Michael O'Connor
1666 Coffman St., Apt 234, Saint Paul, MN 55108
651-647-6109   mike@haven.com

March 5, 2010

Dear Selectors and Reviewers,

I am submitting my name as a candidate for the Affirmation of Commitments Accountability and Transparency Review Team and am also requesting GNSO endorsement for that candidacy. I am a member of the GNSO Commercial and Business Users Constituency (CBUC).

I've combined (and gently rewritten) the ICANN and GNSO calls for applicants into a single series of questions that I answer on the following pages. I'm treating this response as a "portfolio of work completed" in hopes that it will be useful in evaluating whether my knowledge, skills and approach are a good match for the position.

I have tried to stay within the 3-page guideline specified in the ICANN call for applicants, but the additional GNSO questions were my undoing. Apologies for going slightly over the limit with this combined response.

I am volunteering for this role because I think I can make a substantial contribution to the project, I have the time and I enjoy this kind of work. I'm also hopeful that I will be viewed as a candidate who can responsibly represent the views of the whole GNSO, not just the CBUC.

Thanks very much for your consideration and your efforts as reviewers and selectors.

Sincerely,

Mike O'Connor

Representations

1) Name, contact information, region

Name	Mike ("Mikey") O'Connor
Address	1666 Coffman Street, Apt 234, Saint Paul, MN, USA 55108
Phone	651-647-6109
Email	mike@haven2.com
Employer	None
Title	Retired entrepreneur
Region	North America

2) Identity any interest in an entity with which ICANN has an arrangement (GNSO)

None

3) Will you be representing any other party? (GNSO)

No

Knowledge and skills

4) Describe your knowledge of ICANN and its working practices and culture (ICANN). Additionally, please provide a two to three paragraph statement about your knowledge of the GNSO community, its structure and operations, and any details of your participation therein (GNSO)

I have been active in the ICANN community since the Wellington meeting in the spring of 2006. My primary focus has been participation in the GNSO Business Constituency through PDP Working Groups, although I am also a member of the BC Credentials Committee and participate in several Advisory Groups that fall outside the charter of the GNSO.

Working Groups

- IRTP – Inter Registrar Transfer Policy (many versions, currently IRTP-B)
- RAP – Registration Abuse Policies (pre-PDP)
- PEDNR – Post Expiration Domain Name Recovery
- FF – Fast Flux

Advisory Groups

- High Security TLD Verification Program
- Zone File Access

I have taken a keen interest in the "process" side of the GNSO, especially after realizing that I wasn't up to the job of chairing the Fast Flux working group. Click HERE to read an extensive "lessons learned" post mortem I wrote after resigning. I entertain the delusion that a number of the

ideas I outlined have found there way into the recent draft GNSO Working Group Guidelines – click HERE to read my first draft as rapporteur for BC comments on that draft.

5) Describe your knowledge of the subject area of the review – in this case "ensuring accountability, transparency and the interests of global Internet users." (ICANN)

The January 2008 Accountability and Transparency Frameworks and Principles describes the tension between three types of accountability – public sphere accountability, corporate and legal accountability and "participating community" accountability.

I am familiar with this kind of complex accountability – having held non-profit and corporate leadership positions for almost 40 years. My observation is that the more senior a person's position in an organization, the more they are required to strike, manage and promote a subtle balance between conflicting accountability needs.

My first experience in this arena came when I founded a public radio station in my early 20's (WORT-FM, Madison Wisconsin) where there was a similar balance to be struck between listening-public, volunteer-community and regulated-industry accountabilities.

Another example came 20 years later when I was an Associate VP of Finance for the University of Minnesota – where I needed to balance demands arising from a 3-cornered institutional mission (teaching, research and outreach) while simultaneously being a policy-maker, a service-provider and a compliance officer.

6) Provide information that would help us evaluate your analytical skills, ability to interpret quantitative and qualitative evidence and capacity to draw conclusions purely based on evidence (ICANN)

A significant portion of my working career was spent as an impartial analyst for hire while I worked for two international accounting and consulting firms – Andersen Consulting and Coopers & Lybrand. It was here that I came to understand and appreciate the value of rigorous analysis of quantitative information and when it is appropriate to temper that with judgments based on qualitative information and experience.

I've enjoyed conducting small analyses for various working groups. Click HERE for a small conversation-starter cost model and HERE for a similarly early-draft pricing approach I developed for the Zone File Access advisory group.

I also took something of a "busman's holiday" and drew a conversation-starter process-flow diagram (click HERE) of the post-expiration domain name renewal process. In this instance I was purposely trying to show how complicated the existing process can be.

Work style and availability

7) Provide information that would help us evaluate your team spirit, adaptability and willingness to learn (ICANN)

I have been linking to email posts rather than directly to the attached documents so that you can get a feel for my online "style" in addition to the work products. Most of those email threads will give you a sense of my enthusiasm for working with teams of people and puzzling out solutions to problems.

Here's one more example – click HERE to see a first-draft version of a memo that members of the IRTP working group drafted and submitted as individuals in support of a budget item to enhance the ICANN Compliance front-end systems.

8) Provide information that would help us evaluate your capacity to put aside personal opinions or preconceptions (ICANN)

I'm going to depart from the ICANN world in order to provide an answer to this question. I was appointed by the Governor of Minnesota to serve on a broadband taskforce over the last year and half. Click HERE to see video of a portion of my testimony to the state legislature about how we came to an innovative compromise on the difficult topic of "symmetrical" upstream and downstream access.

In that testimony I describe how our whole group put aside our individual preconceptions to arrive at an interesting new approach that meets the needs of both consumers and providers of broadband services. I'm happy to report that the legislation we recommended is making good progress toward passage as I write these words.

9) Provide information that would help us evaluate your commitment to a consensus decision-making process (ICANN)

I have been an enthusiastic participant in, and proponent of, consensus decision-making processes ever since founding that radio station back in the early '70's. Click HERE to read a whimsical description of how we ran the whole station (up to and including the Board of Directors) by consensus back then.

In addition to my participation in the consensus decision-making in various ICANN working and advisory groups, I also persuaded that Minnesota broadband task force to give consensus decision-making a try. Click HERE for a link to video of my description of the value of that (successful) consensus process while introducing members of the task force to a recent industry meeting.

10) Provide information that would help us evaluate your commitment to devote your time to the review process (ICANN). Are you able and willing to commit at least ten hours per week during the review period, in addition to participating in the planned face to face and/or teleconference review team meetings (GNSO)?

I am retired, and thus don't have to juggle this project with the every-day demands of regular employment. I am confident that I could participate in review team meetings and commit ten or more hours per week to this assignment.

Education, work-history and volunteer activity

| **Education** | BA | Economics | 1972 - Grinnell College |
| | MBA | Finance/Operations | 1979 - Cornell University |

Work History

1999 – 2001
The O'Connor Company of St Paul – Proprietor
A technology-focused investment holding company and consulting firm. Retired in 2001.

1994 - 1999
gofast.net Incorporated – Co-Founder
A Twin Cities Internet Service Provider (ISP) specializing in high performance Internet access services for mid-sized companies in the Twin Cities.

1992 - 1994
University of Minnesota – Associate Vice President and Controller
A Big-10 University

1990 - 1992
Coopers & Lybrand – Senior Managing Associate
International systems integration consulting and accounting firm

1987 - 1989
Control Data Corporation -- Computer Products Group – MIS Director
The 'original' Control Data – manufacturer of high performance scientific and engineering computers, worldwide.

1984 – 1987
ETA Systems, Inc. – MIS Manager
Supercomputer manufacturer.

1981 - 1984
Coopers & Lybrand – Manager
International systems integration consulting and accounting firm

1979 - 1981
Arthur Andersen & Co. – Senior Consultant
International systems integration consulting and accounting firm

1972 - 1977
Back Porch Radio Broadcasting, Inc. – President and General Manager
Non-commercial public radio station WORT-FM, Madison, WI

Examples of volunteer activities

Minnesota Ultra High Speed Broadband Task-force (member), Minnesota Internet Trade Association (founding President), St Paul Mayor's Y2k Taskforce (chair), St Paul Mayor's Education Taskforce (chair), National Federation of Community Broadcasters (co-founder), Minnesota Internet Services Trade Association (founding President)