

Name: Ashlee Stetser

Year of Graduation: 2015; Juris doctor (*cum laude*); certificate in International Comparative Law

What is your vision for VLS in the next five years: My hope is that VLS will be alive and thriving.

What skills do you bring to the VLSAA to accomplish these priorities: As a two-time Student Trustee on the Vermont Law School Board of Trustees (2013-15) and a presidentially-appointed VLSAA Director (2017-2018), I have practical experience, a honed sensibility of a Director's role, and most importantly, the very best interest of VLS at heart. After assuming the responsibilities of an Assistant Professor, I can now appreciate the nuances involved in University administration. The skillset of a former student, alumna, past trustee and board director, and now as an academic, will further allow me to contribute toward accomplishing the Board's priorities.

How would you galvanize the energy and enthusiasm of alumni to increase participation in VLS events and giving: Social media, email, and local and regional events. Communication should spur interest in VLS activities through messages aimed at positive reinforcement.

List and describe your alumni service: I am an annual contributor to the VLS fund, a persistent advocate of the Law School, and a serving member of the VLSAA Board of Directors where I sit on the Mentoring Committee and Regional Groups Committee. Whenever working in a professional capacity, I seek to share my enriching experiences at VLS with my colleagues, and encourage their family and friends to consider VLS if they are thinking of committing to a career in the legal profession.

List and describe your activities as a VLS student:

- Student Trustee: 2014-15, 2013-14
- *Vermont Law Review*, Managing Editor (2014-15); Staff Editor (2013-14)
- Dean's Fellow (2014-15)
- Curriculum Committee Representative (2014-15)
- Faculty Hiring Committee Representative (2013-14)
- ABA-sponsored law student to Cambodia and Myanmar (2015)
- Research Assistant to Professor Stephanie Farrior (2013-2014)

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

The two years I served as a Student Trustee served me well as a VLSAA Board Director: Through seriousness of purpose and prioritization. As a Trustee, regardless of my position as a student, I owed a fiduciary duty to Vermont Law School. I took seriously this purpose and with every vote cast, I did so with the greater good of the Institution in mind. I was privileged with full voting rights, just as a "normal" trustee, and along with this privilege came a tremendous amount of responsibility. Over the last year I brought that same commitment and enthusiasm to the table as a VLSAA Director and look forward to doing so again for the next three years.

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

I would choose to serve again on the Mentorship and the Regional Groups Committees. Mentorship is a passion of mine. I would not be where I am today without the advice, support, and critical feedback from my most trusted mentors. This type of relationship—one of support and “Trust me, I’ve been there”—is indispensable throughout a law student’s career and beyond. I am committed to doing the best possible job to ensure the theme of mentorship continues to grow strong at VLS. In terms of the Regional Group Committee, I’ve spent the better part of my life outside of the United States for internships, work, education, and travel. I aim to develop the Middle East and South East Asia regional committees over time by utilizing the social capital I generated through my experiences in these regions. Finally, I would of course be delighted to make myself available to any ad-hoc committee requiring my time and resources.

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.

Living in Europe and Middle East over the past sixteen months has not affected my availability to attend Board meetings or committee calls over Skype—I have yet to miss one because I make the VLSAA a priority and aim to dispense my duties as a Board Member effectively. I look forward to the familiar and enthusiastic voices on the line, the convivial discussions, and working with dedicated peers to better connect fellow Swans and work in earnest for the betterment of VLS.