

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **IABA Hires Executive Director**

**(Washington, DC) May 10, 2005** - The Board of Directors of The Iranian-American Bar Association is pleased to announce the hiring of Ben Farahani as IABA's first Executive Director. Mr. Farahani began his legal career at Governor Ridge's Office of General Counsel, before serving as the General Counsel for several companies in Pennsylvania focusing on real estate transactions, franchise law, and employment law. Mr. Farahani also has extensive business and management experience as a co-owner and the Director of Marketing and Development for several family owned companies, which have developed and sold over 150 restaurants and currently operate 12 units. Mr. Farahani has lived in Pennsylvania for the last 24 years and is a graduate of Penn State University where he obtained a B.A. in History ('94) and a degree of Juris Doctor ('01).

As IABA's Executive Director, Mr. Farahani will be responsible for implementing the organization's mission and goals as set for by the Board of Directors, and managing the strategic planning, fundraising, public relations and operations of IABA and its various activities and programs. Mr. Farahani was selected after conducting a nationwide search and interviewing several qualified candidates. Hiring an Executive Director is a significant milestone in the growth of IABA, and given Mr. Farahani's impressive experience and qualifications, we are confident that he will successfully serve IABA in a leading capacity and ensure its effective and professional management.

IABA is a national, non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting the advancement of Iranian-American attorneys and the Iranian-American community at large. Among other things, IABA has established the education of Iranian Americans about legal matters of interest and concern to them as one of its principal mandates, and also endeavors to engage policymakers on behalf of the Iranian American community in a constructive fashion with the aim of making meaningful and positive contributions towards the betterment of laws and regulations that may impact our community. Prime examples of such educational activities are the publication in February 2004 of an independent report concerning the detention and treatment of Iranian nationals by the INS in the course of implementing the NSEERS special registration program, and the presentation of the report's findings and IABA's recommendations at two highly successful bi-partisan briefings in the U.S. Senate (July '04) and House of Representatives (October '04). IABA has approximately 180 members in some 20 states, with chapters in Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles. For more information on the IABA, please visit [www.iaba.us](http://www.iaba.us).

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