

PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

Alumni Association Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

5:00 p.m. Meeting Prior to Holiday Wrap Party with
SBA At Haub Law and via Microsoft Teams

- Present:** Amanda Brody, Esq. '19; Kayla Conti, '22; Rafael Corbalan, Esq., '15; Elizabeth Cuccinello, Esq. '99; Danielle Federico, Esq. '13; Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Michael Kremen, Esq., '08; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; Shari Hochberg, Esq., '12; Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00; Thomas Persico, Esq. '18; Delonie Plummer, Esq. '18; Cassia Schaeffer, Esq. '15; Leanne Shofi, Esq. '94; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13; Nicole Varisco, Esq. '10; Daniel Von Staats, Esq., '24
- Excused:** George Burns, Esq. '12; James Garvey III, Esq. '80 (Dir. Em.); Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Mark Meeker, Esq. '09 (Dir. Em.); Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09
- Unexcused:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Victoria Coleman, Esq. '07; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Ashley Kersting, Esq. '16; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12
- Added attendees:** Samantha Gordon, Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Association; Kapila Juthani, Assistant Dean Center for Career and Professional Development; Brian Kearney, Senior Director of Development; Abigail Sprague, Senior Development Officer

OPEN MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:03 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met with 21 Directors at 5:03 p.m.

- I. Welcome & President's Update** **Jacqueline Parker**
- Request for \$250-\$300 Board Funds for coffee and donuts for students on first day of exams
 - **Motion** by Jacqueline, seconded by several Members, **passed** by unanimous vote
 - Request for volunteers to serve coffee and donuts to students: Nicole and Cassia volunteered
 - Request for Board Funds to send baby gift to Treasurer
 - **Motion** by Jacqueline, seconded by several Members, **passed** by unanimous vote
 - Request for \$500 Board Funds to scholarship in memory of Adele Janow
 - **Motion** by Jacqueline, seconded by several Members, **passed** by unanimous vote
- II. Office of Development & Alumni Relations Update** **Samantha Gordon**
- Gary Laermer, VP, is retiring at end of year
 - Vince Clark will take over as interim VP while a permanent replacement is found
 - Department will continue as usual
 - January 14, 2025 event with Bar Association at Bartley Dunne's wine bar in NYC

- Free to attend, participants receive 1 drink ticket and appetizers
- Discussion of potentially charging \$10 fee to ensure attendance
- Event's food and beverage minimum is \$4,000, additional fundraising is needed
- Event is one of two sponsored by Forum every other year
- Please try to attend and to spread the word about this event

III. Alumni Board Committee Updates

- **By-laws** **Daniel Von Staats**
 - Because Daniel agreed to fill VP spot for remainder of year, will likely transition from heading By-laws Committee - please reach out to Jacqueline if you are interested in heading By-laws Committee
- **Alumni Benefits, Social Media & Referral Network** **Nicole Varsico**
 - Working on networking / job referral network for alumni & students
 - Need Board feedback on categories on the Network – please review and share ideas
 - Everyone encouraged to join alumni LinkedIn group
 - Kapila emphasized need for robust alumni participation before students asked to join
 - Discussion whether LinkedIn better tool than anticipated system, given that same goals can be achieved without cost, and perhaps tutorials to alumni regarding how to use LinkedIn would be beneficial
- **Pro Bono/Community Service** **Liz Cuccinello**
 - Toy drive was successful, gift wrap party with SBA immediately after meeting
 - Social Justice Clinic collaboration over winter break
 - Opportunity with Family Legal Care
 - Plans for two more events after winter break, please review material that was sent
- **Social/Reunion** **Delonie Plummer**
 - Gift wrap party with SBA immediately after meeting
 - Still looking for mid to large firms to sponsor events, if you or your firm is interested in sponsoring an event or CLE, please let Delonie know
 - Would like to host event with Lubin, if anyone has connections with Lubin alumni please let Delonie know
- **Diversity** **George Haddad**
 - Housing Rights Council Event on March 20, 2025
 - Potential speaker for LGBTQ+ event – if know of a speaker or wish to attend or assist, please let George know
 - Andrea Madrid resigned, need more support for George's initiatives
- **Treasury/Fundraising/Budget** **Jacqueline Parker o/b/o Gail Mulligan**
 - Board Fund Balance: \$14,003.28
 - Thank you to Members who have contributed this year, and those who have not please contribute so that we can plan spending for the remainder of the year
 - Law Leadership spending discussion
 - Last year table of 10 was purchased at cost by Board, it was very beneficial to have Board presence at the event, demonstrating cohesiveness and benefit of Board

- Discussion of perhaps subsidizing Members who pay cost for their own tickets with Board making up the remainder
- Discussion tabled until exact cost of event is known (Brian indicated that cost of tickets is going up)

- **SCOTUS Swearing-In Ceremony**

Joe Mazel

- April 1, 2025 Networking Event in DC prior to next day's swearing-in ceremony, initially for those to be sworn in and their guests and then opening up to alumni
- April 2, 2025 Swearing-in Ceremony at SCOTUS in DC
- Invitations were emailed to Board Members and a handful of other alumni who are given priority (one week remaining) before invitations are sent to alumni at large
- Slots filled by those *first to fully complete* their application (all paperwork and payment in order, complete without need for correction or completion)

- **Nominating**

Mike Frankel

- All Executive Committee positions are expiring at end of academic year, please reach out to Mike if you are interested in serving
- **Motion** to elect Daniel Von Staats as interim VP for remainder of term made by Mike, seconded by Nicole, **passed** by unanimous vote

IV. **New Business**

Alumni Board

- Kayla proposed contributing to school's networking event on February 13, 2025, held annually for past few years to connect students with private sector employers
- Event has been successful, 70-80 participants last year, Raymond and Cassia attended and shared that it was a positive experience
- Event costs around \$1,500, funds historically came from Center for Career and Professional Development's (CCPD) budget, but that budget is low especially after CCPD absorbed PILC (Public Interest Law Center)
- Discussion of why catered cost is so high, potential for alternatives to catering by Chartwell (including potluck with alumni bringing food, etc.), and potential for holding event off-campus, with Kayla indicating that CCPD does not want to hold event at other than the law school because of concerns about appearance of sponsorship of a particular potential employer
- Decision tabled for now

V. **Adjournment**

Alumni Board

- Motion: Jacqueline Parker
- Second: Kayla Conti
- Time: 6:03 p.m.