

# PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

### MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2024

6:00 p.m. Closed Board Meeting, 7:00 Open Board Meeting  
Via Zoom

**Present:** Amanda Brody, Esq. '19; Victoria Coleman, Esq. '07; Rafael Corbalan, Esq. '15; Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06; Michael Kremen, Esq., '08; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; 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; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Patrick J. Paul, Esq. '16; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00; Delonie Plummer, Esq. '18; Cassia Schaeffer, Esq. '15; Leanne M. Shofi, Esq. '94; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

**Excused:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Danielle Federico, Esq. '13; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; James Garvey III, Esq. '80 (Dir. Em.); Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Jasmine L. Hosein, Esq. '12; Ashley Kersting, Esq. '16; Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Thomas Persico, Esq. '18; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12; Nicole Varsico, Esq. '10

**Unexcused:** Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. '05; Aharon Diaz, Jr., Esq. '12

**Added attendees:** Liz Cuccinello, Esq. '99; Samantha Gordon, Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Association; Brian Kearney, Senior Director of Development; Abigail Sprague, Senior Development Officer; Daniel Von Staats, SBA President

**OPEN MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:05 p.m.

**MEETING QUORUM:** Quorum met with 18 Directors at 7:05 p.m.

- I. Welcome, Attendance, and January 23, 2024 Minutes** Alumni Board
- Please do not decline to attend meetings on the day of, if possible
  - Recommendation that perhaps reminders could be sent earlier, *i.e.*, one week prior, not the day of
  - Many opportunities for alumni to be involved at events, past and future – school can provide working space for you if needed
  - January 23, 2024 Minutes approved by 17 votes on January 25, 2024

## II. Alumni Board and Committee Reports

### 1. President

Jacqueline Parker

- Recent and upcoming events highlighted (*see also* Sections II, IV and V)
  - Wellness Fair on February 12 was attended by Lisa Gladwell and Jacqueline Parker
  - Leadership Awards Dinner on March 14 was attended by Lisa Gladwell, Leanne Shofi, Gail Mulligan, Michael Goldstein, Cassia Schaeffer, Raymond Perez, Rafael Corbalan, Nicole Varsico, Danielle Frederico - Lisa Gladwell: event was very nice, especially being with fellow Board Members in person, and Scholarship was mentioned
  - **April 1** Spring Alumni Board Bowling with 2Ls and 3Ls (*see* Section II.7)
  - **April 6** Out of Darkness Walk at 12:30 (*see* Section II.6)
  - **April 11** Networking at Jackson Lewis (*see* Section II.7)
  - **April 16** – CLE through Taylor Root (*see* Section II.4)
  - **May 7** – Student Finals Donuts/coffee 9:15/9:30; need Volunteers (*see* Section IV)
  - **May 30** Reunion (*see* Section V)
- Are you a member of LinkedIn page?
  - Link: [Alumni Association, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University](#)
  - Please reach out to alumni connections and let them know about the page, events taking place, and invite them to get involved in our Association (join a committee, plan an event, participate in a pro bono activity, etc.).
  - Not sure how to contact someone? Alumni Directory link: [Access](#)

### 2. Treasury/Fundraising/Budget Committee

Gail Mulligan

- Fund balance is over \$18,000, but number does not reflect recent events, including the \$2,500 for Leadership Awards Dinner
- Reminder link sent for contributions to be made to the Board Fund

### 3. By-laws Committee

Mark Meeker

- Committee met, changes are fairly small, all in Section 9.02 re: Standing Committees
- Committee does not feel it makes sense to change the Standing Committees, since Special Committees can be formed – Members can serve on Standing or Special, will not need to serve on 2 committees
- President may assign special tasks to Standing Committees as well
- Motion to approve Committee’s recommendations, to include in Ballot to Members at Large, made by Lisa Gladwell, seconded by Gail Mulligan, *unanimously passed*

### 4. Judicial, Career/CLE & Support Services Committee

Victoria Coleman

- **April 16** – SEC speaker re: private funds litigation, may be a two-part event
  - Speaker cannot travel due to governmental shutdown, so via Zoom
  - CLE credit
  - May be a part two after the SEC litigation ends
  - Invite coming soon
- Update on Supreme Court Admission:
  - Joe Mazel will provide update at the next meeting
  - He has confirmed a small group (12 or less) for **April 2, 2025**

- 5. Alumni Benefits, Social Media & Referral Network** Jacqueline Parker o/b/o Nicole Varsico
- Nicole is managing social media site
  - Committee will meet the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 for ½ hour, all are welcome
  - Slack Channel (tool to organize conversations into order and clarity, to use for brainstorming) is being used - if you are interested in joining, let us know
  - Alumni Referral Network
    - Nicole and Jacquie met with Dean Anderson to see if current database can be revamped to be better for alumni, i.e., finding alumni in certain geographic and practice areas
    - Funding might be an issue
    - Sam Gordon: currently there are 2 possible options: Alumni Directory (not recommended) or SetterConnect through PeopleGrove (Mentoring and Networking, like LinkedIn, can look people up geographically, etc., can do calls and messaging on the platform, just the Pace community) – SetterConnect’s data breach was limited
    - Nicole could use help, please let her know if you would like to help
- 6. Pro Bono Community Service Group** Liz Cuccinello
- Out of Darkness Walk *April 6* at 12:30, Registration: <https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=10122>
    - In partnership with American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
    - Do not need to donate money, also about raising awareness
    - Bake sale, photo booth, about an hour – 2 speakers, walk around church/campus
  - Meeting with Social Justice Collaborative tomorrow, help regarding immigration needs
- 7. Social/Reunion Committee** Delonie Plummer
- *April 1* Alumni Board Bowling Event with 2Ls and 3Ls
    - 6:30-8:30 at Bowlero White Plains
    - Currently attending: James Lenihan, Lisa Gladwell, Jacqueline Parker, Cassia Schaeffer, Patrick Paul, Mike Kremen, George Haddad
    - *3 more openings - let Jacqueline know if you can attend!*
  - *April 11*, 6-8 Jackson Lewis’ Networking Event at White Plains office, hope as many as possible can attend
  - Still requesting event space for the next event, restaurants or office space, trying to plan for each region: Rockland, Westchester, NYC, next one can be anywhere
  - Women in Law event was a great success
  - Sam has provided us with alumni calendar, awaiting Lori Kanner’s CLE calendar so that we can plan accordingly for Fall 2024/Spring 2025 - scheduling issues for Spring 2024
  - Recruit assistance in sponsoring events (location/refreshments)
  - Career development office assist in communication with students regarding interview preparation – we would like to begin this process in Fall 2024 since a lot of the prep was already planned for Spring 2024
  - Working on dates for panel event with Delonie and Nadine
- 8. Diversity Committee** Jacqueline Parker o/b/o George Haddad
- Planning an event regarding neurodivergent/autism individuals
  - Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC CLE scheduled for *November 12*
  - Panel to give law students insights into different types of careers
  - Need to determine dates, given busy schedules it is best to plan a year in advance

- Committee meetings on hold until August – if interested in joining, please reach out to George

### 9. Nominating Committee

Mike Frankel

- Members with expiring terms were highlighted in email outreach and prior Minutes; additional proactive outreach will not be made to ensure continued Member engagement
- Alumni at Large will vote online prior to last meeting, with 20 days’ advance notice
- Officer Terms expire next year, Mike will reach out to form a new slate and ensure succession plan in place for next year
- Mike nominated *Mark Meeker* as *Director Emeritus*, in light of his outstanding and extensive service to the Board since 2013, including as President - *unanimously* approved by Members present pursuant to Bylaw § 5.06 – *congratulations Mark!*
- Board voted on April 1, 2024, by 18 votes, to *approve* the following returning Members whose terms are expiring, to be presented for voting approval to alumni-at-large: *Michael Frankel, Lisa Gladwell, Andrea Madrid, Ray Perez, and Leanne Shofi*  
*Congratulations Recommended Returning Members!*
- Board voted on April 1, 2024, by 18 votes, the following nominees to be presented for voting approval to alumni-at-large:  
*George Burns, Kayla Conti, Liz Cuccinello, Shari Hochberg, and Daniel Von Staats*  
*Congratulations Recommended Nominees!*

### III. PLAN Update

Mark Meeker

- Second week in June under consideration for White Plains event, venue not selected, typically a Tuesday through Thursday
- Sponsorship did not work well last time, but it was a bad weather day
- While Board has been less engaged than optimal, engagement is expected to improve

### IV. SBA President Update

Daniel Von Staats

- *May 7* is first day of Finals, begin at 10 am, 9:15-9:30 is a good start time for Coffee & Donuts
- March 8 Barrister’s Ball went well, about 250 students and guests attended
- *Out of Darkness Walk* is coming up, everyone is welcome, last big event
- SBA event for graduating students: “Are You Smarter than a 1L” is coming up
- Finishing up Yearbook, *thank you to Board for submitting an ad*
- Dan’s last meeting as SBA President, he will let Board know his successor  
*Thank you to Dan for his involvement, the Board wishes him luck and congratulates him on its recommendation that, pending approval by Alumni at Large, he join the Board as a Member*

### V. Reunion & Events

Samantha Gordon

- Reunion – *May 30*, 6-9, \$50 (\$40 new graduates), hope to see everyone there!
  - Hathaway Hall, private space in Sam’s of Gedney Way in White Plains.
  - Hour of passed hors d’oeuvres
  - Various food stations, beer, wine, and soft drinks
  - Cash bar for spirits
  - Parking is complimentary onsite
- Last Board Meeting: hope to have in-person social meeting *June 15*
- 2026 is Law School’s 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion (and 10<sup>th</sup> year of Haub) – should have representatives from each class for reach-out
- Discussion of better alumni engagement

- September all-alumni survey re: engagement – 5 years ago got great participation from Law School, but on general side found need to build association, create volunteer opportunities, etc. – when do survey again in September, will tailor more toward each school

**VI. Judge Forster & Adele Lerman Janow Scholarship** Brian Kearney / Jacqueline Parker

- Conferred with Dean Anderson and others, green light to proceed
- Goal is to raise \$5K in their honor for a one-time named scholarship; if goal is not reached, funds will be used for the scholarship fund but there will not be a named scholarship
- Linda Markowitz mentioned the scholarship at Leadership Awards Dinner and has agreed to spearhead the effort through WCBA
- Time to gather list(s) of names of potential donors and begin reachout
- Donors can send a check to Brian, he can provide instructions for online or check donations
- Outcome for Memorial Giving is hard to predict
- Families have been contacted, but not yet responded
- Board will see how fundraising is going and can consider a contribution, before end of June, to reach \$5K
- Board will get monthly updates, so can see how Fund is doing before deciding to contribute

**VII. Adjournment** Alumni Board

- Motion: Leanne Shofi
- Second: Mark Meeker
- Time: 8:35 p.m.