

PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

Alumni Association Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2023

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Networking, 6:15 p.m. Dean's Update, 6:30 p.m. Meeting Start
In Person and Via Zoom

Present: Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Amanda Brody, Esq. '15; Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. '05; Victoria Coleman, Esq. '07; Rafael Corbalan, Esq. '15; Aharon Diaz, Jr., Esq. '12; Jeremy Farrington, Esq. '11; Danielle Federico, Esq. '13; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06; Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06; Michael Kremen, Esq., '08; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Andrea Madrid, Esq. '12; Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Mark Meeker, Esq. '09; Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00; Thomas Persico, Esq. '18; Delonie Plummer, Esq. '18; Cassia Schaeffer, Esq. '15; Leanne Shofi, Esq. '94; Nicole Varisco, Esq. '10

Excused: Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; James Garvey III, Esq. '80 (Dir. Em.); George Haddad, Esq. '15; Jasmine L. Hosein, Esq. '12; Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

Unexcused: Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90; Ashley Kersting, Esq. '16; Patrick J. Paul, Esq. '16; Judson Siebert, Esq. '85

Added attendees: Dean Horace Anderson; Samantha Gordon, Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Association; Lori Kanner, Director of Community Relations and Special Projects; Brian Kearney, Senior Director of Development; Rachel Silva, Assistant Dean for External Affairs; Abigail Sprague, Senior Development Officer; Angela D'Agostino, Dean for Students & Campus Affairs; Daniel Von Staats, SBA President

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met with 25 Directors at 6:30 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks** Jacqueline Parker

- II. Dean's Update** Dean Horace Anderson
 - Admissions and Placement Update: a very strong year, enrolled 266 JD students, as compared to 234 in the last "normal" (pre-pandemic) year of 2019 – this despite applications being down nationwide and in the northeast
 - Job placement numbers are also very solid: 9 months after graduation is the best benchmark, but just 4 months after graduation the Class of 2023 is 73.8% is employed, 72% in gold-standard jobs (JD-advantaged or bar admission required) – historically high numbers

- Renewed interest in students and graduates from Big Law: of 14 students in summer associate positions at Big Law last summer, at least 13 have offers and 11 have accepted – this significantly bolsters the Law School’s profile
- Each year, percentage of graduates placed in public interest employment has also increased
- The sense of community, Campus, and range and depth of student activities continue to be a draw for many prospective students
- Students are encouraged to take advantage of experiential opportunities, and employers appreciate that graduates immediately contribute to the work environment, hitting the ground running
- 40% of students are from outside of the tri-state area, and 60% of the students are women

III. Approval of Minutes

Leanne Shofi

- June 14, 2023 Minutes were approved by the Board on June 15, 2023 by 11 Members

IV. Community Relations and Special Programs

Lori Kanner

- Upcoming CLEs, also provided via email, 12:50 - 1:50 Webinars via Zoom:
 - **Wednesday, October 4**, *Privacy and Cyber Law Key Issues and Implementations*
 - **Monday, October 30**, *Stemming Intergenerational Domestic Violence Empowering the Next Generation through Law, Policy and Action*
 - **Tuesday, December 5**, *Avoiding the New York Estate Tax Cliff*
 - DEI CLE in February
- Upcoming Networking events:
 - **Monday, October 2**, SCOTUS round-up 12:50-1:50
 - **Thursday, October 5**, Meet the Judges;
 - **Wednesday, October 11**, WCBA CLE on Wellness
 - **October 21-22**, University Homecoming at Pleasantville Campus

V. Alumni Association LinkedIn Page

Rachael Silva

- **ALUMNI: Please join the new LinkedIn group of the Alumni Association of Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, created to foster alumni communications!**
- Whether you are looking to reconnect with or meet fellow alumni from four decades ago or last year, attend alumni events, find an expert, provide or receive business referrals, receive CLE credit, learn about career opportunities, get involved with the Alumni Association, or do community service, this is the place for you!
- Post, share news and developments, and stay better connected with our alumni around the country and around the world: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12889654/>
- Currently, it is recommended that students be invited to join when they graduate
- Currently, posts must be approved, but that will likely change in the future

VI. Update on Students

Angie D’Agostino

- Dan Von Staats, the new SBA President, is working with the office and 35-36 student organizations – leaders of those organizations are now being asked to submit a strategic plan, to create more collaborative events
- 20-hour/week Mental Health Professional on Campus to provide counseling to students, and an Accommodation Specialist for students with special needs
- Wellness Center opening soon (yoga studio/exercise room, possible spin bikes)
- Renovated Suite across from Angie’s office is another Wellness Center, for lactation, private Zoom for mental health professionals, etc.

- Food pantry anonymously provided by an alum is very popular
- New safety requirement of swiping a student ID to enter doors and buildings
- 9/11 ceremony at Campus' 9/11 Memorial earlier today
- Speaker will discuss branding oneself as a law student
- Honorable Sandra A. Forster: after she passed, there was discussion of a memorial bench or table with the Judge's name engraved on it – students love to be outside (18 new Adirondack chairs), picnic and other tables are lacking – also lack accessible furniture outside – solar benches are on campus and wonderful - \$3K-4K for a teak bench with the Judge's name engraved, would be a wonderful tribute, if the Board is amenable Angie would take the lead
- Andrea Madrid asked if there is an alumni mentorship program; Westchester Women's Bar is working with Lori to create one; SBA has another mentorship program, and Dean Anderson is working with First-Gen

VII. SBA President Update

Daniel Von Staats

- Students are very interested in all areas of the law
- Incoming class is very excited
- Newly formed/forming student organizations: South Asian Student Association, Public Service Student Association, and ADR Student Association
- Limiting student organizations to fewer events will help strengthen the events
- SBA Fall Fest is usually just students, but this year it will be run by OWLS (Older Wiser Law Students) – 3 food trucks, student faculty band, family events, etc.
- SBA's VP has great social media communications, she'd be a great resource to spread the word about Alumni events
- To engage students, it is recommended that events provide food and are scheduled for when students are still on Campus but classes have ended
- SBA will have a new Wellness Chair by next week
- Because students have adjusted to Covid/Zoom, it is difficult to adjust to in-person learning – while the ABA passed a resolution to allow more distance learning, the Court of Appeals continues to disallow for accreditation

VIII. President's Update

Jacqueline Parker

- **Sunday, October 8** – Haub Law Alumni Board Brunch:
 - Sponsored by **Rebecca Gigliotti '18** at her family-owned restaurant, **Patsy's Roadhouse**, 107 Route 376, Hopewell Junction, NY
 - Featuring entertainment by **Matt Donovan '09**
 - 12:00-3:00, reconnect over brunch, \$30/pp, registration: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1655/bp20/interior.aspx?sid=1655&gid=2&pgid=3616&cid=8321&authkey=DsmaZxscVyeWESds4NWe3sOh6J87BEF7r98ZtsS2tD3HzW5SSp6pyQ%3d%3d>
 - Flyer for event will be emailed to Law Alumni
- Fun mingling alumni/student bowling opportunity in **November**:
 - Original cost of \$55/pp has been subsidized to allow student/alumni mingling, bringing the cost down to \$25/pp, a significant reduction and great show of support from the school
 - Cost includes 2 hours of unlimited bowling on consecutive lanes, shoe rental, unlimited soft drinks, 2 delicious food selections in a private display behind lanes and replenished throughout (we can add more food platters, but that will increase cost)
 - **Date options: Friday November 3, Saturday November 4, or Monday November 6** - proposed time is 3 pm, options for voting emailed to Board

- Board meeting dates are based on Dean Anderson's schedule and intended to avoid conflicting events, including PLAN events
- Preference discussed that Board materials and future calendar events not be emailed right before scheduled meetings
- Zoom questionnaire sent out today, discussion of future meeting dates
- Proposed next meeting: **November 14?** Now is time to plan academic year
- Jeremy: there were no action items after last Zoom meeting

IX. Law School Alumni Directory and Social Media

- People Grove <https://pace.peoplegrove.com/v2/>
- Alumni Directory: [Access](#)
- Directory Plan

X. Budget

Sam Gordon/Gail Mulligan

- University budgets cut across board by 20%; after census of next year's enrollment, we will know how much additional money there will be
- Law School Reunion and March SCOTUS event are funded by University – no additional events are funded, but that has historically been the case
- Jeremy: NYSBA event last year was paid by University, but not this year
- Events must be officially sponsored by Board for University to recognize/fund, and PLAN is not an official committee of the Board
- Discussion of budgeting and value of Alumni Association
- BBQ was not well-attended; there is little interaction between alumni and students
- There should be an alumni directory, particularly helpful to new graduates
- Discussion of bringing alumni to Campus to speak about their practice areas
- Please don't be discouraged by lower budgets, there are ways to engage - the earlier that Sam's office is notified of an event, the better it can assist with resources and engagement (flyers, emails, social media, etc.)
- Phil Lupov will reach out to Chairs of Committees to find out what they need
- If Alumni become more engaged, there will be larger budgets
- Gail – Alumni Fund:
 - Fund Report emailed to Board, no change since then
 - Unable to get report of contributions by Board Members
 - Board Members strongly encouraged to contribute to Alumni Fund, exclusively for Board
 - We have funds and would like to fundraise some more
 - Discussion of where funds go when donated to Law Alumni Fund
- Please, now and always, keep decorum in all comments and discussion

XI. New Business/Officers/Committees

Executive Committee

- Discussion of new Board Committee(s) to address marketing alumni association to students and to improve student/alumni engagement
- Re-organizing Committees might make sense, poll was sent to Board in June
- Motion to accept '23 - '24 slate of Officers was made, seconded, and passed
- Motion for 8 standing Committees and newly-formed or reconstituted Committees to be voted upon after this meeting was made, seconded, and passed

- Actual changes to Committees will need to be voted upon and reflected in amendments to the By-Laws, in the Spring

XII. Adjournment

Executive Committee

- Motion: Lisa Gladwell
- Second: Michael Goldstein
- Time: 8:33 p.m.