

MARIA SZONERT BINIENDA, ESQ.

CANDIDATE FOR PAC VICE PRESIDENT OF POLISH AFFAIRS



Dear PAC Delegates,

I would be honored to serve the PAC and Polonia.

If elected, I will:

- Listen to all interested in Polish issues;
- Maintain close relationship with Polish Affairs Directors at the division level;
- Cooperate with the President and the Board;
- Update the Board on Polish concerns;
- Work on issues on which we agree;
- Emphasize focus groups and education;
- Cooperate with the American agenda group.

Some Polish-Americans are concerned that the PAC concentrates exclusively on the American issues. I agree that this area is very important. However, PAC needs to be active on Polish issues as well because, as Marshal Rydz-Śmigły stated in August 1939, “the fate of every person is closely connected with the fate of his or her homeland.”

Today Poland needs Polonia and Polonia needs Poland.

Let us join forces because only then both Poland and Polonia will be strong!

Thank you in advance for your vote.

Work Experience:

I am the Founder and President of Libra Institute, Inc., a non-profit organization that led the efforts for 2012 declassification of Katyn documentation. In the 1990's I worked as a corporate attorney with leading international law firms of Jones Day and Skadden Arps. Subsequently, I served as Capital Markets Specialist with the United States Agency for International Development in the US Department of State. I also served as Vice President for KeyCorp in Cleveland.

Activities:

Writing extensively on legal and historical subjects and current affairs; some works include: *World War II through Polish Eyes* (EEM Columbia University Press 2002), *Null and Void; Poland: Case Study on Comparative Imperialism* (University Press of America 2008), *Was Katyn Genocide?* (Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law 2012), *Smolensk Maze* (Libra Institute 2014); testified before the European Parliament on the Smolensk crash (March 2012); led a team of international experts in support of the Katyn families in the *Janowiec* case before the European Court of Human Rights (2013)

Membership:

Polish-American Congress Ohio Division, Polish National Alliance, Polish Women's Alliance, JPPII Polish-American Cultural Center in Cleveland, Pilsudski Institute, Warszawska Izba Radców Prawnych

Education:

Master of Law in Public International Law - University of Warsaw, Poland
Post-Graduate Journalism Program – University of Warsaw, Poland
Juris Doctor - Rutgers University, New Jersey
MBA in Finance – University of Akron, Ohio

Chicago, October 2014