

Name: Margaux Valenti

Year(s) of graduation and degree(s): 2013 JD

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

I want to see VLS reconnect with its roots and regain its crown as the finest Environmental Law School in the country. I know the way the rankings work has hurt our title, in part based on size, but that has never stood in our way. I want to see the alumni body rally around and reinvest in the school that we love and I want the administration to understand the unique relationship the alumni have with the school and with each other. A relationship not built on prestige and name recognition, but one built on grit, and getting runs in before class and literally housing and feeding each other and rebuilding together as a community after the storm.

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

I have shown over the last three years how I can utilize my desire and skills for connecting people to bring them close to the workings of the board and to the school itself.

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

1. Ask them, directly.
2. Keep the alumni body fully informed of the happenings at the school, the needs of the school and the direction for the future by using new forms of communication, the targeted email system the board is about to test, and the new quarterly calls for regional representatives.
3. Continue to bolster alumni connections to one another and strengthen nostalgia and bonds to the school.

List and describe your alumni service.

For the last three years, I have been serving as a presidential appointee to the VLSAA. I chair the Alumni Engagement Committee. In that time, the committee has started a monthly webinar series as well as a book club and intends to add monthly yoga in the fall.

List your activities as a VLS student.

- Environmental Law Society, Co-Chair
- Women's Law Group
- Operation Revive Royalton Volunteer (Spent the first few weeks of 2L year rebuilding houses and mucking out basements after Hurricane Irene)
- Skirunner's Program (Teaching locals school-age kids to snowboard Fridays after school)

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

I work for an environmental nonprofit so I understand the importance of a volunteer board of directors, how development works and what can be expected of a Board Member. I also volunteer on a committee for the Town I live in which helps me to apply my community engagement skills to the Vermont Law Alumni Community. Finally, living in Buffalo, NY provides me the unique perspective on not living in an area with a ton of alumni. This allows me to bring strategies to the board for how to connect with Alumni who aren't too far away but aren't in a swan metropolis like New England.

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

I would like to continue chairing the Alumni Engagement committee and assisting with the development 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 meetings, regular committee meetings and projects, alumni outreach and community initiatives, and providing thoughtful consultation to alumni and the school.

Yes, I can continue my commitment to the Board requirements.