

# FDA Trustee Application

**Name** Christopher Bulnes

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**Please upload a photo of yourself. A professional headshot is preferred.**



**Please list your qualifications for this position. (Leadership roles, experience, etc.)**

2022 – Present – ERISA ADA Task Force, House member  
2021 – Present – FDA Trustee  
2020 – 2023 – Chair, 17th District to the ADA  
2018 – Present – Member – TAC – ADA DERE  
2019 - Present - FDA Fountain Statewide MOM Co-Chair  
2018 FDAF FLAMOM Local Co-Chair  
2016-2017 Florida Statewide FLA MOM Co- Clinical Chair  
2018-2019 Code Maintenance Committee Chair  
2018-2019 ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs Chair  
2017-2018 ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs Vice-Chair  
2016-2020 17th Representative to ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP)  
2016 - 2017 Chair Subcommittee on Code and Transactions  
2016 – 2023 Dental Quality of Alliance (DQA) Education Committee  
2016 - 2020 FDA Alternate Trustee  
2014 FLA MOM Co-Clinical Chair  
2012 – 2016 17th District Alternate Delegate to the ADA  
2017 - Present 17th District Delegate to the ADA

**Please list any boards, committees or other groups you currently or previously have served on (dental or non-dental) along with years of service.**

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**Please share any accomplishments while serving in other leadership positions.**

17th - Successfully assisted the 17th submit resolutions in 2022 and 2023 and be accepted by the ADA HOD as policy. In addition, assisted Dr Cesar Sabates become the ADA President Elect in 2020.

Mission of Mercy (MOM) - I have helped the MOM continue to thrive in each location in regards to efficiencies of the clinic, awareness in the public of the program and as a statewide Chair bring historical perspective of the program to each district as need be

FDA - Served as an Alternate Trustee and as a present Trustee to help the FDA reach new heights in regards to non dues revenue, fiscal responsibility and resist the market share decline we experience.

CDBP - Served 4 years, 2 of which I was in Vice Chair and Chair positions. With that I served as CMC Chair to develop procedure codes for USA dentists to use for reimbursement purposes. I was integral in the Medicare and dental discussion in it's infancy. Helped develop and still maintain DERE ( ADA Dental Warehouse) which will allow the ADA to have the data necessary to combat 3rd party intrusion.

**Have you participated in continuing education or training programs in leadership? If yes, please share your experience.**

Participated in LEADS in 2023 and partly in 2024. In 2024, I had a conflict with the morning session due to a site visit at the RP Funding Center for the 2024 FDA Foundation MOM. In short, the LEAD event always amazes me of the amount of people that attend, the new faces I see, and the valuable feedback they provide to the FDA. I see a numerous amount of member dentists that are our potential leaders. My hope is to encourage each and every one them to stay the course, become a servant leader, and engage, discuss, and decide. I will maintain that the LEAD still has greater capacity and the ability to draw in bigger name leaders. My hope is to encourage more funding of the event to bolster our new leaders to fill our shoes.

**Do you think there is value in the tripartite membership structure (ADA/FDA/Component)? Why or why not?**

Yes. The tripartite is why dentistry is the greatest profession. Each part has it's place and role. Nationally, we have our advocacy efforts with the ADA. At the state level, we have advocacy in Tallahassee with GAO and member support in regards to 3rd party payers, FDAS and CE with FDC. Finally, at the Component level, this is where we can develop our leaders to become future state and national leaders while still echoing the tripartite message locally. All 3 must work in concert and try not to be duplicative.

**The mission of the FDA is to "Help Members Succeed". Do you feel that the association is fully utilizing its resources to fulfill this mission? If yes, share why. If no, what additional actions would you propose?**

Yes. Our team at the FDA works tirelessly to increase our member benefit while also keeping our due dollars low. During my present time at the BOT, policies have been put in to place to help our member dentists succeed. For instance, restructuring of our governance structure has made the FDA more nimble and agile to react to decision on a more timely basis, which will allow us to help our members quicker and better. Our team at the FDA provides concierge service in the areas of membership, 3rd party payer intrusion, advocacy, and financial and practice services with FDAS. We need to as BOT members is get our membership FIRED up to utilize these services to seek the full benefit of their membership and SUCCEED. Personally, without the FDA my practice would not be successful without their help.

**What are the biggest challenges you see for the FDA as an organization in the coming years and what are ways you suggest the FDA can meet those challenges?**

Membership market share decline - demographics have changed and our modality of communication to the non member has changed over the last 10-20 years. We need to be more invested in social media

platforms, develop leaders to be social media influencers, continue to engage DSO's as a friend not a foe, and possibly start at the undergraduate level to assist our future pre-docs understand the value of organized dentistry, the tripartite structure, and how the FDA can assist their journey through their education and ultimately their professional career. We need to plant the seed early

Workforce shortage - Continue to develop strategies to encourage our allied professional to enter programs for dental assisting and hygiene as well as the CDT path. This possibly could start at the high school/ Vo-tech level. Coordinate with existing programs to offer more competitive hours of operation to assist those wanting to enter the field the ability to gain the educational requirements, work to afford the program and possibly raise a family. The traditional 8-5pm schooling is not enticing to an individual that needs flexibility to achieve their goal. CODA is always an obstacle, but we will need to further partner with other states to challenge CODA with their antiquated policies and rules to allow for more flexibility of the programs to deliver the educational requirement within the state guidelines to allow for matriculation of our allied professions into the profession of dentistry.

**Please provide any additional information you would like to share.**

Love the completeness of this form. Anyone wanting a leadership position should have answers on the ready to help move our profession forward so that the next generation of dentists have a fruitful career. Servant leadership is the hallmark of why we do what we do so well. I do not want this position for the notoriety, the plaques, the accolades, rather for the chance to give back to the profession that has already given me so much. My greatest pleasure is speaking to a "check book member" or a non-member and having this individual say to me, "Wow, I did not know the FDA provided all that to help me." Thank you