

# PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

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

Zoom/telephonic

**Present:** Aharon Diaz, Jr., Esq. '12; Jeremy Farrington, Esq. '11; Hon. Sandra Forster '79; Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; ; Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06; Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Jasmine L. Hosein, Esq. '12; Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90; Sameera Ansari Kaira, Esq. '09; Michael Kremen, Esq. '08; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Andrea Madrid, Esq. '12; Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Mark Meeker, Esq. '09; Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09; John Mulligan, Esq. '88; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; Patrick J. Paul, Esq. '16; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00; Thomas Persico, Esq. '18; Leanne M. Shofi, Esq. '94; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

**Excused:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. '05; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; James Garvey III, Esq. '80; Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Susan Mulliken, Esq. '11; Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Judson Siebert, Esq. '85

**Unexcused:** Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11

**Added attendees:** Angela D'Agostino, Dean of Students; Lori Kanner, Development Officer; Rachel Silva, Dean of External Affairs; Cassia Schaeffer, prospective Board Member

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

**MEETING QUORUM:** Quorum met at 6:33 p.m. with 20 Directors in attendance

**I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks** Andrew Teodorescu

**II. Board Membership** Lisa Gladwell

- Reminder of the Board's attendance policy:
  - 2 unexcused absences in an academic year triggers a conditional suspension letter, then
  - Attend the next meeting and plead your case to get voted back on

**III. January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes** Leanne Shofi

- Approved via email on January 24, 2022 by 24 Directors
- Posted to the PLS web site: <https://law.pace.edu/alumni/alumni-association>

- IV. Alumni & Development Update** Lori Kanner
- Law leadership Dinner was the most successful in the School's history, raising \$290K, far greater than any year in the past
  - Single use scholarships
  - Sun Hill Foundation donation match was met
  - An email will be coming regarding a mentoring platform called People Growth
  - Gavel Gala is scheduled for April 14, registration is going very well
  - Gift naming opportunity for a seminar classroom
  - Communications with alumni have improved dramatically
- V. Admissions** Angie D'Agostino
- Mid-way through Fall 2022 enrollment, positive increase in demand over pre-Covid enrollment
  - Flex Program continues to see an increase in applications
  - Quality of applicants has increased, with over 150 students visiting campus
  - Goal of 273 incoming students, with a total of over 800 students, which is very large
- VI. Dean for Students** Angie D'Agostino
- 86 events have already been held this semester, including the first Barrister's Ball since Covid and a Suicide Prevention Walk on Campus with over 60 students attending and national speakers that were very moving
  - Wellness - Lori and Natalie Pagano wrote a proposal to the University and received a Grant for the Haub Law 8 Pillars of Wellness
  - Upcoming April 28 event sponsored by D&I Committee
  - 6 new solar benches and charging pole in the quad, with proposals for solar parking lights
  - Continue to meet the needs of students with mental health needs and disabilities, and ideally a part-time psychologist will be hired and on staff by July 1, 2022
  - Food pantry continues to be a success to meet the food insecurity created by the pandemic
  - New roof installed, the first since 1976
  - Switched from oil to gas energy, and continue to update new spaces
  - February Bar results came out, will report on those numbers in the future
  - PLEAS Fund raised over \$100K, distributed with great need to students
  - Strong students, heavily involved in the School, many have children
- VII. Career Development** Angie D'Agostino
- 2021 Bar Pass rate was slightly up
  - Bar Pass Initiative needs additional resources – fundraiser, last year 14 students received grants of \$500-\$950 to help with various issues (bar prep costs, child care, elder care, time off from work to study, etc.), and 12 of the 14 passed the Bar the first time which is a testament to the program's success
  - Addition of a mental health counselor should also help the Bar Pass rate
- VIII. Dean's Update** Angie D'Agostino, Rachel Silva
- Reputation and Program Development
    - US News Reporting, School remains #1 for Environmental Law, the first time it has achieved consecutive years for that ranking
    - US News Reporting, ADR ranked #32 (was #67 last year), Trial Advocacy is ranked in the top 15% – the Flex program was ranked #47 and is growing in popularity

- Peer reputation score of 2.1 (scale of 1-5), an improvement from prior years
- Bar passage rates are now more heavily weighted in the rankings, and the criteria for rankings changes frequently from year to year
- Dean Anderson has created a task force to continue to improve Bar passage rates, which had not existed in recent years (since 2008-2009), as the University and School have gone through a number of changes including of leadership – now is a stable time, and Dean Anderson is very focused on moving the School forward

## **IX. Committee Reports**

### **1. Social Committee**

Jeremy Farrington

- Next PLAN event will be the last one of the academic year, on June 8 in White Plains, forum TBD, sponsored by Emerald Medicare
- Will be many events next Fall, interested in focusing on spreading the word, please share PLAN events by social media, reach out to old colleagues, etc.
- Andrea Madrid asked if we could plan events with Alumni and Students over the Summer, when students have more time – Jeremy said yes that could be considered and he would speak with Andrea - Mike Kremen noted that before Covid PLAN events alternated between White Plains and NYC, and gave a shout-out to Mark Meeker who created PLAN (Mark noted that PLAN has an Instagram account, please follow: [pace\\_law\\_alumni\\_network](#))

### **2. Judicial Committee**

Mike Kremen

- No updates on SCOTUS admissions, March 2023 – Joe Mazel will help coordinate
- Will again co-sponsor with Westchester County Bar Association the Bridge the Gap CLE, 16 CLE credits open to all attorneys, November 3-4

### **3. Fundraising Committee**

Gail Mulligan

- As of April 11, 2022, Activity Fund balance is \$8,200, including \$900 in contributions from Board Members – those who have not yet contributed, please consider doing so
- Board donated \$500 to the Bar Pass Initiative, which is reflected in the balance
- Consider contributing during the University’s 1906 Challenge at the end of April
- Discussion of the distinction between the Board’s Activity Fund (allows the Board to hold events, donate to selected causes, etc.) versus the School’s Annual Fund which is very important to the School’s bottom line

### **4. By-laws Committee**

Mark Meeker

- Andrew emailed proposed changes to the By-Laws
- Discussion of the reason for changing the By-Laws to allow the past President to vote as a Member of the Board; there seems to be no good reason for an upstanding Member who happened to be a past President to not be allowed to vote as a Member
- Motion to approve the By-Law Amendments made by Leanne Shofi, seconded by Mike Kremen, and passed by unanimous vote
- The proposed amendments will be added to the ballot for Alumni to vote thereon

(Cassia Schaeffer, prospective Board Member, excused)

## **5. Nominating Committee**

Mike Frankel

- Resumes of 3 prospective nominees were sent to the Board
- If prospective nominees are accepted, there will be a total of 40 Board Members (By-Laws allow 45)
- Motion to present the proposed slate of new Members to the Association made to Lisa Gladwell, seconded by Michael Goldstein, and passed by unanimous vote
- Ballots will be prepared and sent out prior to the Annual Meeting, which will be held at the PLAN event on June 8; typically in-person voting is not required if sufficient online votes are cast, so please remember to vote
- Discussion ensued regarding whether to try to achieve representation from each class year, with the pros and cons discussed as well as the need for other types of diversity
- Member recommendations are generally received from the Board and the School

## **X. Special Committee Reports**

George Haddad

- Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be holding an event on April 28 at 6:00 in the Moot Court Room – a panel moderated by current students – please register and attend

## **XI. New Business**

- Andrew - Committee for Student Engagement was formed in a prior academic year with not much movement from that Committee – thoughts regarding the goals of the Committee?
- Could goals be folded into the Social Committee?
- Goals: develop student pipeline so that students aware of the Alumni Board, advertise social events to students, mentorship programs – these are important goals, Andrew will touch base with Mike Kremen to see how to integrate into overall Board functions (Lori offered to set up a Zoom, and to include the Dean of Students)
- Lisa Gladwell asked whether the University is seeking to fold this alumni organization into the University's alumni organization, as it has done for other schools – Lori responded that the University is not so seeking because this Board is very well-organized and active
- Mark Meeker is liaison to the University's alumni association and will share information of interest (for example, an April 29 Mets v. Phillies game event is planned)

## **XII. Adjournment**

Executive Committee

- Motion: Joe Mazel
- Second: Michael Goldstein
- Time: 8:00 p.m.