

## **Student Government of the CUNY School of Law**

Meeting Minutes for the Emergency Session held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Emergency Session<sup>1</sup> called pursuant to Article VII Section 2(d) of the Constitution of the Student Government of the CUNY School of Law.

Attending: Kunal Sharma, Milo Primeaux, Colleen Normile, Garrett Kaske, Cristina Castro, Cassie Fleming, Charles Roberts, Russell Davis, Patricia Llanos

Emergency Session called to order at 12:49 PM

### **I. Remarks**

Student Government President Milo Primeaux explained that the students who have graduated are no longer on Student Government, and thus the outgoing representatives are still in office until July 1<sup>st</sup>

### **II. Resolution to Permit Krzysztof Wendland to Take the July 2012 Bar Exam**

Kunal Sharma introduced a resolution: "Resolution to Permit Krzysztof Wendland to Take the July 2012 Bar Exam".

After discussion of and vote on the resolution, it was APPROVED by eight of the nine<sup>2</sup> members in attendance of the Emergency Session. (See Appendix A)

### **III. Vote**

1. Kunal Sharma at 12:49 PM
2. Cristina Castro at 12:57 PM
3. Charles Roberts at 1:21 PM
4. Milo Primeaux at 1:56 PM
5. Cassie Fleming at 1:57 PM
6. Russ Davis at 1:58 PM
7. Garrett Kaske at 1:59 PM
8. Patricia Llanos at 2:00 PM

The Emergency Session was adjourned at 2:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Garrett Kaske  
Secretary, Student Government

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<sup>1</sup> As Per SG Custom and upon the consent and discretion of the SG Officers, this Emergency Session was conducted over electronic medium

<sup>2</sup> The ninth member, Colleen Normile, voiced support on June 21 at 4:51 PM after the resolution had passed.

## Appendix A

### **Resolution to Permit Krzysztof Wendland to Take the July 2012 Bar Exam**

Whereas, as a result of the recently enacted academic standing policies, students who would have been eligible to graduate from CUNY School of Law are not permitted to graduate and sit for the bar exam this July.

Whereas, Krzysztof Wendland is one such student. Mr. Wendland's Spring 2012 Semester GPA falls within one tenth of the new academic standing threshold of 2.5. Despite this miniscule difference, he is being denied his chance to sit for the July bar exam.

Whereas, there is no evidence that Mr. Wendland deserves his present fate. On the contrary, he is a model CUNY Law student. For example, he was hired by the Financial Clinic to run a tax preparation site at Main Street Legal Services. He oversaw numerous paid staff members and volunteers in providing the Flushing community with free financial services. He accepted the position and excelled in his work.

Whereas, his decision to serve the community in this manner was not irresponsible. Mr. Wendland made this commitment before the Academic Standing Committee decided to (1) reduce the Advanced Clinic credits from 4 to 2 and (2) change the GPA standing threshold from 2.3 to 2.5.

Whereas, Mr. Wendland's cumulative GPA is above a 2.5.

Whereas, there is no indication that Mr. Wendland will fail the bar exam and thus upset CUNY School of Law's first time bar passage rate. In fact, he goes above and beyond to help himself and his colleagues prepare and succeed. He has organized a group of seven 3Ls to take the Kaplan on-demand bar preparation course. He proctors the videos, makes reminder calls every day and drives the carpool.

Whereas, Mr. Wendland has reasonably relied on prior representations of the academic standing policy, as is evidenced by the testimony above. In accordance with his reasonable expectations, he has paid a substantial sum to register for the bar exam and a bar preparation course. The academic standing requirements that he relied upon were replaced by the more stringent policy in his last semester.

Whereas, the CUNY Board of Trustees granted the Dean of the Law School broad authority to enact the new academic policy, including the authority to grant waivers of the new policy. The resolution<sup>[1]</sup> adopted by the CUNY Board of Trustees Executive Committee states "RESOLVED, that the Dean in consultation with the Academic Standing Committee shall consider and decide on any waivers and take such other steps, as the Dean deems necessary to carry out the intent of these academic policies," and therefore

Let it be resolved, then that none of the purposes for which these academic standing policies exist is served by denying Mr. Krzysztof Wendland an opportunity to sit for the July bar exam, and

Let it be further resolved, that the administration should in the interest of equity and justice waive the strict application of this academic policy in the case of Mr. Krzysztof Wendland, and

Lastly, let it be resolved, that we believe the administration will do the good and right thing in the end. We believe the administration will permit Krzysztof Wendland to sit for the July bar exam.

[1]The language of the resolution can be found here: <http://policy.cuny.edu/text/toc/btm/2012/02-27/>.

**ADOPTED BY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 20th, 2012**