

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. (by Zoom video conference)

- Present:** Michael Calandra Jr., Esq. '05; Jeremy Farrington, Esq. '11; Hon. Sandra Forster '79; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; James Garvey III, Esq. '80; Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06; Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90; Sameera Ansari Kaira, Esq. '09; Michael Kremen, Esq. '08; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Carole Levy, Esq. '83 (Dir. Em.); Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Mark Meeker, Esq. '09; Joseph Moravec, Esq. '17; Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09; John Mulligan, Esq. '88; Susan Mulliken, Esq. '11; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00, Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12; Leanne Shofi, Esq. '94; Judson Siebert, Esq. '85; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13
- Excused:** Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07; Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95
- Unexcused:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Thomas Persico, Esq. '18
- Added attendees:** Cathy Alexander, Assistant Dean of Admissions; Horace Anderson, Dean; Arianne Andrusco, Director of Development and Alumni Relations; Angela D'Agostino, Dean of Students; Stephanie Desiato, Associate Director of Academic Success; Aharon Diaz, Esq. '12; Lori Kanner, Development Officer; Danielle Kocal, Director of Academic Success; Bianca Oliver, Esq. '16; Patrick Paul, Esq. '16; Robert Rosenberg, SBA President

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met by 6:30 p.m. with 27 Directors in attendance (Zoom/Telephonic)

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Mark Meeker

- Congratulations to Joe Moravec on his new job as staff attorney at the Foreign-Born Information & Referral Network
- Welcome to guests
- 2020-21 officers:
 - President Mark Meeker
 - Vice President Lisa Gladwell
 - Secretary Leanne Shofi
 - Treasurer Gail Mulligan
- Excel spreadsheet pages:

- 2020-21 School Year Attendance
- Contact info
- Committees
- Contributions

II. Board Membership

Lisa Gladwell

- Reminder of the Board's attendance policy:
 - 2 unexcused absences in a school year triggers a conditional suspension letter, then
 - Attend the next meeting and plead your case to get voted back on

III. April 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Leanne Shofi

- Approved via email April 9, 2020 by 18 Directors.
- Posted to the PLS web site: <http://www.law.pace.edu/pace-law-alumni-association>

IV. Admissions

Cathy Alexander

- Increased applications allowed for enrollment of a larger class than last year, with a higher quality applicant pool
- Flex program is doing well, with a 27% increase in applications from last year; 36% of pool yielded 35 students; team would like to see an increase in the pool quality in the future to yield a larger class
- Team has been working primarily on a remote basis due to the pandemic, but the students are motivated and things are very positive despite the pandemic

V. Dean for Students

Angie D'Agostino

- The law school was ready for the start of the academic year, with various policies, equipment and personnel (new air filters, directional signage, PPE, extra cleaning staff) in place to safeguard staff and students during the pandemic
- Over 100 new study spaces have been provided to commuters to safely Zoom
- Random Covid-19 testing is conducted every Wednesday on the campus – right now the law school has 0 cases of Covid-19
- This year's incoming class and other students are adjusting well, the school is providing assistance in connection with the pandemic and most of the learning and extra-curricular programming has been virtual
- Returning students are offering mentoring to incoming students
- The PLEAS fund (Pace Law Emergency Aid to Students) has been a huge success:
 - raised over \$30K so far, secured a \$25K grant from a lender, but all of the funds were given away by July because students had a real need (medications, living situations, parents' job losses, travel, etc.)
 - PLEAS fund is now empty, and there are still many students in need
 - Because testing and PPE, etc., are a huge cost to the university, it is difficult to find money to assist students
 - Virtual 5K will be conducted in October with the University, and money raised in that \$5K can be directed to the PLEAS fund
 - Everyone is invited to participate in the virtual 5K to bring the community together and raise money to continue the important PLEAS initiative
- The link to donate to the PLEAS fund will be sent again, and recipient students have been incredibly grateful
- There is an existing food pantry for the students

VI. Academic Success

Danielle Kocal

- This year's Bar Exam, typically scheduled for the end of July, has not yet happened – it was pushed back to September and then canceled, and is now fully online scheduled for October – preparing students for the shifting exam and formatting has been a challenge
- Academic Success Program has grown exponentially over the last few years, and has been involved in all aspects of students' education (from orientation through the Bar Exam)
 - The Program provides courses and strategies to assist with the Bar Exam
 - The Program offers a Supplemental Bar Skills program after graduation, to supplement participants' bar review course(s)
 - The Program, with grants from the Board of Visitors, has been very successful
 - The Program offers individual tutoring and other assistance to students who, based on various predictors, might need additional assistance to pass the bar
 - Last year was the first year of the Program and it was very successful, yielding a 75% Bar pass rate
- Carole Levy noted that this Program would make a lot of sense as a recipient of fundraising by the Board
- Chris Psihoules noted that the alumni mentoring idea is terrific, and the Board should be encouraged to mentor

VII. Career Development

Mark Meeker (on behalf of Jill Backer)

- The Center for Career and Professional Development ("CCPD") is conducting a completely virtual program this fall
- With the 2020 Bar now moved to October, it has been difficult to move full throttle on 2020 employment searches.
- At the time of its graduation, the Class of 2020 was 50% employed – that number remains the same, although might be slightly less due to the impact of the pandemic on employment offers
- A healthcare attorney virtual networking event will be held on October 21st

VIII. Dean's Update

Dean Horace Anderson

- In a time of difficulty, the Law School has managed to teach the law well, and students have continued to learn – the administrators, faculty, and alumni support have been great
- Class of 2020 graduated virtually in May (virtually), and are ready for the Bar in October despite very difficult circumstances
- Would like to continue to increase mentorship opportunities for students, including with alumni, in order to demonstrate the importance of networking and professional connections
- Students were brought back to a hybrid learning environment with some in-person courses and some remote courses; some of the classes, including the larger classes, have been 100% remote
- There has been a really good response from students in terms of the health and safety guidelines and protocols put into place – random testing will assist with monitoring of the virus in the population
- A Social Justice agenda has been launched and formalized, partially in response to recent events; the previous agenda has become more intentional in that there are now a number of courses in areas connected to social justice (legal services externship, civil rights litigation, social justice externship, and a course on Black Lives Matter movement from a legal perspective)
- Curriculum continues to be examined to ensure that social justice matters are addressed and incorporated into the curriculum

- Dean Anderson is on 2 committees examining policing in NYC and Jersey City, and a student externship has been created in conjunction with same
- If alumni would like to get involved in the new social justice agenda, please let the school know

IX. Alumni & Development Update

Lori Kanner / Arianne Andrusco

- Alumni & Development has been very busy
- The free alumni virtual CLEs have been very well attended, between 100 and 200 at each event.
 - The next free CLE will be on Education Law on September 24th:
<https://law.pace.edu/news-and-events/events/free-cle-special-education-and-special-needs-planning>
- The Reunion is scheduled for October 23rd for classes that graduated in years ending with a 0 or 5. It will include alumni events such as:
 - Wake up with Yoga by Danielle Kocal
 - Seminars by beloved Professors
 - A 2-week virtual 5k fun run to support the PLEAS fund
 - A seminar on work/life balance (co-sponsored by Westchester Bar)
- Please let the office know if you have additional ideas for this year's Reunion

X. Committee Reports

1. Nominating Committee

Mike Frankel

- Annual Meeting / election results
 - Returning Board members:
 - Patricia Bisesto
 - James Garvey III
 - Adele Lerman Janow
 - James Lenihan
 - Joseph Mazel
 - Christopher Psihoules
 - Judson Siebert
 - Andrew Teodorescu
 - New Board members and committee assignments:

a. Stephen Forte	Fundraising
b. Rebecca Gigliotti	Judicial
c. Sameera Ansari Kalra	By-laws
d. Michael Kremen	Judicial - Chair
e. Ben Lowenthal	Nominating
f. John Mulligan	Fundraising
g. Susan Mulliken	Social
- For the 2021-22 school year, there is room to grow, several are looking to join, so if anyone knows of anyone who is interested please reach out to Mike Frankel – nominations can be accepted up until the final Board meeting

2. Social Committee

Jeremy Farrington

- P.L.A.N. events #36 (June 10) & #37 (Sept. 10)
 - Recap – last 2 P.L.A.N. events were virtual, but they were successful and enjoyable, allowing for a different geographic mix of attendees as compared to in-person events

- Matt Donovan has provided music at the events, which has been great – approximately 20 attendees per meeting
- P.L.A.N. event #38
 - Likely to be scheduled for the end of October, and will likely be virtual – if anyone has ideas, please contact Jeremy

3. Judicial Committee

Mike Kremen

- The Committee held a Sept. 1 conference call to discuss hosting a Spring event such as a forum for judges to explain what they look for in attorneys – updates will be provided
- “Meet the Judges” – every year in October, Pace and the Westchester Bar work together to bring this event to the Preston Tudor Room – this year’s networking event will be virtual on October 19 and October 20, with 2 time slots each of those days (12:30-1:30 and 5:30-6:30) to connect judges with smaller groups
- Participating judges and sponsors have not yet been locked down, and moderators are needed for the Zoom (or other) virtual rooms – if Board Members can assist with securing sponsorship or judges, or virtual room monitoring, please let Mike know
- Supreme Court admissions – Joe Mazel usually spearheads this program, but it is on hold due to Covid-19; the program will likely not happen until a vaccine is available

4. Fundraising Committee

Gail Mulligan

- Alumni account update – the current alumni fund balance is \$6,100, including the rollover from last year’s contributions
- Gail has sent an email with a link to this year’s Board Members to make their contributions
- The Committee’s CLE that was scheduled for this past Spring will be rescheduled as a free lunchtime CLE, with participants asked to make a donation
- P.L.A.N. event sponsorships ideas are always welcome
- Fundraising Goal – Gail would like the Board to focus on one fundraising goal per year, as there are several worthy initiatives (PLEAS fund, pass-the-bar initiative, an endowed scholarship, etc.)
- The pros and cons of the various potential fundraising goals were discussed at length by the Board, after which the Board formally voted to focus on the Bar Pass Initiative as this year’s fundraising goal recipient

5. By-laws Committee

Andrew Teodorescu

- Last term the By-Laws were revised, and the Committee is looking through the By-Laws to identify any additional areas that need change
- Board Members are encouraged to review the current By-Laws and contact Andrew if they have any suggested changes

XI. New Business

Mark Meeker

- Social Justice / Diversity Project - Patricia Bisesto has spearheaded this project for the Board
 - A gathering where people can share and acknowledge stories of pain and prejudice. Through these shared experiences, we can move toward eliminating the “us” and “them.” As Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh said, “For things to reveal themselves to us, we need to be ready to abandon our views about them.”
 - Mayo Bartlett, Esq., Class of ’92,
 - Prof. Barbara Atwell, Director of Diversity Initiatives for PLS

- On Thursday, Sept. 10, the Law School hosted a webinar on Achieving Social Justice, in which over 30 law schools nationwide participated
- On Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., as part of its virtual back to class series, Pace University will present, “Race in America: How did we get here?” featuring Prof. Kiku Huckler, Ph.D.
- This will be a worthwhile committee for the Board - if you are interested in joining, please let Mark know
- Dean Anderson noted that there are now a lot of events at the law school focused on diversity and social justice, so he will try to coordinate to include the Board, as alumni perspective is critical
- Alumni database – Lori: an email regarding a new business directory was sent out in August, to allow networking throughout various industries; the University has been asked to change the current alumni tab, but there are reasons why this has not happened, and she is still working on it
- Arianne: An environmental alumni button was added to the alumni database
- James Lenihan noted that a law school alumni database allowing for business referrals within the law school alumni network would provide an incentive to law school alumni to update (and keep updated) their information on that database
- Dean Anderson noted the frustration with the current database, but explained that the efforts by Lori and Arianne have been incredible, and that there are impediments (including cost) to the law school business referral network which James is proposing - A letter from the Alumni Board might prove helpful in this regard, and James Lenihan has agreed to draft such a letter – it was also noted that the proposed law alumni business referral database could be a fundraising recipient in the future
- Next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

Executive Committee

- Motion: Lisa Gladwell
- Second: James Garvey
- Time: 8:35 p.m.