

## **CANDIDATE PROFILE**



**Name:**

**Michael G. Thomas**

**Department/ Office:**

Department of Legal Cooperation, Secretariat for Legal Affairs

**Education:**

Michael holds a law degree from the University of Buckingham in the United Kingdom, and he is an active member of the New York Bar Association. He also holds an LLM from American University, together with a certificate in Business and Financial Regulation.

**Experience:**

Michael is a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, and he joined the OAS General Secretariat in late 2000, as an attorney in the Department of Legal Services. In his 15 years with the Secretariat, he has worked on a variety of issues, including one year working as a Specialist for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. For the past 10 years he has worked as an attorney in the Department of Legal Cooperation, within the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, where he works on matters related largely to the OAS Anticorruption Mechanism (MESICIC) and Cyber-Crime.

From 2013 to 2014, Michael had the honor of serving as President of the Staff Association. During this term of office, he promoted and maintained an important process of substantive negotiations between the Staff Association, the Administration and the Member States in order to defend, among others, GS/OAS' classification system and parity with the United Nations.

Prior to being elected President, Michael served as Vice-President of the Committee during the 2010-2011 term, and was also a member of the committee during the 2012-2013 term. Prior to that, in 2009 he worked with the subcommittee for review and editing of the Staff Association Statutes, and in 2004, on the drafting of a policy against workplace harassment.

Recently, Michael was elected to a three-year term as a Member of the Board of Directors of the OAS Staff Federal Credit Union and from 2007 to 2013 he served as a member of the Governance Committee of the Credit Union.

**Personal Statement:**

Throughout the various occasions on which I have had the privilege to serve on the Staff Committee, I have seen firsthand the important role played by the Staff Association, not only in terms of pushing for better working conditions and ensuring that our rights as staff members are respected in moments of crisis, but also in terms of fostering constructive dialogue with the Administration.

I believe that this moment of transition is a key opportunity for such dialogue and that further, in 2015, the Staff Association will need to play a vital role in helping to set the tone for all of our respective relationships with the Administration over the coming years.

If elected as a member of the Staff Committee I will once again work tirelessly to protect the welfare and workplace dignity of the staff of the General Secretariat. I will put a special emphasis on the continued advocacy of issues that are of vital interest to the staff, such as improving workplace stability, career development and mobility, and increased transparency, among others.