



PLANC Points

Newsletter of the
Pre-Law Advisors National Council

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In Memoriam: Remembering Don Racheter

We are saddened to report the passing of our friend and PLANC Treasurer, Don Racheter, on February 24, 2024, at Indiana University Hospital in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Don served as Lecturer and Mock Trial Coach at the Brian Lamb School of Communications at Purdue University. He has served as PLANC's Treasurer since 2016, and unofficially as PLANC's parliamentarian, having an encyclopedic recall of Robert's Rules of Order. As stated by PLANC Board member

Larry Hayman, "occasionally [Don] would gently, and sometimes not so gently, nudge an errant or overwhelmed President or Chair with a call of "Point of Order!" if they strayed from proper procedure. With such a rich tenure in our organization and an excellent memory, he also served as [PLANC's] historian."

Don received PLANC's Dean Gerald Lee Wilson Award for Excellence in Pre-Law Advising in 2023 for his significant and sustained contributions to the pre-law advising community at the national level. Equally as impressive, we note that Don helped found the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) in 1985. Don's leadership and ongoing contribution to AMTA was recognized in 2016, when the Dr. Donald P. Racheter Mock Trial Invitational was established at Central College. Each year, this invitational tournament hosts over a dozen schools from across the country to compete at Central College.



Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with Don's family at this difficult time. Don will be dearly missed by PLANC and all his pre-law advisor and AMTA friends and colleagues and by the significant numbers of students he has impacted over his decades of service to our profession.

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Predicting Pre-Law
New Orleans, June 10-13, 2024





PLANC 2024 Conference Chair Remarks

Rita Ralston
Director of Pre-Law Advising, Boston University
PLANC 2024 Conference Program Chair

The Countdown to New Orleans is on!

In just over three months the long-awaited Pre-Law Advisors National Council's 8th Quadrennial Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from June 10th-June 13th and we can't wait to see you there! Who would have thought back in 2016 at the last PLANC conference that it would be eight years before members of the six APLAs would meet again in-person with our colleagues from across the country (and some from Canada, too)?!! This message will highlight some of what you can expect to experience at the conference we're building.

PLANC 2024 introduces a new format that has not been offered at previous PLANC conferences. Specifically, I'll call attention to our PLANC 2024 "Day 1" Program on Monday, June 10th. With a nod to New Orleans food and entertainment, the larger time blocks of the day will bear the titles of "Morning Gumbo," "Mid-Day Jambalaya,"

"Afternoon Étouffée," and "Praline Break." Attendees will get cookin' with the day's menu full of vital information, tips and tools, brainstorming exercises, and resources.

Maximizing the in-person opportunity to build and strengthen relationships among colleagues, "Day 1" will offer high engagement/high participation programming where advisors will meet and learn from each other through facilitated training sessions and workshops led by experienced pre-law advisors and law school admissions professionals. The Day 1 program will be a full day of Newcomers/New(er) Pre-Law Advisor Training and progressive workshops for all pre-law advisors. We'll also have an afternoon option specifically for the law school admissions community. At the conclusion of the day's training sessions and workshops, the group will gather en masse for the official PLANC Welcome and Plenary #1 (NALP Plenary). All in it will be a great kick-off to the next three days of the conference!

Our conference theme, "Predicting Pre-Law" hints at challenges as well as the

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potential for our profession in this time of uncertainty and constant change. The PLANC Points fall message from Conference Chair Kevin Freeman highlighted numerous changes we've seen in recent years and pointed to just a few more that have entered our landscape even within the past year. Our conference program aims to tackle issues that come with all of this change. In soliciting concurrent session proposals, we developed six tracks to capture pressing areas and growth opportunities for pre-law advisors. We have encouraged potential presenters to explore topics aligned with one of the six tracks and to connect their topics and presentations to the conference theme. Together in New Orleans, we will be "Predicting Pre-Law Advising in the Age of..."

- A Growing Focus on Wellbeing and the Whole Student
- New Visions for Careers and Career Planning
- Re-Energized Diversity & Inclusion Efforts
- Testing the Waters: Exposure & Experience Before Law School
- Next Steps: Special Topics Not Clearly Aligned with Other Tracks
- The Truly Unpredictable: Emerging or Hot Topics

We received many strong proposals through our call process, and we are actively working with our selected presenters to bring their sessions to fruition in New Orleans. Between Tuesday and Thursday our program will offer six concurrent sessions blocks, and attendees will make choices from among three dozen offerings. We are confident you will find a rich program full of fantastic sessions that will help you in your work as a pre-law advisor. Even a seemingly

more familiar topic might look quite different today and tomorrow than it did eight, six, four, two...years ago. Advisors new/er and old more experienced will find a program packed with relevant, timely sessions for enhanced learning and active engagement.

Outside of conference sessions, attendees will find numerous opportunities to reconnect and network through early evening receptions. And, it wouldn't be a complete celebration of togetherness without some uniquely New Orleans music and festivities! While most of our conference activities will take place at the conference hotel, on Tuesday we'll travel to the campuses of Loyola University and Tulane University. We know you'll enjoy something special that we're cooking up for that afternoon!

Speaking of what's cooking, when daily programming concludes, you'll have evenings to get out and explore New Orleans restaurants and nightlife. We'll have plenty of restaurant and activity suggestions, and with so much to see and do in the Crescent City, you may even want to extend your stay by a day or two!

See you in New Orleans in June! Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Rita Ralston, PLANC 2024 Conference Program Chair

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A NOLA-Sized Treasure Chest of Resources



PLANC has put together a treasure chest of resources to help you “make your case” about the value and importance of attending the largest pre-law advising professional development event of the year!

- A “[Letter of Introduction](#)” to share with your dean/chair/department head explaining the conference purpose and goals.
- A [Budget Calculator](#) with cost details and context so you can provide accurate expense information.
- The [Conference “One-Liner”](#) providing a streamlined conference schedule of activities, often required for trip approval. *This also lists which meals are provided and which are not – useful if you will be claiming per diem as part of a travel request/spend authorization.*
- Links to [APLA Scholarships and Subsidies](#) with information on how to apply for some of the **\$100,000** in funding from the regional pre-law associations. *Please note that the deadline for some APLAs has passed.*
- Additional [ideas on how to advocate for approval](#) including talking points, funding ideas, and other suggestions.

Once you are ready, be sure to register and book your hotel so you don’t miss out!

- [Click here for registration details](#) and the link to our Whova registration site.
- Be sure to stay with all your colleagues at the **InterContinental Hotel New Orleans!** [Click here for hotel information](#) on how to reserve a room with PLANC’s group rate – a 2024 experience at 2020 pricing!

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Be sure to keep up with your colleagues - connect with PLANC2024 on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!



Testimonial: Dr. Ana Alvarez shares the invaluable experience of attending the PLANC conference!

As a pre-law advisor at the University of Texas at San Antonio, I have had the pleasure to attend Pre-law Advisors National Council (PLANC) conferences since 2012. I have witnessed the educational and social benefits brought to attendees, whether prelaw advisors, law schools, nonprofit and for-profit organizations alike. Attending the PLANC Conference benefits everyone. Of different educational institutions, backgrounds, and experiences, we pre-law advisors have the opportunity to meet like minded people and peers who share the desire to better help our pre-law advisees and universities or colleges. We share our experiences and oftentimes find solutions to common problems. We hear and learn from each other. We also have the unique opportunity to grow our professional network.

It's always nice to put a face with the names we see from our PLANC listserv emails and reconnect with peers! Law schools benefit as well. They have the opportunity to share their news and or refresh our knowledge on law school admissions. Non-profits, such as AccessLex or LSAC, and for profits – as LSAT training companies -share their resources as a way for us to help our pre-law advisees. We are all enriched with discussions and knowledge, have the chance to ask questions, exchange ideas, establish valuable relationships, and get professional development. The quadrennial PLANC Conference, without a doubt, fosters our learning experiences to enhance our own professional work. I cannot wait to meet with and learn from you at the 8th Quadrennial PLANC Conference in NOLA!

Dr. Ana Alvarez is a [PLANC Wilson Award Winner](#), and Professor, Program Manager, University Pre-Law Advisor in the [Institute for Law and Public Affairs](#) (ILPA) at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

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The PLANC 2024 Conference would not be possible without the generosity and support of our law school and exhibitor sponsors. Thank you for helping to make this conference a reality!

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