

2018 AASE Board Candidates

(alphabetically listed)

Lori Albin

Running for: Treasurer-Elect

Laurel (Lori) Albin has been Director of Bar Success at UMass Law School since August 2015. Prior to joining UMass Law, Lori was State Director for Senator Barbara Mikulski. Lori was also a long-term adjunct and member of the Baltimore Law legal writing team, and also earned her MBA. Lori has had a number of successes since joining UMass Law, most notably raising ultimate and first-time bar pass rates to over 90% and almost 80% (from 74% and 60%) as well as redesigning the bar program and adding very successful supplementary summer programs. Lori was also instrumental in earning UMass Law full ABA accreditation.

In her spare time, Lori cares for her many dogs and spends time with her children in Utah and California.

Rana Boujaoude

Running for: Secretary, Treasurer-Elect

My name is Rana Boujaoude and I am an Associate Professor of Law & Director of Bar Services at Golden Gate University School of Law. I am running for the Secretary and Treasurer position for the AASE Board. I have been working in Academic Support for almost 6 years and truly enjoy what I do. Currently, I am Chair of the West Coast Consortium of Academic Support Professionals. Just this past November, I helped host their 6th Annual Conference at GGU.

This is my second year as a member of AASE and I would like to be more involved in this incredible organization. As Secretary or Treasurer, I would bring my experience in helping students succeed in law school and on the bar exam to either position. Years of acquiring bar pass data has given me expertise in organization and record-keeping. I am patient, kind and excel at multitasking. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference.

Marla Dickerson

Running for: Vice President of Diversity

I am from Louisiana and currently reside there. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics from North Carolina A & T State University and a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas A & M University. I attended Southern University Law Center and graduated in 2007 with a Juris Doctorate. Currently, I am a Ph.D. student at Louisiana State University.

In December of 2012, I became an Academic Counselor in the Academic Support and Counseling Office at Southern University Law Center (SULC). Since that time, my title has evolved to Academic Counselor, Instructor of Law, ADA Coordinator, and Director of Pre Law. In my capacity at SULC, I have an opportunity to work with students of different races, religions, ethnicities, gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status. I have also had the opportunity to work with accommodated and non-accommodated students. Every individual brings different experiences and interpretations into the legal

education environment at SULC. It is important that faculty, staff, and students, are able to engage in dialogue with individuals that are different than them.

I have served on the Diversity Committee for AASE for the past three years. In 2017, I was honored to serve as Co-Chair for the Diversity Committee, which helped to organize and implement the Inaugural AASE Diversity Conference. Currently, I am the Chair of the AASE Diversity Committee. I look forward to being able to facilitate dialogue to encourage a better understanding of how to handle issues that affect the students in legal education who come from many backgrounds.

Marsha Griggs

Running for: Treasurer

Associate Professor of Law and Director of Academic Support and Bar Passage
Washburn University School of Law

I am very happy to be nominated again to serve as Treasurer for the Association of Academic Support Educators (AASE) for the coming year. Over the past year I have worked collaboratively with the AASE executive board members and the members at large. I've maintained accurate records and judiciously stewarded our funds. One of my accomplishments was to try to simplify the process of transitioning financial officers. With board approval, I have transferred our funds to a bank account that should make it easier for future treasurers to take the reins of the account and handle transactions in any U.S. city. I am also very excited about the prospect of working with a Treasurer Elect to create an even smoother transition process and another key layer of financial accountability.

I am committed to the mission of academic support and the recognition and advancement of academic support professionals. I enjoy and value my membership in AASE and the wonderfully talented members whom I learn from yearly. I would be honored to serve this organization and its members for another year.

DeShun Harris

Running for: President-Elect

Director of Academic Support and Bar Readiness
Texas A&M University School of Law

DeShun Harris began her career in academic support in 2011 and has served as an academic support professional at several schools. As President, DeShun would be able to bring the rich experience of working within various programs to her role in representing the diverse membership of AASE. DeShun has attended and presented at several AASE conferences. She currently serves as the Vice President of Diversity for AASE. In this capacity, she worked with the Diversity Committee to create the first AASE Diversity Conference. Further, DeShun is an active member within the academic support community with her service as an editor for the *Learning Curve*, the AALS Section on Academic Support newsletter. With these experiences, DeShun believes as President she can advance the mission of AASE in a way that reflects the various perspectives represented in the AASE community.

DeShun Harris earned her B.A. in Political Science from Baylor University, her J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law, and her LL.M. in Law and Government from American University Washington College of Law.

Danielle Kocal

Running for: President-Elect, Secretary

I am the Director of Academic Success at Pace Law School, where I am responsible for all aspects of our academic support programming, starting from our pre-orientation workshops to our post-graduation bar prep program. I have been working in academic support since 2009, when I realized teaching was my passion and decided to leave the practice of law in order to work with students full time. I have been a member of AASE since its inception and would be honored to take on a larger leadership role within the organization. I have experience in leadership positions within AASE and other organizations, which I believe would enable me to be an asset to the Executive Board should I be elected. I was Chair of the AASE Online Presence Committee for four years, during which time I worked with the Executive Board to coordinate the creation and maintenance of the AASE website, as well as the management of the TWEN page and its resources. I am also an active member of our national Academic Support community, particularly the AALS Section on Academic Support. I am currently the Immediate Past Chair of the Section, having served as Chair in 2017 and Secretary in 2016. Additionally, I was the Chair of the Program Committee, responsible for the programs at the AALS Annual Meeting, in 2016 and 2017. I hope to be given the opportunity to bring my dedication, commitment, and passion for ASP to the AASE Executive Board.

Reichi Lee

Running for: Vice President of Diversity, Treasurer

Reichi is an Associate Professor and Director of Academic Development at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. Prior to GGU, Reichi represented foster youth in abuse and neglect cases. At GGU, she has taught a variety of doctrinal and skills courses, including Civil Procedure, Youth Law, Legal Analysis, Legal Methods and Legal Research & Writing. Her academic research centers on children and the law and legal education reform. She is interested in how students of color and low income students, starting at a young age, are disproportionately impacted by barriers to access and achievement (including the overuse of certain harmful technologies), and would like to see academic support leveraged to bring more rigor into the curriculum so that all students, irrespective of their prior experiences, can learn how to master any topic of law on their own.

Reichi is deeply committed to her community. She recently co-founded a Mandarin dual immersion elementary public school whereby over half of the pupils are students of color, English learners, foster youth, or low income. She has served on numerous boards, including the Asian American Bar Association and ACCESS Health Justice. She is currently a member of the Executive Committee for the Teaching Methods section of AALS. Last year, she was the recipient of the AASE Excellence Award for her work with students. If selected for an AASE board position, Reichi would promote the innovative work of its members who are tackling issues pertaining to access to justice and the unique challenges of educating contemporary law students.

Antonia (Toni) Miceli

Running for: President-Elect

Associate Professor and Director of Academic Support and Bar Examination Preparation
Saint Louis University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri

When I attended the inaugural AASE national conference in 2013, I was settling into my role at SLU Law and my program was beginning to fall into place. That inaugural conference was transformative for me, as have been each of the following conferences. From the innovative teaching methods presented by our colleagues, to the personal stories shared on navigating academia, to the friendships formed at the dine around, I came back inspired to dig deeper – and I had a new support network there along the way. AASE also gave me a platform to seek change for my students through my service on the Bar and Bar Advocacy Committee. My AASE experiences were so important to my development as an academic support professional that I proposed bringing the national conference here to St. Louis. I have had the privilege of serving on the AASE Executive Board for the past two years, first as the Co-Chair of the Programming Committee, and now as the Host School Representative. It has been an honor to be directly involved in developing the conference program, particularly this year as the Programming Committee considered how use the St. Louis conference as a platform for raising awareness of issues affecting diverse people. I am inspired by how much AASE has grown as an organization since its inception and I look forward to having the opportunity to help it continue to grow in the great work it does for its members and the future of the legal profession.

Jeff Minneti

Running for: Treasurer-Elect

I seek election to the office of Treasurer-Elect because I want to continue service to the AASE Executive Board and learn the role of a new position. I direct the Academic Resource Center at Seattle University School of law, where I am also an Associate Professor of Law. I am privileged to lead a team of four academic support and bar preparation professionals. Together, we empower students enrolled at the most diverse law school in the Pacific Northwest to achieve their personal best and pass the bar exam on their first attempt. I have been involved with AASE since 2013, regularly attending and presenting at conferences. In fact, my experiences at AASE conferences have significantly shaped the academic and bar support programs at Seattle U and enriched the students' education. Seeking to give back to an organization and people who have given me so much, recently, I began getting involved with AASE leadership. During 2017-18, I served as AASE Secretary and as a member of the Inaugural AASE Diversity Conference Planning Committee. I look forward to continuing that service in the capacity of Treasurer-Elect.

Laura Mott

Running for: Vice President of Diversity

I currently serve as Director of Academic Skills for the Part-Time 1L Evening Program at CUNY School of Law. This month marks the end of my second full year teaching at the Law School. I've also served as a Bar Mentor since 2012. Last summer I taught a lawyering/academic skills seminar at a boot camp run by the New York State Court System designed to support "economically or educationally disadvantaged college graduates" in acquiring law school skills; I return again this summer. Recently I headed a subcommittee which converted all M/F restrooms on one floor of the Law School into All-Gender, with signage describing the need for such designation.

As academic skills professors, we all have deep experience working with students who may not feel a sense of belonging—students who experience daily micro-aggressions; students who, despite the passion and academic ability to succeed, have trouble envisioning a space for themselves in law school and beyond; students who, for various reasons, feel like “imposters”. I would bring to this position a deep belief in devoting meaningful time and conversational space to how the struggles of students from diverse backgrounds impacts their academic performance. I see these conversations— as absolutely critical to fulfilling AASE’s mission of “encouraging the scholarly exchange of ideas . . .devoted to improving legal education.”

I would work to gather ideas from the wealth of experience of AASE members and implement these themes into the planning/programming of the contemplated Fall 2019 Diversity Conference.

Goldie Pritchard

Running for: Secretary

My name is Goldie Pritchard and I have worked, professionally, in Academic Support for almost ten years. I hold a M.Ed. and worked in diversity services and student affairs. I am honored to be nominated as I know there are individuals who support and encourage my candidacy. I am excited as I would like to be involved in the inner workings of our organization.

I was unable to attend the first two AASE Conferences due to budget constraints but have attended since and had the opportunity to present at two conferences (New York and Texas). I am an active participant at every conference and attend most programs emphasizing diversity, the bar exam, and how to better support targeted groups of students. I have served on the Diversity Committee and am a long-standing member of the Bar Advocacy Committee.

This position peaked my interest as I have past experience with this position in other organizations. I have served as Secretary for a number of organizations ranging in membership from 50 to 1,500. I welcome the opportunity to become more involved with AASE as I relinquish another commitment which has consumed much of my time over the past two years. If selected as Secretary, I will continue the work of previous position holders while assessing and developing effective and efficient strategies. I would also look forward to being a liaison between the board and the membership and to recording the business of the organization. I hope to receive your vote.

Amy Vaughan-Thomas

Running for: Secretary

My name is Amy Vaughan-Thomas and I am currently the Assistant Director of Academic Support at California Western School of Law. I have been a colleague in our academic support community for two years but previously I was a law student directly impacted by our work. As a result of my personal experiences and career aspirations, I am passionate about our mission and care tremendously about student success. I am eager to be more involved in our community and I intend to bring enthusiasm, dedication and a fresh perspective to the secretary position. My goal for the position is to generate open, consistent, and frequent communication to all members of our community. Thank you in advance for your consideration.