

Karen Keller Application Materials

List all applicable work experience

Shaw Keller LLP

Lawyer/Managing Partner/Co-Founder

October 2011 - Current (14 years, 5 months)

Wilmington, DE

I am the managing partner and co-founder of an intellectual property and commercial litigation boutique that focuses on advising clients and trying cases in courts across the country. I have led teams in patent infringement lawsuits involving agricultural chemicals, human and veterinary pharmaceuticals, high-performance liquid chromatography, biotechnology products, and networking technologies. In late 2012, Chambers USA Women in Law recognized my work by nominating me for its 2013 Up and Coming Intellectual Property Lawyer of the Year Award. In my role of managing partner, I also oversee a law firm of 6 total attorneys (myself included) and 3 staff members. I am in charge of all firm financials, marketing, human resources, and mentoring and training. I also have worked on many pro bono representations, including a civil rights actions for discriminatory arrest, custody disputes, guardian ad litem matters, and immigration and veteran affairs matters.

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor LLP Associate

September 2003 - October 2011 (8 years, 2 months)

Wilmington, DE

I was an associate at a large law firm in the corporate and intellectual property litigation department where I worked on merger and acquisition and corporate governance matters, IP cases, other complex commercial cases and some bankruptcy matters. I sat on the hiring and IT committees for the firm.

Caesar Rivise Bernstein Cohen & Pokotilow Ltd.

Law Clerk

May 2001 - August 2002 (1 year, 4 months)

Philadelphia, PA

I was a law clerk at a mid-size law firm while in law school. During that time, I drafted patent and trademark applications and offices actions before the US Patent and Trademark Office. I performed patent and trademark searches and prepared search reports. I assisted with trademark and patent litigation.

List all applicable education

Temple University Beasley School of Law

Juris Doctor (JD)

Law

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List all applicable education (cont.)

The Pennsylvania State University
Bachelor's Degree
Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences

University of California - Davis
No Degree
Agriculture

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

<p>Certification: As a candidate for the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University ("Penn State"), I certify that I agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct both as a Trustee candidate and, if elected, as a Trustee.</p>	<p>Candidate Response:</p> <p>YES</p>	
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<p>Engagement with Penn State: Describe your connection to Penn State and why it has prepared you to guide the University's strategic future.</p>	<p>Candidate Response:</p> <p>I am a life member of the alumni association and first ran for PSAA Alumni Council in 2012 to reconnect to with the University. I served 8 years on Council (some as an elected member, some as an appointed member; 2012-18, 2020-22) and was an Executive Board member for five years (2013-14, 2015-15, 2017-18, 2020-21, 2021-22).</p> <p>During my time on Council, I co-chaired the bylaws committee and oversaw a complete revision of the existing bylaws and revisions to the PSAA's memorandum of understanding with the University. I also co-chaired the strategic planning committee when the committee was charged with drafting a new strategic plan – Vision 2020: Powered by Pride. This strategic plan fundamentally changed much of the way the association was organized and how it carried out its mission. In drafting the strategic plan, we needed to consider the input of all association committees and stakeholders as well as the association staff. It required listening to many conflicting viewpoints and finding a path forward toward consensus. I co- chaired the awards committee and sat on the governance and development committees. In 2018, I was awarded the PSAA Outstanding Alumni Council Member Award. My time on Alumni Council and its Executive Board provided me with great insight into the University and the Alumni Association's relationship with the University.</p> <p>While serving on the Executive Board, I was also privy to approving the budget and considering and approving new chapters or alumni interest groups. I also worked on various DEI initiatives alongside our DEI committee, particularly when revising our bylaws and the drafting the strategic plan. I learned a lot about higher education through our interactions with faculty senate, student government and the commonwealth chancellors and campus visits. I was a member of Council in the year following the Sandusky scandal when active listening and empathy were critical to navigating both internal and external issues and reaching consensus within the association on a path forward that was consistent with the association's mission but still considered the views of various stakeholders. All these experiences are directly relevant to my preparation and ability to serve as a successful and helpful member on the BOT.</p>	<p>Self-Assessment Scorecard: Do you meet the criteria of Engagement with Penn State?</p> <p>YES</p>
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	<p>I have also volunteered in many positions for the Eberly College of Science. I served on the Eberly College Alumni Board for three years (one as secretary; 2017-20). My husband and I served as co- chairs of the Eberly College Millenium Society for many years. I served on a panel of interviewers for the dean search in 2020. I currently serve on the Eberly College Dean's Advisory Committee (2023-present). My roles within Eberly College have provided me detailed insight into the workings of a specific college within the University, how the mission and plans of a specific college unit fall within the greater University strategic plan, and to help work toward the future of the College.</p> <p>In 2016 I expanded my service on the development side at Penn State when I was asked to serve on the Corporate Engagement Committee. This committee works in conjunction with the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations to help formulate ideas to further existing corporate relationships and forge new ones. This committee has provided an understanding of the role of development at Penn State, the various aspects of a strong fundraising and development campaign and exposed some of our weakness, especially as it relates to the cooperation between colleges and industry relationships.</p> <p>I am a Nittany Lion Club, President's Club and Golden Lion Society Member, and my family created the Keller Family Endowment for Alumni Experiences in Science. I have also been a football season ticket holder since graduation.</p>	
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<p>Experience with governance/board service: What experience do you have participating in a collaborative fiduciary decision-making body?</p>	<p>Candidate Response:</p> <p>As discussed above, I have extensive experience as a member of the PSAA Executive Board in which I oversaw committees that completed a full revision of the existing bylaws and revisions to the PSAA's memorandum of understanding with the University. I also co-chaired the strategic planning committee when the committee was charged with drafting a new strategic plan – Vision 2020: Powered by Pride.</p> <p>This strategic plan fundamentally changed much of the way the association was organized and how it carried out its mission. In drafting the strategic plan, we needed to consider the input of all association committees and stakeholders as well as the association staff. It required listening to many conflicting viewpoints and finding a path forward toward consensus. I co-chaired the awards committee and sat on the governance and development/fundraising committees. While serving on Executive Board, I was also privy to approving the budget and investments and considering and approving new chapters and alumni interest groups. I was a member of Council in the year following the Sandusky scandal when active listening and empathy were critical to navigating both internal and external issues and reaching consensus within the association on a path forward that consistent with the association's mission but still considered the views of various stakeholders. All these experiences are directly relevant to my preparation and ability to serve as a successful and helpful member on the BOT.</p> <p>I also served as an officer on the Eberly College of Science Alumni Board. During my service on that board, we were tasked with trying to re-imagine and reinvigorate the Alumni Board and its role within the college. Again, this involved talking to many stakeholders and listening and considering all viewpoints and opinions in creating a path forward.</p> <p>I am on the Board of Directors for the Evan David Foundation (2015- present) which is a non-profit organization that works with families trying to have a child through fertility treatments or surrogacy. In my role on this Board, I provide my legal governance insight</p>	<p>Self- Assessment Scorecard: Do you meet the criteria of experience with governance/board service?</p> <p>YES</p>
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	<p>and experience with fundraising. This is a very small board which creates its own challenges in that often one person with a differing viewpoint can hold up decision-making of the whole group. This has taught me how to listen and hear the concerns and opinions of my other directors and try to find pathways to push through roadblocks to reach a result that meets with everyone's approval.</p> <p>I served on the Peninsula Community Association Board of Directors, a large homeowners association, from 2018-2019. As a director, we were charged with reviewing budgets, expenses, homeowner concerns and initiatives and capital projects. This Board is made-up homeowners and the current ownership of the development. This provided unique challenges in that often the goals of the ownership conflicted with those of the homeowners. I served as the Secretary/ Treasurer for one year. I also serve on the Peninsula Golf & Country Club Advisory Board which provides advisory input to the country club on capital projects and initiatives and membership issues.</p> <p>Finally, I served as PTO Co- President for Patton Middle School from 2019-2021 where I oversaw management of all school PTO activities and fundraisers, including the new student picnic, book sale, spring carnival and other initiatives. I also served for 2 seasons as the Unionville High School Golf Team Booster President (2022-2024). In this role, I oversaw the financial, fundraising, and activities for both the girls and boys golf teams.</p>	
<p>Brings 1-2 skills from skillset inventory: What of the skills reflected in the Board Skillset Inventory would you bring to your service as a Penn State trustee and how did you develop this skill/these skills?</p>	<p>Candidate Response:</p> <p>The skills and experiences that I would bring to the BOT arise from my professional and educational experiences as a lawyer and in science & technology. In my 22 years as a lawyer, I have worked on a large array of corporate M&A and governance matters, intellectual property (patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, false advertising) matters, contractual matters, and other commercial and business matters. I have worked for individual clients, universities, and Fortune 500 companies in all areas of business, but particularly in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, agriculture, software/hardware and medical devices. I have tried cases to juries and argued motions and cases before federal and state courts across the country. I own my own law firm which requires skills involved with managing all the firm finances, banking and budgeting, human resources (recruiting, onboarding, reviews, healthcare, employment policies, training), marketing, real estate, and mentoring.</p>	<p>Self- Assessment Scorecard: Do you bring 1-2 required skillsets from the Board's Skillset Inventory?</p> <p>YES</p>

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	<p>Finally, I am a woman, and while not explicitly on the skills list, I am the parent of a PSU freshman and sophomore. I believe that having a current parent on the BOT can provide unique insight into the challenges facing students and parents today.</p>	
<p>What about your life experience and unique background makes your voice important to be heard at the Board of Trustees?</p>	<p>Candidate Response:</p> <p>Most importantly, I am a current PSU parent. As such in the past two years, I have experienced two kids go through the college application and decision-making process alongside their peers. I have heard, and continue to hear, firsthand the issues and concerns facing both students and their parents during this challenging and constantly changing time in higher education. I believe this insight can prove extremely valuable to the BOT. When I decided to go to law school following my undergraduate degree, I knew that women were still in the minority of law students, but I don't think I realized how much more disparate the numbers were in private practice. This was particularly true in litigation and even more specifically in IP litigation. In the large law firm that I went to work at after law school, there were very few equity female partners (and even fewer of those partners were also mothers). I knew I was going to have to work twice as hard to reach this goal. I continued to press forward, working long hours, on difficult cases, with often difficult clients and supervising partners who expected you to be available 24/7. Then in 2011, I decided</p> <p>to join a partner from that firm (coincidentally, also a PSU alum) to use the energy and dedication I was giving to my old firm and clients to start our own law firm.</p> <p>Becoming the owner of a woman- owned business has been nothing but spectacular and extremely satisfying. I am still surprised when people ask me if the "Keller" in my firm name is my dad's or grandfather's. But when I can respond with a resounding, "no, that is me," it makes me so proud to know I have created something special. When founding our firm, I was able to focus on working to build a culture that valued family life as much as work life. Where the billable hour could succeed side by side with time for family and activities outside of the office. Where success is defined by the quality of our work and the reputation of our lawyers. Now that I have been in this role for fourteen years, it has allowed me to turn around and help others move up in the ranks. In particular, I am very</p>	<p>Self- Assessment Scorecard: Do you have the required experience and background needed for the Board of Trustees?</p> <p>YES</p>

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	<p>active in an organization called ChIPs which is made up of women in technology and law where I help with next generation programming. I have been honored to hire female associate lawyers at my firm who I mentor and hope to make my partner down the line.</p> <p>I've been part of various DEI programs and panels focused on creating diversity in the legal profession. I also sit on various court and legal organizations and panels that provide me with an opportunity to both listen and learn from others with different viewpoints. My hope is that all of these experiences have made me a more empathetic and active listener that is willing to learn from others' experiences and also help others less fortunate or situated differently than myself and that I can bring this perspective to the board to help move Penn State forward with its mission to be a world-class educational institution for all.</p>	
<p>Submission of materials confirms your registration to serve as a candidate for the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania State University. I understand by selecting yes I agree to my submission.</p>	<p>Candidate Response:</p> <p>YES</p>	

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<p>Background Check: As a candidate for the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University (“Penn State”), I agree to and authorize a standard background check to be conducted by an independent third party and/or consumer reporting agency that will include 1) criminal records check, 2) public court records check, 3) verifications of education and employment history, professional licensing and certification, 4) inquiries relating to any complaints, charges, reports or investigations of employment related misconduct and 5) publicly available information regarding use of online social media, and any other publicly available information about me on the Internet. Social media include social networking websites, professional networking websites, video and image-sharing websites, blogs and personal websites. I further authorize and direct the independent third party and/or consumer reporting agency to provide the information and report generated from the background check to Penn State and understand that Penn State will use the information for non-employment purposes, specifically to consider my candidacy for the Board of Trustees. I further acknowledge and understand that the results of the background check must not reflect behavior that would be violative of the Code of Conduct and/or the Penn State Values.</p>	<p>Candidate Response:</p> <p>YES, I understand and agree to the background check.</p>
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REFERENCES

Reference	Leadership & Governance: Has the candidate demonstrated effective leadership or governance skills, including strategic thinking and decision making in their previous roles?	Commitment to Higher Education & Public Service: Has the candidate shown a strong commitment to advancing higher education or contributing to public service initiatives in a meaningful way?	Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement: Has the candidate effectively collaborated with diverse stakeholders and successfully built consensus in complex or challenging situations?
John Shaw	YES	YES	YES
Laura Lundgren	YES	YES	YES
Steve Wagman	YES	YES	YES

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BIOGRAPHY

Karen earned her Penn State degree in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and a law degree from Temple University. After law school, she worked for a firm where she focused her practice on corporate M&A and governance and intellectual property matters. In 2011, Karen co-founded an intellectual property and commercial litigation boutique firm. As the Managing Partner, Karen handles all firm finances, human resources, marketing, mentoring, and training.

Karen is also the wife of an alumni, a current Penn State parent, and volunteer. She first ran for PSAA Alumni Council in 2012 to reconnect to her alma mater. She served 8 years on Council and was an Executive Board member for much of that time. She chaired the bylaws committee and oversaw a complete revision of the existing bylaws and the strategic planning committee when the committee was charged with drafting a new strategic plan. She co-chaired the awards committee and sat on the governance and development committees. Karen served on the Eberly College Alumni Board and she and her husband served as co-chairs of the Eberly College Millennium Society for many years. She currently serves on the Eberly College Dean's Advisory Committee. She served on the Corporate Engagement Committee since 2016 for various Penn State development campaigns. Her most rewarding experiences have been with students through the Biotech Boardroom, LionLink, FastStart, LionsRoar, and as a guest lecturer for SC402. Her family created the Keller Family Endowment for Alumni Experiences in Science.

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POSITION STATEMENT

My passion, experiences, and values will provide a unique perspective to the Board of Trustees. I will bring careful judgment, fiscal responsibility, and unwavering commitment to Penn State's core values. I will ask tough questions, demand accountability, and work collaboratively to ensure we remain one of the nation's premier public research universities.

Penn State is where academic excellence, accessibility, and community converge. My vision builds on our traditions while addressing concerns facing our students, alumni, faculty, and community.

Student Success & Wellbeing: Students face unprecedented academic and workforce challenges. We must provide comprehensive support systems, educational opportunities, and robust mental health services to help them navigate and thrive.

World-Class Research & Faculty: Higher education faces faculty burnout and attrition. We need strategic investments in faculty development, competitive salaries, and support for innovative teaching methods. Cross-collaboration in teaching and research, proper intellectual property stewardship, and strengthening ties between research and real-world applications are critical. Supporting faculty success directly translates to student success.

Leaders of Tomorrow: Our undergraduate, graduate, law, and medical school programs uniquely position us to develop tomorrow's leaders. We must break down silos by enabling students to work with faculty across locations and disciplines. Strengthening industry partnerships creates pathways for collaborative research, internships, and career opportunities benefiting students and Pennsylvania's economy. Creating innovative programs and facilities will encourage the collaboration and innovation necessary to build on our leadership development record.

Together, we can ensure Penn State continues to excel for generations to come.