

Caroline Guerin

Answers to the Nominating Committee's Questions

What have you done for or with the FSMTB in the last few years?

Currently I serve as the Vice President of the Board of Directors. In March 2018, I contributed to the FSMTB's standards committee for the MBLEx, which was implemented in July 2018. I have been a panel member at several Strategic Planning Symposiums. I was the Chairperson of the Examination Policy Committee for five years. I also served as a member of the Finance Committee. In 2023 I served on the Examination Eligibility Review Panel. My involvement included advocating for the importance of maintaining the MBLEx's rigorous standards amidst efforts by some States to create their own test for financial gain. I have actively supported the MBLEx's role in ensuring licensure portability, which is crucial for professionals in our mobile society.

What skill sets and strengths do you bring to the FSMTB?

I offer a robust blend of practical and managerial skills, grounded in my dual focus on hands-on massage instruction and business acumen. At Laurel School of Massage, a 100% woman-owned enterprise, I teach half of the hands-on classes and maintain a rigorous selection process for our elite students. Our small class sizes and comprehensive programs ensure high-quality education, reflected in our students' outstanding MBLEx scores and employment outcomes. My proficiency in both the spiritual and business aspects of massage therapy, coupled with my proactive approach to addressing industry needs—such as establishing an in-house massage establishment—demonstrates my dedication and expertise. Since 2021 I own and operate an off-premises chair massage business serving schools, hospitals, nursing homes and corporate clients. I am also well-versed in massage therapy laws and adept at balancing direct involvement with effective delegation.

What do you see as the important issues facing FSMTB?

FSMTB faces several critical issues that must be addressed to advance the massage therapy profession. Key among these is the ongoing need to establish and uphold high standards that enhance the profession's credibility and societal recognition. By continuing to set rigorous benchmarks and fostering respect within the industry, FSMTB provides a vital platform for massage therapists, affirming their contributions to public well-being.

Another significant issue is improving collaboration between FSMTB and State Boards. Strengthening communication and mutual support is essential for a unified approach to regulation and education. As a Board Member, I aim to promote the importance of a national exam, such as the MBLEx, to state administrators and legislators, ensuring that it remains a robust tool for licensure portability and professional standards.

Additionally, FSMTB must address the detrimental effects of human trafficking on both licensed therapists and the broader community. Human trafficking not only exploits vulnerable individuals but also undermines the integrity of our profession. Tackling this issue requires concerted efforts to support affected individuals and strengthen regulatory measures to prevent and address trafficking within the massage therapy industry.

By focusing on these areas—maintaining high standards, fostering collaboration, and combating human trafficking—FSMTB can enhance its impact and further the profession's reputation and effectiveness.