

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

Board of Trustees 2024-2025

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.

Michael Bell, Trustee Member



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

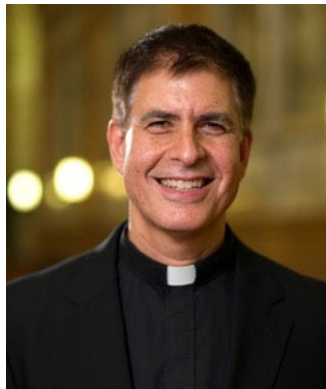
Captain Virginia K. Holtzman-Bell, whom he met while attending Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans. Some of their more recent trips include hiking and fly fishing in Iceland and the Dolomite Mountains in northeastern Italy, and driving their EarthRoamer Xpedition vehicle from Colorado to the shores of the Arctic Ocean in Alaska and back, a 77-day, 12,000-mile adventure. Mr. Bell and his wife have two children.

John Brown, Trustee Member



Father 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 Oza, Iraq; The Jesuit Spirituality Center in Dublin, Ireland; St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri; and Boston College in Brighton, Massachusetts.

Rev. John Cecero, S.J. , Trustee Member



Rev. 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.

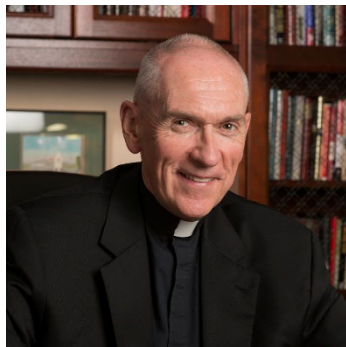
A native of Philadelphia, PA, Fr. Cecero entered the Society of Jesus immediately following graduation from St. Joseph's Prep. He received an Honors Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Philosophy from Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA) in May 1982, followed by Master of Divinity (1988) and Master of 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.

Father 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 lifetrail theory and practice, and he is the author of *Praying Through Our Lifetrails: 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*.

Fr. Thomas Curran, S.J., Trustee Member



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, he coordinates the efforts of the 11 Jesuit colleges and universities involved with college credit prison education.

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).

Brian Dunkle, Trustee Member



Father 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, Trustee Member



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 service position in the Central Business District.

Currently, Benjamin is the founder and CEO of BCFO, LLC, a finance and business management consulting firm.

Joe George, Trustee Member



Joe George is president of Cox Automotive's Mobility Solutions Group, overseeing the company's shared fleet management and consumer mobility solutions.

George lives in Berkeley Lake, GA. He is married 34 years to Kelly and has three children Adam, Owen, Josie and a daughter in law Madison and granddaughter Reese. When not spending time with Reese, he is an avid outdoorsman. He and Kelly enjoy spending time at their ranch in Montana.

George holds a Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University New Orleans, Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science degrees from The Ohio State University and is a graduate of the Yale University CEO college. He is an active community volunteer, serving as chairman of the board of trustees for The Atlanta Quest Catholic radio station and serving on the board of trustees for Notre Dame Academy. An auto industry veteran with almost three decades of experience working with Cox Automotive and several of its brands, most recently, George was president of Cox Automotive's Media Solutions Group, overseeing the Autotrader, Dealer.com and Kelley Blue Book brands and leading the integration of some of Cox Automotive's best-known and most-respected platforms.

Prior to that, George served as senior vice president and chief strategy officer for Cox Automotive. Earlier in his career as vice president of Dealer Services, chief product officer and senior vice president of Operations, he helped launch Autotrader.com and held several leadership positions with Autotrader's parent company, including president, Cox Autotrader/AutoMart Publishing.

Derby Gisclair, Trustee Emeriti



Derby Gisclair '73 retired after nearly thirty-five years in the investment management consulting industry. He was a member of the Loyola Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2014 and again from 2016 to 2022. He was honored with the university's Integritas Vitae Award in 2019. Derby was the co-Chair of the university's \$100 million capital campaign, Faith in the Future, and chaired the Institutional Advancement Committee for many years. He resides in New Orleans and Destin, Florida.

Caroline Gonzalez, Trustee Member



As a Texas native, Caroline attended Loyola University New Orleans to pursue academic and athletic excellence, receiving her BA in Mass Communication (2017). Drawing inspiration from her mother, who also attended a Jesuit university, Caroline embraced the Jesuit values of developing the whole person and the importance of servant-leadership.

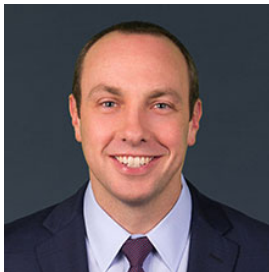
She attended Loyola's innovative School of Communication and Design to pursue professional sports reporting. Being challenged to think critically and quickly as cameras roll, while balancing a student-athlete's schedule, began preparing her for a career in reporting. She fondly reflects on and appreciates the true impact Loyola had on her. The unique exposure to opportunities, mentorship, and connections between Freret Street and Saint Charles Avenue have been invaluable to her personal and professional development to this day.

Caroline is a proud member of the Loyola Athletics Hall of Fame. She shares this honor with her 2013-2014 team, which made a quarterfinals appearance in the NAIA National Championship for only the second time in school history.

After graduating, Caroline began working for the New Orleans Saints (NFL) and Pelicans (NBA) quickly growing into the role of the teams' full-time reporter while still balancing part-time work with New Orleans' WDSU-TV (NBC). Caroline credits Loyola with fostering a sense of higher purpose. This led her to shift her work from storytelling in sports to more socially impactful work on the public relations team for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital – ALSAC, where she informs the public and prospective donors on the lifesaving mission of St. Jude.

In her personal life, Caroline enjoys spending time with her family, getting out into nature and listening to podcasts while cooking or walking.

Ryan Haas, Vice-Chair



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, Trustee Member



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, Trustee Member



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.

Dr. Rachel Kent, Trustee Member



Dr. Rachel Baribault Kent, '74, worked as a molecular biologist in academic and biotechnology research for more than 25 years. She is coauthor of 18 biochemistry, molecular biology, and cell biology publications, and co-inventor on 16 patents covering recombinant DNA technology for discovery of biologic therapeutics.

She received the B.S. degree in biology from Loyola University New Orleans, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in biology from Boston University. She performed post-doctoral research as American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Trainee in Immunogenetics at Boston University School of Medicine, and as an NIH Postdoctoral Associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Cancer Research. She then joined Protein Engineering Corp. (later Dyax), a small biotechnology company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, serving as a Senior Research Scientist (1987-2000). Prior to retiring, she served as Research Director for Molecular Biology (2000-2006) and Research Director for Lead Discovery (2007-2008). The intellectual property held by Dyax, and anti-inflammatory biologics developed there, are currently owned by Takeda Pharmaceuticals.

Rachel is a former member of the Loyola Board of Trustees (2012-2018) and a current member of the Loyola College of Arts and Sciences Visiting Committee. She chaired the Mission and Identity Committee of the Board for three years. She and her husband Dr. Stephen Kent (Loyola '73, Board of Trustees 2018-2024) are native New Orleanians now residing in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

Dennis Lauscha, Trustee Member



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. He 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 and the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF). 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 rt LeBlanc, Chair



LeBlanc, whose family roots date back to the mid-18th 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 uncles and cousins there. Upon graduating from Vandebilt Catholic High, he attended Loyola University New Orleans to play basketball and rugby and 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 closeness between the music and hospitality industries eventually led LeBlanc into the hotel, 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?” LeBlanc’s portfolio of restaurants and bars (Sylvain, Barrel Proof, Anna’s, The Will and The Way, and Barracuda) are considered the most stylish and regularly frequented bars and restaurants in New Orleans. His Chloe Hotel in Uptown New Orleans was named one of the “Four Best-Designed New Hotels in the World” by Cond  Nast Traveller and one of the “Best New Hotels in the World” by Travel + Leisure. The recently-opened Celestine Hotel in the French Quarter has garnered similar accolades.

In his personal life, LeBlanc devotes his time to his wife Danielle, a former kindergarten teacher, and their two sons, Bear (13) and William (10). 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.

Rev. Brian Linnane, S.J., Trustee Member



Brian Linnane, S.J. is professor of religious studies at LeMoyne College where he also holds the Lanigan Chair in Medicine and Ethics. Prior to his appointment to LeMoyne he served as the twenty-fourth president of Loyola University Maryland (2005-2021) and was on the faculty of the College of the Holy Cross (1993-2005). A graduate of Boston College and Georgetown University, Father Linnane received a Ph.D. in religious studies (ethics) from Yale University. He presently serves on the Board of Trustees of Marquette University and has completed terms on the boards of Loyola Maryland, College of the Holy Cross, University of Detroit Mercy, He was chair of the Board of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities from 2018-2021.

Gregory N. Rattler, Sr., Trustee Member



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 \$1.2 billion 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 for the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine (XOCOM), 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 Saint Joan of Arc/Blessed Sacrament 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 four sons and a grandparent to three grandchildren.

Lisa Osborne Ross, Trustee Member



Lisa Osborne Ross recently left her position as U.S. CEO of Edelman, where she led employees dedicated to developing communication, campaigns, and actions that evolve, promote and protect enterprise brands and reputation. Ms. Ross was instrumental in achieving Edelman's milestone status as the world's largest and most profitable public relations firm with client revenue exceeding \$1 billion. Her success pathway was setting a "purpose with profitability" strategy and vision for the U.S., serving as trusted advisor to senior Fortune 500 executives, partnership with higher education, and government institutions providing counsel on business strategy, social purpose, corporate and public affairs, and DE&I initiatives. Ms. Ross was instrumental in creating and executing Edelman's Covid-19 strategy; its Racial Justice; and launching new client offerings like the Societal Issues Navigator and Out Front, that advises clients on LGBTQ issues. Ms. Ross was a contributor and Ambassador of the agency's landmark trust and credibility research platform, Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report.

Ms. Ross is a communications industry veteran with over 30 years of experience as an in-demand social impact, public affairs, and crisis management counselor. She is known for bringing balanced and inclusive solutions to complex business and societal challenges. Prior to Edelman, she served as Managing Director of APCO Worldwide's flagship office. During her 13-year tenure at Ogilvy Public Relations she founded and headed the Multicultural and Public Advocacy Practices and led the agency's Public Affairs Division. During the Clinton Administration, Ms. Ross served as U.S. Department of Labor Communications Director, Deputy Director of the bipartisan Federal Glass Ceiling Commission, co-authored the Commission's landmark final report and was a member of the inaugural team of the White House Office of Women's Initiatives and Outreach.

Ms. Ross devotes considerable time to her philanthropic endeavors, particularly her efforts to build a better Washington and to empower the next generation of leaders. She co-founded and led the Washington Area Women's Foundation, raising millions of dollars to fund grassroots organizations addressing the needs of women and young girls throughout the Washington metropolitan area. At Howard University, she helped establish a scholarship fund for students in the public relations field.

Ms. Ross has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Meridian International Center, Catholic Charities of America, National Partnership for Women and Families, Washington Jesuit Academy, Ad Council and Leadership Council for the Capital Area Food Bank. She is also a member of the Executive Leadership Council and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Recent recognition includes Forbes 50 Over 50 honoree, PRWeek's Power List recipients, and PProvoke Media's Individual Achievement Award winner.

Leah Schlater-Brown, Trustee Member



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.

Jared Schoch, Trustee Member



Jared Schoch is the founder and chairman of TurningPoint Energy, a national solar energy development company currently focused on developing community solar power plants across the United States and investing in every community the company works in. Over his career, he has managed more than \$3.5 billion of solar and energy efficiency projects working with utilities and communities. Prior to starting TurningPoint Energy, he worked for SOLON Corporation as vice president and general manager of the U.S. power plants business. Prior to that, Mr. Schoch spent nearly five years starting and organically growing SunEdison's U.S. utility-scale solar development business. He was also a leader in business development at Johnson Controls in energy efficiency, as well as a marketing consultant in the high-tech space during the 1990s.

Mr. Schoch resides in Avon, Colorado with his wife and two teenage daughters and enjoys hiking, skiing, traveling and a continued exploration of theology, philosophy and all things spiritual. He holds a master of business administration degree from the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver and a bachelor of arts from Loyola University New Orleans.

Dr. Leonardo Seoane, M.D., Trustee Member



Dr. Leonardo Seoane has been named as the Founding Dean for the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine (XOCOM). XOCOM has a bold mission to develop the fifth HBCU medical school in the United States to train more underrepresented physicians for the U.S. Dr. Seoane also serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer for Ochsner 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. Dr. Seoane oversees Ochsner's Academic partnerships with the University of Queensland School of Medicine, the LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport Louisiana, Xavier University of Louisiana, and Loyola University of New Orleans. In addition, he serves as the Chief Executive Officer for Ochsner Health North Louisiana.

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. He continued his education by completing a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine through a combined LSUHSC New Orleans and Ochsner Medical Center program. He went on to complete a research and clinical fellowship in Lung Transplant at the Ochsner Medical Center where he has been a staff physician since 2002. 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.

Dr. Seoane has dedicated his career to training the next generation of physicians, improving the clinical learning environment, and improving the health of the communities of Louisiana. He gives back to the community by serving on the Loyola University of New Orleans Board of Trustees, founding the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) and serving on the Executive NHMA Board Nationally. But most importantly, he is a loving husband to his wife, Dr. Michelle Seoane, and proud father of Eddy and Leo.

Michael Skehan, Trustee Member



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 International 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, Trustee Member



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 both the United Way of Southeast Louisiana and Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana as well as a member of the board of directors Children's Hospital of New Orleans, New Orleans Museum of Art and The Historic New Orleans Collection.

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

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

Stephanie Stokes, Trustee Member



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 graduated from Loyola in 2023.

Cherrell Simms Taplin, Trustee Member



Cherrell is the Co-Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer and shareholder at Liskow & Lewis. She has over 20 years of experience as a trial lawyer and represents commercial clients, non-profit organizations, public entities, maritime companies, and major energy clients in all areas of litigation. She is also a qualified mediator and arbitrator through Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc. (maps), and is an American Arbitration Association panelist. Prior to joining the firm, Cherrell was the Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. Her role was as second-in-command to the City Attorney and included the position – Chief of Litigation. In April 2017, the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed Cherrell to serve as Judge Pro Tempore in Division J of the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. She is also a regular Skills Instructor for Negotiation and Mediation at Loyola University College of Law.

Rev. John Thiede, S.J., Trustee Member



Rev. John Thiede, S.J., is the vice president for mission and ministry at Marquette University. Prior to his current role, he served Marquette as associate vice provost for student success and Jesuit enrollment initiatives.

Father Thiede is also an associate professor of theology and specializes in Christology and Latin American theology. He is working on a co-authored book with Rev. Matthew Carnes, S.J., of Georgetown University about politics, religion and democracy in Latin America and his own book for Fortress Press about St. Oscar Romero and his theological influences.

He is a native of Plymouth, Minnesota, and entered the Society of Jesus after finishing his Bachelor of Arts degree in pre-professional studies and theology at the University of Notre Dame. He completed his philosophy studies at the Pontifical Catholic University in Santiago, Chile; his regency at Marquette University High School, where he taught theology and coached hockey; and his theology studies at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was ordained to the priesthood in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2003.

Father Thiede earned his Ph.D. in systematic theology at the University of Notre Dame and published his first book with Lexington Books, a division of Rowman and Littlefield, titled *Remembering Oscar Romero and the Martyrs of El Salvador: A Cloud of Witnesses*. He also serves on the board of trustees at Xavier University.

Conrad "Duke" Williams, Trustee Member



Duke Williams is a resident of New Orleans. He was born and raised in Pompano Beach, FL and received his B.A. degree in History from Loyola in 1974. After graduating he was accepted to the United States Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School program at the Naval Aviation

Schools Command, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. After completion of training, he was assigned to Patrol Squadron Four based at NAS Barbers Point, HI conducting anti-submarine warfare and maritime air patrol operations in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Persian Gulf. After completion of his squadron tour Williams was assigned to the office of the Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C. as the Manning Control Authority for all enlisted naval aviation billets worldwide. After leaving the Navy Williams returned to Loyola and received his Juris Doctor in 1984 and practiced maritime, environmental and aviation litigation until his retirement from the full-time practice of law in 2018. He currently works with his daughter in the development and management of commercial and residential real estate. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Appropriate Technology and the Committee for a Better New Orleans, a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and a past board member of The Montana Wildlife Federation. Williams is an emeritus member of the Law School Visiting Committee and the Board of Visitors of The Medical University of South Carolina.

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