 ILTA Board of Directors in the role of Secretary. I currently work as the Director of Innovation at Armstrong Teasdale LLP. I work hard to bring value to the firm by facilitating, promoting, and implementing innovative solutions and best practices. I often work with clients to help with collaboration, to solve technology issues, and to contribute to building successful business relationships.

In addition to my work at Armstrong Teasdale LLP, I have served ILTA in numerous capacities, including my first term serving as a Director at Large for the ILTA Board of Directors. I also serve as the Board Liaison to the Partner Advisory Committee and the Strategic Business Partner Liaisons.

Further, I have additional extensive ILTA volunteer expertise and have been a Peer Group Vice President, a Team Member for the ILTACON Planning Committee, a member of the Desktop & Application Services Steering Committee, Peer Group Vice President, Regional Vice President, a Strategic Relationship Liaison and Program Committee member, and have chaired and co-chaired multiple SharePoint Symposiums as well as helped with topic based one day events. I have also served as a Program Planning Council Liaison and served as a Member of the Volunteer Leadership Task Force.

I have been a speaker for ILTA, speaking well over a dozen times at conference. I am also a Webinar guru, a 2011 Peer Award winner, and have been a blogger for ILTA.

Vision

Each candidate was asked questions related to Board service and their vision for ILTA's future. The questions and response are shown below.

Question: Considering the areas of global experience, financial expertise, and consensus building, please share some unique business experience, personal qualities, and/or perspectives that you will bring to your ILTA Board service if elected.

Response: *"Global experience - My firm has had office locations in both London and China. Both bring unique challenges and advantages in delivering technology. That experience can be leveraged when working with ILTA members as well as understanding the needs of global technology members.*

Financial expertise - I have had experience managing budgets for the firm and for another non-profit I have been involved in.

Consensus building - With 30 years of experience working in a law firm, I have had to become able to work with many departments, manage diverse personalities and also think what is best for the organization not just an individual or group. This is not something that is always easy but is a must in ILTA and in my job."

Question: Please describe your vision of ILTA's future. What does ILTA need to help ensure a successful future?

Response: *"My vision of ILTA in the future is that ILTA is the premiere legal technology organization who empowers our members by delivering quality and timely content and connections to help support and develop members careers. My vision is that ILTA is nimble, financially secure, can adapt to the ever-changing legal industry landscape, has a diverse membership with younger generational members, international members, and a business partner community who are actively engaged."*

Question Which ideas from the current strategic plan should be pulled forward into the 2023 – 2026 strategic plan and what additional outcomes should be included in the 2023 – 2026 strategic plan?

Response

- *"Leverage technology more fully to fulfill ILTA's Mission*

If we are going to be the premiere legal technology association, we need to leverage technology to support MyILTA, volunteers, and staff. MyILTA is going to be a critical delivery. We have quality content which our members and business partners are unable to find in a timely manner or that is relevant to their career. This is important to fix and demonstrate ILTA's leadership in leveraging technology by association organizations.

- *Offer more content that is deep rather than wide*

ILTA recently had a very successful two-day Microsoft Teams event. The idea was to take an existing issue or product and create a micro-series. Creating the content deep must have different ways to deliver as well with different perspectives (business partners, members and/or collaboration of both). These deep dives must also have take-aways and be a series of events around a topic or product."