

Laura C. Strom, PsyD

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Certified Rehabilitation Counselor CRC 00113822

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November 4, 2022

To: CAMFT Honors and Awards Committee

Re: Nomination of Dr. Bob Casanova, PsyD, LMFT for the Mary Riemersma Distinguished Clinical Member Award

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed are my answers to the questions posted on the website for the purposes of nominating an LMFT for this award.

1. 22
2. 22
3. Yes, currently engaged as an MFT.

4. 2014-15 CAMFT Director at Large, multiple committees
2015-16 CAMFT Secretary, multiple committees
2016-17 CAMFT President Elect, Education Foundation, multiple committees
2017-18 CAMFT President, Education Foundation, multiple committees
2019-20 CAMFT Past President, Education Foundation, multiple committees
2020-22 RECAMFT Director at Large
2021-22 CAMFT Past President (Board appointment), Education Foundation, multiple committees
2023-24 RECAMFT President Elect

5. 2005-2011 Board of Directors, Social Advocates for Youth
2009-2011 President, Social Advocates for Youth
2011-2022 Honorary Member, Board of Directors, Social Advocates for Youth
2004-Present Educational Consultant
2010 Winner of the Irwin Katz Memorial Award, Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA), a prestigious national award
Clinical staff, Kids Off Chemicals intensive outpatient program, Santa Rosa, CA
Consultant / Clinician, Home Treatment Program, Sonoma County Juvenile Probation Department
Consultant, Sonoma County Day School

6. MFT instruction: I am not aware of Dr. Casanova's teaching in our profession; however, I want to say that he has served as my mentor over the last decade. I learned how to be a successful CAMFT President through Bob's examples and



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advice along the way. He has been the greatest mentor and teacher of my lifetime to date.

7. Publications: Six CAMFT President's messages, newspaper and radio interviews.

Q8. Outstanding service for Marriage and Family Therapists

Dr. Bob Casanova, PsyD, LMFT has a private practice as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and an Educational Consultant in Sonoma County, California. As a first-generation son of immigrant parents, he has always felt conscious of the need to provide mental health services not only to those who can afford them, but to all people who need our care. He believes CAMFT has an obligation to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive Board and membership, to better serve our members and therefore California's communities, and has worked to help facilitate this lofty goal. His services to the MFT profession and CAMFT are deeply intertwined as a result of his many years on the CAMFT Board of Directors which includes lobbying at both the state and national level for legislation to benefit LMFTs, supporting and guiding CAMFT's programming to benefit its members, with a special emphasis on serving the prelicensed membership.

Bob was motivated by the 2013 CAMFT Board's adoption of new bylaws which eliminated the words "marriage and family therapist" throughout the document to become more deeply involved with the Redwood Empire Chapter of CAMFT where he was a longtime member, an ad hoc group called SaveCAMFT, and to run for a seat on the CAMFT Board as a Director at Large in fall 2013. The SaveCAMFT group ran a slate of five candidates who were all petitioned onto the CAMFT ballot by their peers, including Bob, and the group won in a landslide election, beginning their new roles on the CAMFT Board of Directors in June 2014.

Once Bob joined the CAMFT Board he actively advocated for resources for prelicensed members to be successful in becoming licensed, and opening private practices. He also pushed for a committee to address marketing needs and public outreach for LMFTs, and to update and create a more robust Counseling California website, with a new logo. After serving as a Director at Large, Bob ran for the Board Secretary position. Following that, he ran for President Elect, and became the 2017-2018 CAMFT President. He served as the Board's Past President the following year, and once again when needed under the presidency of Danah Williams.

Twice Bob served on a search committee for a new Executive Director for CAMFT. He also served on the Nominating Committee, Educational Foundation (Chair and Vice-Chair), and multiple other committees, including Finance, Strategic Planning, Annual

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Conference and Continuing Education, Chapter Advisory Board, and the Political Action Committee. In these roles he went to both Washington, DC, and Sacramento lobbying for legislation on behalf of Marriage and Family Therapists, both in California, and nationwide. He chaired CAMFT's Annual Conference twice. In total, Bob has served CAMFT's membership first through his activities with the ad hoc SaveCAMFT group, and afterwards through his service on the CAMFT Board, and numerous committees, along with the Education Foundation for nearly a decade.

CAMFT's membership and reserves have grown substantially during his time on the Board. He also pushed for CAMFT to create an arm of member service dedicated to answering member's clinical concerns, a position filled by an LMFT. He was vocal about the need for CAMFT to have LMFTs on staff to help bring our voice to the attention of CAMFT's leaders.

During his 2017-2018 CAMFT Presidency Santa Rosa and many surrounding areas in Sonoma County and Northern California suffered what was, at the time, the worst wildfire event in modern history, losing more than 5000 homes, and many businesses in October 2017. Dr. Casanova facilitated a meeting with Laura Strom, CAMFT and RECAMFT's Past President, some of RECAMFT's members, and a professional fundraiser. The group invited other local mental health agencies to participate and they raised over \$1 million dollars to provide a strong multi-year mental health recovery effort to those affected by the wildfires. Over 500 mental health professionals were trained in "Skills for Psychological Recovery". Grief groups, and personal counseling were made available to the public, along with trauma-informed yoga classes, forest bathing, an app in Spanish and English, and a website which helped the public funnel into available services. Research was coordinated with Stanford and the Palo Alto Veterans Administration, resulting in a White Paper to provide a road map for future communities who might be impacted by something catastrophic. During this effort, Bob gave interviews to local news and was featured on the radio explaining the efforts of the Wildfire Recovery Collaborative. The wildfire recovery efforts served to elevate the visibility of the local chapter which experienced immediate growth, and has become one of CAMFT's largest chapters to date.

Upon leaving the CAMFT Board after his first Past Presidency year, he joined his local chapter board, Redwood Empire Chapter of CAMFT (RECAMFT) as a Director at Large. At the end of 2022, Bob has been chosen by his peers to become RECAMFT's President Elect in 2023. His 2024 presidency of RECAMFT will put him at the helm of the chapter's 50th year anniversary, something for which he is well-equipped after chairing two multi-million dollar Annual Conferences.

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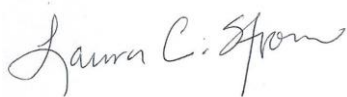
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Q9. Outstanding service for CAMFT

I believe the above statement adequately describes Dr. Bob Casanova's service to CAMFT as well as to AMFTs and LMFTs. He has been a tireless advocate for the field, and for CAMFT over the last decade. We owe Bob a debt a gratitude for the many ways in which he has served all CAMFT members through his dedication to creating a better CAMFT, one which is more diverse, equitable and inclusive, and improves services to our members. As CAMFT has taken a legal stand in some other states (for example, during Bob's tenure the CAMFT Board provided an *amicus brief* to the Texas Association of MFTs, and decided to join with the American Counseling Association in lobbying for LMFT inclusion in Medicare), it is not a stretch to say his service has touched LMFTs in California and throughout the nation.

It is my greatest privilege to nominate Dr. Bob Casanova, PsyD, LMFT for CAMFT's Mary Riemersma Distinguished Clinical Member Award.

With deep gratitude for Dr. Bob Casanova's mentorship and his steady hand navigating the wheel, skillfully sailing our CAMFT ship with fair winds and following seas,



Laura C. Strom, PsyD, LMFT
2015-16 CAMFT President
President, RECAMFT

