



PLANC Points

Newsletter of the
Pre-Law Advisors National Council

PLANC - the Pre-Law Advisors National Council - unites leaders from six regional pre-law advisors associations (APLAs) and partner organizations. We work together to advance the pre-law advising profession and improve pre-law services for students.

Fall 2023 In this Issue

Chair's Message	2-3
2023 Wilson Award Recipient	4
2024 Wilson Award and Emerging Leader Award Nominations	4-5
PLANC 2024 Conference Chair Remarks	5-8
Follow PLANC2024 on Instagram!	9
PLANC Board	10
Regional Associations & At-Large Members	11



Chair's Message



Martha Kirby, PLANC Chair
Associate Director of Admissions
Director of Global Engagement
University of Iowa College of Law

One must look no further than the fabulous conferences delivered by the APLAs in 2023 to understand the enormity of the changes we are navigating in our profession. SAPLA: *Back to the Future*, MAPLA: *Winds of Change*, SWAPLA: *Deep in the Heart of Pre-Law: Navigating New Frontiers*, WAPLA: *Pre-Law Advising in a Changing Landscape*, PCAPLA: *Don't Stop Believin': Advising for Transition in a Changing Landscape*, and NAPLA celebrated its 50th anniversary with *Beyond 50: Pre-Law Advising in an Evolving World*.

Delivering quality pre-law services to our students amidst this sea of change requires us to keep informed of all the developments, and consider the nuanced changes needed to the advice we provide. Your APLAs did not disappoint, delivering quality professional development to hundreds of pre-law advisors throughout the country. Congratulations and thanks to each APLA for your commitment to the pre-law advising profession!

After the knowledge gained through the 2023 APLA conferences, we should be ready to deliver on the theme for **PLANC 2024: Predicting Pre-Law! Kevin Freeman, conference chair, and Rita Ralston, programming chair**, along with all the conference krewes, are hard at work to ensure that PLANC 2024 is your definitive source for professional development in the upcoming year. We'll see you in New Orleans in June!

For those of you new to PLANC, we are a national organization whose mission is, "...to serve as a resource for the regional associations and provide support for the common interests of pre-law advisors by facilitating and advocating for shared goals and interests at the national level..." You can find our full vision and mission statements on our [website](#). The voting membership consists of representatives of the six regional APLAs, and associate members include the **LSAC, AccessLex, NALP, and CLEO**. Like the APLAs, the PLANC board is entirely volunteer service and I am consistently impressed and awed at the board members' generosity of spirit and commitment to contributing to our profession. Each year we have some turnover of APLA representatives on the PLANC Board and I want to express my gratitude to **Lauren Dropkin (NAPLA), Mark Brown (SAPLA), Ana Alvarez (SWAPLA), and Sandy Self**



(Past-Chair) for their thoughtful service. Welcome to **Maya Russell (Chair-Elect)**, **Scott Boddery (NAPLA)**, **Marcy Burden (SAPLA)**, **Carol Riddock (SAPLA)**, and **Chris Riley (SWAPLA)**, and **Nicole Netkins-Collins (NALP)** to the PLANC Board!

The PLANC Board is thrilled to announce the adoption of the **PLANC Strategic Plan at our October board meeting!** It will be posted on our website very soon and is designed to give PLANC concrete steps to move forward in the midst of change. Many thanks to each iteration of the Strategic Planning Committee for their excellent work. We are looking forward to engaging our national professional network in advocating for the pre-law profession. My only regret is that I will not be on the Board to help implement the plan. As many of you know, I have hopped the fence to law school admissions. Though the PLANC bylaws do not preclude me from serving my term as Chair, I feel strongly that the Pre-Law Advisors National Council should be run by pre-law advisors. My heartfelt thanks to Chair-Elect Maya Russel for graciously agreeing to ascend to the Chair position a full 18 months before expected, on January 1, 2024.

Finally, as I reflect on my time as a pre-law advisor it is clear that my involvement in my regional APLA was essential to my professional development. I encourage each of you to be involved with your APLA as a member, and perhaps even as a board member. The knowledge gained from engaging in these organizations allowed me to provide my institution and my students far better services than had I gone it alone. Most of us are unicorns on our campuses; finding our herd is empowering!

I hope you all have a peaceful winter break and a fabulous start to 2024!





PLANC
Pre-Law Advisors National Council

2023 Wilson Award Recipient



The 2023 recipient of the Dean Gerald Lee Wilson Award for Excellence in Pre-Law Advising is **Don Racheter, Lecturer and Mock Trial Coach, Brian Lamb School of Communications at Purdue University.**

Don has been a vital asset to the pre-law advising community through his leadership and service across multiple institutions in the midwest region. He has held leadership roles in MAPLA as President-elect, President, Past President, and currently serves as Treasurer for both PLANC and MAPLA. Two MAPLA honors - the Racheter MAPLA Impact Award and the Racheter DEI Membership Scholarship - have been established in his name.

As a nominator described, “... *Don has also been involved in professional organizations serving pre-law students across the country. Don helped found the American Mock*

Trial Association (AMTA)...the Dr. Donald P. Racheter Mock Trial Invitational was established at Central College...Don’s dedication to the pre-law community has been significant, sustained, and impactful. His decades of service to our community and our students deserve PLANC recognition..”

Congratulations, Don!

2024 Wilson Award and Emerging Leader Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for two PLANC awards for outstanding pre-law advising.

The Dean Gerald Lee Wilson Award for Excellence in Pre-Law Advising

The Dean Gerald Lee Wilson Award for Excellence in Pre-Law Advising recognizes an individual who has made significant and

sustained contributions to the pre-law advising community at the national or regional level. In the spirit of the great legacy of the award’s namesake, this award is intended to recognize service beyond that provided to an individual’s institution or



prospective law students. This award recognizes service to the whole of the pre-law community.

- [Learn more about the Wilson Award and past recipients](#)
- [Nominate an outstanding pre-law advisor! - Due January 29, 2024](#)

Emerging Leader Award

PLANC's Emerging Leader Award recognizes newer advisors who have made a

significant contribution to and impact on the pre-law advising community beyond their institution and have demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing service at a national level.

- [Learn more about the Emerging Leader Award](#)
- [Nominate an emerging leader in pre-law advising - Due January 29, 2024](#)



PLANC 2024 Conference Chair Remarks

Kevin Freeman
Program Director, Pre-Law Services
The Ohio State University
PLANC 2024 Conference Chair

Predicting Pre-Law...Daunting, isn't it? The legal profession is often accused of being slow to adapt but how we advise and support would-be attorneys seems to be everchanging. By the time we meet in New Orleans for PLANC 2024 it will have been eight years since we last gathered in Chicago. In that time we've seen **half a dozen law schools close**, **UNT Dallas open**, and several more **change names**. 1L enrollment in 2015-2016 was at its **lowest in decades**, dovetailing with an **increase in scholarships** as law schools competed for fewer students. Who knew



then that the **GRE** would become an option at half the nation's law schools? Or guessed that the LSAT would swap paper and pencil for **digital tablets**, only to move online less than a year later (hello **LSAT Flex**)? The partnership with **Khan Academy** that will soon transform had yet to even begin. Of course we *thought* we'd be addressing much of this in ~~2020~~ 2021 (who among us could have predicted how long **COVID** was going to last?) yet here we are, four years after the world was upended and we're still dealing with the fallout – academically, emotionally, professionally. And often as not doing so **virtually**, as law fairs, workshops, and advising appointments all moved online (if you were prescient and invested in **Zoom** in 2019, we invite you to check out the PLANC Sponsorship page).

As we approach 2024, change certainly isn't abating. This past year alone we've seen the introduction of **JD Next**, learned of an impending revision to the LSAT (farewell **Logic Games**), struggled with the return of **in-person** testing, and dealt with the fallout from a **Supreme Court** decision. Back in March most of us had never heard of ChatGPT and now "**generative AI**" is everywhere – law schools may not be embracing it but law firms certainly are.

Perhaps there's no better way to measure how much has changed than to consider who **we** are. Raise your hand if you've been a pre-law advisor or law school admission officer less than 8 years! We'll need a new category for conference attendees who are

"**first-timers**" at PLANC 2024 yet have several years of experience.

One thing we can predict is how much we're looking forward to seeing each other in New Orleans! **Over 30 volunteers** on several krewes are working to put together a conference that will be lit AF (okay, maybe 2016 slang should remain in the past). Dozens of conference sessions and workshops, receptions and APLA business meetings, a keynote, a huge law fair for pre-law advisors, all in the heart of one of America's most vibrant cities. It's shaping up to be a fantastic opportunity to learn and network with old colleagues and new acquaintances.

As we approach the "**6 months to geaux!**" mark, we have several important updates to share:

- [Early Bird registration will start Monday January 8th](#) so be sure to plan accordingly. See below for a grid of registration rates and dates and watch for the official announcement in January that registration has opened.
- [Hotel reservations at the InterContinental \(IC\) New Orleans are now available*](#) and we've beaten inflation! We're excited to offer a block of rooms at the same rate they would have been in 2020, \$207 a night before taxes/fees. This rate is good for two nights before the conference starts



and several nights after for those interested in adding some vacation to the work week. [Use this link to book online](#) or use the block code **S91** if you prefer to book over the phone (**504-525-5566**).

- [Sponsorships for law schools and exhibitors are open!](#) In addition to a “Classic Tier” of options, we’re embracing the New Orleans spirit with sponsorships such as the “Fleur-de-lis” package, a “Beignet Run”, a “Streetcar” package, the “Lagniappe”, and others. We’re also thinking outside the box as we look for new sponsors – feel free to reach out if you have any ideas you’d like to share!
- [Hot Topics Call for Proposals](#) is coming soon! While most concurrent sessions that will be presented have been selected (thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal!) there will be a second round for emerging or “Hot Topics”. These sessions should be focused on something that is new, developing, or changing in a way that perhaps it didn’t make sense to propose it months ago and/or is more timely now. Ruminant and be prepared to send in your proposal after the first of the year! The Hot Topics Call for Proposals will **open Monday January 8th and close Friday January 26th**.

*Regarding the hotel, we are **asking all conference-goers to book their accommodations at the InterContinental New Orleans**. If you have points at another chain, please save those for another trip! As part of a process that began way back in 2018, PLANC has a contractual obligation with the IC New Orleans to pick up a specified number of sleeping rooms. We have made every effort to secure the best possible room rate - this contracted rate is part of a negotiated overall package that incorporates meeting rooms, food & beverage, A/V, and other services associated with facilitating this conference. If attendees choose to make reservations at a different hotel, PLANC may fall short of our financial obligation and will be responsible for paying lost income (attrition) to the hotel. This ultimately could mean higher room and registration fees in the future. We appreciate your consideration of this when making your hotel decision! As an added bonus, **all attendees who stay at the IC New Orleans will receive a limited edition PLANC 2024 swag item!** We’ll reveal the item later but we’re sure this exclusive piece of memorabilia will be a fan favorite.

Finally, if you have not already done so, we invite all of you to follow PLANC 2024 on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – not just for the beautiful photos and fun comments, but for the competitions! From time to time PLANC will post a contest on Instagram or LinkedIn with a conference discount or a conference item as the prize. You can’t win



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if you don't play, and you can't play if you don't follow us on social media! If you don't have an IG or LinkedIn account, it's the perfect time to set one up!

Stay tuned for more updates and information about PLANC 2024 in the coming months – we predict it will be worth your while! (We also predict at some point you'll roll your eyes at all the puns). In the meantime, as we approach the end of 2023, we invite everyone to reflect on all that's happened and all that lies ahead.

Thousands of attorneys who were just sworn in this Autumn were just graduating high school in June of 2016. Imagine all that today's high school seniors will face in the coming years on their journey to become lawyers. Daunting, isn't it?

See you in NOLA!

Kevin A. Freeman
PLANC 2024 Conference Chair

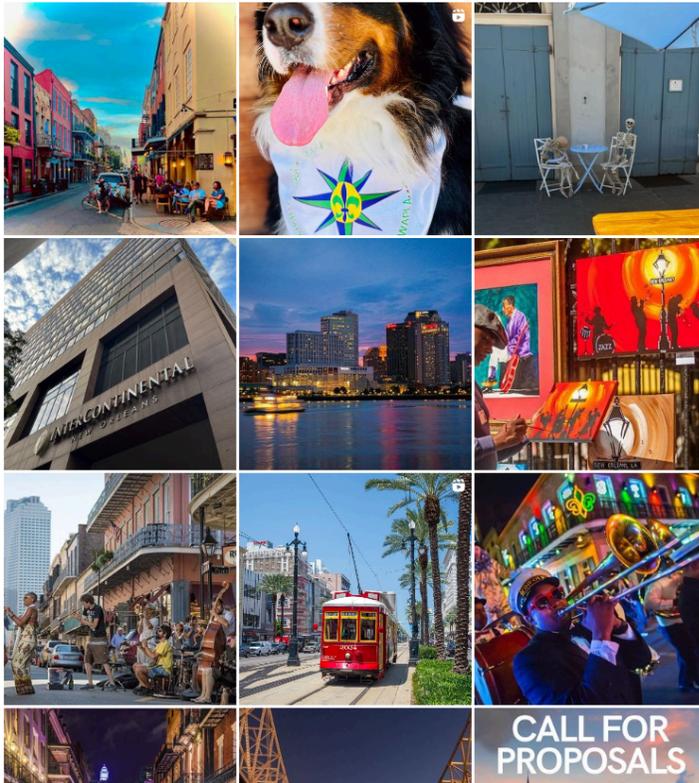
Registration Dates and Deadlines			
	EARLY BIRD 01/08 - 03/03	REGULAR 03/04 - 05/12	LATE 05/13 - 06/10
Pre-Law Advisors	\$ 449.00	\$ 499.00	\$ 549.00
1st Law School Representative	\$ 699.00	\$ 749.00	\$ 799.00
<i>All law school sponsorships include 1 or more registrations</i>			
Add'l Law School Representatives	\$ 599.00	\$ 649.00	\$ 699.00
1st Exhibitor Representative	<i>only available as part of an on-site sponsorship</i>		
Add'l Exhibitor Representatives	\$ 599.00	\$ 649.00	\$ 699.00
<p><i>All registrations are for the full conference.</i></p> <p><i>There are no options for a "day pass" or other subset of the conference.</i></p>			



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Follow PLANC2024 on Instagram!

The PLANC2024 Marketing Krewe invites you to follow [PLANC2024 on Instagram](#) for great information and content related to the upcoming [PLANC 2024 Quadrennial Conference](#) in New Orleans, June 10 -13, 2024!



Check out the Pups of #PLANC2024 post, featuring Aspen from South Carolina, Mason from North Carolina, Finn, Maggie, and Penny from Michigan, and Avery from Wisconsin! Our PLANC membership spans the entire country, making PLANC 2024 an invaluable in-person professional development experience!

And we are excited to announce our first **\$100 for 100 contest!** The first 100 pre-law advisors who follow our Instagram will be entered into a drawing to win \$100 off their PLANC registration! Winners will be notified Thanksgiving week.



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Regional Associations

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Western Association
of Prelaw Advisors



Southwest Association of Prelaw Advisors



Pacific Coast
Association of Pre-Law Advisors
Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington

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