Alumni Association Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 17, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Zoom/Telephonic

[September 20, 2022 Minutes were approved on October 16, 2022 by 22 Members]

Present: Patricia Bisesto, Esq. ’92; Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. ’05; Aharon Diaz, Jr., Esq. ’12; Jeremy Farrington, Esq. ’11; Stephen Forte, Esq. ’08; Michael Frankel, Esq. ’03; Michael Gilberg, Esq. ’07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. ’10; Jennifer Gray, Esq. ’06; George Haddad, Esq. ’15; Sameera Ansari Kalra, Esq. ’09; Ashley Kersting, Esq. ’16; Michael Kremen, Esq. ’08; Caesar Lopez, Esq. ’12; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. ’14; Andrea Madrid, Esq. ’12; Gail Mulligan, Esq. ’09; Susan Mulliken, Esq. ’11; Diana Neeves, Esq. ’16; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. ’95; Raymond Perez, Esq. ’00; Thomas Persico, Esq. ’18; Cassia Schaeffer, Esq. ’15; Leanne M. Shofi, Esq. ’94; Andrew Teodosescu, Esq. ’13

Excused: Hon. Sandra Forster ’79; James Garvey III, Esq. ’80; Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. ’90; Hon. Carole Levy ’83 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Martin, Esq. ’91 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Mazel, Esq. ’97; Mark Meeker, Esq. ’09; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. ’12

Unexcused: Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. ’18; Jasmine L. Hosein, Esq. ’12; Michael Goldstein, Esq. ’06; James Lenihan, Esq. ’91; John Mulligan, Esq. ’88; Patrick J. Paul, Esq. ’16; Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. ’11; Judson Siebert, Esq. ’85; Nicole Varisco, Esq. ’10

Added attendees: Samantha Gordon, Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Association; Jill Gross, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Law Operations; Brian Kearney, Senior Director of Development; Samantha Ladines, SBA President; Philip Lupov, Program Manager, Alumni Relations

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:29 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met at 6:29 p.m. with 21 Directors in attendance

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Andrew Teodosescu/Samantha Gordon

• Introduced Samantha Gordon and her role with the Board
• Samantha is based in NYC and would welcome reach-outs

I. Dean’s Update
Jill Gross

• Recent NY bar passage results for July 2022 were 61% for first-time takers, a disappointing and unacceptable result (15 point drop from 2021 and 6 point drop from 2020)
• A working group has been convened to understand what went wrong and to assist students so that they pass in February 2023
Although a new academic success staff member was hired to support bar passage, that position just started in August 2022.

Gathering data to determine correlations between the pass rate and other factors.

Good reasons to think this was an anomaly because the class (January 2020 admission class) was the most impacted by the pandemic of all classes.

Engaging in early interventions for Class of 2023 moving forward.

We do not know comps from other schools, but have heard anecdotally that most went down a little and a few went down a lot.

Covid affected us more than other schools because students were closer to the cut score – LSAT mean was 151, a little below other classes – definitely a correlation between LSAT and pass rate (GPA after first year is the best predictor) – students below 150 on LSAT generally have a lower pass rate.

Received reports today from BARBRI and Kaplan, gathering information from them about student participation and engagement, etc.

Working full-time while studying for the Bar is a high predictor of not passing.

Pace offers 2 free Bar courses to all students; 160 students registered for MBE Strategies next Spring.

School will re-examine its movement toward more open book exams since the New York Bar still requires memorization.

NextGen Bar: new iteration, out in 2026, will be less memorization and more emphasis on skills – unclear whether New York will adhere.

There should be follow-up communications regarding findings, alumni involvement through mentoring etc. is always welcome – gold standard is above 75% pass rate for all Bars cumulatively, which should still be met notwithstanding the poor performance on the New York Bar.

II. Admissions

Brian noted that he was deputized by Cathy Alexander and provided a Powerpoint.

Admissions office back on the road for more in-person recruitment.

Participated in 7 law school admission forums throughout the country as well as numerous events at colleges and universities.

Continuing on-campus tours and events for prospective students.

Admissions office is 20% into the admissions cycle; so far, application numbers are lower than in 2021 and 2022, down 13% as of November 11.

We are now in unsettling economic times that could impact admissions.

Will be increasing social media outreach.

CCPD Center for Career & Professional Development reports that of the Class of 2022, over 82% of graduates are employed (almost 79% in full-time legal jobs).

III. Alumni & Development Update

Samantha Gordon

Introduction of Phil Lupov.

Reunion this year required a pivot because there was low interest in the event.

Discussion ensued regarding how best to conduct reunions in the future, including time of year, time of week, type of event, etc.; commentary that off-site in NYC could be special.

Registration for the reunion was closed too early, walk-in registration could be helpful.

Samantha will follow-up and try to utilize the Board moving forward.
IV. Board Membership

- Reminder of Board Attendance Policy:
  - 2 unexcused absences in academic year triggers conditional suspension letter, after which
  - Attend next meeting to plead your case for being voted back on
- Does the board want hybrid meetings going forward? Discussion of the pros and cons of in-person versus Zoom

V. Committee Reports

1. Nominating Committee

- Let Mike know if you’re interested in the President role
- Executive Committee’s two-year terms are expiring
- Three-year terms are expiring as well – please let Mike know whether you are interested in continuing or retiring
- Discussion of why the number of Members is capped at 45

2. Social Committee

- Last event was partnered with the law school – helpful because mixed with people who are not involved in the typical P.L.A.N. events – younger alumni were able to learn more about P.L.A.N. and shared new methods of communication, which will make outreach more effective
- When selecting future dates of events, will consider the schedules of younger alumni, and perhaps will plan an event to celebrate Bar results
- June 14 is currently the final event of the year, perhaps that could be planned closer to graduation so that newer graduates can join
- NYSBA Annual Meeting January 18-24 will coincide with the next event (likely January 19) – will be in Manhattan near Hilton midtown (let Jeremy know if January 19 is not good or if you have a suggestion for a different venue)

3. Fundraising Committee

- Gail was asked to compile a more detailed report of Board contributions, which will be sent to the Board before the next meeting

VI. Special Committee Reports

- Diversity and Inclusion Committee
  - Canceled Fall event, but planning Spring event for March or April
  - Let George know if you are interested in joining

VII. New Business

- Status of Committee for Student Engagement
- Succession planning within the Board
- Please sign up for Committees

VIII. Adjournment

- Motion: Lisa Gladwell
- Second: Leanne Shofi
- Time: 7:38 p.m.