

Erica T. Healey-Kagan

Cornell degree: BS '05 (Human Ecology)



What inspired you to accept the nomination to serve on this year's ballot?

As the daughter of a Cornell alumna, and a member of many different Cornell communities, I am uniquely situated to bridge the gap between generations of Cornellians from all walks of life. I have also always felt that my four years as a student at Cornell changed my life in

immeasurable ways. Any opportunity to give back to Cornell, to enhance our alma mater's impact on the world, and to ensure Cornell is an inclusive and welcoming environment for all Cornellians is an honor and a privilege I will always accept.

What does "to do the greatest good" mean to you personally, and in terms of your service to Cornell?

I have dedicated my legal career to doing the greatest good by advancing civil rights, addressing inequality, and advocating for just and equitable solutions to legal problems. My service to Cornell is an extension of this because the university is uniquely situated to help us all maximize our impact on the world, in ways both large and small. Our donations help to sustain Cornell's ability to support the best and brightest students, regardless of their socio-economic status. And dedicating our time and talent to engage our fellow alumni improves Cornell's ability to create collaborations to solve today's greatest challenges.

How can the Board of Trustees support Cornell's founding principle of "... any person ... any study?"

The board is responsible for ensuring the university's founding principles are effectively advancing along with society. This includes reviewing and updating the university's policies to ensure our efforts to advance diversity go hand-in-hand with inclusion and belonging. As a student, I worked with Vice President Susan Murphy and members of the Board of Trustees to amend the university's non-discrimination policy to add gender identity and expression. This is an example of how the board can work to ensure that Cornell provides a learning, living, and working environment that is safe, inclusive, and respectful for all students, faculty, and staff.

What is the single most important issue the Cornell University Board of Trustees can address?

The most important issue for the Board of Trustees is ensuring that Cornell remains at the forefront of higher education as we continue to face unprecedented challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, during which Cornell exemplified outstanding leadership and innovation, serving as a model that other institutions followed.

Professional experience:

- The Kurland Group, 2009–present
 - Junior partner, 2019–present
 - Counsel, 2015–2019
 - Associate, 2009–2015

Alumni service:

- Cornell University Pride LGBTQIA+ Alumni Association, Reunion chair, 2023–present, 2017–2018, 2013–2014; president, 2017–2018; Steven Siegel '68 Award Celebration co-chair, 2015–2019; vice president, 2014–2017; strategic planning representative, 2016–2017; board member, 2013–2014
- Cornell Association of Class Officers, immediate past president, 2023–present; president, 2021–2023; vice president, diversity and inclusion, 2019–2021; director at large, diversity and inclusion, 2017–2019
- Class of 2005, vice president, 2020–present, 2015–2020, 2010–2015; 15th Reunion campaign member, 2019–2020; 10th Reunion campaign member, 2014–2015
- Cornell Mosaic, member at large, 2019–present
- President's Council of Cornell Women, sustaining member, 2023–present; member, 2017–2023
- Cornell University Council, Administrative Board ex officio member, 2021–2023; member, 2018–2022
- Human Ecology Alumni Association, member, 2015–2019
- Ivy Society Metro NY committee, 2005–2007

Community/public service/philanthropic priorities:

- Pro Bono Panel, LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, 2013–present
- Community Excellence Award of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, 2022
- LGBTQ Rights Committee, New York City Bar Association, 2012–2013
- Young Leaders Council, LGBT Community Center of New York, 2011–2017
- Advisory Board, LGBTQ Law Project of the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), 2014–2017
- Advisory Board, New York Chapter of New Leaders Council (NLC), 2005–present
- Volunteer, Camp Friendship Food Pantry, 2020–present
- Brooklyn Law School Alumni Admissions Board, 2009–2015
- Judge, Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Moot Court Competition, 2022–2023
- Election Day Poll Inspector, New York City Board of Elections, 2020–present

Other education:

- JD, Brooklyn Law School, 2008

Student involvements/activities:

- Congressional internship, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer
- D.A.S.H. (Direct Action to Stop Homophobia)
- Gender Equity Resource Center (f/k/a Women's Resource Center)
- Haven: LGBTQ Student Union, president
- Ga'avah, Jewish LGBTQ sub-organization
- Greeks United, Greek LGBTQ sub-organization
- Ivy Council
- Kappa Delta Sorority
- Order of Omega National Honor Society
- Quill & Dagger
- Sandy Pollack Award for the advocacy of human rights of the LGBT community (awarded by the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission)
- S.A.G.E. (Students Advocating Gender Equality)
- Student Assembly, president; vice president of finance; LGBTQ representative
- Teaching assistant, Human Sexuality (PAM 3800)

Additional information:

Erica is a Long Island native who currently lives in Brooklyn, NY, with her wife, Leslie, and their adopted French Bulldog, Stewart. Erica is an avid long-distance runner whose most recent race was the New York City Marathon in November 2023. Erica also loves to travel, both domestically and internationally, especially to national parks and other opportunities to celebrate our natural surroundings. She particularly loves trips to Ithaca with her family, including her mother, Cara Lebowitz Kagan '77, her sister, and brother-in-law, Joel Sandler '99. Erica is also a long-time fan of the New York Mets and all things baseball.