

Gina Robinson, AIA
5325 Truman Ave
Alexandria, VA 22304
gina.a.robinson@gmail.com

28 July, 2023

Dear Mr. Battaglia, Nominating Committee, and the AIA Virginia Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in continuing as AIA Virginia's Component Appointed Licensing Advisor. While serving in the role over the past two years, I have worked to bring visibility to the Licensing Advisor program as a resource for Candidates at all stages of their licensure journey. The success of aspiring Architects is vital to the future of our profession, and an active and knowledgeable Licensing Advisor helps ensure they have as much information as possible as they chart their path.

Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to work with licensure Candidates across the Commonwealth and beyond. Most reach out via email, but I have also had virtual meetings with Candidates (some with their supervisors) and have arranged to meet a few individuals in person. Most have questions about the licensure process in Virginia, however, I have spoken to several who need to follow an alternate path or just aren't sure how to get started. Working with non-traditional candidates has meant that I have built my knowledge of the process outside even my own experience. There's no one-size fits all approach to licensure, and each Candidate requires focused attention and specific feedback. There are times that I have not been able to find an answer, but remaining engaged with other Licensing Advisors and NCARB provides additional resources and connections. I want each person to feel that they have been heard and are making progress, even if I'm just a step in their process.

In addition to advising on an individual basis, I have presented to several groups in my capacity as Licensing Advisor. This engagement started in summer 2024 with virtual presentations to the intern cohort at Baskervill and KEi architects in Richmond. In spring 2024 and 2025 I worked with the AIA Northern Virginia's Schools Connections Committee to host panel discussions at the WAAC in Alexandria, both focused on how students can bridge the gap between their education and experience. Last fall I held a workshop Architecture Exchange East, focused on helping Candidates and their Supervisors better understand AXP reporting requirements. Most recently, I was asked by NCARB to present an introductory session for new Advisors at the 2025 Licensing Advisor Summit in Minneapolis. This year was my second time attending the Summit, which is an important venue to connect with other Advisors and learn about the future of NCARB's programs.

I believe that in my time as the Component Appointed Licensing Advisor I have been able to bring more visibility to the role within the Commonwealth, while representing AIA Virginia locally and nationally. If I were to continue, I would provide consistency through NCARB's planned Pathways to Practice updates in 2026 and maintain the relationships I have built over the past two years. I look forward to the possibility of continuing this work over the next two years.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina Robinson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gina Robinson, AIA

July 29, 2025

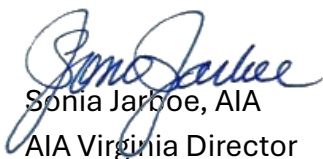
Paul R Battaglia, AIA
Executive Vice President
AIA Virginia
2201 W Broad Street, Suite 207
Richmond, VA 23220

It is my honor to nominate Gina Robinson for the position of State Licensing Advisor. As the current AIA Virginia Director and Co-Chair of the AIA Northern Virginia School Connections Committee (SCC), I have had the privilege of working closely with Gina in this capacity.

Over the past few years, Gina has played a pivotal role in the programs organized by the SCC at the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC), which are designed for students and young professionals pursuing licensure. Gina was instrumental in both our "Demystifying Licensure" (2025) and "Skills to Effectively Bridge the Gap between Academia and Professional Practice" (2024) programs at WAAC. At both events, she shared her extensive knowledge of the licensing process with participants as the moderator of the panel discussion. This past year, she also served as a keynote speaker, delivering an in-depth presentation on the current licensing process.

I have known Gina for over ten years through our mutual involvement in the AIA. She is deeply passionate about the AIA and is dedicated to sharing her expertise in the architecture licensing process to help others succeed. Gina consistently exceeds expectations, and I am confident that, if given the opportunity to continue serving as one of the State Licensing Advisors, she will continue to excel in this role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sonia Jarboe".

Sonia Jarboe, AIA

AIA Virginia Director

Co-Chair School Connections Committee - AIA Northern Virginia



28 July, 2025

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Gina Robinson – Component-Appointed Licensing Advisor

Dear Mr. Battaglia, Nominating Committee, and the AIA Virginia Board of Directors,

I am writing to submit my recommendation for Gina Robinson, AIA, to continue in her role as Component-Appointed Licensing Advisor. Gina has been serving as AIA Virginia's Licensing Advisor since the summer of 2023, and through her service has gained valuable knowledge and experience that will help her continue in the role.

Although Gina has worked with Candidates at all stages of their licensure journey, she has focused heavily on working with young professionals, new graduates, and students – some of whom have never had experience in an office environment. Gina takes the time to meet each Candidate where they are in their journey, discussing their concerns and answering their questions. Often, students have never heard of AXP or even of NCARB, and Gina is able to start from the beginning of their process and get them up to speed. She is patient and concise in her answers and spends the time that each Candidate needs. They often leave the conversation with a newly established NCARB record and even a few hours reported.

In addition to the time she spends with Candidates, Gina makes sure she is up to date on NCARB's policies, ensuring she is always providing the most current information. Additional research is also sometimes required, since no two Candidates are alike, and some are seeking licensure outside of Virginia, or need to follow an alternate path.

Gina's balance of empathy and rigor make her uniquely qualified to continue serving in the Component-Appointed Licensing Advisor role. Her listen first approach helps Candidates feel heard and supported, and they're able to leave the conversation empowered to move forward on their licensure path. I'm confident she will maintain this approach to ensure the success of Candidates across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graydon Blakeslee'.

Graydon Blakeslee, AIA, Architect



28 July 2025

Re: Letter of Support for Gina Robinson – Component-Appointed Licensing Advisor

Dear Mr. Battaglia, Nominating Committee, and the AIA Virginia Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my support for Gina Robinson, AIA, to continue in her role as Component-Appointed Licensing Advisor. Gina has been serving as AIA Virginia's Licensing Advisor since the summer of 2023, and through her service has brought increased visibility to and engagement with the role in the Commonwealth and beyond.

Over the past two years, Gina has worked with candidates at all stages of their licensure journey, from new graduates to professionals who want to re-join the field. Though most of her one-on-one engagement has been through email, she has also met candidates virtually and in person to learn about their background and goals, and to understand what obstacles they're facing. She attends NCARB's monthly Licensing Advisor Community Hour sessions, connecting with NCARB staff and other Advisors across the globe, as well as NCARB's education sessions, keeping up with changes in programs and policy.

In 2024, Gina presented an interactive workshop session at AIA Virginia's Architecture Exchange East, focusing on AXP Candidates as well as their Supervisors, providing guidance and examples of meaningful AXP reporting. Also during her tenure in the position, Gina has twice participated in NCARB's biannual Licensing Advisor Summit – in 2023 as an attendee and again in 2025 as a presenter, following a request by NCARB's planning committee. Her session kicked off the Summit for new Advisors and first-time attendees, setting the stage for their time at the conference. Locally, Gina has presented to students at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and in partnership with AIA NoVA's Schools Connections Committee at the WAAC. Each session was focused on bridging the gap students often face between their education and professional practice, outlining the licensure process and the importance of early participation in the AXP.

While these commitments are all on her own volunteer time, Gina is able to balance these opportunities with her commitments to our office and to her project work, and I am in full support of her continuing in the role. I am excited for the momentum she has built over the last two years and to see where she is able to take the Licensing Advisor role in the years to come.

Sincerely,

April Drake, AIA, Managing Principal, Associate Vice President
2023 AIA Northern Virginia Chapter President
2013 – 2021 NCARB Committee Volunteer

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biography

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Gina brings over 18 years of experience to her current role as Project Designer and Design Studio Lead with HDR in Arlington, Virginia. Though the first years of her career through the Great Recession were challenging, she gained early experience in Charlotte, NC, and Suzhou, China, before settling in Northern Virginia in 2014. Since joining HDR in 2015, she has come to specialize in public sector projects, working with large, multidisciplinary teams on complex deliverables.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Gina served two terms as Associate Director on the AIA Virginia Board of Directors, participated in the Honors Committee Diversity Task Force as well as the Inclusivity into the Profession Task Force. These experiences, combined with her background and early career obstacles, helped her develop a focus on mentorship and advocacy, advocating for increasing diversity in the profession and transparent communications with emerging professionals as they begin their careers in architecture.

employment

HDR, Inc., Arlington, VA

Associate, Project Designer, Design Studio Lead

August 2023 - Present

Leads design and technical decision making on large, complex public sector projects, working with multidisciplinary teams across HDR. Focused on research of building typologies and exterior material applications, as well as leading project design intent through concept design to substantial completion. Proficient in UFC Building Codes and UFGS specifications, as well as narratives, architectural graphics, and renderings for client deliverables. Engaged in HDR's firm culture as a sustainable operations leader, Arlington intern program coordinator, and mentor to emerging professionals.

Associate, Senior Design Coordinator

January 2019 - July 2023

Senior Design Coordinator

January 2017 - December 2018

Design Coordinator

September 2015 - January 2017

Kerns Group Architects, Falls Church, VA

Designer

October 2014 - September 2015

Supported principals and project managers in the design and documentation of all project phases through visual representation of master planning studies, renderings, construction documents, detailing, and information management.

FUTUREPOLIS, LLC, Suzhou, Jiangsu, China

Design Manager & Team Lead

December 2012 - August 2014

Contributed to the Design Director's process and worked with team members to reach client and context appropriate design solutions; guided the process of design teams to ensure a high level of visual clarity and graphic consistency; managed graphics and information under high-pressure deadlines for client presentations; coordinated information with renderers, designers, and consultants in China and the US; managed text translation from English to Chinese; traveled with project leaders for site visits, presentations, and meetings with government and private clients in Mainland China.

Designer

January 2011 - December 2012

Carolina Raptor Center, Huntersville, NC

Director - Summer Flight Program (seasonal)

December 2009 - October 2010

Marketing Coordinator - Graphic Design

February - November 2009

TobinDudleyStarr, PLLC (now Starr Design), Charlotte, NC

Intern Architect

June - October 2008

FreemanWhite, Inc. (now The Haskell Company), Charlotte, NC

Intern Architect, Healthcare Studio

May 2007 - April 2008

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gina.a.robinson@gmail.com

[linkedin.com/ginaarobinson](https://www.linkedin.com/ginaarobinson)

volunteering

NCARB

July 2023 - Present

- Licensing Advisors Summit Speaker: July 2025, Minneapolis, MN
Welcome to the Summit—and the Licensing Advisor Community
- Virtual Item Authoring (VIA) Workgroup: November 2024 - March 2025
- Licensing Advisors Summit Attendee: July 2023, Kansas City, MO
- Component-Appointed Licensing Advisor: June 2023 - Present

HDR

September 2015 - Present

- Sustainability Stewards Program - Global Chair: March 2023 - December 2025
- Student Outreach Taskforce Founder/Chair - Arlington: January 2024 - Present
- Summer Intern Program Coordinator - Arlington: May 2022 - Present
- Green Team Chair (now SSP) - Arlington: May 2018 - Present
- Sustainable Operations Committee - Arlington: November 2015 - March 2016
- Green Team - Arlington: September 2015 - April 2018

American Institute of Architects - Virginia Chapter

Architect Member

August 2023 - Present

- Architecture Exchange East Presenter: November 2024
Engaging Experience: How AXP Supports Candidates' Path to Licensure and Beyond
- Art of Practice Planning Committee: September 2024 - March 2025
- Mid-career Professionals Taskforce: May 2024 - January 2025

Associate Member

October 2014 - August 2023

- Component-Appointed Licensing Advisor: June 2023 - Present
- Inclusivity into the Profession Task Force: 2022
- Honors Committee Diversity Task Force: 2019
- Board of Directors: Associate Director: October 2017 - October 2019
Education Advisory Council
- Board of Directors: Associate Director: October 2015 - October 2017
Communications & Outreach Advisory Council
2016 Strategic Plan Development Committee

American Institute of Architects - Northern Virginia Chapter

Architect Member

August 2023 - Present

- Panel Moderator, recurring events: 2024 & 2025

Associate Member

October 2014 - August 2023

- Women in Architecture Committee: December 2014 - January 2020
Communication & Social Media: January - December 2015
Women's Leadership Summit Planning Committee

**licences &
accreditations**

Maryland Department of Labor

Registered Architect

August 2023 - Present

International WELL Building Institute

WELL Accredited Professional

March 2018 - Present

**honors &
awards**

HDR

Pathfinder Award of Excellence

HDR's Pathfinder Awards recognize employees whose dedication to quality, innovation, and productivity goes far beyond the norm. Recipients are nominated by their peers in one of eight categories and are celebrated throughout the company.

- Client Service - 2025
- Leadership - 2024
- Creativity & Innovation - 2023
- Collaboration - 2022
- Teamwork - 2021
- Community Service - 2016
- Creativity & Innovation - 2016

Associates & Officers Program

HDR's Associates Program recognizes leaders who demonstrate extraordinary potential to advance in technical, creative, or business careers.

- Associate - 2019

education

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

August 2002 - May 2007