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Class XXXIV  
Judge 127th District Court, Harris County

**1. What has been ALF's impact on you? On the community? On organizations and people that you work with?**

It is difficult for me to articulate the impact that ALF has had on me. For sure, ALF has had an out-sized impact on the way that I live my life and the way that I interact with others. I am more aware of the fact that my perspective is not shared by everyone I know. In fact, ALF helped me realize that I was viewing life through the bubble I lived in. My interactions and relationships were guided by my perspective, which I realized was narrow.

Since completing my fellowship with ALF, I have diversified my "bubble." Further, I have slowed down my decision-making process to consider different perspectives. This slowed-down collaborative decision-making has shown benefits in both my work-place and in the community.

**2. Why were you interested in serving on the ALF board?**

There were a few of reasons:

1. Selfishly, I wanted to continue to grow. If my time with my ALF class was so wonderful, how awesome would 3 years on the ALF Board be! Also, I wanted to be able to diversify my thought process, my contacts, and my problem-solving techniques, and I knew being on the Board was a great way to do all of those;
2. I wanted to be part of the solution. I believe that dialogue is an excellent way to bring together our various communities. The structure put in place by ALF, and its goal of finding diverse participants is instrumental in bringing about meaningful change. Also, as a person that convenes large groups of people, I thought my perspective would be helpful; and
3. I really enjoy ALF. I have found all my interactions with ALFers to be fun. I find the camaraderie, the trust, and diversity of perspective alluring. I knew that my time on the Board would be more of the same, and I was happy to have the opportunity to participate.

**3. What committee(s) do you serve on and what are you most excited to work on?**

Currently, I am on the Senior Fellows committee. I enjoy the topics and different programs that the committee promotes, but the issues that most interest me are those that look to the future of our community. The recent 2nd Friday Breakfast on the future of leadership was one such program. I enjoyed participating participate and learning from the panel and the audience. The number of different generations in that room, the audience diversity, and the passion of the panelists was amazing. It was truly a great experience for me.

The Chez ALF dinners are also fantastic. The ability to sit with fellow ALFers in a comfortable space and have an intimate discussion on a topic of relevance is very enjoyable. The intimacy that is felt in ALF is exemplified during these dinners. I really enjoy participating in these dinners.

**4. Are there any ALF lessons/techniques that you apply in your daily life/professional/community life?**

In my daily life, I have a lot of people talking at me. Prior to ALF, I was always ready to respond without fully considering what was being said. By participating in ALF, I have learned to slow down and listen. I don't always succeed, but I do my best not to interrupt, and most importantly, I try to ask the right questions. Asking questions that strike at the heart of the matter and situation usually engenders a more meaningful and sincere response, and in my line of work, it helps cut through the clutter.

These lessons help in my daily life. I find slowing-down to be very important. Taking in information before responding or offering a solution is critical. My wife, who is also a lawyer, and my ten-year-old son live very different daily lives than I do. My ability to slow down and listen is comforting to both of them, and it allows for more fruitful discussions.

**5. What value does your American Leadership Forum membership provide to you?**

My ALF membership provides me the ability to stretch and to grow. I have access to great thought leaders, titans of different industries, and to programming that touches on relevant and community focused issues.

Further, the knowledge that other ALF members have had a similar Fellows experience as me provides a level of comfort and trust. It is reassuring to know that ALFers appreciate the importance of communication and are likely to give me the benefit of the doubt because of our shared experience. This commonality creates a great jumping off point for collaboration and problem solving.

I am so happy to be a part of this team.