

# PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

6:00 p.m. Meeting via Zoom

**Present:** Amanda Brody, Esq. '19; George Burns, Esq. '12; Victoria Coleman, Esq. '07; Elizabeth Cuccinello, Esq. '99; Danielle Federico, Esq. '13; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Michael Kremen, Esq., '08; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; Shari Hochberg, Esq., '12; Ashley Kersting, Esq. '16; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; 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:** Kayla Conti, '22; James Garvey III, Esq. '80 (Dir. Em.); Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); Mark Meeker, Esq. '09 (Dir. Em.); Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00

**Unexcused:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Rafael Corbalan, Esq., '15; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12

**Added attendees:** Samantha Gordon, Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Association; Brian Kearney, Senior Director of Development; Abigail Sprague, Senior Development Officer

**OPEN MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:05 p.m.

**MEETING QUORUM:** Quorum met with 21 Directors at 6:05 p.m.

#### • Welcome & President's Update

**Jacqueline Parker**

- Thank you to everyone for all of the work you have done
  - Major thank you to Delonie and Liz for the toy drive and wrap party
  - Cassia thank you for donuts for students (look for more in Jackie's report)
  - Gail and her baby attended Wellness Fair
  - Scholarship Members, thank you, full page thank you will be in Law Leadership Pamphlet, we hit \$5K goal, School is working on recipient of the scholarship
- **Tomorrow:** Networking Event, we were invited to attend
- **DEI Committee Event:** please try to attend, March 6 from 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
- **Board Table for 10 at Law Leadership Dinner,** School generously offered the at-cost pricing to the Board of \$325 per person – discussion of whether Board should subsidize the entire amount or subsidize half (\$162.50 paid by Member, \$162.50 by Board)
  - Motion for Board to pay half cost of Members made by Joe Mazel
  - Motion Seconded by Leanne Shofi
  - Motion passed, Board Members attending will pay \$162.50/person with Board paying the remainder, for a total of \$1,625 Board expenditure

- Members must buy tickets before March 20, 2024
- Next Alumni Meeting will change to coincide with **Reunion: May 22**
  - Reunion 6 p.m.–9 p.m., Board Meeting 5 p.m.–6 p.m., both at Sam’s of Gedney Way
  - In person meeting will help a lot because of the nomination process
  - Majority vote that holding the next meeting in-person before Reunion makes sense
  - Will try to send a reminder out a week prior, for all events
  - Board Members will act as class representatives
  - Sam: school spends \$125/person for reunion, charging a tiered pricing less than cost
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Year celebrating Pace
- Coffee and power bars for students at exams
  - Evening students feel left out
  - Did not use approved money in September
  - Request for \$450 for day and evening tables of snacks
    - Jackie moved
    - Cassia seconded
    - Approved by unanimous vote
- **Reminder: Still Need Bylaws Committee Chair**
- If interested in another Alumni social event with Students (golf and indoor golf were discussed), please email recommendations to Jackie and/or Delonie

- **WILS Update**

**Shari Hochberg**

- WILS recently had a meeting and an opportunity came up:
  - Susan Galveo (being honored at Law Leadership Awards Dinner) had an idea:
    - Quarterly networking roundtable with tables assigned different topics ranging from AI to hiring freezes etc., to network Pace students with Alumni
    - Lori Kanner is looking into spearheading
    - Could be great partnership for the Board
    - Maybe start in the Summer
    - Enthusiasm for the idea was expressed

- **Reunion and DC Regional**

**Samantha Gordon**

- Already spoke about Reunion, save the date went out
- **DC Regional:** Because hosting SCOTUS event, night of **April 1**, also hosting general regional event 6:30 p.m. open to law alumni, Nero Dupont Circle, Dean may attend, will advertise as hosted by Alumni Association
- Headshots from the last reunion will be re-emailed, or please ask Sam

- **Alumni Board Committee Updates**

- **Judicial, Career/CLE & Support Services**

**Victoria Coleman**

- Career Panel - Students are very busy, so adding new events this year would be difficult  
Fall may be better
- Considering a golf networking event, could partner with Pace Athletics, also indoor golf may be less expensive and better appeal to students

- **Alumni Benefits, Social Media & Referral Network** **Nicole Varsico**
  - Need to get more people signed up and engaged in Setter Connect
  - If you need help with Setter Connect, ask Nicole or Sam
  - Removed Law Alumni from any advertising
  - Will push to Law Alumni in Spring
  - LinkedIn page for Alum, working on page, let Nicole know if you think of information on that which would be helpful
  - Ask 5 Alumni to join LinkedIn group: “Alumni Association, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University”
  - Let Nicole know if you have ideas for posting
  - Absolutely internship opportunities are good to post, Nicole can assist
  
- **Pro Bono/Community Service** **Liz Cuccinello**
  - Social Justice Collaborative Clinic set for next week
  - Meeting with SBA, will support them with a few events:
    - **April 6** family fun day
    - **April 26 or 27** suicide awareness fundraiser walk
    - Potential flag football fundraiser
  
- **DEI** **George Haddad**
  - **March 6** event in Tudor Room: Right to Counsel 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
  - CSG event probably pushed to Fall
  - Reach out if want to join committee
  
- **Treasury/Fundraising/Budget** **Jacqueline Parker o/b/o Gail Mulligan**
  - Fiscal Report, please contribute, donation link will be sent
  - If you make a donation please forward to Jacqueline and Gail
  - Treasurer and baby attended Wellness Fair last week
  - Sam: FY, \$2,200 into Fund so far, spent \$800 on Jackson Lewis photographer, approximate total in Fund ~ \$16,000
  
- **Nominating** **Mike Frankel**
  - By next meeting, at reunion, will have several nominations to fill
  - **Executive Committee**
    - Need to fill Treasurer and Secretary (1 person is interested in Secretary)
    - Jacqueline has agreed to stay on another two years with Daniel stepping into VP
    - Has reached out and will continue to do so
    - If interested, please reach out to Mike Frankel or Mike Kremen or Leanne
  - If you know anyone interested in joining next year’s Board, let Mike Frankel know, need to interview and vet prior to next Board meeting
  - **8 Members of Board whose terms are expiring:**
    - **Haddad, Kersting, Mulligan, Neeves, Parker, Persico, Schaeffer, Varsico**
    - Above individuals, please contact Mike Frankel or Mike Kremen or Leanne if you are interested in renewing your 3-year term – we will not track people down, Members should be proactive and reading Minutes constitutes Notice
  - **Will need a Quorum at next Board Meeting**, very important to vote on Members and Executive Committee Members
  - Leanne and Mike Frankel will email members about the importance of attending the next board meeting for voting purposes (Leanne cannot attend the next meeting)

- Logistically: after Board votes, have to give alumni at large at least 20 business days to vote, always done remotely

- **New Business**

**Alumni Board**

- Please let Jacquie know if anything can be done better

- **Adjournment**

**Alumni Board**

- Motion: Jacquie Parker
- Second: Cassia Schaeffer
- Time: 7:03 p.m.