



The Reporter

Issue #3, 2018

The official publication of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International



Courage



Message from the International Justice

As we began this biennium, our newly elected International Executive Board hit the ground running on three initiatives (Revitalization of Weak and Inactive Chapters; Restructuring of International and Regional Events; and International Expansion) that we set forth at Convention in Lexington, which are essential to the success of Phi Alpha Delta. Our sisters and brothers who are working on these initiatives continue their hard work, as do many throughout our organization, whether it is our volunteers or staff, in their respective roles for the betterment of the Fraternity. To quote the late great coach Vince Lombardi, our brothers and sisters understand that “the price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied ourselves to the task at hand,” and in this respect I could not be more proud of our sisters and brothers, and wholeheartedly thank them for their continued service to our Fraternity.

However, whether it is in Phi Alpha Delta, our professional lives, or our personal lives, there sometimes is another price for success – the toll that it may take on our physical and mental health, which has become more common in this fast-paced world of ours. While it is difficult to find the courage to discuss personal health struggles, P.A.D. recognized and opportunity to better support our members. This was the impetus for the creation of the P.A.D. Health Initiative in 2015, providing a forum for our members to address various physical and mental issues. The Initiative supports those with the courage to discuss their struggles and offers a safe space to have these conversations.

As part of the P.A.D. Health Initiative, we observed Mental Health Awareness Week in early October and World Mental Health Day on October 10th with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues and mobilizing efforts in

support of mental health while advocating against social stigma. It was a chance to learn more about how to stay healthy and support those that may be struggling. Additionally, for those brothers and sisters who were struggling or needed someone to talk to, it was a reminder that they are not alone and the Phi Alpha Delta community cares about them.

P.A.D.’s core values of courage and compassion compels us to shake off the stigma that all too often leads people to adopt a “suck it up and deal with it” response to those with mental health issues. It is this compassion for our brothers and sisters in need that leads us down a different path, which includes listening to our sisters and brothers, finding out how they are feeling, supporting the courage they have to share, letting them know they are not alone, and assisting them with getting the help they need by directing them to appropriate professionals.

Let’s keep working together while being cognizant of our own health needs, as well as those of our sisters and brothers. Essentially, keep up the hard work, but remember to take care of yourselves and each other.

Jay Ross
Jason Michael Ross,
International Justice

Thank you to Brother Matt Bakke (*Monroe Chapter, Minnesota Statewide Alumni Chapter*) who created and maintains the national P.A.D. Health Initiative. The Health Initiative was launched in 2015 from Bakke’s prior work as Monroe Chapter Justice and on the Alumni Advisory Council.

Thank you to Brother Jesse Bulluck (*Langston Chapter, Charlotte Alumni Chapter*) for organizing P.A.D.’s Mental Health Awareness initiatives in conjunction with the P.A.D. Health Initiative.



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Phi Alpha Delta is a proud member of the Professional Fraternity Association.

THE REPORTER

(ISSN-01-0149-8754)

Andrew D. Sagan, Executive Director
606 Baltimore Ave. Ste. 303, Towson, MD 21204 • Volume 69 – Number 3
Published quarterly. An official publication of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International. Postmaster send change of address to 606 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 303, Towson, MD 21204 USA. Periodical postage paid at Towson, MD 21286-2205 and additional entries.

The Reporter is sent to all dues-paying alumni of the Fraternity without charge.
The Reporter welcomes letters to the editor, chapter and alumni news, and obituary notices. All such materials will be published at the discretion of the editor and should include photographs, if appropriate.

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Health Initiative—A Primer

By Nicole Winget (Willis Chapter, Triangle Area Alumni Chapter, Board Member at-Large)

Health and fitness are essential components to staying on top of your game and being the best you can be in law school, during the bar exam, in your career, and everything that follows. Physical fitness, a balanced approach to nutrition, and good mental health are all essential to us if we want to thrive as members of our profession.

Did you know that Phi Alpha Delta supports all of these goals through the P.A.D. Health Initiative?

Established in 2015 by Brother Matt Bakke (*Monroe Chapter*), the Health Initiative has become a group that supports

each other on fitness goals, shares tips and tricks for staying healthy, and discusses related issues that we face as members of the profession. Our core platform is our Facebook group, but events have spread far and wide.

At the 2016 and 2018 P.A.D. Conventions, the Health Initiative sponsored everything from kettle bell classes to yoga sessions. We've done push-up challenges on the floors of conventions and conferences, we've encouraged each other to get up and move by sponsoring the "Walk to Convention." In October 2018, we started the discussion about mental



health by joining in on the wear green campaign to #CureStigma.

We encourage chapters and districts to embrace the Health Initiative and come up with great fitness and wellness programs for your chapter.

Make sure to join the Facebook group by searching "PAD Health Initiative" and keep an eye on *The Reporter* for our next installment of the health initiative column. We hope to get you hooked!



Phi Alpha Delta epitomizes Integrity, Courage, Service, Compassion, Innovation, Diversity, & Professionalism. Going forward, we want the P.A.D. brand to be synonymous with these Core Values.

To do so, we are spotlighting members, events, law firms, and other organizations who share these values. In this issue look for the "courage" core value icon to indicate which articles feature this issue's P.A.D. Core Value.

Next issue of *The Reporter* will be themed to "innovation." Do you have a particularly innovative career, job, or internship? Has your chapter implemented a new program? Tell us how you are innovating as a P.A.D. alum or student—we want to know! Email cory@pad.org to submit content for upcoming issues of *The Reporter*.

Cornell Internship

By Evan Bostrom (*Cornell University Pre-Law Chapter, Public Relations Chair*)

If you had asked me a year ago what I thought I would be doing for my sophomore summer, I would have responded something along the lines of, “making spreadsheets and getting my boss coffee.” Nowadays, most internships that are targeted at undergrads anticipate their extraordinarily talented applicants to alternate between “delivery service” and “file cabinet organizer.” While they build work ethic and offer experience, these types of experiences can be so disenchanting to young people that they deter us from pursuing careers that we’re passionate about. I was incredibly lucky to endure none of that this past summer, interning for a judge in the Civil Division of the Hudson County Superior Court in New Jersey.

My days at the William J. Brennan Courthouse were equal parts exhilarating and intimidating. While attorneys delivered their motions, I would sit in the empty jury box, taking notes and avoiding eye contact with the litigants. The judge, a formidable historian with deep roots in the North Jersey populace, conducted his courtroom with zero tolerance for rule-breaking. He relished in interrupting the seasoned, “too cool for school” attorneys who would deliver their opening arguments while remaining seated, and once gave me a very public admonition for attempting to follow him through the door marked “Judge” where I should have gone through the

one marked “Chambers” (please note: they both led to the exact same room). When I wasn’t in the courtroom or reading in the judge’s library, I shadowed the law clerk, a recent Seton Hall Law graduate who walked me through life as a law school student and taught me the ins and outs of the courthouse. He had a particular knack for figuring out when I didn’t know what I was doing, shielding me from the wrath of the judge when I misplaced a document or “answered the phone wrong.”

I should preface the rest of my tale with a warning: if you are unfamiliar with the inner workings of a judge’s chambers (or are set to appear before one in a case), you may find yourself uneasy after reading this.

The work of chambers staff is incredibly demanding; during our “slow” summer season, we were constantly receiving poorly written motions, caucusing with stubborn litigants, and returning calls to snarky attorneys who couldn’t bother to respect public employees. At times, it seemed as though plaintiffs used the courtroom as a means to pursue childish vendettas, seeking damages for claims that were legally valid but wasted the time of the judge and his staff. We heard heartbreaking stories of the exploitation of minorities in the workplace, but those trials would often be followed by ones in which the principal actors could not accept any culpability or responsibility for their actions

(“Sir, you put your car in neutral while you were going up a hill, it IS your fault that the car behind you took out your rear headlights.”) From those interactions, I learned the significance of the courtroom as an institution, a place in which two parties, no matter how influential or powerful, must sit before a higher authority and make a succinct case for the actions they take.

I was so fortunate to have had the experiences I had, during what could have been a terribly tedious summer.

And I only got them coffee once.



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Members can now receive 40% off the regular price of retail items at Men’s Warehouse, Moores, and Jos A. Bank. K&G Fashion Superstore is offering 20% off your entire purchase.

Visit www.PAD.org/MembershipBenefits to access the discount.



2018 Pre-Law Conference, Mock Trial Competition & Law School Expo

Thank you to all attendees, mock trial competitors, P.A.D. alumni, presenters, sponsors, law schools, and vendors for their contribution to another successful Pre-Law Conference. This was our 27th annual gathering attended by over 250 pre-law students and 105 law schools and vendors from across the country.

P.A.D.'s Pre-Law Program prepares students interested in a legal career to make an informed decision about pursuing law school. To support the program's mission, programming included:



The Law Career Playbook: A Guide to Getting the Legal Job You Want

Rachel Gezerseh, *Law Career Lab, Partner at Llang Ly, LLP*

Rachel Tessa Gezerseh (*Los Angeles Alumni Chapter*), business litigation attorney and alumna of Southwestern Law School (class of '07), has developed an interactive presentation for students and professionals to share her experience interviewing with BigLaw firms, getting a summer associate job, and the lessons learned over the course of her career in BigLaw from junior to senior associate.

Rachel developed her presentation to inspire students and professionals by sharing stories about her nontraditional path to BigLaw and also to provide concrete strategies for finding fulfilling work in the legal profession.

Her new book, *The Law Career Playbook*, will be available for purchase in January, 2019. See details on page 11.



Financing Law School **Reyes Aguilar Jr., *Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law***

A Utah College of Law graduate himself, Dean Aguilar began his career in legal education as a teaching assistant at CLEO's (Council on Legal Education Opportunity) University of New Mexico Summer Institute and at the University of Utah's College of Law Academic Support Program.

Dean Aguilar has been an active member of the Law School Admission Council Committees

including the Diversity, the Services and Programs, and the Annual Meeting and Educational Conference Planning Work Group.



Law Admissions: Behind Closed Doors

John S. Benfield, *Associate Dean of Admissions & Administration at Widener University Commonwealth Law School*



Dean Michelle Rahman, *Director of Admissions at the University of Richmond School of Law*

During this session Dean Michelle Rahman and John S. Benfield lead an interactive discussion about what law school admissions panels consider when they view applicant's files. This session provided attendees with the insight necessary to understand the factors that schools consider when reviewing applicants grades, LSAT scores, personal statements, and extracurriculars.

Dean Benfield has been involved in law school admissions for more than 25 years and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Admissions Office and the development and implementation of a successful recruitment strategy for the school.

Dean Rahman has been Director of Admissions at Richmond Law since 1990, and has been associated with the Office of Admissions since 1985.

In her position, Dean Rahman manages the full admissions process, from recruiting prospective students and evaluating applications to facilitating decision-making with the Admissions Committee.

2018 Pre-Law Awards

Phi Alpha Delta Chapters and Officers are recognized annually for their outstanding fraternity achievements and performance, and for the impact they make locally and nationally. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2018 Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law individual, chapter, and Mock Trial Competition Awards!

The Don Hutson Outstanding Pre-Law Chapter Award

- 1st:** University of Florida
2nd: Florida State University
3rd: University of Arizona

The John F. Weitkamp Outstanding New Pre-Law Chapter Award

- 1st:** Clemson University
2nd: University of Illinois-Chicago

The Frank McCown Outstanding Pre-Law Chapter President Award

Dane Pennerman, *Florida International University*

The Fredrick J. Weitkamp Outstanding Pre-Law Chapter Secretary Award

Jacob Nixon, *American Public University System*

The Dr. Charles J. Fleener Outstanding Pre-Law Chapter Advisor Award

Anthony Bastone, *University of Colorado-Boulder*

The Outstanding Pre-Law Communication Award

University of Pittsburgh

The Outstanding Pre- Law Community Service Program Award

"Dance Marathon"
University of Florida

The Outstanding Pre-Law Professional Program Award

"Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Forum"
University of Central Florida

The Outstanding Recruitment Program Award

"New Member Retreat"
University of Florida

The Top Recruitment Award

- 1st:** University of Florida, 136 new members
2nd: University of California-Berkeley, 113 new members
3rd: University of Maryland-College Park, 112 new members
4th: Florida State University, 110 new members
5th: University of Central Florida, 107 new members
6th: Florida International University, 93 new members



2018 Pre-Law Mock Trial Competition

Congratulations to the winning team of the 2018 Pre-Law Mock Trial Competition, University of Florida A!

We'd also like to congratulate those below who placed in various categories throughout the competition. Thank you to all competitors, coaches, and volunteer judges for making it another great year!

Top Three Teams

1. University of Florida A
2. University of Florida B
3. Texas Tech University A

Outstanding Advocate

Elizabeth Bishop,
University of Florida

Outstanding Witness

Jorge Ponce,
Texas Tech University



At left: The University of Florida Pre-Law Chapter accepting their Don Hutson Outstanding Pre-Law Chapter Award.

At right: University of Florida Team A





Langston Chapter members attended the 2018 Convention and hosted their summer bowling get-together with prospective students and P.A.D. pre-law members. Members tabled at the student organization fair and brought Larry Krasner, District Attorney of Philadelphia, to campus to discuss “progressive prosecution.”

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Building an Effective Law Practice That Scales in the Digital Age

By Dana Savage (Truman Chapter, Seattle Alumni Chapter)

Starting and running your own law practice is one of the most daunting challenges an attorney can face. Most of us do it because we have a desire to assert greater control over our quality of life. In hanging your shingle, there are some major pitfalls to be wary of. This Practically Practicing article series will provide tips, tricks, and lessons learned by me, an attorney who chose to be my own boss and managed to make my career a success after numerous failures. In line with Phi Alpha Delta's emphasis on members putting P.A.D.'s Core Values into our daily practice, I will also do the same herein. Enjoy!

No matter where you stand on the political spectrum, all it takes is 5 minutes of reading the news to be alarmed by conflict ensuing both nationally and abroad. One may find it easy to give into the constant left-right battle and alienate colleagues, friends, and loved ones. Those taking a firm stance for their respective political parties, may lead to greater fallout

as this same scenario plays out the United States.

In Phi Alpha Delta, we take stances which align with our values: lead with integrity, compassion, and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession, and the community. We are committed to advancing the ideals of liberty and equal justice under the law. We are a fraternity of brothers and sisters that support one another, regardless of political leanings.

As members of P.A.D. and the legal profession, we must be aware of our own values and those with whom we interact with. Being aware of others' values can help us communicate empathetically and build stronger professional relationships. Doing so in the face of everything happening today calls for us to find within each of us our own version of one of P.A.D.'s important core values: courage.

To have courage, in part, is to have the strength dealing with pain or grief. While I try to avoid discussing my personal life and leanings in the context of fraternal discussions, I believe my own lived experiences, as both a

transgender woman and attorney, speak directly to the topic at hand. Getting to where I am in life now has not been easy. In fact, it has been a journey fraught with anger, pain, suffering, and despair. I have been assaulted and have had my life threatened in the streets for being trans. I lost my marriage, most of my friends, and even some family because I am transgender. I've been directly attacked for being trans in the context of litigation while simply trying to advocate on behalf of my clients. When I read the news, the thought of "am I next?" regularly comes to mind.

Still, I must continue to show up and advocate for those who have yet to find their own voice. Because, as my staunchly conservative father puts it, "You are a human being, and nobody deserves to be treated this way." When this journey began, my family was dead-set against me being trans. During the worst of times, it took my everything to refrain from lashing out and instead choosing to help my father (and many others in my

Continued on next page.

Image credit: © iStock.com/ Zentangle

Continued from page 8.

life) reach a place where they realized his views towards trans people need to be re-examined. It was a fight that was well-worth it. Instead of being alone in the world, I now have a circle of loved ones that embrace me for being my authentic self. I now have my father rooting for his daughter to succeed. Being aware of my father's values enabled me to advocate for myself from a place of empathy and compassion to bridge the divide.

In your practice as an attorney you may have to fight for someone that is unjustly attacked. We are in a unique position where we can either escalate or de-escalate to significant degrees on a legal level. It takes guts to enter into this kind of life and fight for a cause; but it takes real courage to venture forth into hostile territory and listen to what your opposition thinks about your stance and lead with empathy for their position while remaining steadfast in your convictions.

I've won my fair share of court battles, but what I consider to be my greatest victories are the battles that were avoided when I and/or my opposing counsel were able to stop fighting for 5 seconds so we could walk the parties to a place of understanding and compromise. Doing so can save those you serve from hardship. It can avoid putting strain and poisonous sentiment into society. It can lead to new relationships and understanding with those you once believed were your worst enemies.

This is my challenge to you: find the courage to lead with empathy. Step into the best

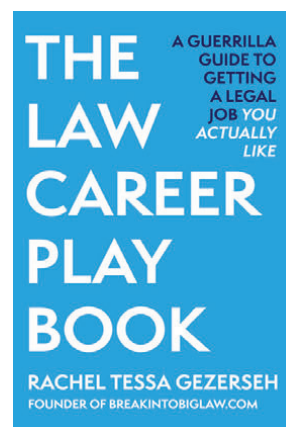
version of yourself instead of falling back into that place of endless conflict. Remember your commitments as brothers and sisters of Phi Alpha Delta, and choose to be an example that others will be inspired to follow.

About Dana



Dana Savage is the Founder of Helios Law Group, PLLC, where she leads a team of experienced attorneys as Managing Partner. In addition to overseeing the general operations of the firm, Dana represents clients in cases involving small businesses, civil rights advocacy, refugee asylum, family law, debt defense, and crisis management.

Outside of Helios, Ms. Savage is presently serving as Clerk for P.A.D.'s Seattle Alumni Chapter. Prior to assuming her current duties to P.A.D., she served as Justice of both the Seattle Area Alumni Chapter (2013–2015) and Truman Chapter at Seattle University (2011–2012). Ms. Savage also volunteers throughout Washington with professional organizations such as the QLaw Bar Association, King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Clinic, and the Greater Seattle Business Association.



Breaking into the job market as a new or prospective lawyer can be incredibly nerve-racking, not to mention extremely competitive. Lawyer, speaker, and author of *The Law Career Playbook*, Rachel Gezerseh (*Los Angeles Alumni Chapter*), found that out the hard way. While a student at Southwestern Law in 2007, Gezerseh realized first-hand the ferocity of the post-graduation job market, and she knew the only way to differentiate herself was through her own personal branding and marketing, things she hadn't learned in class.

Through a lot of trial and error, Rachel landed her dream career in law, and now uses her self-taught expertise to mentor and guide aspiring law professionals to legal careers they'll love. *The Law Career Playbook* explains the importance of resume-building and networking in the field. It also educates readers on branding strategies that will set them apart from the competition, no matter their background.

Stay tuned, Rachel's book will be available for discounted purchase to P.A.D. members this January, 2019.



First Responders P.A.D. Grant

By Glenn Milgram (*Touro Chapter,
New Jersey Statewide Alumni Chapter*)

At P.A.D.'s 62nd Biennial Convention, the formation of the "Milgram Family Service Grant" was announced. The members, delegates and their family members were urged to apply for the Grant so that the inaugural winner of the grant could be announced at convention.

The Grant has been established to honor the unquestionable community service which is provided by First Responders and to show appreciation to those family members who are subject to stressors felt by the unpredictability of the life of a First Responder. The Service Grant shall be awarded each year (so long as the funding exists) to a member of Phi Alpha Delta in good standing who is, or has been, a First Responder or to an immediate family member of a "First responder". The Grant consists of a single award of

\$250 given to the recipient who is encouraged, but not obligated, to give "with no strings attached", the monies to an individual, or individuals, of the recipient's own choosing who they believe would best benefit from receiving those funds [*no explanation required*].

The inaugural recipient of the Milgram Family Service Grant is Alyssa V. Soto (Goldwater Chapter), who was in attendance at convention as a student delegate for her chapter. Ms. Soto was honored for her service to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, as a Police Communications Dispatcher, and for her service to Goldwater Chapter. Ms. Soto graciously accepted the grant and has pledged to turn over the monies received to the family members of Trooper Tyler Edenhoefer who lost his life on July 25, 2018.

To be considered for the Milgram Family Service Grant, complete a Grant Application which can be found at www.PAD.org and send it to Emily Baranoski, Director of Law & Alumni Operations, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International, 606 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 303, Towson, Maryland 21204. you will be requested to provide a short description as your duties as a First Responder OR how you are affected by the stressors of being a family member of a First Responder. If at the time of your application you have an idea as to how the grant may be used by you, feel free to provide the information as well. Applications should be submitted by May 31st to be considered.

If you wish to contribute to said grant you may do so by contributing on the donation page at www.PAD.org or by contacting Emily Baranoski, Director of Law & Alumni Operations at 410-347-3118 or emily@pad.org.



2018 Founders' Day of Giving

On Thursday, November 8, 2018 P.A.D. brothers and sisters across the country came together to celebrate Phi Alpha Delta's 116th Founders' Day. To celebrate, the Phi Alpha Delta International Foundation hosted the second annual P.A.D. Founders' Day of Giving. This day is a chance to give back to your fraternity and make a difference to impact current and future brothers and sisters, the legal profession and education, and the community.

Thank you to our P.A.D. brothers, sisters, and family for helping us exceed our goal and raise \$12,705.12 for the Phi Alpha Delta International Foundation. Funds raised create opportunities for all members to develop leadership, professional, and advocacy skills. These opportunities continue to grow in the form of scholarship, grants, and in the financial support of P.A.D. national event attendance. Thank you for being part of our 116 year history and for being part of the second annual P.A.D. Founders' Day of Giving.

APUS Pre-Law Chapter: Strength in Uniqueness

By April Cuthbertson Carter (*APUS Pre-Law Chapter Vice Justice*)

Like many other chapters of Phi Alpha Delta, the American Public University System (APUS) Pre-Law Chapter proudly displays P.A.D. pride in our beloved fraternity. However, our chapter has a uniqueness that some may see as a constraint, but we see as a strength. APUS is a completely online institution. Although the chapter members may be geographically separated, we are as close as ever fraternally. Carrying on P.A.D.'s traditions and core values of integrity, compassion, courage, professionalism, service, diversity, and innovation is not lost on our chapter, as members are consistently involved in personal development and seeking advancement for all of society.

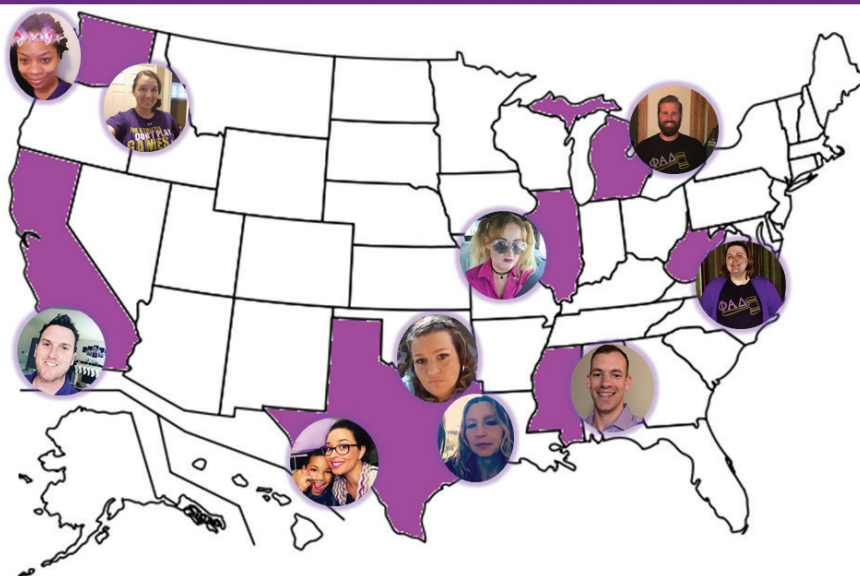
Being an online university does not limit us to supporting just the local communities around the school like a brick and mortar university

might; we are able to get involved with many different communities around the country and in some cases, around the world. Through the efforts of our members that serve in the armed forces, we are able to support the P.A.D. mission of advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community in many ways internationally.

Holding regular meetings and maintaining communication with our executive board, faculty advisors, and general members helps us accomplish our goals and keep our chapter strong. This was perfectly displayed when our mock trial team placed 8th overall in the 2018 P.A.D. Pre-Law national Mock Trial Competition. That would not have been possible without the dedication of our members,

expertise of the faculty advisors, and consistent communication. Communication has assisted us greatly as we explore alternative philanthropic opportunities such as the Virtual Strides campaign that we are currently involved in to support the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

Striving for betterment, we will continue upholding our institutional and fraternity core values. Hosting many guest speakers from a wide range of disciplines help our members in their decisions about the future. Developing our members as they transition into law schools throughout the country or into another profession is something we hold highly, as we are helping to mold the law practitioners and leaders of the tomorrow. Spreading P.A.D. Pride is what we do!



Lusk Chapter at Willamette Law reached their goal of sending 21 stockings to send overseas as a part of Stockings for Soldiers; an organization that helps improve the morale and welfare of deployed members of the U.S. armed forces.

Chapter

1



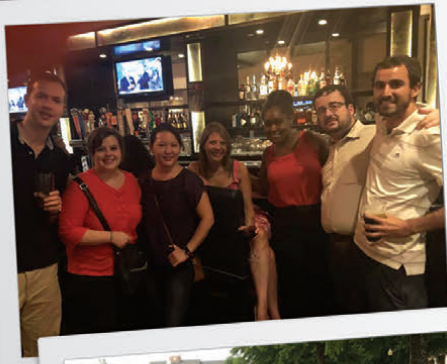
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1. Burger Chapter
2. Cherry Chapter
3. Members from District XVI at the 2018 Convention
4. Hollowell Chapter Health Initiative
5. Bradwell Chapter

6. Boston Alumni Chapter
7. District XX Conference
8. Penn State University Pre-Law Chapter
9. Read Chapter
10. Meck Chapter

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Locations:

- 11. Troy University Pre-Law Chapter
- 12. White Chapter
- 13. Watson, Jr. Chapter
- 14. UCLA Pre-Law Chapter reactivation
- 15. Lamar Chapter

- 16. Brewer Chapter
- 17. Harlan Chapter
- 18. Southern Methodist University Pre-Law Chapter
- 19. Knoxville Alumni Chapter
- 20. Hardy Chapter



PHI ALPHA DELTA

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As a Phi Alpha Delta alum, you have the opportunity to participate in P.A.D.'s signature, annual event, P.A.D. Day at the Supreme Court of the United States, and be admitted to the Supreme Court Bar, Monday June 3, 2019. Registration will open in January, 2019.

We make the admission process smooth, affordable and memorable for P.A.D. alumni. As five of the Supreme Court Justices are P.A.D. members, we've been honored to welcome them for visiting and light Q&A's post-ceremony in previous years.

If you'd like to be added to the P.A.D. Day list to receive more information, please email Director of Communications Cory Freeman at cory@pad.org.