

# PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

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

Zoom video conference

**Present:** Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. '05; Aharon Diaz, Jr., Esq. '12; Jeremy Farrington, Esq. '11; Hon. Sandra Forster '79; Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90; Sameera Ansari Kalra, Esq. '09; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Mark Meeker, Esq. '09; Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09; Susan Mulliken, Esq. '11; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00; Leanne M. Shofi, Esq. '94; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

**Excused:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; James Garvey III, Esq. '80; Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06; Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06; Jasmine L. Hosein, Esq. '12; Michael Kremen, Esq. '08; Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Andrea Madrid, Esq. '12; Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); John Mulligan, Esq. '88; Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11; Patrick J. Paul, Esq. '16; Thomas Persico, Esq. '18; Judson Siebert, Esq. '85

**Unexcused:** None

**Added attendees:** Lori Kanner, Development Officer; Danielle Kocal, Director of Academic Success; Abi Monahan Negron, SBA Representative

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:32 p.m.

**MEETING QUORUM:** Quorum met at 6:32 p.m. with 19 Directors in attendance (Zoom/Telephonic)

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|---|-------------------|
| <b>I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks</b>  | Andrew Teodorescu |
| <b>II. Board Membership</b>   | Andrew Teodorescu |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reminder of the Board's attendance policy:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 2 unexcused absences in a school year triggers a conditional suspension letter, then</li><li>○ Attend the next meeting and plead your case to get voted back on</li></ul></li></ul> |                   |
| <b>III. September 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes</b>  | Leanne Shofi      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved via email on October 7, 2021 by 21 Directors</li><li>• Posted to the PLS web site: <a href="https://law.pace.edu/alumni/alumni-association">https://law.pace.edu/alumni/alumni-association</a></li></ul>   |                   |

#### **IV. Admissions**

Cathy Alexander

- Just finished ABA site visit, it went really well
- While it is early in the application cycle, applications are up 11% from last year
- Quality of the application pool, and interest in the part-time program, are strong
- LSAT volume is up
- Attended first in-person recruiting event in 2 years, meet with hundreds of students in NYC
- Please volunteer to speak with prospective students - Caesar Lopez spoke to how important this volunteer work is - Cathy will send an email to the Board about this
- Wonderful to see students in-person on campus, not a lot of law schools are so it is an advantage

#### **V. External Affairs/Academic Success**

Danielle Kocal, Director of Academic Success

- Bar pass numbers: July 2021 NY Bar had a 76% first-time pass rate, 11% higher than last year, up 2% from 2019 (the last “normal” Bar before the pandemic)
- Focused a lot on mental health issues because students were studying remotely; held a lot of social events to keep the students engaged with one another
- Grant program: alumni have contributed to a fund to help students through the Bar period - 17 students received grants ranging from \$500 to over \$900; of those students, 13 took the July 2021 NY Bar and 11 of them passed, yielding an 85% pass rate which is excellent – if you can donate to this fund, and/or ask other alumni to donate to this fund, please do
- Would like the fund to be set up by January or February so that students can apply earlier
- Mentor program will happen again
- Bar prep companies are now all remote, so students are moving back home, so these new interventions will be continued by the School even after Covid is no longer an issue
- February Bar will be in person

#### **VI. SBA Student Representative**

Abi Monahan Negrón

- 3L focusing on Immigration and International Law
- Was very attracted to the diversity of Haub Law as well as its clubs and extracurricular activities, including LALSA (Latin American Law Students Association)

#### **VII. Alumni & Development Update**

Lori Kanner

- Reunion was a huge success, 3-4 class specific happy hours were well-attended, as were the free CLE sponsored by Alumni and their Firms and 2 seminars by Professors
- Single use scholarships/class gifts resulted from the Reunion
- Food insecurity/food pantry creation:
  - An Alumni and his Firm are donating \$500 per month for the next year to set up the food pantry to help food insecure students
  - Food Pantry has opened and is a success
  - Discussion of continued funding for the Food Pantry, and funding sources
- Gift naming opportunity: the new seminar classroom
- Matching Gift from Sun Hill Foundation with benefit 3 Environmental Programs, but it expires on November 30, 2021 so please consider giving

## VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Nominating Committee Michael Frankel
- Still accepting nominations for next year's Board, through the end of the year
  - Current nominees expressed interest in last year's Board
  - Diversity of the slate of nominees is important
- B. Social Committee Jeremy Farrington
- Dec. 9 will be the next P.L.A.N. virtual event, 6:30 start time
  - Lori Kanner and Jeremy Farrington will discuss a possible in-person event
- C. Fundraising Committee Gail Mulligan
- Happy to report that a future in-person P.L.A.N. event Sponsor, for an event in Westchester County, has been secured
  - The secured Sponsor has some questions about sponsorship, discussion ensued:
    - Mark: in the past, there was only one event with a Sponsor and it was shared between two smaller law firms
    - A space was created for a table and the firms' promotional items were displayed on the table; the Sponsors' names were added to the banner and promotions, and on the P.L.A.N. Facebook Group page for 3 months
    - Gail asked if a Sponsor could be given time at the sponsored event to announce what the Sponsor offers, Mark said yes
    - In the past, the \$1,500 Sponsorship went to the Activity Fund, and when possible some venues contribute something for free in exchange for the numbers attending the event (i.e., appetizer platters)
  - The Sponsorship amount can be flexible
  - As of today, the Activity Fund balance is \$8,400
  - Gentle reminder to Board Members to contribute \$100 to the Activity Fund
- D. By-laws Committee Mark Meeker
- Mark emailed the Committee and circulated the current By-Laws
  - By-Laws are also on the Alumni Website
  - Board Members are encouraged to look at the By-Laws and to let Mark know if there is something that could be changed or added (as an example, Mark noted that handoff of Officers is currently September 1, but that it might make sense to move that to earlier in the Summer)
- E. Committee Assignments Andrew Teodorescu
- Board members should reach out to Andrew if they would like to be on a different or second Committee

## **IX. Special Committee Reports**

- Diversity Committee George Haddad
  - First event: Oct. 26 DEI Student-Run Panel, very well-attended (60 attendees), occurred over Social Justice week and a huge success
  - Abi was on the Panel and noted that the event was not only successful but should be repeated, hopefully in person, to continue the important conversations
  - Sondra: George did a great job with the event, and it is so important to understand what it is like to encounter prejudice –another event in the Spring, perhaps in-person and with food and drinks, to encourage conversation would be a great idea
  - Kudos to George and the Diversity Committee for being so active, and to Lori Kanner for being its backbone
  - Lori Kanner: Provost Office reached out and was so impressed, the event had tremendous attendance, they would like a Spring event as well
  - Diversity/the event absolutely included/addressed individuals with disabilities

## **X. New Business and Motion to Donate to Bar Pass Initiative**

- There will not be a SCOTUS swearing-in in the Spring, the earliest swearing-in will be in October 2022, and that book opens up in January.
- Bar Pass Initiative
  - Very successful
  - Noting that there is money in the Activity Fund to donate to the Bar Pass Initiative, and that the Board donated money last year, Andrew Teodorescu moved for a \$500 donation from the Activity Fund to the Bar Pass Initiative
    - Motion made by Andrew Teodorescu
    - Motion seconded by Leanne Shofi
    - Board voted unanimously to donate \$500 to the Bar Pass Initiative
    - Lori Kanner suggested that the donation be used as a match, Board agreed
- Zoom link will be added to future Agendas
- Leanne will email reminders to the Board of upcoming meetings, 1 week and then 1 day in advance of the meetings
- The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022

## **XI. Adjournment**

Executive Committee

- Motion: George Haddad
- Second: Gail Mulligan
- Time: 7:32 p.m.