

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. (by video/telephonic conference)**

**Present:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92, Michael Calandra Jr., Esq. '05, 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, Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06, George Haddad, Esq. '15, James Lenihan, Esq. '91, Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.), Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12, Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.), Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97, Mark Meeker, Esq. '09, Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09, Diana Neeves, Esq. '16, Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95, Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11, Raymond Perez, Esq. '00, Thomas Persico, Esq. '18, Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12, Leanne Shofi, Esq. '94, Judson Siebert, Esq. '85, Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

**Excused:** Adam Ciffone, Esq. '11, Jonathan Engel, Esq. '09, Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90

**Unexcused:** Joseph Moravec, Esq. '17

**Added attendees:** Cathy Alexander, Assistant Dean of Admissions; Horace Anderson, Dean; Arianne Andrusco, Director of Development and Alumni Relations; Jill Backer, Assistant Dean of Career and Professional Development; Rex Bossert, Assistant Dean for External Affairs; Angela D'Agostino, Dean of Students; Lori Kanner, Development Officer; Patrick Mullen, President of SBA; Antonio Soares, Manager of Educational Media

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:47 p.m.

**MEETING QUORUM:** Quorum met by 6:47 p.m. with 20 Directors in attendance (Zoom/Telephonic)

- I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks** Mark Meeker
- Congratulations to Nicholas Pasalides on being named one of WCBA's Outstanding New Lawyers for 2020
  - Welcome to guests
- II. January 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes** Mark Meeker
- Approved via email on January 30, 2020 by 16 Directors.
  - Posted to the PLS web site: <http://www.law.pace.edu/pace-law-alumni-association>

### III. Board Membership

Mark Meeker

- Reminder of the Board's attendance policy:
  - 2 unexcused absences in a school year triggers a conditional suspension letter, then
  - Attend the next meeting and plead your case to get voted back on
- Jonathan Engel's 3-year term is ending
- Michael Calandra voted for reinstatement by unanimous consent

### IV. Dean's Update

Dean Horace Anderson

- Introduction of Rex Bossert, new Assistant Dean for External Affairs
- Law school is providing all instruction and experiential opportunities (i.e., externships and clinics) on a remote basis due to the coronavirus; a few residential students remain on campus along with a skeleton staff providing security, maintenance and IT
- So far, remote transition has gone well and individual situations are being addressed
- September Bar Exam has been scheduled, but alternative licensing options are being explored given the uncertainty of the next few months due to the pandemic
- Students and faculty have responded as well as can be expected to remote learning

### V. Admissions

Cathy Alexander

- Staff moved off-campus on March 13, due to the pandemic; Admissions was already paperless so its transition was very smooth
- Because prospective students cannot visit campus in person, other ways to engage with prospective students are being utilized
- Application numbers were consistent with last year, slightly trending ahead primarily due to the flexible program (applications to that program up 45%), overall up 2.5%, as compared to national applications which were down 2.5% (3.5% in Northeast)
- Working on yield from viable offers right now
- Testing: March LSAT had to be canceled, but it is given almost every month
- Law school has moved toward acceptance of GRE exam, which has helped admissions
- School is being flexible with admitted students by giving more time to decide and being aggressive with financial aid packages
- A team of 75 alumni are available for reachout to admitted students, and additional reachout such as a Zoom chat could be explored – interested alumni should reach out to Cathy at [calexander@law.pace.edu](mailto:calexander@law.pace.edu)

### VI. Dean for Students

Angie D'Agostino

- Office has been very busy since requirement for remote learning due to pandemic
- Have been working with resident students who were originally allowed to stay and those who left but could not return to campus
- Working to ensure that campus remains closed except to essential staff (security, very limited food service staff to feed the 21 students that chose to remain in residence halls)
- 3 students, 1 staff member has contracted the coronavirus thus far, but none of them were on campus after March 11, and all spaces were thoroughly cleaned following all guidelines
- Working on an emergency loan fund for students - many have parents who have been laid off or furloughed
- Rolled out a virtual wellness program and online counseling for students
- Have been remotely checking in with students to make sure that they are doing well and lend a sympathetic ear, as well as address specific needs
- Pace staff has done a fantastic job, around the clock, during these challenging times
- State Bar's and other wellness resources have been provided to students

## VII. Career Development

Jill Backer

- These are uncertain times for employers – on-campus interviewing may move nationally to January
- Not deluged with revocation of offers, but some firms are shortening the summer
- Please let Jill know if you know of any potential opportunities
- Class of 2019 employment results are positive so far and on track with previous years

## VIII. Alumni & Development Update

Lori Kanner / Arianne Andrusco

- Warm welcome to Rex Bossert, new Assistant Dean
- Pace Leadership Awards – Best attended law leadership dinner, raised close to \$200,000

## IX. Committee Reports

### 1. Nominating Committee

Michael Frankel

- Stephen Forte, Rebecca Gigliotti, Sameera Kaira, Michael Kremen, Ben Lowenthal, John Mulligan, and Susan Payne-Mulliken, previously nominated, were voted upon and unanimously approved by the Board
- Additional nominees are welcome, please contact Mike if you know of someone
- Mike has reached out to Members whose 3-year terms are ending, to gauge interest in renewal
- New Directors will be voted upon by alumni at large, typically prior to the Annual Meeting with on-line voting after notice – the annual meeting was supposed to coincide with the next P.L.A.N. event, date to be confirmed, so that on-line voting with appropriate notice can be initiated
- Preferable to maintain online voting prior to the Annual Meeting, even if the annual meeting is virtual – May 14 is tentatively the date for the Annual and P.L.A.N. meeting, assuming that that date comports with the Bylaws

### 2. Social Committee

Jeremy Farrington

- P.L.A.N. event #35 & Toast to Dean Anderson
  - Event was a huge success, very well-attended
- P.L.A.N. event #36
  - Currently scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 6-9:00, at the Brazen Fox in White Plains, but likely to be rescheduled and/or virtual (i.e., Zoom)

### 3. Judicial Committee

Lisa Gladwell

- Supreme Court admissions – Lisa has not heard back from Joe regarding dates
- “Meet the Judges” tentatively planned for the Fall

4. Fundraising Committee

Jacqueline Parker

- Alumni account update – all but 6 Board Members have donated, bringing total for 2019-2020 year to \$1,750 - \$3,575 in rollover fund brings total balance to \$5,325
- CLE at Ballard Spahr TBD, potentially online
- P.L.A.N. event sponsorships ideas – do not hesitate to give ideas to Jacqueline

5. By-laws Committee

Andrew Teodorescu

- Will be proposing updates to the by-laws, particularly Sections 5.4 (discretion of President for excused absences) and 7.1 (establishing dates for annual meeting)

**X. New Business**

- How can alumni assist others impacted by this pandemic?
  - James: assisting students/alumni/families who may need a Will and do not have one in place, preferably on a *pro bono* basis
  - Gail: offer assistance to small business owners and recent laws
  - Patricia: received email from NYS Bar looking for lawyers willing to donate pro bono services in connection with the coronavirus pandemic
  - Michael Gilberg: assisting with special education needs
- Mentoring – Lori: was working with Women in the Law Committee, Kim Berg was going to help set up a mentorship program, would love for everyone to volunteer to mentor if they can
- PLS web site's alumni tab – Jessica Dubuss is working on the alumni database, will get an answer to Jim by end of the month – this is being taken very seriously, for networking and referrals – Jim sent letter to Mark soliciting information for input into the database, Mark looked it over and shared with Jessica, he will follow up with her
- Michael Goldstein is running for elected office in Connecticut
- Chris Psihoules – remote learning question for externships - Dean Anderson explained that restrictions on remote learning were suspended for this pandemic by the NYS and ABA, but it is unclear whether the restrictions will be put back into place when the pandemic has ended
- Patrick Mullen noted that Syracuse has a fully online JD program – Dean Anderson explained that the Court of Appeals has not yet provided assurance that graduates of fully online programs will be allowed to sit for the Bar – Pace will explore the option if it is confirmed that graduates of fully online programs will be able to sit for the New York Bar

**XI. Adjournment**

Executive Committee

- Motion: Patricia Bisesto
- Second: Lisa Gladwell
- Time: 7:50 p.m.