

PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

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 Teodorescu, 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 Teodorescu/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 Kearney

- 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** Andrew Teodorescu
- 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** Michael Frankel
- 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** Jeremy Farrington
- 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 Mulligan
- 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** George Haddad
- 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** Andrew Teodorescu
- Status of Committee for Student Engagement
 - Succession planning within the Board
 - Please sign up for Committees
- VIII. Adjournment** Executive Committee
- Motion: Lisa Gladwell
 - Second: Leanne Shofi
 - Time: 7:38 p.m.