

time she set foot in a corporate firm, she jokes, was as a “practicing lawyer to take a deposition”—although more than once she’s faced off against fellow alumni who were representing corporations in court.

Liss-Riordan makes clear that her critiques of Harvard (and the recent lawsuits) are not “some sign that I don’t appreciate what I gained from my education there. By bringing these cases against Harvard, I have hoped to push the institution in the right direction, and also highlight the issues and how prevalent they are. I believe that, with its wealth and prestige, and tremendous resources, Harvard should be setting an example for other institutions.”

After law school, Liss-Riordan returned to her hometown, Houston, to clerk for

federal judge Nancy Atlas, for two years, before marrying Kevin Riordan ’90. (The couple live in Brookline, an affluent Boston suburb, with their three children.) She was on her honeymoon in Thailand when she interviewed, by phone, for a position at Pyle, Rome, Lichten & Ehrenberg, a Boston-based employee- and union-law firm. “We offered her the job on the spot,” Harold Lichten recalls—and she worked hard: “It wasn’t unusual for me to leave at six or seven at night and come back at eight or nine in the morning and she’d still be at her desk, not having left.”

Liss-Riordan distinguished herself early, with high-profile victories in employment discrimination cases, and in 2002 was named a “lawyer of the year” by *Massachusetts Lawyers*

Weekly. She and Lichten got along so well, they opened their own practice (it now employs nine other attorneys) and recently added a second office in San Francisco, the better to take on the app economy.

On that front, despite losing the Uber settlement, Liss-Riordan doesn’t sound discouraged. A \$27-million settlement from a similar lawsuit she brought against Lyft, another ride-sharing company, is nearing approval. Meanwhile, she is pursuing a federal complaint alleging that Uber’s star-rating system for drivers is racially biased. In order to be protected from discrimination under the Civil Rights Act, the drivers need to be employees (not contractors); Liss-Riordan hopes the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will determine that’s what they are.

Corporations have always used arguments like Uber’s to depress wages, Liss-Riordan says. But the app economy frightens her. Because freelance services delivered on-demand through apps are relatively cheap, they have become indispensable to affluent urbanites. Everywhere in the San Francisco area, commuters take Uber to get to work and run errands. Both Uber and Lyft are working with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority to provide rides for people with disabilities; Lyft has also proposed supplementing late-night public transit. What if start-ups can convince the public to dispense with the notion of companies’ responsibilities to their workers and society? “If Uber is successful in re-writing laws,” she warns, “it’s not just going to be ride-sharing companies—it’s the whole social fabric of employment that’s at stake.” □

A Special Notice Regarding Harvard University’s 366th Commencement Exercises

Thursday, May 25, 2017

TO ACCOMMODATE the increasing number of those wishing to attend Harvard University’s Commencement Exercises, the following guidelines are proposed to facilitate admission into Harvard Yard and Tercentenary Theatre:

- Degree candidates will receive a limited number of tickets to both the Morning Exercises and the Afternoon Program. Parents and guests of degree candidates *must* have tickets to enter Harvard Yard. Seating capacity is limited in Tercentenary Theatre. For details, visit the Commencement Office website (commencement.harvard.edu).

Note: A ticket allows admission into Harvard Yard, but does not guarantee a seat. Seats are available on a first-come basis and cannot be reserved in advance. The sale of Commencement tickets is strictly prohibited. Gates will open promptly at 6:45 A.M. on Commencement Day.

- Alumni may request a limited number of tickets on a first-come basis through the Harvard Alumni Association (alumni.harvard.edu/annualmeeting or by phone at 617-496-7001).

- Additional viewing is available in the Science Center and at most undergraduate Houses and graduate and professional schools. These locations provide seating, and admission tickets are not required in most cases. The Morning Exercises and Afternoon Program may also be viewed via live broadcast on Commencement Day through the harvard.edu webpage.

Commencement Day Schedule

Morning Exercises: These begin following the academic procession into Tercentenary Theatre. After the student orators’ speeches, the President, Provost, and Deans will confer degrees. The University Band and University Choir perform throughout the Exercises.

Diploma-Granting Ceremonies and Luncheons: Degree recipients, parents, and alumni return to their Houses, schools, or reunion luncheons, or may purchase tickets for boxed lunches at the Alumni Spread in Harvard Yard.

Afternoon Program: The Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association includes the Overseer and HAA director election results, presentation of the Harvard Medals, and remarks by Harvard president Drew Gilpin Faust and the Commencement speaker.

~The Harvard Commencement Office
and The Harvard Alumni Association

Overseer and Director Candidates

THIS SPRING, alumni can vote for five new Harvard Overseers and six new elected directors of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA).

Ballots, mailed out by April 1, must be received (at the address indicated) by noon, Eastern Standard Time, on May 16 to be counted. Election results will be announced at the HAA’s annual meeting on May 25, on the afternoon of Commencement day. All holders of Harvard degrees, except Corporation members and officers of instruction and government, are entitled to vote for Overseer

candidates. The election for HAA directors is open to all Harvard degree-holders.

Candidates for Overseer may also be nominated by petition if they receive a prescribed number of signatures. (The deadline for all petitions was February 1.)

For Overseer (six-year term):

Paul L. Choi '86, J.D. '89, Chicago. Partner, Sidley Austin LLP.

Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar '93, San Francisco. Justice, Supreme Court of California.

Darrienne B. Driver, Ed.M. '06, Ed.D. '14, Milwaukee. Superintendent, Milwaukee public schools.

Carla Harris '84, M.B.A. '87, New York City. Vice chair of wealth management and managing director, Morgan Stanley.

Lane MacDonald '88, Boston. President, FMR Diversified Investments.

Elizabeth D. Samet '91, West Point, New York. Professor of English, U.S. Military Academy.

Craig R. Stapleton '67, M.B.A. '70, Greenwich, Connecticut. Senior adviser, Stone Point Capital.

Leslie P. Tolbert '73, Ph.D. '78, Tucson. Regents' professor, department of neuroscience, University of Arizona.

For elected director (three-year term):

Martha Abbruzzese Genieser '91, London. Director of philanthropy, Alan Howard Family Office.

Nathaniel Q. Belcher, M.Arch. '92, University Park, Pennsylvania. Professor of architecture, Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Pennsylvania State University.

Sangu Julius Delle '10, J.D.-M.B.A. '17, Accra, Ghana. Chairman and CEO, Golden Palm Investments Corporation; founder and president, cleanacwa.

Drew Engles '87, Akron, Ohio. Hand and microvascular surgeon, Akron Children's Hospital.

Sachin H. Jain '02, M.D. '06, M.B.A. '07, Cerritos, California. President and CEO, CareMore Health System.

Elena Hahn Kiam '85, New York City. Co-owner and creative director, K-FIVE LLC d/b/a lia sophia; co-owner and non-executive marketing director, Cirrus Healthcare Products.

Ronald P. Mitchell '92, M.B.A. '97, New York City. CEO, Virgil Inc.

Paola A. Peacock Friedrich, S.M. '06, Ed.L.D. '14, Marblehead, Massachusetts.

Human capital management consultant, AchieveMission.

Leslie Miller Saiontz '81, Miami. Founder and president, Achieve Miami.

HAA Clubs and SIGs Awards

THESE HONORS, awarded at the HAA board of directors' winter meeting in February, celebrate both alumni and groups that have organized exceptional programs.

Larry Kahn '83, of Orlando. An active member of the Harvard Club of Central Florida for more than 20 years, Kahn stepped up as president to revitalize the club, which is now thriving with new members, monthly events, and a healthy budget. In addition, he co-chairs and has expanded the Early College Awareness Program, and promotes its worth among other club leaders. Kahn is also an HAA Board member, having served as co-chair of the Alumni Leadership Conference and two terms as director for Eastern Florida and the Islands.

Walter L. Keats '67, of Chicago. Keats joined the Harvard Club of Chicago (HCC) right after graduation and has since served as the administrative backbone of the organization. For the past three decades, he has overseen the induction of newly elected club presidents, officers, and directors. And as an unofficial club historian, he collected archival material for a 198-page book published for its 150th anniversary.

Acey Welch '53, of Concord, Massachusetts. For more than two decades, Welch worked with classmates, and then with a cohort of other Radcliffe alumnae, to found and lead the Committee for the Equality of Women at Harvard (CEWH), a group dedicated to increasing the number of tenured women faculty. In 2013, she envisioned and created the Alumnae/Alumni Network for Harvard Women (ANHW), an intergenerational SIG that now has chapters in Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C. Welch and ANHW also played an integral role in developing Harvard's inaugural Women's Weekend last fall.

The Harvard Club of Australia, founded in 1961, has long fostered a strong relationship with the University. Its scholarship programs fund nine postgraduate students at Harvard schools and programs each year, and its Australia-Harvard Fellowship reinforces existing academic networks at mid-career and senior levels. The club also offers social, intellectual,

HM Explore More

For more online-only articles on alumni, see:

"Fake News" and the Post-Trump Media

Boston Review editor Joshua Cohen, Ph.D. '79, on the role of the media after Trump.
harvardmag.com/fakenews-17



The Joy of Mentoring—From Thousands of Miles Away

Stephen Ball, J.D. '10, was mentoring a bright high-school student in New York. Then he got a job offer in California.
harvardmag.com/mentoring-17



and cultural events for alumni, as well as a mentoring program. As a result of such efforts, club membership has more than doubled to 500 within the last seven years.

Approaching its 125th anniversary, the Harvard Club of Seattle has also successfully increased membership to about 500 alumni, and doubled the number of club events to 45 per year. Public-service activities have been expanded, and now include participation in the Early College Awareness program and a public-service internship program for College students during January term (as well as a career-focused mentoring program).

Established during the 2011-2012 academic year, the First Generation Harvard Alumni (FGHA) aims to improve the experience of students who are the first generation of their families to attend a four-year American university. FGHA has drawn about 400 members, as well as an active board of more than 30 people. It has also developed a groundbreaking mentoring program, on- and off-campus events for students and alumni, and worked with Harvard's Office of Career Services to organize career panels. The SIG has also supported undergraduates in establishing the First Generation Student Union.