

Alumni Association Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

6:15 p.m. networking, 6:30 p.m. meeting start

Zoom video conference

Board Members Present:

Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; 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; Michael Gilbert, Esq. '07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90; Sameera Ansari Kalra, Esq. '09; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Mark Meeker, Esq. '09; Joseph Moravec, Esq. '17; Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09; John Mulligan, Esq. '88; Susan Mulliken, Esq. '11; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00; Thomas Persico, Esq. '18; Judson Siebert, Esq. '85; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

Excused:

Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. '05; Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06; Michael Kremen, Esq. '08; Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12; Leanne Shofi, Esq. '94

Additional Attendees:

Angela D'Agostino, Dean of Students; Arianne Andrusco, Director of Development and Alumni Relations; Jill Backer, Assistant Dean of Career and Professional Development; Lori Kanner, Development Officer

Welcome guests:

James Hyer, Esq. '05, Westchester County Bar Association incoming president; Aida Izgelova, Esq. '17; Aharon Diaz, Esq. '12*; Jasmine Hosien, Esq. '12*; Andrea Madrid, Esq. '12*

*Nominees for Alumni Board

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

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met at 6:30 p.m. with 28 Directors in attendance (Zoom/Telephonic)

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Mark Meeker

- Congratulations to:
 - Caesar Lopez received one of our inaugural rising star award at this year's law leadership virtual event
 - Leanne Shofi in her new role as Special Counsel to Pastore & Dailey
 - Jackie Parker is a contributor to the book [*Consumer Finance Law: Understanding Consumer Financial Services Regulations*](#).

- Jeremy Farrington has a new job as a Conflicts Attorney at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
- Happy birthday to Board Members Michael Frankel and Sandy Forster
- Excel spreadsheet pre-distributed to Board contains tabs regarding:
 - 2020-21 Academic Year Attendance
 - Contact info
 - Committees
 - Contribution tracker

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. January 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mark Meeker

- Approved via email on January 25, 2021, by 18 Directors
- Posted to the PLS web site: <https://law.pace.edu/alumni/alumni-association>

IV. Headshots

Mark Meeker

- If you have not yet done so, please send Jessica Dubuss (JDubuss2@law.pace.edu) a headshot for the Alumni Board's page on the law school's website.

V. Dean's Update

Dean D'Agostino for Dean Anderson

- Spring semester – challenging because of COVID. Every resident has been tested weekly. There have been no positive cases and no shut downs.
- US NEWS and World Report rankings:
 - Haub Law Environmental Law Program is #1
 - Haub Law Trial Advocacy Program is in the top 25 in the nation
- Welcoming two new faculty members in the Fall 2021 semester:
 - Shirley Lynn: Dartmouth, CUNY, NYU
 - Joshua Galperin: Environmental
- Fall semester 2021: plan is for in person learning and campus is being readied. Policy decision forthcoming as to whether to require vaccines. NY Court of Appeals will decide if hybrid learning will continue.
- Summer 2021: Continue current policies: weekly testing, no guests on campus.
- Operations/Facilities: working diligently to reduce energy footprint (such as installing LED lighting)

VI. Dean of Students

Angie D'Agostino

- Commencement- May 16, 2021 at 1:00 PM will be a VIRTUAL ceremony
Some type of celebration will be held on May 6th in small groups
- PLEAS Fund to assist students during the pandemic - \$76K raised and distributed for various immediate needs of students (such as medication, food insecurity, housing, utilities). Four students lost their fathers in one week.
- Goal is to ensure that students make it through this challenging time.
- The alumni community is thanked for its support.

VII. Admissions

Lori Kanner on behalf of Cathy Alexander

- Applications for the Fall are up 15% over last year. The increase in applications has allowed us to lower our acceptance rate. We have admitted 48% of the applicant pool. Our first commitment date is April 15th. We have received 75 deposits going into that first commitment date, an increase of 20 from this time last year.
- Applications to the FLEX JD (Part-time) are up 15% from last year as well.
- We opened the campus on a limited basis in March which has resulted in campus tours for more than 70 admits to date. So far, 40% of those who took a tour have committed. We will continue the tour program throughout the summer. We have also held many zoom sessions on a variety of topics with members of our community. (Ex. Mark Meeker and Chelsea Aiosa this week)

VIII. Career Development

Jill Backer

- Will send out a PowerPoint
- 80% employment for Class of 2020

IX. Development & Alumni Relations

Lori Kanner

- The virtual 26th Annual Law Leadership event raised over \$120K
- Bar Pass Initiative - The confusion and moving date and format of the NYS Bar exam, as well as the switch to fully online instruction and bar-prep proved to be a challenge to some of the Law Schools' struggling students.
 - Last year, the bar pass effort provided 9 students extra support who were identified as unlikely to pass the bar without additional support.
 - To date, two of those students have passed the bar, which is above the statistical expectations, if less effective than the year prior, when 1:1 in-person tutoring and stipends are offered.
 - This year, due to the continuing impact of the pandemic, the Academic Success program plans to use funds donated for bar pass efforts to focus on providing stipends for students who would otherwise need to work while studying for the Bar. There are several students who are actively requesting support that would allow them to focus on their studies before the July Bar Exam.
- April 16 - Pioneer of Justice Award
- Upcoming CLEs:
 - May 5, Cyber Security – Ethics
 - June – Power of Attorney and changes to estate planning laws
 - June – Global Warming
 - Upcoming possible: Summation Strategies for DWI Cases
 - Suggestions on topics of interest and sponsorships welcome

X. Committee Reports

- Nominating Committee Mike Frankel
 - *See* New Business

- Social Committee Jeremy Farrington
 - PLAN's 40th Quarterly Networking Event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY!!
 - Alumni Matt Donovan has been contacted to see if he wants to play a few songs.

- Judicial Committee Mark Meeker (for Mike Kremen)
 - Spring CLE on hold until Fall in conjunction with Meet the Judges.
 - US Supreme Court Admissions are not yet in person.

- Fundraising Committee Gail Mulligan
 - Board member contributions – spreadsheet shows contributions to date. If anything seems incorrect on the spreadsheet, please let Gail or Lori know – a gentle reminder to Board Members that have not yet contributed to please contribute.
 - Additional Fundraising ideas: please contact Gail.

- By-laws Committee Andrew Teodorescu
 - Absence policy was reviewed/discussed by the committee and no changes are recommended at this time.
 - Discussion on closing the transition period gap from the final meeting of the academic year (board term ends) until September 1 (new board term).

XI. Special Committees

- Committee for Student Engagement Mark Meeker (for Mike Kremen)
 - Final name pending
 - Mike Kremen is soliciting volunteers (kremen@gmail.com)
 - Dean D'Agostino: SBA has a Student Engagement Committee.

- Diversity and Inclusion Committee George Haddad
 - Currently George, Sandy, Lori, Pat
 - Exploring a Fall student panel discussion regarding diversity, hopefully in person, perhaps with wine and cheese if funding is available
 - Soliciting members and ideas: If interested in getting involved, please let Pat and/or George know
 - Looking to partner with other schools within the Pace family, groups, etc.

- Nominating Committee Mike Frankel
 - FOUR new nominees were put forth by the Nominating Committee for 2021-2022:
Aharon Diaz
Jasmine Hosein
Patrick Paul
Andrea Madrid
 - Eleven of twelve current Board members whose terms are expiring desire to continue
Thank you to Joe Moravec for his years of service!
 - Vote to accept 2021-2022 slate as presented by the Nominating Committee: Mike

Second: Mark Meeker
All in Favor- Unanimous
All Opposed- none

- Mark Meeker will not be seeking another term as Board President, but will continue as a Member.

The Board thanked Mark for his years of transformative service as President!

- Anyone interested in the Executive Committee, please reach out to Mike Frankel or any member of the Nominating Committee.

XII. New Business

- Special Guest: Jim Hyer, Esq. '05, Incoming President of the Westchester County Bar Association
 - WCBA is celebrating their 125th Anniversary
 - Has 2000+ members
 - Met with Dean Anderson as the WCBA would like to develop a closer relationship with the Law School
 - All students can join for free
- The next Board meeting is the ANNUAL MEETING and in conjunction with the 40th PLAN event: June 2, 2021
 - Will be the final voting (if necessary) for the upcoming Board Term

XIII. Adjournment

- Motion: Carol Levey
- Second: Jim Garvey
- All in Favor- Unanimous
- All Opposed- none
- Time: 7:40 PM