

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW  
LAW CENTER ASSOCIATION  
SPRING BUSINESS MEETING  
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020  
VIA ZOOM**

Virtual Attendees:

Carter Andersen, Judge Patty Barksdale, John Bierley, David Bowers, Rebecca Brock, Derek Bruce, Brian Burgoon, Dennis Calfee, Richard Comiter, James Cunningham, Barry Davidson, Fabienne Fahnstock, Lorie Gleim, Cheryl Gordon, Lee Gunn, Nancy Pond Halula, Monica Williams Harris, Andrea Hartley, Scott Hawkins, Bruce Hoffman, Marcia Howard, Gary Huston, Kristen Keane, Judge Nelly Khouzam, Nicole Kibert Basler, Elizabeth Krentzman, Judge Philip Lammens, Ian Leavengood, Stephanie Marchman, Judge Joseph Marx, Michael Minton, Judge Christopher Nash, Tracy Nichols, Louis Nostro, Darryl Payne, Robert Pierce, Matthew Posgay, Gary Printy, Oscar Sanchez, Amanda Sansone, William Schifino, Timothy Schulte, Judge Morris Silberman, Richard Smith, James Sowell, Lee Stapleton, Robert Stern, Jo Thacker, Robert Thornburg, Glenn Waldman, Greg Weiss, Scott Westheimer, Tad Yates

Faculty & Staff Present:

Laura Rosenbury, Dennis Calfee, Mike Farley, Dan Hoffman, Shannon Sumerlin, Debbie Menoher, Silvia Menendez, Liz Lear, Rachel Inman, Chris Bailey, Andrea Fourman

2:03 p.m. LCA Chair Jo Thacker welcomed members and called the meeting to order. She turned the meeting over to Dean Rosenbury to provide a leadership update on the law school.

2:04 p.m. Dean Rosenbury reported on the latest U.S. News law school rankings. UF Law ranks 24th among all law schools, 7th among public law schools, and 1st in Florida. This was achieved through many improvements in various U.S. News factors. UF Law is now ranked better than many peer competitor schools including Emory, Alabama, and Georgia. A celebration will be scheduled in the future.

Q&A with Dean Rosenbury - Several members congratulated the dean. Members noted how the rankings will elevate UF Law, make an impact on the state, and influence the recruitment of superior students and out-of-state students. Scott Hawkins inquired about funding the law school in the future. Dean Rosenbury said the \$6M per year funding initiated last year by the Provost was offered in perpetuity. Due to the funding, the law school proceeded with reconstruction of the Bailey Courtroom and other technological upgrades. UF Law is currently helping students with stipends to help sustain them over the Summer. UF Law needs \$12M per year in student scholarships supported half by the state and half by private donors. James Cunningham asked how the LCA can help. The Dean requested support of the new student emergency fund. UF Law received a \$25K donation from AccessLex Institute. The Dean has personally donated \$25K and Professor Neil Buchanan donated another \$25K plus a dollar just to top hers. Richard Cole also supported the fund with a generous gift, so it now stands at \$95K. Of that, \$50K has already been distributed. Dean Rosenbury also mentioned her reappointment as Dean for the next five years. LCA members congratulated her and thanked her for her leadership and commitment.

The Dean then reported on UF Law's impressive bar exam results with a passage rate of 83.3%, ranking us 1st in the state. Due to the closing, faculty agreed to move to a pass/fail this semester to be fair to students experiencing the closure, online classes, online exams, and no graduation in their final semester. Commencement is

tentatively rescheduled for early August and again in December. To keep faculty and staff engaged, the Dean instituted town halls and work groups to plan for the Fall semester. Students will have both hybrid and in-person options when classes resume. Oscar Sanchez said his firm is teaching practitioners online and invited UF Law classes to join. Michael Minton noted that FATAAC did not schedule a meeting, but there are many positive changes in Tax law. Dean Rosenbury said the Tax program remains #1 among public law schools and #3 overall.

- 2:45 p.m. Admissions Report by Director Chris Bailey  
Chris reported that applications for the incoming class were up 26% so far. Our goal of a 200-student 1L class was exceeded. Many are attracted to the value of UF Law and lower debt load upon graduation. He noted that other schools have opened waitlists, but UF has not done so. Few students are withdrawing, and he attributed it partly to matching alumni and faculty with admitted students. Scott Hawkins asked how UF Law knew the Harvard waitlist was open. Dean Rosenbury said the Admissions team monitors a discussion board and deans also communicate with each other.
- 3:00 p.m. Career Services Report by Associate Dean Liz Lear  
Liz announced that this would be her last LCA meeting prior to her sabbatical. She reported that UF Law has placed a substantial percentage of students in legal jobs to date. She thanked LCA members for their help and requested their continued support since COVID affected many job offers and Summer plans for rising 2Ls and 3Ls have been impacted.
- 3:10 p.m. Summer Experience Report by Associate Dean Silvia Menendez  
Silvia reported that at least 155 students have been awarded funds through the 2020 Public Interest Stipend Program. During the Spring, sixty 3L students were able to complete their work through the Semester in Practice Program despite COVID. Experiential work has been difficult with COVID, but the clinic faculty has been effective teaching remotely. UF Law now has two new legal skills professors.
- 3:15 p.m. Student Affairs Report by Associate Dean Rachel Inman  
Students have been resilient during the school closure. Wellness initiatives were put into place to help students including increased counseling services, lawyer assistance programs and the emergency fund. She asked LCA to support students studying for the upcoming bar exam. Oscar Sanchez asked if unrestricted gifts can be used for the emergency fund. Mike Farley responded that members may indicate on their checks or online how they want their gifts to be credited. James Cunningham asked how we will help students taking bar exams in new locations on July 28-29. Rachel said her team has been following up with students, and Dean Rosenbury asked members in Tampa and Orlando to reach out to them.
- 3:30 p.m. Development & Alumni Affairs Report by Sr. Director Mike Farley  
Mike presented the UF campaign dashboard showing the achievement of \$2.61B raised (87%) toward the \$3B goal. The campaign runs until October 2022. UF Law is currently at \$53.2M (106%) and the endowment value is \$104.1M. He demonstrated COVID's impact on gifts with a month-to-month comparison of January 2019 to April 2019 vs. January 2020 to April 2020. He also shared that the LCA member giving trend has gone down over the last three fiscal years (60% in 2017-2018, 49% in 2018-2019 and 46% in 2019-2020) but active LCA members have a better percentage. LCA members also have given 6 of the 10 biggest gifts this year. Future fundraising and programming will be mindful of the current legal environment. Mike then

announced the 2020 Alumni Awards: UF Law Distinguished Service Award – Eugene Pettis (JD 85); Outstanding Public Service Award – Manisha Singh (JD 94); Outstanding Alumnus Award – Brad Bondi (JD 98); Outstanding Young Alumnus Award – Darren Heitner (JD 10). Please feel free to reach out to congratulate them. Dan Hoffman reported on the Law Firm Giving Campaign which will run from June 1 to July 3. He also reported that the HBCU commitments have been going well and thanked those who participated.

- 3:52 p.m. Gift Planning Update by Andrea Fourman, UF Foundation  
Andrea gave a presentation on Gift Planning in Crisis (video link to be emailed following the meeting). Bequests, charitable gift annuities, gift assets and charitable lead trusts are effective ways to donate during the current environment.
- 4:05 p.m. LCA Committees  
New Member Nominations (Scott Hawkins) – Mike read off the new member list: Brad Bondi, Chris Boyett, Robert Bradley, Spencer Cummings, Katie Dearing, Carla Deloach, Brian Dorn, Greg Francis, Shawn Harrison, Jarrett Hoffman, Jay Kim, Kristine Lambert, Philip Mays, Sigrid McCawley, Ashley Moody, Paul Perkins, Katrina Rolle, Effie Silva, Michael Silva, Jason Unger, and Judge Allan Winsor. Scott asked for a motion to accept the slate of nominees. There was discussion about asking sitting elective officials to join the LCA. Following discussion, the members agreed to proceed with the nominees as presented. **VOTE:** The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of the body without dissent.
- Officer Nominations (Scott Hawkins) – Scott named the current officers and said the board needs to select a new Secretary. He asked for a motion to accept Courtney Grimm as Secretary. **VOTE:** The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of the body without dissent.
- Bylaws (Brian Burgoon) – Brian Burgoon presented bylaw changes and asked for a motion to accept the bylaws. **VOTE:** The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of the body without dissent.
- FATAC, Audit/Finance and Heritage of Leadership – No discussion.
- LAC Liaison (Whitney Untiedt) – Whitney reported on the activities of the LAC including restructuring the bylaws. She shared that LAC members often feed the LCA membership pipeline and pointed out that seven former LAC presidents presently or in the past sat on the LCA board. She asked that LCA help identify new LAC members.
- 4:30 p.m. Announcements  
Jo Thacker thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting. James Cunningham thanked Jo for her service over the past year. Mike Farley said he would email links to the Commencement videos that could not be shown due to technical difficulties during the meeting.
- 4:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned.