

I'm Ali Kocho-Williams, and I have been the BJCP Representative for the Northeast for the past three years. It's been an exciting time to be involved in the BJCP, and it has been a rewarding experience to be the representative of so many judges and see so many new judges come into the program. It has also been an important time for the Program to have a representative who is not based within North America as BJCP has expanded rapidly into the rest of the world. I'm based in the UK, and have been the only member of the BJCP board based outside of North America during that time (and possibly the first ever). I'm a home brewer turned professional brewer, founder and organizer of the UK National Homebrew Competition, and was one of the first judges to take the exam in the UK.

The Northeast region is the most geographically diverse of all the BJCP regions, encompassing not just the Northeastern US and Canada, but also the rest of the world. In my time as a Representative, the BJCP has grown within the US and very rapidly outside of it. Because of the geographical spread it is a region which is changing rapidly. I have sought to, and will continue, to seek the development of the program in both the US and the wider world. I am uniquely situated to do so, being based in Europe. I have actively developed the program in the UK for my own part, have developed contacts within the existing and prospective membership of the BJCP, and assisted with the program's development in Europe and beyond. I was also able to be involved in the 2015 style guideline revisions at some level, helping in the discussion of UK and European beer styles.

If re-elected as Representative for the Northeast I want to seek greater recognition and representation for the diverse areas of the region. I would like to see the region become subdivided into a set of sub-regional groupings in order to take into account differences in scale, culture and language and become more effective. I would like to seek the development of the BJCP in countries and regions where we have little presence, and find a way that we can do so effectively. I will continue to foster the growth of the BJCP globally, and be a voice for members both within and outside of North America.