

Kulwant S. Boora

The most surprising thing to Kulwant (Kal) Boora (Moore Class, 2013) about American jurisprudence and the legal system is that U.S. attorneys are responsible for doing everything. In England where Boora was born, grew up, and first practiced law, responsibilities are divided between barristers and solicitors, each with very distinct roles.

Boora and his four siblings grew up in a Sikh Punjabi family in Birmingham, England, the children of parents who emigrated from India. Boora's father was from the State of Punjab in India. Boora's parents and grandparents taught him the value of working hard, while his good friend, highly respected British lawyer, Solicitor Mohammed Qasim, tutored and mentored Boora while he was studying and practicing law in his early years in England.

Before starting his law studies in England, Boora obtained a position with a firm of solicitors in Birmingham as an office clerk. When he returned to school, he studied law at Sutton Coldfield College in Sutton in conjunction with the Institute of Legal Executives. He completed his Diploma in Law and Higher Diploma in law, and completed the Law Society of England and Law Common Professional Examinations with Hertfordshire University School of Law. He also completed his BA Honors at Staffordshire University, and a Diploma in Theology with Honors at the University of Wales. After earning his LL.M. at WMU-Cooley, Boora undertook his second LL.M. in Staffordshire University, and now has two Master of Laws degrees. He also undertook study with Oxford University, Department of Continuing Education.

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“Do your best and keep striving. Find what sets you apart. You can do things that open the door for you.” KULWANT S. BOORA

Professional success and numerous academic degrees were in the making when a chance meeting during a visit to the United States changed the trajectory of his life. At an Apostolic Church gathering in Ohio, Boora met his wife. The two instantly connected and married in 2002. The couple settled in Ohio and later in Michigan, when his wife encouraged him to pursue his LL.M. at WMU-Cooley to enhance his legal career in the United States.

Boora quickly adapted to the American lawyer’s all-in-one role, and since earning his LL.M. and passing the Michigan bar, he has established a flourishing legal practice in southeast Michigan. He has already been named by Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2019 and 2020.

The Boora Law Group, PLC, established in 2016, practices both civil and criminal defense. Boora has also been contacted for matters relating to international matters in the United Kingdom whether it is employment, legal, business, or corporations, due to his knowledge of the legal field there. He also works alongside other attorneys who are connected to his firm.

Starting out, Boora remembers the scary first days of not

having a single client. Then he undertook criminal defense work. Doing that, Boora recalled, “was a fabulous way to get out in the community.” Getting known in the community, particularly the diverse ethnic communities, led Boora to one of his most news-making cases.

In this case, Boora was invited to second-chair one of the biggest drug trials in the history of Monroe County, Michigan. With the largest drug seizure on record in the county, the case attracted the attention of both the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

The community connection in this case came about when the defendant, who spoke only Punjabi, contacted Boora directly for help because the attorney was fluent in the language and culture.

Another highlight of Boora’s legal career took place in 2018 when he won his first jury trial – on his birthday! Halfway through the trial, Boora made a bold move and asked for a directed verdict. The legal parties met in the judge’s chambers. “I was nervous,” Boora recalled. “I was shaking the whole time.” He hid it well, though. The judge came close to granting the motion, but in the end the case went to the jury – and Boora won. He still

remembers a prosecutor saying to him the next day, “I heard you’re a bit of a trial lawyer!” but Boora does recall that he was up against a particularly good prosecutor.

Another professional success occurred when he was serving as a law clerk. In that experience, Boora did the legal research and drafted a motion on a legal issue at the trial court level that was ultimately upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court.

Before he could take on such successes, however, Boora had to take the bar exam in the United States. Even though he had his legal credentials from England, and had his LL.M. from WMU-Cooley, it turned out that passing the bar exam wasn’t the hardest part – it was being allowed to take it that proved the most challenging. As Boora learned, having a foreign law degree, and even earning a law degree in the United States, carried no guarantee to sit for the bar. Boora said his LL.M. from WMU-Cooley, a Michigan ABA law school, was certainly a contributing factor in getting that bar exam approval. “I was over the moon when they allowed me to sit for the bar,” said Boora

In experiencing the difficulties involved in transitioning from a member of the British legal profession to life as an American



lawyer, Boora ran into enough surprises about the bar exam and other matters that it piqued his interest to take a look at just how the rules varied across the nation. Boora’s initial search led into expanded research. It was like peeling back an onion to discover layer after layer of varying rules and processes.

The result was Boora’s recently published book, Boora’s book

paves a path of understanding for anyone trying to navigate. “It’s like, ‘here’s the rules, but here’s what happens,’” Boora explained.

One reviewer wrote: “Attorney Boora opens the informational door for international students, lawyers and attorneys and this book, U.S. Bar Admissions, takes the guess work out of how to expand your legal career into

the U.S. marketplace for foreign law students and foreign lawyers, providing excellent coverage and in-sight of the subject U.S. Bar Admissions.” WMU-Cooley Law Professor Gerald Tschura also wrote a glowing review of the book.

Ever a scholar, Boora has actually published over 15 books. In illustration of Boora’s diversity of interests, he also has one of his publications housed at Yale University called “Baptism in the Name of Jesus Acts 2:38” which is in contrast to the post-New Testament Trinitarian form in Matthew 28:19. His works are used widely in the worldwide Apostolic Oneness

Pentecostal movement.

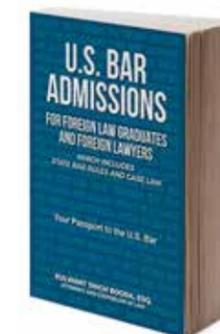
Boora’s advice for law students and new attorneys alike, is “Do your best and keep striving. Find what sets you apart. You can do things that open the door for you.”

He added, “It’s not always about the law. To gain trust is not easy and you need to be willing to

learn new information.”

Boora always encourages attorneys to get out in the community, to recognize and reach out to multicultural groups in your area. Showing interest and trustworthiness goes a long way toward getting people who need assistance to trust you and reach out to you for help, he noted.

Boora maintains strong connections in the Indian and Asian communities, which enables him to reach to a broader clientele. He believes that understanding diverse cultures within this day and age will pay dividends to any law firm and practice. He said he is honored to be an American-British Indian and he lives with his family in Michigan.



Boora’s book helps navigate bar exam rules across the nation.