

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Michael Calandra Jr., Esq. '05, Adam Ciffone, Esq. '11, Jeremy Farrington, Esq. '11, Hon. Sandra Forster '79, Michael Frankel, Esq. '03, James Garvey III, Esq. '80, Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07, Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10, Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06, George Haddad, Esq. '15, Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90, James Lenihan, Esq. '91, Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12, Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.), Mark Meeker, Esq. '09, Joseph Moravec, Esq. '17 Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09, Diana Neeves, Esq. '16, Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11, Leanne Shofi, Esq. '94

Excused: Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92, Jonathan Engel, Esq. '09, Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06, Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.), Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97, Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95, Raymond Perez, Esq. '00, Thomas Persico, Esq. '18, Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12, Judson Siebert, Esq. '85, Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

Unexcused: None

Added attendees: Arianne Andrusco, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Jill Backer, Esq., Assistant Dean Career and Professional Development, Lori Kanner, Esq., Development and Alumni Relations Officer effective Dec.2, Michael Kremen, Esq., '08, guest

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met by 6:31 p.m. with 20 Directors in attendance (including 1 Dir. Em.)

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS – Mark Meeker

- Congratulations to Jonathan Engel and his father who donated to “Access: Supports for Living, Inc.,” the property where their family had conducted its business, Engel Funeral Home, for 4 decades. Access has dedicated the property as “The Engel Center,” and it will be used to further its mission to serve individuals with special needs
- Today is Chris Psihoulis’ final day at FERC – he will be moving to Norton Rose on Monday
- Diana Neeves is engaged to PLS alumni Dan Patrick
- Welcome guests

II. SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING MINUTES - Mark Meeker

- Approved via email on September 30, 2019, by 15 Directors
- Posted to the PLS website: <http://www.law.pace.edu/pace-law-alumni-association>

III. BOARD MEMBERSHIP – Mark Meeker

- Reminder of the Board’s attendance policy
 - 2 unexecuted attendances in a school year triggers a conditional suspension letter,
 - Attend the next meeting and plead your case to get voted back on
- Board members are reminded/expected to become involved with their Committees

IV. CAREER DEVELOPMENT – Jill Backer

- Compliance professionals gathering was held Oct. 23 – about 120 alumni in compliance (utilized LinkedIn to find) and 12 alumni attended the event which was a great success
- Another one next semester (trying to hold 1-2 networking opportunities per year, without an agenda)
- Very important for the students to network, especially 3Ls
- Breakfast gathering of C-Suite alumni in March, to be held on campus – hope that they hire our students and/or fund our students
- Employment statistics – strong this year – approximately 80% employed for Class of 2019, but approximately 12% of those are in temporary jobs still searching for permanent – last year, a lot of students who had to re-take the Bar Exam quit their employment to study, which hurt statistics
- Working with law school to help students through the Bar Exam, encourage them to stay employed while studying for the Bar

V. ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Arianne Andrusco

- Update:
 - Recently received results from the July New York Bar (76% pass rate), results are promising with an increase of 8% from last year (the average pass rate is 85%, which includes school such as Columbia and NYU)
 - Of New York law schools, Pace has the largest contingent of pro bono scholars taking the Bar in February, which affects the numbers of the July Bar
 - The Board of Visitors has been meeting with Academic Success to figure out ways to improve the Bar pass rate, including the identification of students predicted to not pass due to personal circumstances, poor test-taking skills, etc. - the Board of Visitors donated \$20K to be used strategically to assist identified students with personalized aid (additional tutoring, babysitting, etc.) – of the 10 students identified as likely to fail the Bar who received aid from the Board of Visitors, 8 of the 10 passed the Bar which is a tremendous success
- The topic which was discussed in closed sessions during previous Board meetings is no longer on the table
- The President has appointed a faculty Dean Search Committee headed by Prof. Michelle Simon, which will vote whether to recommend to the Board of Trustees that Interim Dean Horace Anderson be installed as Dean or whether a national search should be held –feedback/opinions may be shared with Arianne Andrusco and/or Prof. Simon
- Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law has honored Prof. Benjamin Gershman with an entire Journal dedicated to Prof. Gershman (a high honor indeed, usually bestowed posthumously)
- Energy & Climate Center has a new Executive Director: Craig A. Hart, Esq.
- Alumni relations
 - Nov. 4 reunion included the school’s first 40th reunion graduating class
 - Reunion recap – feedback: drop the ticket price, high price likely kept alumni away – Friday night was challenging for some to attend – alumni from recent years do not want

- to go to the campus, although alumni celebrating more years since graduation like to go back to campus – the free CLE offering before the reunion was well-received
 - o Alumni receptions have been held in Boston and other cities
- The Women in Law Committee continues to hold successful events (the next event is a November 19, 2019 volunteer event at Hillside Food Outreach in Elmsford, 6-9)
- November 25, 2019 - Robert Tucker Prize for Prosecutorial Excellence Awards Ceremony honoring Brooklyn D.A. Eric Gonzalez, 5:30-7:00 at One Pace Plaza in NYC
- Pace University annual Holiday Party in December in NYC – Board will receive invites
- Winter P.L.A.N event is January 29, 2020
- Law Leadership Awards Dinner is March 25, 2020
- Lori Kantor will be the Board’s point person moving forward for the organization of events, committees, etc., so that Arianne is able to focus more on fundraising
- PLS website alumni tab – Arianne was told that it is coming – Arianne has been looking at website alumni pages, thinks there is room for improvement, she is following up to request that it be more user-friendly, thinks alumni directory should be up front and easier to access, have bios of alumni board, Arianne asked that Board Members look at what other law schools do on their sites in order to give suggestions regarding how to improve the PLS alumni site
- Giving: \$484,507 to date, down from last year but there was no active fundraising (direct mail, phone calls) during the closed session discussions, which active fundraising will now commence
- Arianne wants to offer gifts tied to a specific purpose, i.e.:
 - o \$5K to name a seat in Ottinger Hall and the Moot Court Room
 - o \$1.5K to sponsor 1 student to go to the southern border to provide legal counsel at detention centers
- After a couple years’ hiatus, Pace student calling will happen this Fall, starting on Giving Tuesday (Tuesday after Thanksgiving)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Nominating Committee - Michael Frankel
 - Update on prospective members – Michael has communicated with 4 alumni interested in joining next year’s Board – early next year committee will meet and/or interview candidates and present as a slate for a vote
 - Mark Meeker: Members of the Board should give Michael recommendations for candidates, as he would like to equal the size of the group brought in this year
 - Mark Meeker: The Annual meeting will likely be in May, at the P.L.A.N. event
2. Social Committee - Jeremy Farrington
 - o P.L.A.N. #34 recap – last week at Ron Black’s, about 30 attendees (including Prof. Gershman), not a strong presence by the Board of Directors
 - o P.L.A.N. #35 - Wednesday, Jan. 29, 6:00-9:00, Copper Johns Kitchen & Pub (entire second floor), 160 W. 54th St., NYC, Members of the Board are encouraged to attend, as in-person networking is very important – this event is during the week of NYSBA annual meetings in Manhattan, just up the block from the Hilton – whether to create a Facebook Event to spread the word was discussed – Leanne Shofi asked whether there been exploration of live entertainment at the event (perhaps featuring the Pace NYC Performing Arts students), to which Mark responded that it had not been considered but was a good idea
 - o Blast emails go to emails that are on file, but records are not as good as they should be

- Board members should reach out to their friends who are alumni to attend, which should vastly improve attendance
3. Judicial Committee - Lisa Gladwell
 - Meet the Judges event happened on October 2, 2019 – Hon. Sandra Forster said that the event was very special, but nobody knew that it was in association with the alumni Board, everyone knew it as a County Bar event – when asked to partner, the Bar asked for funding, the Board said we cannot assist with funding but can assist in other ways – Hon. Sandra Forster said that it was well-organized but her help was not needed at all, it was if she was part of the County Bar
 - Supreme Court admissions – last year early in December, not as many candidates, considering holding the event less frequently
 4. Fundraising Committee – Gail Mulligan (presenting in Jacqueline Parker’s absence)
 - Alumni account update – to date, \$775 received from Board members during the 2019-20 school year, \$4,350 total now in the account including last year’s rollover – spreadsheet was sent to each Board Member
 - A Committee conference call was held in October during which the Committee decided that it wished to fundraise for specific purposes (i.e., a scholarship to an existing student, or a recent graduate, or sponsorship of an event such as a specific CLE, or a career development program)
 - P.L.A.N. event sponsorship ideas – there is still a need for a sponsor for the January event (a sponsor is already lined up for the Spring)
 - Last year we were at 100% for some gift to the school and/or alumni fund by Board Members
 5. By-laws Committee –Adele Lerman Janow (presenting in Andrew Teodorescu’s absence)
 - Committee is in the process of examining the By-Laws again
 6. Special Committees
 - Alumni Database – James Lenihan
 - Difficulties getting the database live, difficult to search for a specific area of law, etc. – he has drafted an email that he will share with Mark and Arianne couching the database as a Pace attorney referral service
 - Discussion of the utility of LinkedIn, and how to utilize to ensure that alumni contact information is current
 - Closed Session Committee – tabled

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- PLS website’s alumni tab – previously discussed in meeting
- Next regular Board meeting – scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2020, but the Board officers and committee chairs are considering alternative dates TBD

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Executive Committee

- Motion to adjourn: Joseph Martin
- Second: Lisa Gladwell
- Motion: passed unanimously
- Adjournment: 7:54 p.m.