

## Board of Trustees 2022-2023

The essential function of the Board of Trustees is policy making and responsibility for sound management. The Board formulates and determines the general, educational and financial policies as deemed necessary for the administration and development of the Corporation in accordance with its shared purposes.

The Board of Trustees meets four times a year to formulate and determine the general, educational and financial policies for the university.

### Board Members

The essential function of the Board of Trustees shall be policy making and responsibility for sound management. The Board shall formulate and determine the general, educational and financial policies as shall be deemed necessary for the administration and development of the Corporation in accordance with its shared purposes.



#### Peggy Adams

Marguerite “Peggy” Adams is a native of New Orleans. She received her B.A. in 1972 from Auburn University and her J.D. in 1981 from Loyola University where she was Articles Editor of Loyola Law Review. Peggy has been a business lawyer with the law firm Liskow & Lewis for nearly 40 years. Her practice includes commercial real estate acquisition and development as well as estate planning. She is a Board Certified Estate Planning and Administration Specialist, a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel

(served as past chairman of the State Laws Committee) and a member of the council of the Louisiana Law Institute (currently serving on its Successions and Donations Committee and Trust Code Committee). She is named in The Best Lawyers in America, Chambers USA, New Orleans Magazine’s Top Lawyers, and Super Lawyers (top 50 in Louisiana and top 25 female lawyers in Louisiana). Peggy is a past member of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Finance Council and serves on the Board of Lambeth House.



#### Michael Bell

Prior to his retirement in June 2019, Mr. Bell worked for Callan LLC where he helped build and then manage the firm’s over \$20 billion of institutional investment portfolios for endowments, foundations, and pension plans. To achieve their investment goals, he worked with a variety of external investment management firms, trustee-custodians, auditors, and cash management and transition managers; and he was particularly focused on Callan’s legal, compliance, risk management, audit, tax, and insurance matters as they related to the firm’s investment management activities. Mr. Bell also provided operational, marketing, and business expertise. Mr. Bell was a shareholder of the firm

until his departure.

Mr. Bell came to Callan from the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (APFC) where he worked as its Equities Senior Investment Officer and had overseen the growth of the APFC’s global equities position to \$14 billion, an increase from 35% to 53% of the APFC’s investment portfolio. He has also held various marketing positions during a prior career direction. During that time his employers included a computer services company, a manufacturer, a real estate holding firm, and an advertising agency.

Mr. Bell has strong ties to Loyola and New Orleans. He grew up on campus as his father, Tom Bell, was a journalism professor for 28 years, and his family is the sponsor of the Ralph “Tom” Bell scholarship. Additionally, his daughter, mother, and sister are graduates of Loyola. Mr. Bell graduated from Louisiana State University with a B.A. in Journalism and he later earned an M.B.A. from the University of Alaska Southeast.

A current resident of Niwot, Colorado, Mr. Bell has lived in the South, Midwest, Northeast, West, and Alaska. He enjoys fly fishing and adventuring with his wife, retired U.S. Coast Guard Captain Virginia K. Holtzman-Bell whom he met while attending Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans. Some of their recent trips include fly fishing in Iceland and driving their EarthRoamer Xpedition vehicle from Colorado to the shores of the Arctic Ocean in Alaska and back, a 77-day, 12,000-mile adventure. Mr. Bell and his wife have two children.



**Catherine Bissell**

Michie Bissell is a 1964 graduate of the Loyola University New Orleans College of Dental Hygiene and Loyola Abroad program at Universidad de Iberia Americano in Mexico City. Her career experience includes nearly 30 years as a dental hygienist as well as service as a community affairs specialist for the Regional Transit Authority of New Orleans.

An active volunteer, Ms. Bissell serves as the commander of the Grand Commandry of the South, the Military and Hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem; board president of the St. Jude Community Center; outgoing president of the Southern Dominican Province Advisory Board; and member of the parish council of Our Lady of Guadeloupe Catholic Church.

She has also volunteered for 10 years on the Trinity Episcopal Church Medical Mission to Honduras and Nicaragua, as well as served as the tri-parish chairman of the American Cancer Society, a board member of the Leukemia Society, co-founder and president of the Vendome Place Private Patrol, member of the St. Martin's Episcopal School Booster Club, a football and softball coach at the Jewish Community Center and Holy Name of Jesus School, president and board member of Holy Name of Jesus Parents' Club, president and board member of the Lower Quarter Crime Watch, and chairman and board member of the Human Relations Commission of the City of New Orleans.

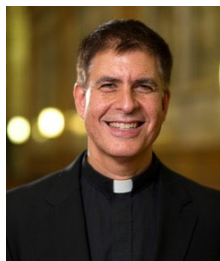
She is currently a member of the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Patio Planters and the city, state and national Dental Hygiene Associations.



**Fr. John Brown, S.J.**

Fr. John Brown, S.J., serves as the 31st president of Jesuit High School, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Boys Hope Girls Hope New Orleans, and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Houston, Texas. Originally from Eunice, Louisiana, he has served over two decades in the Society of Jesus in a variety of works and places including Jesuit High School in Tampa, Florida; El Sagrado Corazón parish in El Paso, Texas; Parróquia San Jose in Tabasco, Mexico; Jesuit Refugee Service in Ozal, Iraq; The Jesuit Spirituality Center in Dublin, Ireland; St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri; and Boston College in Brighton, Massachusetts. Fr. Brown

proudly leads Jesuit High School New Orleans, which is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the its founding during the 2022-23 academic year.



**Fr. John Cecero, S.J.**

John J. Cecero, S.J. is Vice President for Mission Integration and Ministry and Associate Professor of Psychology at Fordham University. Previously, he served as Jesuit Provincial of the USA Northeast Province. In his current role at Fordham, Fr. Cecero assumes responsibility for the advancement of its Jesuit and Catholic mission, collaborating closely with leaders across all units of the university.

A native of Philadelphia, PA, Fr. Cecero entered the Society of Jesus immediately following graduation from St. Joseph's Prep. He received an Honors Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Philosophy from Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA) in May 1982, followed by Master of Divinity (1988) and Master of Theology (1989) degrees from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology (now Boston College School of Theology and Ministry). He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1989.

Fr. Cecero then pursued doctoral studies in clinical psychology at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and at the completion of a one-year clinical internship at the Boston VA Hospital, he was awarded the Ph.D. in 1996. Following a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship in substance abuse treatments at Yale University's Department of Psychiatry, he came to Fordham as a professor, rector of the Fordham Jesuit Community (2007-2013) and member of the Fordham Board of Trustees (2008-2014) on which he chaired the Mission and Identity Committee.

In addition to maintaining a part-time psychotherapy practice, he has given numerous workshops and presentations on spirituality, mental health, and inspirational leadership to clergy and religious. He has published widely around lifetraps theory and practice, and he is the author of *Praying Through Our Lifetraps: A Psycho-Spiritual Path to Freedom*, a book-length guide published in 2002 by Resurrection Press. He is also the author of a series of audio presentations that were produced in 2009 under the title *Spirituality, Psychology and Virtue: A Catholic's Guide to a Flourishing Life*.



### Cassi Chandler

Cassandra "Cassi" Chandler has led a distinguished career as a risk executive and an innovative strategist identifying and addressing intelligence, and operational, regulatory, and reputational risks in the banking industry and in the federal government. She is currently President and CEO of Vigeo Alliance, a private risk assessment firm that partners with businesses to grow emerging leaders, retain diverse talent, and build an inclusive culture that thrives. Cassi also serves as an independent federal monitor with the City of Aurora, Colorado, is an independent Director on the Board of the Leafly, Corporation, and is a member of the Board of Trustees at Loyola University. She teaches diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion at the Pacific Coast Banking School. Previously Cassi served as an independent monitor with the New York Police Department, and was an Adjunct Professor for Intelligence and Terrorism at Pace University's Masters in Public Safety and Homeland Security Program.

Cassi retired as a Senior Vice President for Business Operations at Bank of America, where she was responsible for building an integrated framework to identify, evaluate and assess emerging regulatory risks and assess the operational effectiveness of enterprise coverage areas. She developed enterprise-wide teams and analytic processes to identify cybercrimes, fraud trends and consumer risks. She also served on the Global Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board. Before joining the bank, Cassi spent 23 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), where she directed white collar crimes, financial crimes, terrorism, and cybercrimes investigations and foreign intelligence activities. She led the FBI's training division, redesigned the Bureau's health care fraud and its criminal and domestic terrorism intelligence programs, and was appointed to the U.S. Senior Executive Service as the agency's first black female Special Agent to be promoted to the rank of Assistant Director and the agency's first female National Spokesperson and director of Public Affairs. She retired as the first female and the first black Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Field Office in Norfolk, Virginia.

Cassi is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Senior Executive Service Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive under President George W. Bush, the National Center for Women & Policing's "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" award, and the Norfolk NAACP Trailblazer Award. She served on the U.S. Marine Corps Red Team, where she monitored the Corps' assessment of expanding infantry officer roles to women, and she has served on numerous charitable and diversity boards. Cassi earned her BA from Louisiana State University and her JD from Loyola University of New Orleans School of Law.



### Lynn Coatney

Lynn Coatney is a decades-long community volunteer in New Orleans. After earning her B.S. in Education and a M.Ed. in Special Education from the University of Texas at Austin, she worked as a teacher and consultant for blind and visually impaired students in Austin and New Orleans. Lynn served on the Board of Trustees at St. Martin's Episcopal School from 2003-2010 and currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Louisiana SPCA. Together with her husband, she started the Mike and Lynn Coatney Family Foundation, which supports non-profits focused on education and women's healthcare.

Lynn co-founded Dignity Period, a non-profit organization that provides eco-friendly menstrual hygiene products and education to Ethiopian schoolchildren. Since 2015 the Coatneys have sponsored the New Orleans branch of Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR), which supports survivors of sexual trauma and creates social change. Lynn is an advocate for Loyola's Student Success Center's commitment to provide accommodations and technology for disabled students. She and her husband have three adult children (one of whom is a Loyola graduate) and three grandchildren, all living New Orleans.



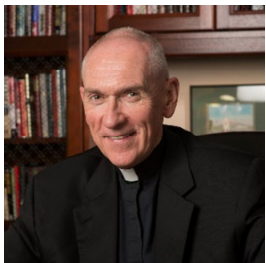
### Fr. John Cunningham, S.J.

John D. Cunningham, S.J. is a Jesuit priest who is an associate professor of Physics at Fordham University. Although he has studied Philosophy (M.A. Fordham University, 2000) and Theology (M. Div. Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, 2005), his primary academic interests have been in Experimental Particle Physics and Astrophysics.

His training in Physics began with a B.S. in Physics from Pennsylvania State University (1983). After earning a Ph.D. in Particle Physics from the University of Notre Dame (1991) where he studied the lifetime of charm-quark particles at Fermi National Laboratory (Fermilab, Batavia, IL), he was a post-doctoral research associate at Fermilab on the Colliding Detector (CDF) experiment (1991 – 1993). At CDF, he studied heavy quark physics, researching bottom-quark states. CDF was successful in identifying the sixth quark, top, in 1995.

In 2006 Cunningham joined a research group at Argonne National Laboratory (Lemont, IL) that was researching Type Ia supernovae. These supernovae are being studied to gauge the expansion of the universe. He worked with this group in simulating supernovae data that was contaminated with core collapse supernovae. With this research group, he also studied the use of television signals to detect high energy cosmic rays. While at Argonne he also worked with the TRICE (Tracking & Imaging Cerenkov) Detector group to also detect and understand cosmic rays.

He is author or coauthor of numerous scientific publications and is a member of the American Astronomical Society, American Physical Society, the American Association of Physic Teachers, and the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (Berkeley, CA).



### Fr. Thomas Curran, S.J.

The Rev. Thomas B. Curran, S.J., served as the 14th president of Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO, for 16 years. (2006-2022). During that time, he led the University, with intentionality, about its Jesuit mission and values, demonstrated especially in its three strategic plans, two very successful campaigns, the acquisition of the Saint Luke's College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the establishment of a number of social justice initiatives including the Center for Financial Opportunity and the creation of the Companions of Chillicothe, offering an associate of arts degree in liberal studies for cohorts of incarcerated women and correctional facility staff.

He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest and was a member of the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales. In late 2011,

he entered a three-year transitional period as part of the process to become a member of the “Least Society,” the Jesuits. In 2015, he made his final vows and was fully incorporated into the Society of Jesus.

Prior to serving at Rockhurst, he was an associate vice president for university relations and assistant to president of Regis University in Denver, CO. Before joining Regis, he was president of Salesianum School in Wilmington, DE, a private Catholic high school operated by the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales. While in that role he was a founder of Nativity Preparatory School, a tuition free middle school for low-income boys. He also served as the school’s executive director.

In 2022, Rev. Thomas Greene, SJ, UCS provincial, appointed Curran as the Coordinator for the new established Jesuit Prison Education Network (JPEN). In this role coordinates the efforts of the province’s six schools of higher education around efforts in education, spirituality and re-entry.

He attended LaSalle University, received a BA in Politics from DeSales University (PA), a Master of Arts in Theology from the DeSales School of Theology (DC), a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University (DC), a J.D. from the Catholic University of America (DC); and M.B.A from St. Joseph’s University (PA).



Rev. Justin Daffron, S.J.  
Interim President

The Rev. Justin Daffron, S.J. was named Interim President Select of Loyola University New Orleans in February, 2022 and formally assumed the role of interim president on May 16, 2022. He brings a wealth of higher education administrative experience to his post, having served as the Vice President for Mission and Identity at Loyola University New Orleans since July 2019 and previously held top posts at fellow Jesuit universities Saint Louis University, Loyola University Chicago and Spring Hill College.

His key strengths are innovative thought leadership and vision, a passion for building community, and desire to accompany students through a transformational experience. Throughout his career, he has built relationships that foster philanthropic investment, demonstrated stewardship of human and financial resources, and advocated for justice, diversity, equity and inclusion. Diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives have long been important to him and over the course of his career, he has been responsible for bringing in a total of over \$5 million in grants to create systems of support for low-income and first-generation students.

At Loyola University New Orleans, Daffron served as a critical member of President Tania Tetlow’s leadership team, starting in April 2019. In 2019-2020, he engaged the entire Loyola community in the Mission Priority Examen, a self-study process conducted at the request of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus and with the support of the Jesuit Provincials in the United States and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). This exhaustive exploration of the university’s Jesuit, Catholic identity resulted in the successful reaffirmation of Loyola’s Jesuit Catholic identity by the Society of Jesus.

Naturally, the self-study process of the Examen heavily overlapped development of the university’s strategic plan, *Courage and Creativity 2020*. Father Daffron played a key role in the plan’s development, jointly leading a trustee task force to advance ideas for long term strategies that would have the potential for strengthening Loyola’s reputation and financial position. He also co-chaired a board strategic planning committee that authored *Loyola in the 21st Century*—an action plan to address future institutional challenges and opportunities in response to the global pandemic.

As Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Father Daffron led a committee that completed the design of the planned \$6 million St. Ignatius Chapel and Benson Jesuit Center, created a formation program for the Board of Trustees in Jesuit Catholic identity and diversity, equity and inclusion, and taught undergraduates about Ignatian Spirituality. He also provided interim executive leadership for online education for 18 months, making way for a new Dean of Online Learning and the future City College.

Prior to joining Loyola New Orleans, Father Daffron served as Special Assistant to the President of Saint Louis University, where he developed growth strategies, particularly in the health field, and a strategic plan for transformative undergraduate education. At Loyola Chicago, as Associate Provost for Strategic Planning and Academic Services, he led a task force positioning the university for the future; he also served as the Vice President for Advancement, leading fundraising and alumni relations. At Spring Hill College, he was Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Father Daffron has served on the boards of Xavier University in Ohio, Spring Hill College and a number of Jesuit high schools around the country, namely: St. Ignatius College Prep, Sacred Heart Academy, Loyola Academy, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, and Strake Jesuit College Prep. Currently, he is the School Chaplain for the Academy of the Sacred Heart, New Orleans, pastoral assistant for the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and a member of NOLA Ready Volunteer Corps.

A cum laude business graduate of Centenary College, Father Daffron did his novitiate training at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La. He holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from St. Louis University, a Master of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif. and a Ph. D. in higher education administration from Loyola University Chicago, where he wrote his dissertation "Jesuits working in higher education: Satisfaction with the core curriculum at American Jesuit Colleges and Universities."



**Fr. Brian Dunkle, S.J.**

Fr. Brian Dunkle, S.J., originally from New York, is Associate Professor of Theology at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. He holds degrees from Harvard, Oxford, Fordham, the Gregorian University, and the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, as well as a PhD from the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of *Enchantment and Creed in the Hymns of Ambrose of Milan* and translator of Gregory of Nazianzus's *Poems on Scripture* and Ambrose of Milan's *Treatises on Noah and David*. In addition to his teaching and research in early Christianity and historical theology, he offers pastoral assistance at parishes and prisons in the Boston area. He enjoys running

(Boston Marathon, 2022) and other sports.



### Benjamin Fields

A native of New Orleans, displaced to North Louisiana due to Hurricane Katrina, Benjamin decided to attend Loyola University New Orleans to continue his academic and athletic career in the Fall of 2014. During his time at Loyola, Benjamin was immersed in many extracurricular activities throughout the campus while balancing his academic and athletic duties.

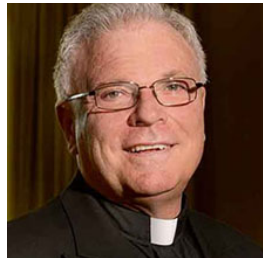
Benjamin's time at Loyola did not lack adversity. He endured three major surgeries that threatened his basketball career and cost him his sophomore and junior seasons on the court. Standing strong in his faith, he used those trials to teach him about patience and hard work. By using his time wisely, he was able to strengthen his body, support his team, and focus on his studies while also being heavily involved in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Loyola Student Leadership Council, Residential Life, Black Student Union,

Student Athlete Advisory Committee, National Society of Leadership and Success, and Chi Alpha Christian Organization.

Upon receiving his Bachelors of Business Administration in Finance on May 12, 2018, Benjamin immediately started a full time position as Business Manager and lead consultant for rapper "Aha Gazelle" and Aha Gazelle, LLC.

In January of 2019, Benjamin had the rare opportunity to return to Loyola University New Orleans basketball for another semester to help lead the Wolfpack to their first ever SSAC Championship and Sweet 16 appearance in the NAIA National Tournament. While back in New Orleans, he was offered a financial planning position in the Central Business District.

Currently, in addition to business management, Benjamin is a personal and business finance professional. This allows him to show his clients the importance of proper planning and execution while equipping them to be financially prepared for any and every situation.



### Fr. Michael Garanzini, S.J.

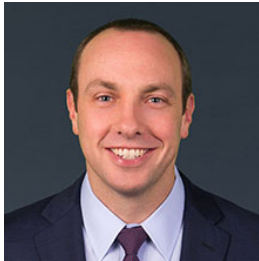
Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J. (born September 24, 1948 in Saint Louis, Missouri) currently is president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. From 2001 until 2015, Garanzini served as the twenty-third President of Loyola University Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. From 2012 to 2021, he was also Secretary for Higher Education of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

Rev. Garanzini graduated from Saint Louis University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1971, the same year that he entered the Society of Jesus. After spending years around the country and in Rome during his training and early years as a Jesuit, Garanzini received a doctorate in psychology and religion in 1986 from the Graduate Theological Union / University of California, Berkeley. Later that year, he returned to Saint Louis University as an associate professor of psychology in the Marriage and Family Therapy program. Eventually, he served as academic vice president from 1995-2000. Garanzini has taught at Regis University, Fordham University and the Gregorian University in Rome. After ten years at Saint Louis University, he became assistant to the president of Georgetown University until his presidency at Loyola. At Loyola Chicago, he established the first institute and now school for environmental studies at a Catholic University and Arrupe College, a junior college for talented minority students in Chicago. After stepping down from the presidency at LUC in 2014, he served as its Chancellor from 2015-2017.



#### Anne Gauthier

Anne Gauthier is active on numerous nonprofit boards in New Orleans, including the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, New Orleans Museum of Art, and Jefferson Performing Arts Society. She is the wife of the late Wendell Gauthier, J.D. '70, a Loyola law alumnus, and has three daughters and four grandchildren. She resides in New Orleans.



#### Ryan Haas

Mr. Haas is a partner at Iron Point Partners, LLC, a private equity real estate investment firm which manages a series of real estate opportunity funds. He currently serves on the firm's management committee as well as the investment committee of each of the Iron Point funds. Mr. Haas' responsibilities at Iron Point include fund management, originating and structuring investment opportunities, acquisition due diligence, transaction execution, fund formation, capital raising, and investor relations. Mr. Haas leads Iron Point's senior housing investment activities and has either led or been actively involved in investments in hospitality, multifamily, and self-storage properties as well as numerous distressed transactions across a variety of product types. Prior to Iron Point, Mr. Haas was with Ernst & Young, LLP, from 1999 to 2005, where he was a manager in Ernst & Young's real estate group and provided assurance and advisory services for numerous real estate clients with a principal focus on private equity real estate opportunity funds. Mr. Haas earned an M.S. in Real Estate Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2006 and a B.B.A. in Accounting from Loyola University in 1999. Mr. Haas is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Texas and resides in Dallas.



#### Nancy Hairston

Nancy Hairston has a unique background in entrepreneurship, art and 3D technology. For 30 years she has been at the leading edge of 3D design software, 3D printing and on demand manufacturing.

After training as sculptor at Loyola University in New Orleans, Ms. Hairston became involved in 3D modeling and animation software during the rise of computer graphics in the 90's. Working for Silicon Graphics, a major innovator in the burgeoning industry at the time, Ms. Hairston worked with the pioneers and biggest names in video game development and film special effects.

In 2000, Ms. Hairston joined software start-up SensAble Technologies, where she was instrumental in implementing "rapid" digital product development between the US and Asia for major American manufacturers such as Mattel, New Balance and Fisher Price.

With years of successful art and 3D technology experience under her belt, Ms. Hairston started her own product development firm designing consumer products, VanDuzen Inc., in 2002. By 2009, through collaboration with surgeons at the UT Southwestern Medical Center, Ms. Hairston began developing new digital processes for planning facial reconstruction surgeries. Through the success of this early development, Ms. Hairston re-branded the company as MedCAD and focused on using the same 3D technologies employed previously for toys and shoes, to innovate surgical planning and manufacture custom medical devices.

Today, MedCAD is a patient-specific medical device manufacturer specializing in addressing trauma, birth defects



and pathologies in oral, maxillo-facial and neurosurgery patients. MedCAD's products greatly impact a surgeon's efficiency and success, while reducing risk and providing the best possible outcomes for the patient.

Ms. Hairston and her partner Tish, split their time between Dallas, Texas and Aspen, Colorado. Skiing, hiking, biking, traveling and their dogs enrich their lives!



#### Morton Katz

Morton Katz is a retired partner in and of counsel for Herman, Herman & Katz, LLC, as well as national firm Herman Gerel, LLP (both plaintiff and defense firms share partners). Katz's practice areas include personal injury, maritime personal injury, real estate litigation, product liability and construction litigation. Katz is admitted in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, the United States District Court for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Katz is a former member of the advisory board of the American Arbitration Association. He is a former member of the board of governors and the advisory board of the Louisiana Association for Justice. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, as well as a Founding Fellow of the Southern Trial Lawyers Association. Having completed Officer Candidate School in the Louisiana National Guard in 1969, he received commission as Second Lieutenant. In 1973, he was honorably discharged.

Katz received a B.A. from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1966 and a J.D. from Loyola University in 1969. Katz is an emeritus member of the Law School Visiting Committee and served as president of the Law School Alumni Association.



#### Stephen Kent

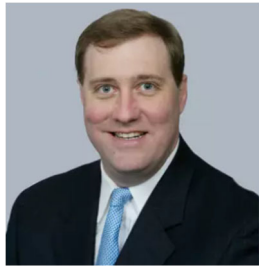
Dr. Kent acted as a system architect in the design and development of network security systems, and served as principal investigator on network security R&D projects, for over 35 years. His R&D activities have included the design and development of network layer encryption and access control systems and standards, secure transport layer protocols secure e-mail technology, PKI standards, and certification authority systems. He served on the Internet Architecture Board, and lead Internet standards activities in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) since 1985. The author of two book chapters, over twenty

Internet Standards, and numerous technical papers on network security, Dr. Kent has served as a referee, panelist, session chair and keynote speaker for security conferences around the world. Since 1977 he has lectured on the topic of network security on behalf of government agencies, universities, and private companies throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, Africa and the Far East. He received the B.S. degree in mathematics from Loyola University of New Orleans, and the S.M., E.E., and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow of the ACM, and an inductee into the Internet Hall of Fame.



**Steve Landry**  
Chair

Steve Landry is a 1983 Loyola College of Business graduate, and a retired partner with Ernst & Young LLP in Houston, Texas. He originally joined the firm's New Orleans office in 1985 where he worked with oil field clients. From January 2007 to April 2013, Landry served as director of tax compliance and accounting with Marathon Oil Company, and later as its vice president of tax.



**Dennis Lauscha**

Dennis Lauscha, a native New Orleanian, has been a fan of the Saints since he was a young boy. He attended Jesuit High School and received degrees in Business, first from the University of Alabama, followed by an M.B.A. from Loyola University.

He first joined the Saints in 1998 as Treasurer and as a result of his hard work, loyalty and business acumen, Lauscha rose through the executive ranks to serve as Vice President, Senior Vice President and Executive Vice President before reaching his now esteemed post as President since 2012. In his role, he oversees the club's financial operations, government affairs, marketing, ticket and suite sales, legal, stadium, community affairs, human resources, business intelligence and information technology. He also serves as a representative for both clubs at NFL and NBA Owners meetings. In addition to his duties with the Saints and Pelicans, he maintains multiple roles within other holdings of Mrs. Benson, maintaining a role in the management of her automotive dealerships, real estate holdings, GMB Racing, Benson Capital Partners and other investments.

Active throughout sports and the community, Lauscha currently serves as a member of the Business Council of New Orleans & The River Region, as a board member of the Audubon Nature Institute, and as a trustee of the National World War II Museum. Lauscha has completed terms as board president of the Preservation Resource Center, president of the regional chapter of the Boy Scouts of America and as a member of the Blight Transition New Orleans Task Force, the Mayor's Transition Committee, the Super Bowl XLVII Host Committee, the 2014 and 2017 NBA All-Star Game Host Committees, the 2012 NCAA Final Four Host Committee, the Loyola University New Orleans School of Business Visiting Committee, the NBA's Team Advisory Council of Presidents and Team CBA Advisory Committee, the NFL's Ticketing Strategy Working Group, the NFL's 100th Anniversary Committee, the NFL's Sports Betting Committee, the Stuart Hall School Board of Trustees and on the New Orleans Museum of Art Board.



**Rob ert LeBlanc**  
Vice-Chair

Robert LeBlanc's passion for hospitality shines through in his New Orleans restaurants. Through his company LeBlanc+Smith, LeBlanc brings an energetic yet hospitable "joie de vivre" to each of his places. Each space is driven by the assembly of a passionate and talented team that is committed to creating memorable experiences for each and every guest.

LeBlanc, whose family roots date back to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century New Orleans, became enamored with the city of New Orleans at a very young age. Born and raised in Houma, LA, his family would often travel to New Orleans to visit his grandparents and many aunts and uncle and cousins there. Upon graduating from Vanderbilt Catholic High, he attended Loyola University New Orleans to play basketball there, where he studied economics and finance. Having always been passionate about a career in music, LeBlanc remained in New Orleans upon graduation to start a record label. That label slowly evolved into a successful concert and event production business. The close ties between the music and hospitality industries eventually led LeBlanc into the restaurant

and bar business exclusively, and to this day the design of each of his spaces begins by answering the question “what type of music should be playing in this room?”

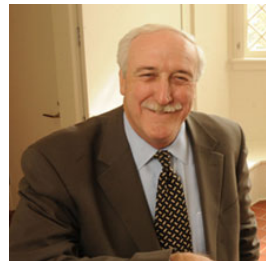
In fall 2010, Sylvain opened on Chartres Street in the French Quarter. The rock ‘n roll atmosphere, which reflects LeBlanc’s experiences in the music industry, paired with the modern gastropub fare and spot-on cocktail and wine programs, instantly made, and continues to make, Sylvain a destination for New Orleans residents and visitors alike. Following the success of Sylvain, LeBlanc opened Sainte Marie Brasserie in April 2011. In May 2014 upon his purchasing the iconic French Quarter neighborhood restaurant Meauxbar, LeBlanc decided to close Sainte Marie and to move that entire team to Meauxbar., which has become one of the most popular neighborhood bistros in the city and serves locally inspired French fare. That same month, he opened Barrel Proof, an authentic whiskey bar in the Lower Garden District. In early 2016, LeBlanc expanded his reach to Uptown New Orleans, with a third restaurant, Cavan, where Zagat proclaims “*American coastal cuisine gets a serious upgrade.*” Up next on the slate of projects is Longway Tavern, a classic neighborhood tavern catering to those who live and work in the French Quarter. Collectively, LeBlanc’s portfolio is considered the most stylish and regularly frequented bars and restaurants in New Orleans and is approaching \$10M per year in gross revenues.

In his personal life, LeBlanc devotes his time to his wife Danielle, a kindergarten teacher, and their two sons, Bear (7) and William (4). He continues to foster his love for music when time allows and continues to pursue his passion for design through a multitude of different platforms. Other hobbies include reading history, playing tennis and boxing.



**James Meza**

Dr. James Meza, Jr. is a graduate of LOYNO’s College of Business Administration, and a member of LOYNO’s Athletic Hall of Fame. He is Dean and Professor Emeritus at the University of New Orleans. Upon his retirement from higher education, he served as the Superintendent of Schools in Jefferson Parish. He has also served as Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dr. Meza was the recipient of The Weiss Award by the New Orleans Council for Community and Social Justice for distinguished service in the field of human relation.



**Sean O'Keefe**

Sean O’Keefe is a Professor at the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs. He previously served in the national government in various appointments to include Secretary of the Navy and NASA Administrator, on the White House and Congressional staff, in academic administration as the Chancellor at the Louisiana State University, and just prior to returning to academic life, he was CEO of the Airbus Group US subsidiary. Recipient of numerous public service awards and honorary degrees, he is most proud to be a 1977 alumnus of Loyola University, New Orleans. He and his wife

Laura reside in Alexandria, Virginia and Skaneateles, NY.



**Bernard Panetta**

Mr. Bernard Panetta earned a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts from Tulane University. He later earned his law degree from Georgetown University. Following graduation, Mr. Panetta served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, D.C., from 1973 to 1979 and then an attorney in the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. from 1979 to 1983. Since 1983, he has successfully operated a private practice.



### Gregory N. Rattler, Sr.

Gregory N. Rattler, Sr. is a Managing Director in the Commercial Banking Group of JPMorgan. In that capacity, Mr. Rattler brings over 26 years of government finance management and over 24 years of banking experience to the Governmental, Higher Education and Non-Profit clients of the bank. Spanning his 30-year banking career, he has been directly involved in financing over \$775 million in government credit transactions throughout the State of Louisiana. He has also held numerous leadership roles within the firm as and served as the 2022 Louisiana Market Leadership Team Chairman for JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA. Greg has previously served Deputy Director and Director of Finance for the City of New Orleans and as First Assistant State Treasurer for the State of Louisiana.

He holds a BA degree in Public Administration (1981) and an MBA (1985), both from Loyola University of New Orleans. He is a 1978 honors graduate of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. He is fellow of University of New Orleans' Institute of Public Policy, member of the Delta Sigma Pi Professional Business Fraternity, the American Society of Public Administrators and the Louisiana Chapter of the Government Finance Officers' Association. He is also a fellow of Leadership Louisiana, Inc. (1998), the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute (2003), and the Loyola University Institute of Politics.

His current civic commitments include board membership on the Community Sailing New Orleans, Inc. and the Finance Advisory Board of St. Augustine High School, New Orleans. Greg is also a passionate member of the Silverback Society which mentors young at-risk males in schools throughout New Orleans. He is also active in the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club and is a member of the Krewe of Bacchus. Greg is a lifelong member of the Blessed Sacrament/St John of Arc Catholic Church where he serves on the Marriage Ministry, the Parish Finance Council and the Men's Ministry. Greg is married to Twyla Rattler and is the proud father of 4 sons and a grandparent to two grandchildren.



### Scott Rodger

Mr. Scott Rodger is a Partner in Maverick, an Artist Management and Production company, who represent artists including Paul McCartney, U2, Andrea Bocelli, Aerosmith, Nicki Minaj, Lil Wayne, The Weeknd, Madonna, French Montana, Shania Twain, Jason Aldean and many more from offices in Los Angeles, New York, Nashville, London and Milan. Mr. Rodger has been in artist management for thirty years and is also a Grammy Winning Music Film Producer for Paul McCartney's "Live Kisses" film. He has secured global number one campaigns for Red Hot Chili Peppers, Shania Twain, Paul McCartney and Andrea Bocelli. Four acts in very different musical genres and audience demographics. Mr. Rodger resides in New Orleans, Los Angeles and London.

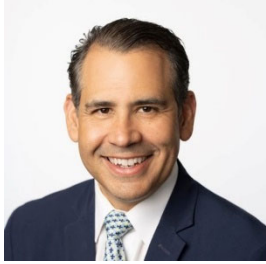


### Leah Schlater-Brown

Leah Schlater-Brown is a finance executive with over 20 years' experience in the Payment Industry. Leah also has a background in public accounting having worked at KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers. She obtained her executive MBA degree and a bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting and finance from the University of Houston and Loyola University of New Orleans, respectively. She is an alumna of Inroads and Loyola University's Upward Bound Program.

When not working, Leah enjoys traveling with her family, indoor cycling, and long walks with her family dog. She engages in charitable activities for the Houston Food Bank, Books Between Kids, and the Houston Arboretum, as she believes in the importance of volunteerism. She is also a long-standing supporter of Catholic Charities of New Orleans and the Sisters of the Holy Family.

Leah resides in Houston, Texas, with her husband and son.



**Dr. Leonardo Seoane, M.D.**

Dr. Leonardo Seoane is the Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer for Ochsner Health, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for LSUHSC-Shreveport Louisiana, and the Interim Chief Executive Officer for Ochsner LSU Health. In this position, he leads Ochsner's continuum of education including undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education programs as well as all research initiatives. Additionally, he oversees Ochsner's continued partnership with the University of Queensland Faculty of Medicine. In his role as Associate Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dr. Seoane advises the Chancellor on the educational mission of the LSU Health

Science Center which includes School of Medicine, School of Allied Health, and School of Graduate Studies. As interim Chief Executive Officer for Ochsner LSU Health, Dr. Seoane oversees the healthcare delivery system in the hospitals, primary care centers, urgent cares, as well as the ambulatory surgery and diagnostic centers.

Dr. Seoane graduated magna cum laude from Loyola University in New Orleans, with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. He earned his Doctor of Medicine degree at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans, graduating with Alpha Omega Alpha honors, an elite designation recognizing excellence in scholarship and the highest ideals in the profession of medicine. After medical school, he completed an internship at the University of Alabama Birmingham Medical Center and residency in Internal Medicine at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) in New Orleans.

Dr. Seoane became an Associate Professor with The University of Queensland, School of Medicine in 2009 and Professor of Medicine in 2020. He has developed novel medical student courses including, the disadvantaged youth rotation, international Haiti rotation, and course on virtues to help medical students manage the stress of being a physician. He is regarded as an expert in the management of sepsis and medical education and has been an invited speaker at numerous national and international conferences.

But most important, he is a loving husband to his wife Michelle Seoane M.D. who is a pediatrician practicing in the Ochsner Health System and a proud father of Eddy and Leo.



**Michael Skehan**

Michael Skehan is a proud 1976 graduate of Loyola University with a BA in Communications. His career started in 1975 at WWL-TV, working as a news cameraman and editor. In 1979, he and his wife, Andrea Roane, moved to Washington DC. Here he worked for NBC News as a cameraman and broadcast engineer.

In 1981, Michael formed his production services company, Skehan Communications, LLC. His repeat clients have included Independent Television News of London, NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, NASA-TV, Merrill Lynch, Nat'l. Assn of Letter Carriers, George Washington University, Horatio Alger Foundation, The White House, Nexstar Broadcasting, The Freedom Forum, History Channel, Howard University, Knights of Columbus, EWTN, GOD-TV, and many others.

Michael is a member of the Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, and the Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He is also a member of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He was inducted into the Loyola School of Mass Communications Den of Distinction in 2016.



### Tod Smith

A native of New Orleans and graduate of Loyola University, New Orleans, Tod Smith assumed his current position as President and General Manager of WWL-TV, Inc. in July 2012. Prior to his current role, Smith served as President and General Manager of WVEC-TV, Inc. in Norfolk, VA and President and General Manager of KMSB-TV/KTTU-TV, Inc. in Tucson, AZ.

Prior to Tucson, Smith was vice president and media director for Peter A. Mayer Advertising, a full-service advertising agency, and from 1999 to 2005, he served as local sales manager for WWL-TV. Smith started his broadcasting career in 1980 with WWL-TV, then owned by Loyola University, as a production assistant and was promoted to engineer in 1982 while working toward his college degree. Upon completing his degree, Smith joined Shell Oil Company and served in a variety of professional and supervisory positions including assignments in Houston, Texas; Wood River, Illinois; and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He rejoined WWL-TV in 1993 as a marketing executive and in 1995, was named director of research and audience development. He also served as an adjunct professor of Marketing at Tulane University from 2002-2005 and was named President & General Manager of KMSB-TV/KTTU-TV in June of 2006. Smith has been an active member of several professional and community organizations. He's a former board chair for the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, as well as a member of the board of directors for Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana, Children's Hospital of New Orleans, the Urban League of Louisiana, New Orleans Museum of Art and The Historic New Orleans Collection. Previous board memberships include the Downtown Norfolk Council; For Kids Inc. in Norfolk, VA; The Virginia Association of Broadcasters; United Negro College Fund, Louisiana Region; the Louisiana Minority Business Council and Covenant House New Orleans.

Smith holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in management from Loyola University of New Orleans and is a graduate of the Management Development Seminar for Television Executives at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and the Medill School of Journalism. Awards and recognitions include 2012 New Orleans Magazine's People to Watch, 2013 Multicultural Leadership Award from the Louisiana Diversity Council and the 2017 Children's Hero Award from the Children's Bureau of New Orleans.

He and his wife Kenya, also of New Orleans are the proud parents of one son, Elijah.



### Stephanie Stokes

Stephanie Stokes is a lifelong journalist who has lived in the New Orleans area since 1993. She was a news and features editor for 20 years at The Times-Picayune in New Orleans. She also worked as a reporter and editor at newspapers in Florida and New Jersey. A Philadelphia native, Ms. Stokes received her B.A. from Georgetown University and her M.S. in Journalism from the Columbia Journalism School. She is a past board president of the New Orleans Speech and Hearing Center and a past board member of The Lens. Her daughter matriculated at Loyola in 2018.



### Rev. Jeffrey von Arx, S.J.

The Rev. Jeffrey von Arx, S.J. is the superior and director of John LaFarge House, the Jesuit house of studies in Cambridge Massachusetts. He is Visiting Professor of the History of Christianity at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Fr. von Arx is President Emeritus of Fairfield University, where he served from 2004-2016. From 1998 to 2004, he was Dean of Fordham College at Rose Hill. He taught history at Georgetown University from 1982 to 1998, and served as Chair of the History

Department there from 1991-1997. He is the founding Director of the Georgetown Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies.

Fr. von Arx is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.



### Gregory Waldrop

Gregory Waldrop, S.J., Ph.D., works on the art and architecture of late medieval and early modern Italy, with a focus on 14th- and 15th-century painting in Central Italy and Tuscany. Fr. Waldrop's teaching ranges from the art of the western Middle Ages and Renaissance to 21st-century issues of art and ethics, and his articles and reviews have appeared in both scholarly and mainstream journals in the United States and abroad. Before his arrival at Loyola, he also worked in the area of collections management and as executive director of university art collections at Fordham University in New York, where he co-curated the 2014 exhibition *Palas por Pistolas/Shovels for Guns* by Pedro Reyes. Fr. Waldrop was a Rome Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Rome from 2006 to 2008 and during his time in Italy also served as an analyst for CBS News from 2005 to 2008. He currently is also rector of the Loyola Jesuit Community.

Source: [https://www.loyno.edu/people-listing?department=543&expertise=All&combine=&field\\_college\\_target\\_id=All&page=2](https://www.loyno.edu/people-listing?department=543&expertise=All&combine=&field_college_target_id=All&page=2)

## Contact

### *Address*

Loyola University New Orleans  
Board of Trustees  
6363 St. Charles Avenue  
Campus Box 9  
New Orleans, LA 70118

### *Phone*

[\(504\) 865-3849](tel:5048653849)

### *Email*

[Desiree@loyno.edu](mailto:Desiree@loyno.edu)