

Name – Gabrielle Tamasi

Year(s) of Graduation and Degree(s) – Class of 2015; J.D. and Alternative Dispute Resolution Certificate

Statement of interest answering/addressing the following:

What is your vision for VLS in the next five years?

In the next five years, I would love to see an increase in the number of Vermont college students taking advantage of the opportunities Vermont Law School offers. I attended Castleton State College (new Castleton University) and I was unaware of Vermont Law School as an option until I had a family member discuss it with me. I feel that VLS has an incredibly large pool of potential students that aren't being tapped into. My 3L year I became involved with the effort to solidify an articulation agreement between Castleton and VLS, and I have been told by representatives from Castleton that if I had not volunteered my time to see the project through, it likely would not have become a reality. 2015 was also, I believe, the first year VLS attended Castleton's annual career and educational fair.

Since the articulation agreement has been signed, I also worked with Castleton to develop a pre-law program to encourage students to consider a path in law, and specifically prepare them for VLS. I think working with the other Vermont State Colleges to institute similar programs, and become more involved on their campuses will bring a great deal of attention to VLS as an option for students once they have graduated from undergrad.

What skills do you bring to the VLSAA to accomplish these priorities?

Having worked with Castleton to create pathways and programs to boost VLS awareness, I think the most beneficial skill I can bring to the VLSAA is experience. I know the struggle students who are unsupported in their law school paths face, I know concerns Vermonters have in keeping our educational institutions active, and how student's leaving the state to pursue their education has put pressure on schools.

I also write and review policy for the Vermont Department of Corrections, so I have a lot of experience with reaching out to stakeholders, leading meetings, and working with large groups of diverse people with diverse ideas.

How would you galvanize the energy and enthusiasm of alumni to increase participation in VLS events and giving?

Living and working in Vermont post-graduation has given me an opportunity to meet other VLS alumni, and create relationships with people I didn't have a chance to know in school. Living in Montpelier puts me in a good position to help organize alumni events in the Capitol, as well as use my personal relationships to garner more support from fellow alumni.

List your activities as a VLS student.

While at VLS I was a member of the softball team every year, and traveled annually to the UVA Law School softball tournament, serving as the club and trip organizer my 3L year; I was the SGA Sports Commissioner, appointed by 2 separate SGA presidents, 2 years in a row; and I managed the VLS athletic center for 3 years, including 1 year after graduation.

List any appropriate professional and community activity and please describe how that experience would serve you as a Board member.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for Camp Wilmot Inc. which is a small summer camp in Wilmot NH. I grew up attending this camp, and much like my time at VLS, I looked forward to the day I could give back to a community that invested a great deal in me. The experience on the Camp board gives me perspective on what it is like to be a member of a Board, and has given me experience with fundraising and community outreach.

Having reviewed the standing committees on the VLSAA Board, which committee(s) would you choose to serve on and why?

I would be the most interested in serving on the Developmental and Mentoring committees. As I mentioned above, I do have some experience in helping VLS expand with a partnership with Castleton, as well as having served as a resource for Castleton students interested in VLS.

I also feel my career path in policy, which differs from most people's idea of what can be done with a law degree, will serve as an important reminder to current students that our law degrees open so many doors, and a career in litigation is not the only option open to them. I often wished in law school I could have connected with alumni who did not work in litigation, and I would relish the opportunity to be the resource for current students.

Discuss whether you have the resources and ability to make the Board a priority over the next three years. Board responsibilities include quarterly in-person Board meetings, regular committee meetings and projects, alumni outreach and community initiatives, and providing thoughtful consultation to alumni and the law school.

Currently living in Montpelier, and working for the Vermont Department of Corrections puts me in a good position to be able to commit myself for the next three years. I have absolutely no intentions on moving, and VLS is a short trip down 89 for me. I am also in a good geographical position to help organize meetings or projects in the Montpelier or even Burlington areas; I also have many connects at Castleton and would be able to help organize in the Rutland area.