

University of Florida Levin College of Law
Law Center Association, Inc. (LCA)
Fall Business Meeting
Saturday, September 8, 2018
180 Holland Hall

Attendees: Carter Andersen, Thomas Bishop, Jeff Boone, David Bowers, Rebecca Brock, Derek Bruce, Brian Burgoon, Dennis Calfee, Tim Cerio, Richie Comiter, Carlos Concepcion, Patrick Cousins, James Cunningham, Barry Davidson, Edward Downey, Andy Fawbush, Jonathan Feldman, Dori Foster-Morales, Betsy Gallagher, Jonathan Gerber, Cheryl Gordon, Courtney Grimm, Lee Gunn, Scott Hawkins, Jeff Hirsch, Harold Holder, Gary Huston, Cristin Keane, Nelly Khouzam, Mark Klingensmith, Ian Leavengood, Stephanie Marchman, Bill McCollum, Michael Minton, Wil Murphy, Tracy Nichols, Lou Nostro, Hugh Perry, Gary Printy, Ray Royce, Oscar Sanchez, Morris Silberman, Michael Smith, Richard Smith, Renee Thompson, Bob Thornburg, Greg Weiss, Scott Westheimer, Guy Whitesman, Tad Yates, Peter Zinober

Attendees
By Phone: Fabienne Fahnestock, Marcia Morales Howard, Glenn Waldman

Faculty
Present: Professor Fred Murray, Associate Dean Jason Nance, Dean Laura Rosenbury

Staff
Present: Rob Birrenkott, Mike Farley, Andrea Fourman, Dan Hoffman, Debbie Menoher, Branden Nicholson

9:06 a.m. LCA Chairman Scott Hawkins called the meeting to order. Chairman Hawkins recognized new members and reviewed the agenda. The May 2018 meeting minutes were moved, seconded, and approved by the body without dissent. Chairman Hawkins introduced Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jason Nance for a presentation on the school's bar preparation improvements.

9:11 a.m. Dean Nance shared a lengthy and detailed presentation on Bar Exam Intervention Strategies with the members present. Dean Nance compared UF bar passage rates over time with statewide and top 20 law schools and explained that many factors contributed to the recent downturn in bar passage rates. The final law school GPA proved to be the best predictor of bar passage. The intervention strategies employed this Summer included workshops, study courses, tutors, and a young alumni support network. Almost all of the recent graduates participated in something. Longer-term strategies include diagnostic assessments of 1L students, academic skills building classes, test question banks, a 3L bar prep course, and more robust student advising. Dean Rosenbury remarked that we were able to provide many of the services free to students this year. Students taking the bar in different states will also be supported. Chairman Hawkins thanked Dean Rosenbury and Dean Nance for their commitment to students.

9:53 a.m. Chairman Hawkins commended the Executive Committee for the Summer Retreat and thanked the LCA members who attended the pre-July Bar Exam event in Tampa. He then called on committee leaders to share reports and updates from LCA committees.

Executive Committee Report – Vice Chair James Cunningham gave a report on behalf of Chair-Elect Jo Thacker regarding an Executive Committee Summer Retreat held in early July. The meeting focused on discussion of LCA’s supportive role of the Law school and long-term strategy including encouraging colleagues to support the school financially and helping to get students hired.

Finance & Investment – LCA Secretary Carter Andersen reported on the LCA budget including the existing endowment. He shared that the financial processes of the LCA will be discussed in-depth at the Winter 2019 meeting. Chairman Hawkins committed to email relevant budget materials to members. The proposed FY2018/2019 LCA budget was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of the body without dissent.

Nominating Committee – Immediate Past Chairman Oscar Sanchez commended the current LCA leadership and asked all members to send him new member nominations. The committee will meet prior to the Spring 2019 meeting where a slate will be presented. Sanchez introduced new board members Derek Bruce, Fabienne Fahnestock, Stephanie Marchman, Liz McCausland, Morris Silberman, Bob Thornburg, Scott Westheimer, and Tad Yates. Barry Davidson introduced new members Dori Foster-Morales and Tracy Nichols. Biographies will be distributed by email after the meeting.

Career Development Committee – Assistant Dean for Career Services Rob Birrenkott thanked judges for creating clerkship and internship opportunities and all LCA members for their hiring of UF Law’s graduates. The second annual Pathways Conference offered workshops and career path information for students, and progress continues to be made in employment statistics thanks to everyone’s support.

FATAC (Florida Alumni Tax Advisory Committee) – David Bowers reported that a succession plan for the LLM Tax program has been developed and will be distributed to members. Funds have been raised to hire new professors. The Dennis Calfee Chair is now fully funded, and two Chairs are open. A joint JD/LLM degree and online/distance learning opportunities are being developed. Professor Fred Murray thanked FATAC members for calling students during the recruitment season and noted that students here have access to more full-time professors than at other programs.

Heritage of Leadership Awards Committee – Gary Printy reported on the successful May 2018 Past, Present and Future awards program, which will be held again next May the evening before Commencement. The committee met and chose two deserving alumni for this year’s Heritage of Leadership induction. Award biographies will be circulated following the meeting. Recognition of the two recipients was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of the body without dissent.

11:00 a.m. BREAK. LAC members joined the meeting.

11:06 a.m. Chairman Hawkins recognized LCA member Brian Burgoon as the current national president of the UF Alumni Association. Burgoon reported that there are 430,000 living alumni and the association seeks to improve the alumni participation rate and raise scholarship money. The Gator 100 also recognizes the 100 fastest growing

Gator-owned firms including LCA member Ian Leavengood's firm. Go to <https://gator100lufl.edu> for more information. Before introducing Dean Laura Rosenbury, Chairman Hawkins also announced that UF Law alumnus Larry O'Keefe was recently appointed as U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Florida.

11:08 a.m. Dean Rosenbury shared a lengthy and detailed presentation about the current state of the law school stressing that our goal is to become a top 10 public law school -- but financial resources are needed to achieve it. UF Law is extremely efficient, doing more with less, but that does not help our ranking. The U.S. News ranking is based on several factors including financial resources. Several initiatives have been put into place recently to begin addressing the areas in which we can impact the ranking formula including a zero-based budgeting model for the allocation of funds and addressing the funding sources both within the school and from private donors. Our static model projections show that we are on the right track for improved rankings in the future if we maintain a commitment to these goals and strategies.

Dean Rosenbury ended with a commitment to more alumni outreach. We plan to focus on Double Gators and create a class agent program to better steward friends and donors. Board members were encouraged to call on 10-15 colleagues in support of the school's goals. She reported there were almost 1,000 more donors to the Culverhouse/Hosseini challenge compared to last year's challenge and thanked the LCA members for their continued support.

12:00 p.m. Lunch was served.

12:17 p.m. The meeting resumed. Chairman Hawkins introduced Branden Nicholson, Director of Student & Alumni Affairs, to present a new alumni networking mobile app to the group. Nicholson reviewed the features of the app and its potential uses and said that he will be sending LCA and LAC members an email with more information following the meeting. Members are requested to test the app and provide their feedback prior to a broader rollout to alumni.

12:32 p.m. Mike Farley, Senior Director of Development & Alumni Affairs, introduced the following new staff members and their responsibilities: Branden Nicholson (Director of Student & Alumni Affairs); Dan Hoffman (Director of Development); and Debbie Menoher (Development Data Coordinator). He shared that Callie Wilkes departed UF Law in August and hopes that two new positions will be filled soon. In 2018, UF Law completed a Summer Tour of 17 cities with more than 1,000 alumni attending receptions and UF Law activities at the FL Bar Annual Meeting in Orlando. This Fall, a VIP Tax Reception will be held in Mike Minton's honor in Washington, DC, and the 1988 and 1998 Class Reunions are scheduled for LSU weekend in Gainesville. He shared the dates for upcoming LCA meetings and activities. Farley described the rollout of a Class Champions program inspired by Judge Paul Huck, Ed Downey, and others in order to help identify and engage more alumni. Members asked for a DONATE NOW link to be added to future communications and said that knowing what others donate would inspire more giving. Farley explained the UFF Capital Campaign dashboard and reported on the successful end to the Culverhouse/Hosseini Scholarship Challenge which raised \$2M from nearly 2,400 unique donors. Farley pointed out that of the 21,000+ alumni, only 13,000+/- are reachable by email due to missing addresses or previous Unsubscribe choices. The team is currently working on

a strategic plan for fundraising and an annual communications plan. Farley introduced Andrea Fourman from the Foundation's Planned Giving team and stressed how valuable a partner she is in meeting our goals and supporting donor wishes to leave a legacy gift.

12: 57 p.m. Chairman Hawkins thanked members and presenters for a productive meeting.

1:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.