



STEPHEN M. HLADIK '89

Biographical Sketch

A 1989 graduate (Pre-Law, with minors in Business and History), Steve Hladik was active in fraternity and philanthropic activities while at Penn State. After graduation, Steve obtained his law degree from Widener University, with honors.

Upon finishing law school, Steve, a former Eagle Scout and New Jersey native, pursued work in the public sector, becoming the youngest head of the Harrisburg office of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Protection.

A partner in the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, firm of Kerns, Pearlstine, Onorato & Hladik since 2003, Steve's legal practice focuses on mortgage, bankruptcy and title law.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Steve has distinguished himself through service to Penn State alumni and his community.

Steve previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Alumni Association, and has almost 20 years of combined service to the local alumni board as well as the National Executive Council of his fraternity. He has been a long time member of the Nittany Lion Club.

Steve's background includes valuable experience in education, as he is an elected board member for the North Penn (Montgomery County) School District. One of the largest school districts in Pennsylvania, North Penn educates more than 13,000 students with an annual budget of \$200 million. Steve also served as a member of the Department of Education's Private School Licensing Board.

Steve and his wife Barbara are the proud parents of future Penn Staters, Craig, Matthew and Caroline. They reside in Harleysville, PA.

Position Statement

While the last several months have been among the darkest in the history of our Alma Mater, a bright future is in store for Penn State if we recommit ourselves to the values that made our school a national leader in higher education.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I would:

1. Demand transparency and accountability in all appropriate actions of the Board of Trustees and administration. Full university compliance with Pennsylvania's *Right-To-Know Law* would be a clear signal to students, parents, alumni and taxpayers that the Penn State community is taking positive steps to make amends for past errors and ensuring that they never happen again.
2. Make affordability a top priority. Penn State's tuition is one of the highest among state-affiliated schools nationwide, and decreased state contributions have become an unfortunate reality. If Penn State is to remain accessible to prospective students, the Board must be committed to ensuring the university lives within its means by controlling costs.
3. Keep Penn State on the leading edge of technological advancement. Not only must the university continue to foster technological research, but it must always look for innovative ways to utilize emerging technologies as part of the educational experience. Failure to do so imperils Penn State's competitiveness as a leading institution.
4. Be accessible by phone and e-mail. Just as we expect our elected officials to respond to our inquiries, we have the right to demand that our representatives on the Board of Trustees are responsive.

