

>> Robert F. Weisberg Self-Nomination for VLSAA Director – May 2017

- **Name:** Robert F. Weisberg, MPH (1972), PhD (1974), MBA (1983)
- **VLS Graduation:** May, 2001, JD, and MSEL (with honors).
- **Statement of interest:**
 - **What is your vision for VLS in the next five years?**
 - Successful adoption of technology as a tool to support teaching and leveraging resources;
 - Standardized first year curriculum on campus with options to take classes on-site, remotely, and at other schools, particularly in other countries;
 - Although a lawyer is to treat every case as if it would go to the Supreme Court., just as a very small number of high school athletes make it to the professional teams, more balance needs to be giving to the nitty gritty of the preliminary action to appearing before the highest court;
 - Require at least one semester internship in an organization – local, state or Federal legislature or agency; NGO, law firm, business legal and/or environmental office/division;
 - Continue to nurture diversity, innovation, and excellence, including a high standing for environmental law and higher general law school ranking;
 - Continued focus on community and the world.
 - **What skills do you bring to the VLSAA to accomplish these priorities?**
 - 1978-1981: Worked in Rhode Island Department of Health;
 - 1981-1998: Owned and operated a small business providing environmental monitoring, training and laboratory; *responsible for budget, accounting, personnel, insurance, taxes, acquisition, compliance, providing services;*
 - 2001-2016: US Department of Housing and Development, US House subcommittee of housing and finance, OMB reference division: *saw all three branches of government;*
 - 2010 Partnership for Public Service Fellow program: *leadership development;*
 - 2006-2007: Presidential Classroom Program Mentor: *worked with high school students both U.S and foreign countries before cell phones became de rigeur.*
 - **increase alumni participation in VLS events and giving?**
 - Distinguish between the experience in a rural area (where a substantial number of students went for the outdoor activity opportunities) from the life opportunity that was gained;
 - Focus on the years of matriculation – early students saw the change in deans and took sides; later military policies became a significant issue affecting job interviews and federal grants;

- I do not keep track, but have made contributions almost every year after graduation. Mary Welz can give a better picture;
- Distinguish VLS contacts from all the other dunning snail mail, email, telephone calls;
- As the regional groups grow, need to coordinate and see what the local people want or can use-social meetings/outings, expert presentations, etc.
- **Alumni service:**
 - 2003-2006 DCVLSAA Board member;
 - 2012-2013, VLSAA Board Member (resigned for medical reasons).
- **VLS student activities:**
 - 1998-2001 Student Bar Association Parliamentarian (by SBA Board appointment), oversaw effort to revise Bylaws; set up teams for each section to be led by a different SBA member with membership open to student body; used new classroom with overhead projector in laws Building to provide open editing sessions before submitting to SBA Board for approval to have general student voting contemporaneously with electronic spring 2000 SBA election-approved;
 - 1998-1999-First group of Student Ambassadors with Doug Samuels;
 - 1999-2001-Worked with Dennis Tonsing to provide support to One L students;
 - Provided technical support to Library computers for Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw research;
 - Research for Professor Joan Vogel and Dean L. Kinvin Wroth;
 - Housed exchange student from Italy spring 2001;
 - 1999 Member of Counseling Moot Court board;
 - Helped organize charter Moot Court negotiation team;
 - Helped Town of South Roylton count votes in November 2000;
 - Summer 2000 MSEL student internship in Bonn, Germany at IUCN Environmental library under direction of Charles DiLleva, as well as serve as reporter for a Climate Change session;
 - Spring 2001 semester internship with Judge in Burlington;
 - Helped with the Forum newspaper layout 1998-2001;
 - Staffed 1999 issue of Hearsay and editor of 2000 issue (opened submissions to staff, faculty, family, and community);
 - 2001 Named candidate for Presidential Management Intern (now Fellow) program; joined U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Lead Hazard Control and Health Homes;
 - Made Shaker style end table in 1999 and 2001 and blanket box in 2000 at Wood shop class behind the bank and post office across the train track.

- **List any appropriate professional and community activity and please describe how that experience would serve you as a Board member.**
 - 1992-1994 Secretary Vice President, President of the Providence Engineering Society: *organization operations*;
 - 1997 Charter member and helped organize RI Public Health Association (affiliate to American Public Health Association);
 - 2001 Connecticut Bar, 2002 New York Bar; 2004 District of Columbia and Minnesota Bars; Supreme Court, U.S. Courts of Appeals-DC and Federal Circuit, DC Court of Appeals: *dealing with local issues*;
 - 2010 Partnership for Public Service Excellence in Government Fellows program: *how to address and resolve issues*;
 - 2017 Member APHA Environment Committee-Child Environmental Health subcommittee: *aware of other environmental health activities*.
- **Having reviewed the [standing committees](#) on the VLSAA Board, which committee(s) would you choose to serve on and why?**
 - Development-in all likelihood a small isolated law school needs strong collaboration with other institutions in order to survive; also get alumni contacts from three schools gives me an opportunity to see what other institutions are doing to engage alumni;
 - Ad Hoc Environmental Masters-the work that is done by non JD people in education, legislation, regulations, and enforcement in today's fractioned society needs competent innovative people who can share experience.
- **Resources and ability to make the Board a priority over the next three years.**
 - Retired September 30, 2016 after 15 years at HUD;
 - No family entanglements.