

**University of Florida Levin College of Law
Law Center Association, Inc. (LCA)
Winter Business Meeting
Saturday, February 2, 2019
Martin Levin Advocacy Center Courtroom**

Attendees: Carter Andersen, David Bilsker, Jeff Boone, Rebecca Brock, Derek Bruce, Brian Burgoon, Dennis Calfee, James Cunningham, Barry Davidson, Jeffrey Feldman, Dori Foster-Morales, Cheryl Gordon, Courtney Grimm, Lee Gunn, Scott Hawkins, Jeffrey Hirsch, Thomas Julin, Stephanie Marchman, Liz McCausland, Bill McCollum, Tracy Nichols, Bill Perry, Gary Printy, Oscar Sanchez, Mike Smith, Jo Thacker, Glenn Waldman, Greg Weiss, Scott Westheimer, Guy Whitesman, Tad Yates

Attendees
By Phone: Judge Patricia Barksdale, Edward Downey, Karen Dyer, Judge Charlene Honeywell, Judge Marcia Howard, Elizabeth Krentzman, Wil Murphy, Robert Pierce

Faculty
Present: Dean Laura Rosenbury, Associate Dean Rachel Inman, Associate Dean Liz Lear, Associate Dean Jason Nance, Professor Fred Murray

Staff
Present: Mike Farley, Dan Hoffman, Debbie Menoher, Branden Nicholson, Rob Birrenkott, Kelli Murray, Whitney Smith

9:09 a.m. LCA Chairman Scott Hawkins welcomed members and called the meeting to order. He announced that LCA members were donating canned goods to the Field & Fork Campus Food Pantry to help alleviate student hunger problems resulting from financial need. He also mentioned the importance of supporting student mental health issues through various UF services. He then shared a sampling of achievements by UF Law alumni since the last meeting and read the agenda.

The September 2018 meeting minutes were moved, seconded, and approved by the body without dissent. Hawkins called on LCA leaders to provide Committee Reports.

9:16 a.m. FATAC and Audit Committee - David Bowers reported on the LCA Financial Statements and the Independent Auditors' Report, which was distributed to members upon their arrival. In consultation with the Dean and administration, he stated that their goal is to help UF Law become the #1 Tax program in the nation. A new video titled *UF Law Graduate Tax Program: Advance Your Career* was presented.

Nominating Committee - Oscar Sanchez reported that the Nominating Committee met on Friday afternoon and then recognized the Committee members present. He shared that there will be two conference calls before the Spring 2019 meeting in preparation for preparing a slate of new members for approval. Chairman Hawkins mentioned the May 17 meeting coincides with Graduation and other related events like last year.

Heritage of Leadership - Gary Printy commended last year's awards program. This year, Dean Julin, Chief Judge William McRae and Judge Ben Krentzman will be inducted. He invited board members to submit names to honor in the future.

Bylaws Committee - Carter Andersen reported that the new bylaws are still in the process of approval by the UF Board of Trustees. Jo Thacker stated they are usually approved within a few months, but there has been a delay. Dennis Calfee said the delay could be due to changes in the UF approval policy. Chairman Hawkins shared that he spoke to UF's General Counsel, Amy Hass, who advised him that all DSOs are being reviewed for alignment with the mission of UF. When approved, the LCA will be notified and members will decide how they can be involved in committees.

9:40 a.m.

Development & Alumni Relations Report - Mike Farley presented the 2018 Year in Review. Chairman Hawkins commended the Development Team for its stability under Farley's leadership. UF Law has reached 92% of the campaign goal (\$46M of \$50M) compared to just 42% at the last meeting. Of the 26 units/colleges on campus, only three exceed UF Law's performance so far. In 2018, UF Law raised \$27.8M from 2,709 gifts. Dean Rosenbury mentioned that of the Top 10 law schools, the top five have extremely large endowments, but we are getting more competitive. We expect to surpass our \$50M campaign goal in the near future. Jeff Feldman asked how the endowment is used. The Dean explained that endowments are usually restricted via their gift agreement to scholarships, professorships, chairs and other programming, but some gifts come in unrestricted.

Farley's presentation also shared the 2018 strategic communications plan such as end-of-the-year emails and targeted communications to LCA, LAC, 1988 and 1998 class reunions, and everyone who attended a 2018 UF Law event. He also discussed current challenges and opportunities. We are working with the UF Foundation on data issues, such as missing emails and unsubscribed alumni who are not receiving our communications. In addition, many graduates do not change their address post-graduation, so we have a large number of incorrect Gainesville addresses still on file. We will also need to address "donor fatigue" to continue improving our annual participation rate. Pledge collections are also a challenge. Farley presented future opportunities for engagement and requested Summer Tour hosts. LCA leaders were asked to carry the message forward..."It Takes A Village. How Can You Help?"

Bill McCollum encouraged people to call on their personal network of colleagues, and Chairman Hawkins asked the board to consider legacy-building opportunities such as Bruton-Geer Hall gift opportunities.

10:20 a.m.

Bar Passage Improvements Update - Associate Dean Jason Nance said the initiatives from last year to improve the bar passage rate were getting great feedback. UF Law is 13th in the nation for overall bar passage. Improvements included bar prep courses, FL Bar Topics course, a diagnostic report of 1st year law students, classes for 2Ls and 3Ls, and a robust advising program. During discussion, the Dean said she and other Deans in Florida hope to discuss a reduction in the number of topics tested with the Board of Bar Examiners and the Florida Supreme Court.

- 10:40 a.m. Career Services Outcomes Update - Assistant Dean Rob Birrenkott shared employment statistics. From 2012 to 2017, UF Law beat the national average with an increase of 23% in employment outcomes and an increase in our ranking from 123 to 31. We expect to continue to rise and have until March 15 to secure legal placements for students transitioning to the Bar. Several LCA members hosted a graduate last year, and he asked others to help this year.
- 10:50 a.m. Break [LAC members joined the meeting]
- 11:25 a.m. State of the Law School Update and Top Ten & U.S. News Strategies
Associate Dean Liz Lear presented information and statistics related to UF Law's ranking strategy. Dean Rosenbury thanked Lear for her extensive reporting efforts. An infusion of University funds will help UF Law this year, including support for student scholarships and other instructional experiences such as the renovation of the second floor of Bruton-Geer Hall. The Dean thanked Chief of Staff Kelli Murray for her role as the primary contract with construction vendors. The Dean expects UF Law to attain Top 10 in March 2020 or 2021 and reminded members of the critical need for private support.
- 11:50 a.m. Chairman Hawkins thanked UF leadership for the infusion of funds to support the law school. He then recognized members for announcements before concluding the meeting. Chair-Elect Jo Thacker shared plans for the Fall meeting and discussed date options. Brian Burgoon announced UF Gator Giving Day on Tuesday, February 26.
- 12:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.
- 12:05 p.m. Lunch was served and tours of the Student Commons and Experiential Learning Hub were offered to anyone interested. Many members attended the Florida vs. Kentucky basketball game at the O'Connell Center.