

Name: Christopher M. F. Smith, Esq.

Year(s) of Graduation and Degree(s) JD Class of 2014

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 like to see the school go from stabilization and recovery to building a sustainable future, including a balanced budget, increased alumni participation, and increasing enrollment rate with higher admission requirements.

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

I am organized, diplomatic, and committed. I have developed and maintained relationships with fellow alumni, current students, faculty, staff, and administration of the school. I am trained in both organizational and community leadership. I have used these skills to develop consensus and process satisfaction in my professional and volunteer activities. Finally, I bring my work ethic to the table. I try to never ask more than I'm willing to deliver myself.

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

I want to galvanize the energy and enthusiasm of alumni to increase participation in VLS events and giving by working to engage alumni in the events and experiences that made their VLS experience special to them. I believe rekindling the joy alumni had as part of the VLS community can ignite their passion for the continued success of the institution and the swans that came after them. Likewise, the more current students engage with alumni the greater culture of giving we engender in future generations of swans. Small contributions by alumni can make an outstated difference. If anyone should understand the aggregate effect of small actions, it is the nation's #1 environmental law school.

List and describe your alumni service.

I am a member of the Leaders' Circle, the giving society for donors to VLS at a leader's level.

I have served on the Board of Directors of the VLSAA for three years. I have served as chair of the mentoring committee and as a member at-large of the Executive Committee and Development Committee. I have consistent attendance at Board Meetings and attend VLS Reunion every year. I believe that I maintain positive relationships with my fellow Board members, but that would be for them to say.

I organized alumni events connected to Gayla, the school's decade old all-school drag show. For the past two years, in connection with the Office of Alumni Relations and Development and

Professor Greg Johnson, we organized an alumni panel, alumni Gayla performances, and an annual Diversity Brunch. These events help develop stronger ties among alumni, students, and the institution. I also organized alumni participation in Student Appreciation Day (A.K.A. Juice Box Day) donating drinks and snacks for students during finals.

I work to maintain as many contact points with the VLS community as possible, including, without limitation, addressing the incoming classes of students at orientation, attending commencement, participating in on-campus and regional-group events, and guest lecturing on securities law in the VLS Energy Clinic and Jennifer Taub's Securities Regulations course. I have also served as an informal mentor for several students and make it a point to connect with my student network over coffee or a cocktail when in South Royalton.

List your activities as a VLS student.

- President of the Student Bar Association
- Alliance
 - Organize Trans Day of Awareness events and World Aids Day events, including regular, free on campus HIV testing.
 - Performed show stoppers in Gayla.
- Assisted the Director of the Vagina Monologues (2013-14)
- Helped organize Take Back the Night events (2013-14)
- Specific Performance (Treasurer) (2013)
- Federalist Society (Secretary) (2014)
- Legal Writing Dean's Fellow
- Teacher's Assistant for the late, great Cheryl Hanna's constitutional law class (2013-14).
- Vermont Journal of Environmental Law (Production Editor)
- 2014 Recipient of Erin Wooley Memorial Scholarship for commitment to women's, children's, and social justice issues.

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

Professionally, I am a corporate lawyer at a small firm in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. I represent business organizations from inception through sale or liquidation, and everything in between. My clients range from sole proprietorships to nonprofit organizations to multinational corporations. I previously served three years as Director of Capital Markets with the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation, where I was the primary regulator for corporate finance activities. Prior to law school, I worked almost 10 years for Starbucks Coffee Company in store management and business development.

These experiences gave me management and leadership training, financial literacy, and organization and planning skills. Each of these skills will continue to serve me as a Board member.

Outside my day job(s), I have served the last three years on the Board of Directors. I am a recent graduate of the Berkshire Leadership Program, a 12 week workshop to develop community leaders in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. I am also a member of the organizing committee of the Berkshire Pride Festival, a fledging pride celebration in Massachusetts' most westerly county. During my time at the Department of Financial Regulation, I was an active member of the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA, not as cool as NASA), made up of securities regulators from the U.S. states and territories, the Canadian provinces, and Mexico. I worked as a member of several NASAA working groups developing model law for state/provincial securities regulators.

Each of these roles has given me the ability to work by committee and develop true consensus, ensuring, as possible, satisfaction with the process, if not with the result.

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

If allowed by the Board, I would like to continue serving on the Executive Committee, Development Committee, and the Mentoring Committee. I have enjoyed working on each of these committees, because I can help shape the future of VLS on three levels: (i) at the student level through the Mentoring Committee; (ii) at the institutional level through the Development Committee; and (iii) at the Alumni Association level through the Executive Committee.

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.

I have the time and energy to continue devoting to the Board. I live in Western Massachusetts, making VLS itself only 2.5 hours away. I am on campus with regularity outside of my current Board responsibilities. I am in private practice, which can give me the flexibility to participate in conference calls or be on campus. The partners at my firm know about and are supportive of my commitments to the Board. Finally, as previously mentioned, I maintain relationships with alumni, current students, faculty, staff, and administration, which can be beneficial to the work of the Board.

I will conclude this statement of interest by saying that it has been my joy and honor to serve the VLS Community; in the SBA, on the Board of the VLSAA, and in my individual capacity. I love Vermont Law School. I had a great three years as a member of the VLS community, but that does not mean I think everything was perfect. My goal as a Director is to help the school

capitalize on what makes VLS special and seize on those areas of opportunity that challenge it. My love for the school and hope for its future will continue to be my guiding principles as a Director.