

NACOLE CANDIDATE ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidates are encouraged to fill out the following questionnaire, to give NACOLE members relevant information when voting for Board members.

Name: Anthony W. Finnell

- 1) Position Sought: Vice-President
- 2) Geographic Location: Seattle, WA
- 3) Current Oversight Position and Organization: Strategic Initiatives Lead, Office of the Inspector General, Seattle, WA; Principal – A. W. Finnell & Associates, LLC
- 4) Number of Years as a NACOLE Member: 7 (2014-Present)
- 5) Please list Annual Conferences or training opportunities in which you have attended:

Annual Conferences:

21st, Riverside, CA
22nd, Albuquerque, NM
23rd, Spokane, WA
24th, St. Petersburg, FL
25th, Detroit, MI
26th, Virtual
27th, Virtual

Regional Conferences:

Oakland, CA/Bay Area (2x)
Miami, FL
Indianapolis, IN
Denver, CO

Academic Symposiums:

Seattle, WA
New York NY
Phoenix, AZ
Austin, TX

Various webinars, Community/Town Halls as a panelist

- 6) Are you currently a member of the NACOLE Board? Yes

If so, in what capacity:

____President

____ Vice President

xx Board Member At-Large (at the present time I am the treasurer)

For the following questions, please respond in no more than 200 words.

1) Why do you want to serve on the NACOLE Board?

I would like to continue my service on the NACOLE Board because I am committed to the mission of NACOLE and oversight of law enforcement. I am very active within the organization and as a Board, we have many projects underway which I would like to see through completion.

I am part of the Organizational Development group as well as the Chair of the Elections and Bylaws committee. One of the primary goals of the Organizational Development group is to create revenue streams to enable NACOLE to hire a full-time Executive Director and support operations. I would like the opportunity to continue working towards these goals. As the demand for civilian oversight has grown over the past year, the need for NACOLE to address these demands has also grown. I feel it is vital for the organization to maintain continuity and consistency as we prepare ourselves to meet these demands.

2) What skills/experience/qualities do you bring to the NACOLE Board?

I have over thirty years working in law enforcement matters, social justice, and oversight of law enforcement. I have also been a member of the NACOLE Board for five years.

I have held leadership positions within oversight agencies and worked with oversight practitioners from across the U.S. addressing specific oversight issues and concerns in their jurisdictions. I have owned and operated a small business for many years, bringing management skills to the table. Lastly, I have vast experience in conducting investigations into criminal, administrative, and civil matters, policy development and training, all of which are critical to oversight.

3) What challenges does NACOLE face as a rapidly growing membership organization?

The biggest challenge, in my opinion, that NACOLE faces is being able to meet the capacity for the demands for oversight from across the country. There are so many communities wanting expert training and help setting up oversight entities and we need to build up our staffing. Therefore, we have a need for an Executive Director; however, we also need to create a sustainable income stream to pay for staff and increasing operation expenses. We currently have a Director of Training, but she needs staff to assist with the ongoing training requests. Overall, the demand for oversight has increased and as the expert in the field, NACOLE is working hard to meet the demand. I want to help NACOLE reach this goal.

- 4) How have you contributed to NACOLE's work? Please include all committees you have served on or led, as well as any other NACOLE volunteer efforts.

I have served as the Chair of the Elections and Bylaws committee for the past two years. Previously, I served as the Chair of the Strategic Planning committee. I also serve as the Treasurer and as a member of the Finance Committee. Lastly, I serve on the Organizational Development group.

I have volunteered by assisting the Director of Training by providing training to community groups throughout the country. I have hosted regional conference training and served during every annual conference since 2015.

- 5) Please share highlights of your background/experience in law enforcement oversight.

I began my career in law enforcement oversight in 2013, serving as Supervisory Investigator with IPRA (Chicago, IL). In 2014 I was selected to be the Executive Director for the Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB), in Oakland, CA. When I became the ED, the office had 2 civilian investigators, 1 policy analyst and a parttime admin staff member. By 2017 I had added 5 civilian investigators, 1 policy analyst, 1 supervisory investigator, 1 full-time contract attorney, 3 intake technicians, 1 full-time office administrator and 1 part-time admin staff member. Our capacity increased from handling around 50 complaints annually to more than 500 complaints and intakes each year.

I held that position until 2017, when the CPRB was replaced with the Community Police Review Agency (CPRA). I then became the Interim ED until November 0f 2018. In 2019, I relocated to Seattle, WA to become the Investigations and Communications Advisor for the Office of Inspector General. At the present time I serve as the Strategic Initiatives Lead for the OIG.

In 2021 I was selected to serve on the Law Enforcement subcommittee for the Justice Counts Initiative, which is a multi-year Bureau of Justice Assistance initiative designed to help states make criminal justice data more accessible and usable for policymakers.

- 6) If elected/re-elected, what would you most like to accomplish as a Board member?

If elected, the main thing I would like to accomplish would be to create a sustainable income stream for NACOLE, one which could support the key positions of Executive Director and all Directors (Training, Operations, etc.) and would also help NACOLE build the capacity to meet the growing demand for oversight.

The second goal I would like to accomplish would be to increase the NACOLE membership, both organizational and regular/associates by 25% in two years.

7) Additional information for voters to consider:

My background provides me with the ability to bring a different perspective to the Board as we make decisions for the organization. I believe it is the differences we all bring that has allowed us to solve many of the issues that have come up in the past year. I also believe the differences and the ability for us to come together has been our strength as a board. I value each member of NACOLE, and I am at your service whether I sit on the Board or not.