

# **IMAN Atlanta Advisory Committee**

## **1. Sameera Fazili**



Sameera Fazili's work has spanned domestic and international economic development, with a focus on inclusive economic growth, access to finance, and social enterprise. She currently serves as a senior visiting adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's community and economic development (CED) group. Before that she served as a senior policy advisor on the White House's National Economic Council and at the U.S. Treasury Department, covering both domestic and international economic issues. Prior to her time in government, she served as a clinical lecturer at Yale Law School, where she helped expand the community and economic development program into international development and inclusive finance. She has worked across South Asia and the Middle East, and, before focusing on economic issues was engaged in human rights and public health work. She received her law degree from Yale Law School and her bachelor of arts in social studies from Harvard College. She now lives in Atlanta, GA with her husband and two sons.

## **2. Hud Williams**



Hud Williams currently works as a Lead Financial Analyst at Digital Life, (a subsidiary of AT&T). He has over 12 years of experience, working in a variety of fields from financial systems implementation to sharia-compliant home finance. Hud earned his bachelor's degree and MBA from Georgia Tech University, with concentrations in Finance, and he is currently working on a Certificate in Islamic Finance at the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Hud also enjoys volunteering on the Board of Directors for The Atlanta Masjid of Al Islam.

## **3. Aamir Kazi**



Aamir is a Principal in the Atlanta office of the law firm Fish & Richardson, where he advises clients on a variety of intellectual property matters. Aamir graduated from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law after earning his bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta (he remains an avid Georgia Tech sports fan today). Outside of work, Aamir enjoys spending time with his wife and three kids.

#### **4. Dr. Amir Sayed**



Dr. Sayed is currently the Administrative Chief Resident in General Surgery in the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine and will start his two-year fellowship in Abdominal Organ Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery with the prestigious group at the University of Toronto in the summer of 2017. Dr. Sayed graduated AOA from the Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD) at Northwestern University with a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology. During his residency at Emory, Dr. Sayed spent one year abroad as a senior clinical fellow at the world-renowned Liver Transplant Unit at King's College Hospital in London, UK. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Virginia with a B.A with distinction in Religious Studies with a concentration in Islamic Studies, under the mentorship of Dr. Abdulaziz Sachedina. He is dedicated to academic surgery with a passion for transplantation and liver disease, in particular. From a research standpoint, his primary interest is in cellular immunology with a focus on the epigenetic mechanisms underlying T cell-mediated graft rejection. He also has a long-standing commitment to furthering diversity within academic institutions and addressing race-based healthcare disparities.

Dr. Sayed is a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, although he spent the majority of his childhood in Virginia, where his parents and siblings still reside. His wife, Amenah, is a chemical engineer who currently works in the private industry setting. Both have been involved with IMAN for over a decade; Dr. Sayed's wife, a native of the Southside Chicago Palestinian community, first started

volunteering at IMAN during college. They feel privileged to be part of IMAN and are excited to be intimately involved with the foundation of IMAN-Atlanta.

### **5. Kofi Rashid**



For over 20 years, Kofi has worked in business strategy, senior management advisory, partnership development and business development. He began his career at Bain and Company, a strategy consulting firm, recruited after completing an undergraduate business degree from Howard University in Washington, DC.

Kofi began his international career in Malaysia where he worked, on behalf of the Prime Minister's office, to attract US-based technology and management expertise. Subsequently, he took a position with the Dubai and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Federal Government over a 10-year period, in various positions, as one of the most senior non-Arab officials from the United States. He helped to establish Dubai's first investment promotion agency as head of strategy and was also the head of strategy for the private office of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, Prime Minister of the UAE. For four years, Kofi worked with Sama Dubai, the Dubai Government's international real estate development arm, responsible for business development in China, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam. Kofi's final posting in the UAE was as a Director for strategic partnerships for a UAE Federal Minister, as her most senior advisor and managed a team of international policy experts.

Kofi's professional experience has allowed him to work closely with and serve as trusted advisor to CEOs, Chairmen, and Government officials in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The combination of Kofi's global strategy experience, collaborative sensibility and entrepreneurial acumen provides him with both the ability to think and act in the most challenging and unstructured environments to deliver high quality results.

He is currently a senior partner at Interculture, an international advisory firm, and has been a senior advisor to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation since 2011, working primarily in the Middle East and Southeast Asia developing and managing the Foundation's private donor partnerships as well as managing the Government Relationships with the State of Qatar. He also supports the Global Fund to fight HIV, TB and Malaria in developing partnerships with private donors in Southeast Asia. Kofi has been married for 22 years and has 4 children.

## **6. Atiba Jones**



Atiba is a passionate youth advocate dedicated to bettering American society through uplifting and empowering under-served youth. He has worked with young people in various capacities, both locally and internationally: as a school teacher, mental health counselor, program director and mentor.

He is the Founder and Executive Director of Risala Institute, a nonprofit organization that operates a Pre-K through 8th grade private school, farm and other educational and social service programs.

Atiba is a Certified Anger Management Specialist, holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Mercer University and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Morehouse College.

## 7. Azizah Kahera



Azizah Kahera served for over 15 years as the Chief Operations Officer for Azizah magazine, the vehicle for the voice of Muslim American women that portrays their experiences and shatters commonly held stereotypes. Formerly employed by Delta and the Center for Disease Control, Azizah has a strong background in corporate customer relations, project management and business operations.

Azizah has lived in the Middle East and has travelled extensively throughout Australia, Africa and Europe. She has represented Azizah Magazine at several conferences and lectures discussing Muslim women's issues and gender equality. Most recently, Ms. Kahera was interviewed on CNN Connect with Becky Anderson discussing the controversial topic of the Burkini ban in France.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Ms. Kahera is an Advisory board member for My World Global Citizenship for Teens and IMAN Atlanta. She currently works as an independent consultant with a focus on small and startup business development, branding and administrative support for both nonprofit and for-profit businesses. She also serves as a Community Coach for the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.