

**American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Persons and Entities

FROM: Kent D. Syverud, Council Chairperson  
Barry A. Currier, Interim Consultant on Legal Education

DATE: March 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Review of the ABA Standards for Approval of Law School  
Matters for Notice and Comment

At its meeting held on March 15-16, 2013, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar approved for Notice and Comment proposed revisions to Chapter 2 (Organization and Administration) and Chapter 5 (Admissions and Student Services) of the ABA *Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools*.

The Standards Review Committee of the Section has been conducting a comprehensive review of the Standards. As part of that review, the Committee considered multiple drafts and received informal comments from many interested persons and entities.

The proposed revisions and accompanying explanations are attached below and published on the Section's website:

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/notice\\_and\\_comment.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/notice_and_comment.html).

We solicit and encourage written comments on the proposed changes by letter or e-mail. A hearing on these proposed changes is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at the American Bar Association, 321 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60654. Please address written comments on the proposal and requests to speak at the hearing to JR Clark, [jr.clark@americanbar.org](mailto:jr.clark@americanbar.org). Comments should be submitted no later than Friday, May 10, 2013.

Thank you.

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**American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar**

***Chapter 2  
Explanation of Changes***

In proposing the following revisions to Chapter 2 of the ABA Standards, the Standards Review Committee focused on reordering, regrouping, updating, and streamlining the sections to read more coherently, and eliminating matters the Committee viewed as extraneous to accreditation or more appropriately dealt with in other Chapters.

**Proposed Standard 201. LAW SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

This is a reworking and consolidation of current Standard 204 (Governing Board of an Independent Law School), Standard 205 (Governing Board and Law School Authority), Standard 207 (Allocation of Authority between Dean and Faculty), and parts of Standard 210 (Law School University Relationships).

The current language in Standard 205(b), that the dean and faculty “shall formulate and administer the educational program of the law school,” has been replaced with the requirement in proposed Standard 201(a) that the dean and faculty “shall have primary responsibility and authority for planning, implementing and administering the program of legal education.”

The current language in Standard 205(b) that the dean and faculty “shall recommend the selection, retention, promotion, and tenure (or granting of security of position) of the faculty” is retained in proposed Standard 201(b).

Current Standard 207 has been replaced by proposed Standard 201(c), which requires that the dean and faculty shall each have “a significant role in determining educational policy.”

Proposed Standard 201(d) replaces current Standard 210(b) and makes clear that where the law school is part of a university, either the policies applicable to the law school “shall be consistent with the standards,” or the law school will need to promulgate separate policies “where necessary to ensure compliance with the Standards”.

Proposed Standard 201(e) replaces current Standard 204 and makes clear that a law school that is not part of a university must be governed by a board with “responsibility and authority for ensuring operation of the law school in compliance with the Standards.”

**Proposed Standard 202. RESOURCES FOR PROGRAMS**

This Standard is a reworking and consolidation of current Standard 201 (Resources for Program) and parts of Standard 210 (Law School University Relationship). Proposed Standard 202(a) requires that the “current and anticipated financial resources available to the law school” be sufficient for it to operate in compliance with the Standards and carry out its program of legal education.

Proposed Standard 202(c) makes clear that a law school is not in compliance with the Standards if either its current financial condition has, or its anticipated financial condition is reasonably expected to have “a negative and material effect on the school's ability to operate in compliance with the Standards or carry out its program of legal education.”

Proposed Standard 202(b) provides that a law school that is part of a University must obtain from its University (at least annually) an accounting for all charges and costs assessed against the “resources generated by the law school” and for any such resources used to “support non-law school activities and central university services.”

Proposed Standard 202(e) retains the requirement in current Standard 210(d), which requires that the law school be given the opportunity to present its recommendations on budgetary matters to the university administration before the budget for the law school is submitted to the governing board for adoption. Current Interpretations 210-1 and 210-2 are essentially incorporated into proposed Standard 202 in an appropriate and less intrusive form. Proposed Interpretation 202-1 defines “resources generated” by the law school for purposes of the proposed Standards. The Committee also proposes the elimination of current Interpretation 201-2 regarding compensation based on a number of persons enrolled in a law school.

#### Proposed Standard 203. DEAN

This proposed Standard is a reworking of current Standard 206 (DEAN), the majority of which is retained in the proposal. It provides that a law school shall have a full-time dean, selected by the appropriate governing body, with the authority and support necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the position (explicated elsewhere in the Standards). Proposed Standard 203(c) adds new language (reflected in part in current Interpretation 206-1) requiring that the decanal appointment procedure “assure[] meaningful involvement by the faculty or a representative body of the faculty.”

This Standard is buttressed by three proposed Interpretations: 203-1 providing (as does current Interpretation 206-1) that in the absence of circumstances “demonstrating good cause,” a dean “shall not be appointed or reappointed for a new term over the stated objection of a substantial majority of the faculty”; 203-2 regarding the procedures for the appointment of an interim or acting Dean that assures “meaningful consultation with the faculty or a representative body”; and 203-3 which defines the extension of the service of an interim or acting dean beyond two years as a regular decanal appointment or reappointment.

#### Proposed Standard 204. SELF STUDY

This proposed Standard is a broadened delineation of the self study required by current Standard 202. The Committee views this broadened delineation as necessary to make the product of the self study more meaningful to the site evaluation process and the Accreditation Committee. The self study now incorporates the sabbatical questionnaire, eliminating some of the duplication in the two prior requirements.

The Committee proposes the elimination of the Strategic Planning and Assessment Standard (current Standard 203) in light of proposed Standard 308, which requires a law school to conduct

ongoing evaluations of its learning outcomes, academic program, and assessment methods, and accordingly, to make changes necessary to the improvement of its curriculum.

Current Standard 208. INVOLVEMENT OF ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND OTHERS

The Committee recommends the deletion of this Standard as extraneous and unnecessary as a Standard in light of the inherent authority of law schools to involve others in its affairs, and the clearly delineated authority of the Dean and faculty over the program of legal education of the law school in Proposed Standard 201.

Current Standard 209. NON-UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED LAW SCHOOLS

The Committee recommends the deletion of this Standard as redundant and adequately covered by the general requirement that all law schools must satisfy each of the Standards.

NOTES:

Standard 203(b) is under consideration with Chapter 4.

Current Standards 211-213 will be considered at a future meeting.

American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

Chapter 2 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

DRAFT for Notice and Comment – REDLINE  
March 2013

Strike-outs and underlines show changes from the current Standards.

**Standard 201 ~~205~~. GOVERNING BOARD AND LAW SCHOOL AUTHORITY  
LAW SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

~~(a) A governing board may establish general policies that are applicable to a law school if they are shall be consistent with the Standards.~~

**(a) (b) The dean and faculty shall have the primary responsibility and authority for planning, implementing and administering formulate and administer the program of legal education program of the law school, including curriculum, methods of instruction and evaluation, admissions policies and procedures, and academic standards, for retention, advancement, and graduation of students; and shall**

**(b) The dean and faculty shall recommend the selection, retention, promotion, and tenure (or granting of security of position) of members of the faculty.**

**(c) The dean and the faculty shall each have a significant role in determining educational policy.**

**(d) The policies of a university that are applicable to a law school shall be consistent with the Standards. The law school shall have separate policies where necessary to ensure compliance with the Standards.**

**(e) A law school that is not part of a university shall be governed by a board with responsibility and authority for ensuring operation of the law school in compliance with the Standards.**

***Interpretation 205-1***

*An action of a university committee may violate the standards if it deprives the dean and faculty of a law school of their appropriate roles for recommending faculty promotion and tenure or security of position.*

***Interpretation 205-2***

*Admission of a student to a law school without the approval of the dean and faculty of the law school violates the Standard.*

**Standard 202 ~~204~~. RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM**

~~(a) The present current and anticipated financial resources available to the law school of a law school shall be sufficient for it to operate in compliance with the Standards and to carry out its program of legal educational adequate to sustain a sound program of legal education and accomplish its mission.~~

~~(b) A law school shall be so organized and administered that its resources are used to provide a sound program of legal education and to accomplish its mission.~~

(b) A law school that is part of a university shall obtain at least annually from its university an accounting and explanation for all charges and costs assessed against resources generated by the law school and for any use of resources generated by the law school to support non-law school activities and central university services.

**Interpretation 201-1**

~~(c) A law school does not comply is not in compliance with the Standards if its current financial condition resources are so inadequate as to have has a negative and material effect on the education students receive school's ability:~~

- ~~i. to operate in compliance with the Standards; or~~
- ~~ii. to carry out its program of legal education.~~

~~(d) A law school is not in compliance with the Standards if its anticipated financial condition is reasonably expected to have a negative and material effect on the school's ability:~~

- ~~i. to operate in compliance with the Standards; or~~
- ~~ii. to carry out its program of legal education.~~

~~(e) A law school shall be given the opportunity to present its recommendations on budgetary matters to the university administration before the budget for the law school is submitted to the governing board for adoption.~~

**Interpretation 202-1**

~~*"Resources generated" includes law school tuition and fees, appropriated support, endowment restricted to the law school, gifts to the law school, and revenue from grants, contracts, and property of the law school.*~~

**Interpretation 201-2**

~~*A law school may not base the compensation paid any person for service to the law school (other than compensation paid a student or associate for reading and correcting papers or similar activity) on the number of persons enrolled in the law school or in any class or on the number of persons applying for admission to or registering in the law school.*~~

**Standard 203 ~~206~~. DEAN**

~~(a) A law school shall have a full-time dean, selected by the governing board or its designee, to whom the dean shall be responsible. (b) A law school shall provide the dean with the~~

authority and support ~~needed~~ necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the position ~~and those contemplated by the Standards.~~

(b) [under consideration with Chapter 4 on Faculty]

~~(d)~~(c) The dean shall be selected by the university or the governing board of the law school, as appropriate, which shall have and follow a procedure for decanal appointment or reappointment that assures meaningful involvement by the faculty or a representative body of the faculty it shall advise, consult, and make recommendations to the appointing authority in the selection of a dean.

***Interpretation 203-1 ~~206-1~~***

*The faculty or a representative body of it should have substantial involvement in the selection of a dean. Except in circumstances demonstrating good cause, a dean should not be appointed or reappointed to a new term over the stated objection of a substantial majority of the faculty.*

***Interpretation 203-2***

*In the appointment of an interim or acting dean, the university or the governing board of the law school, as appropriate, shall follow a procedure that assures meaningful consultation with the faculty or a representative body of the faculty in the appointment of an interim dean.*

***Interpretation 203-3***

*For the purposes of Standard 203(c), the extension of an interim or acting dean's service beyond two years is a regular decanal appointment or reappointment.*

**~~Standard 202. SELF STUDY~~**

~~Before each site evaluation visit the dean and faculty of a law school shall develop a written self study, which shall include a mission statement. The self study shall describe the program of legal education, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the program in light of the school's mission, set goals to improve the program, and identify the means to accomplish the law school's unrealized goals.~~

***Interpretation 202-1***

*A current self study shall be submitted by a law school seeking provisional approval, a provisionally approved law school before its annual site evaluation, and a fully approved law school before any regular or special site evaluation.*

~~**Standard 203. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT** In addition to the self study described in Standard 202, a law school shall demonstrate that it regularly identifies specific goals for improving the law school's program, identifies means to achieve the established goals, assesses its success in realizing the established goals and periodically re-examines and appropriately revises its established goals.~~

**Standard 204. SELF STUDY**

**Before each site evaluation visit the law school shall prepare a self study comprised of: (a) a completed site evaluation questionnaire; (b) a statement of the law school's mission and of its educational objectives in support of that mission; (c) an assessment of the educational quality of the law school's program; (d) an assessment of the school's continuing efforts to improve educational quality; (e) an evaluation of the school's effectiveness in achieving its stated educational objectives; and (f) a description of the strengths and weaknesses of the law school's program of legal education.**

**Interpretation 204-1**

*The evaluation of the school's effectiveness and description of its strengths and weaknesses should include a statement of the availability of sufficient resources to achieve the school's mission and its educational objectives.*

**~~Standard 204. GOVERNING BOARD OF AN INDEPENDENT LAW SCHOOL~~**

~~A law school that is not part of a university shall be governed by a governing board composed of individuals dedicated to the maintenance of a sound program of legal education.~~

**Interpretation 204-1**

*The governing board of a law school that is not part of a university should authorize the dean to serve as chief executive, or chief academic officer of the law school, or both, and shall define the scope of the dean's authority in compliance with the Standards. The dean shall be responsible to the governing board. The dean may be a member of the board but should not serve as chairperson of the board.*

**~~Standard 207. ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN DEAN AND FACULTY~~**

~~The allocation of authority between the dean and the law faculty is a matter for determination by each institution as long as both the dean and the faculty have a significant role in determining educational policy.~~

**~~Standard 208. INVOLVEMENT OF ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND OTHERS~~**

~~A law school may involve alumni, students, and others in a participatory or advisory capacity; but the dean and faculty shall retain control over matters affecting the educational program of the law school.~~

**~~Standard 209. NON-UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED LAW SCHOOLS~~**

~~If a law school is not part of a university or, although a part, is physically remote from the rest of the university, the law school should seek to provide its students and faculty with the benefits that usually result from a university connection, such as by enlarging its library collection to include materials generally found only in a university library and by developing working relationships with other educational institutions in the community.~~

## **Standard 210. ~~LAW SCHOOL UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIP~~**

**~~(a) If a law school is part of a university, that relationship shall serve to enhance the law school's program.~~**

**~~(b) If a university's general policies do not adequately facilitate the recruitment and retention of competent law faculty, appropriate separate policies should be established for the law school.~~**

**~~(c) The resources generated by a law school that is part of a university should be made available to the law school to maintain and enhance its program of legal education.~~**

**~~(d) A law school shall be given the opportunity to present its recommendations on budgetary matters to the university administration before the budget for the law school is submitted to the governing board for adoption.~~**

### ***Interpretation 210-1***

*~~A law school does not comply with the Standards if the charges and costs assessed against the law school's revenue by the university leave the law school with financial resources so inadequate as to have a negative and material effect on the education students receive.~~*

### ***Interpretation 210-2***

*~~The resources generated by a law school that is part of a university should be made available to the law school to maintain and enhance its program of legal education. "Resources generated" includes law school tuition and fees, endowment restricted to the law school, gifts to the law school, and income from grants, contracts, and property of the law school. The university should provide the law school with a satisfactory explanation for any use of resources generated by the law school to support non-law school activities and central university services. In turn, the law school should benefit on a reasonable basis in the allocation of university resources.~~*

## **NOTES:**

**Standard 203(b) to be considered with Chapter 4.**

**Current Standards 211-213 to be considered at a future meeting.**

**American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar**

**Chapter 2 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

**DRAFT for Notice and Comment – CLEAN  
March 2013**

**Standard 201. LAW SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

**(a) The dean and faculty shall have the primary responsibility and authority for planning, implementing and administering the program of legal education of the law school, including curriculum, methods of instruction and evaluation, admissions policies and procedures, and academic standards.**

**(b) The dean and faculty shall recommend the selection, retention, promotion, and tenure (or granting of security of position) of members of the faculty.**

**(c) The dean and the faculty shall each have a significant role in determining educational policy.**

**(d) The policies of a university that are applicable to a law school shall be consistent with the Standards. The law school shall have separate policies where necessary to ensure compliance with the Standards.**

**(e) A law school that is not part of a university shall be governed by a board with responsibility and authority for ensuring operation of the law school in compliance with the Standards.**

**Standard 202. RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM**

**(a) The current and anticipated financial resources available to the law school shall be sufficient for it to operate in compliance with the Standards and to carry out its program of legal education.**

**(b) A law school that is part of a university shall obtain at least annually from its university an accounting and explanation for all charges and costs assessed against resources generated by the law school and for any use of resources generated by the law school to support non-law school activities and central university services.**

**(c) A law school is not in compliance with the Standards if its current financial condition has a negative and material effect on the school's ability:**  
**i. to operate in compliance with the Standards; or**  
**ii. to carry out its program of legal education.**

**(d) A law school is not in compliance with the Standards if its anticipated financial condition is reasonably expected to have a negative and material effect on the school's ability:**

- i. to operate in compliance with the Standards; or**
- ii. to carry out its program of legal education.**

**(e) A law school shall be given the opportunity to present its recommendations on budgetary matters to the university administration before the budget for the law school is submitted to the governing board for adoption.**

***Interpretation 202-1***

*“Resources generated” includes law school tuition and fees, appropriated support, endowment restricted to the law school, gifts to the law school, and revenue from grants, contracts, and property of the law school.*

**Standard 203. DEAN**

**(a) A law school shall have a full-time dean with the authority and support necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the position.**

**(b) [under consideration with Chapter 4 on Faculty]**

**(c) The dean shall be selected by the university or the governing board of the law school, as appropriate, which shall have and follow a procedure for decanal appointment or reappointment that assures meaningful involvement by the faculty or a representative body of the faculty in the selection of a dean.**

***Interpretation 203-1***

*Except in circumstances demonstrating good cause, a dean should not be appointed or reappointed to a new term over the stated objection of a substantial majority of the faculty.*

***Interpretation 203-2***

*In the appointment of an interim or acting dean, the university or the governing board of the law school, as appropriate, should follow a procedure that assures meaningful consultation with the faculty or a representative body of the faculty in the appointment of an interim dean.*

***Interpretation 203-3***

*For the purposes of Standard 203(c), the extension of an interim or acting dean's service beyond two years is a regular decanal appointment or reappointment.*

**Standard 204. SELF STUDY**

**Before each site evaluation visit the law school shall prepare a self study comprised of: (a) a completed site evaluation questionnaire; (b) a statement of the law school's mission and of its educational objectives in support of that mission; (c) an assessment of the educational quality of the law school's program; (d) an assessment of the school's continuing efforts to**

**improve educational quality; (e) an evaluation of the school's effectiveness in achieving its stated educational objectives; and (f) a description of the strengths and weaknesses of the law school's program of legal education.**

***Interpretation 204-1***

*The evaluation of the school's effectiveness and description of its strengths and weaknesses should include a statement of the availability of sufficient resources to achieve the school's mission and its educational objectives.*

**NOTES:**

**Standard 203(b) to be considered with Chapter 4.**

**Current Standards 211-213 to be considered at a future meeting.**

**American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar**

*Chapter 5  
Explanation of Changes*

Chapter 5 as proposed maintains its basic structure and objectives. The work performed on the text has been designed more for clarification than for change. In some cases, previous Standards have been combined to resolve inconsistencies and ambiguities.

The major question presented to the Council is whether an admission test should be required of candidates as a condition of qualifying a law school for accreditation. Because the membership of the Standards Review Committee differed on the several occasions that this issue was presented, two alternatives are offered to the Council—to eliminate the requirement or to retain it in a modified form. That discussion is presented below.

Proposed Standard 501. ADMISSIONS

Proposed Standards 501(a) and (b) are essentially reworkings of current language.

Proposed Standard 501(c) is drawn from current Standard 505 (Previously Disqualified Applicant) and now speaks to both admission and readmission. The documentation requirement assigned to the law school has been simplified and clarified, and it is stated straightforwardly.

Current Interpretations 501-1 and 501-3 have been retained and are now numbered 501-2 and 501-1, respectively.

Interpretation 501-2 has been eliminated because it simply admonishes the law school to follow certain Standards. In the view of the Committee, as a general rule Interpretations should not be used to restate the obvious obligation of a law school to meet the Standards.

Interpretation 501-4 has been eliminated because it is unnecessary. The underlying concept in the first sentence is addressed more pertinently in other Chapters, and the second sentence is a statement of the obvious.

Proposed Standard 502. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposed Standard 502 sets forth with greater clarity the educational routes by which law schools may admit individual applicants. By splitting current Standard 502(a) into two parts—now 502(a) and (b)(1)—the language now avoids the collision of two concepts embodied in the current rule (that the school “shall require” a bachelor’s degree followed immediately by the lesser requirement of a percentage of credits toward such a degree). Further, proposed Standard 502(b)(2) now addresses the issue of foreign law school graduates under the appropriate Standard.

Proposed Standard 502(c) retains the substance of Standard 502(b).

Interpretation 502(1) has been retained and simplified.

#### Proposed Standard 503. ADMISSION TEST

Proposed Standard 503 retains the language of the current Standard.

Current Interpretation 503-1 has been retained because it is well settled that the LSAT has been validated as a predictor of first-year law school grades, and generally accepted that first-year grades are predictive of the student's ultimate capability of completing the program.

Current Interpretations 503-3 and 503-4 have been eliminated.

#### Proposed Standard 504. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Proposed Standard 504(a) treats the matter of the notification that law schools provide to prospective applicants by setting forth explicit language of such notification to avoid uncertainty or ambiguity.

The balance of current Standard 504(a) is covered in proposed Standard 504(b), which treats the matter of the law school's obligation to students who have matriculated.

Current Standards 504(b) and (c) have been eliminated. The language of (b) is not a Standard; it is merely instructive, as an Interpretation might be. However, the processes and value judgments that bar examiners in different jurisdictions apply to bar admission applications renders current (b) of negligible value. As to (c), this too, appears to exist more as an admonishment (suitable, perhaps, for a Consultant's Memorandum) than as a Standard.

#### Proposed Standard 505. GRANTING OF J.D. CREDIT FOR PRIOR LAW STUDY

Proposed Standard 505 seeks to consolidate in one Standard all the circumstances that lead to the granting of J.D. degree credit for prior study. Thus, it incorporates and simplifies material appearing in current Standards 506 and 507, and Interpretation 304-7. For the first time, the proposed Standard also encompasses the student who transfers from another ABA-approved school.

This significantly streamlined proposed Standard 505 concludes with 505(d), that establishes an across-the-board cap on credits that may be allowed by the admitting school. This is a straightforward and elegant solution to the dilemma presented in the current Standards by plainly stating one clear rule for transfer credits.

#### Proposed Standard 506. ENROLLMENT OF NON-DEGREE CANDIDATES

Proposed Standard 506 represents a rewording of current Standard 508 chiefly to parallel other language in the Standards.

#### Proposed Standard 507. STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

Proposed Standard 507 is a renumbering of current Standard 510. Language is intended to meet DOE requirements, and ABA counsel have reviewed it.

#### Proposed Standard 508. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Proposed Standard 508 is a renumbering of current Standard 511 and contains only minor edits. The only substantive change is the addition of debt counseling to the list of support services that a law school must provide.

#### Proposed Standard 509. CONSUMER INFORMATION

Proposed Standard 509 represents a reworking of a Standard that has received Council action recently. Given the work undertaken by the Committee to look deeply and thoroughly at the Standards, it was perhaps inevitable that additional articulations of what consumer information should be required would result.

The proposed Standard 509 divides the information that the Standard requires a law school to publish on its website into two categories: (1) that for which the Council prescribes a particular form and manner of publication; and (2) that which the school must disclose in a readable and comprehensive manner. The proposed revised standard covers these two categories in 509(b) and 509(c), respectively. There are prescribed charts for employment and conditional scholarship information [509(b)(3) and (b)(7)], and the other items in 509(b) are included in a table that is generated by schools within the Annual Questionnaire. The items in 509(c) are not susceptible to a uniform format, and so are governed by the “readable and comprehensible” requirement. The proposed revised Standard deletes “library resources” and “facilities” as consumer information items. The provisions in current Standard 509(d)(1), (2) and (4) are redundant and unnecessary once “form and manner designated by the Council” is added to 509(b).

#### Proposed Standard 510. STUDENTS COMPLAINTS IMPLICATING COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS

Proposed Standard 510 is a renumbering of current Standard 512. Language is intended to meet DOE requirements, and ABA counsel have reviewed it.

American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

CHAPTER 5 - ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT SERVICES

DRAFT for Notice and Comment – REDLINE  
March 2013

Strike-outs and underlines show changes from the current Standards.

**Standard 501. ADMISSIONS**

(a) A law school shall maintain sound admission policies and practices, consistent with the Standards, its mission, and the objectives of its educational program of legal education and ~~the resources available for implementing those objectives.~~

(b) A law school shall not admit an applicants who does not appear capable of satisfactorily completing its educational program of legal education and being admitted to the bar.

~~(c) Standard 505. Previously Disqualified Applicant~~ A law school ~~may~~ shall not admit or readmit a student who has been disqualified previously for academic reasons ~~upon~~ without an affirmative showing that ~~the student possesses the requisite ability and that the prior disqualification does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the course of study at the admitting school~~ its program of legal education and be admitted to the bar. ~~In the case of admission to a law school other than the disqualifying school, this showing shall be made either by a letter from the disqualifying school or, if two or more years have elapsed since that disqualification, by the nature of interim work, activity, or studies indicating a stronger potential for law study.~~ For every admission or readmission of a previously disqualified individual, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the admittee's file.

***Interpretation 501-2***

*A law school's admission policies shall be consistent with Standards 211 and 212.*

***Interpretation 501-1 ~~501-3~~***

*Among the factors to consider in assessing compliance with this Standard 501(b) are the academic and admission test credentials of the law school's entering students, the academic attrition rate of the law school's students, the bar passage rate of its graduates, and the effectiveness of the law school's academic support program.*

***Interpretation ~~501-1~~ 501-2***

*Sound admissions policies and practices may include consideration of admission test scores, undergraduate course of study and grade point average, extracurricular activities, work experience, performance in other graduate or professional programs, relevant demonstrated skills, and obstacles overcome.*

***Interpretation 501-4***

*A law school may not permit financial considerations detrimentally to affect its admission and retention policies and their administration. A law school may face a conflict of interest whenever the exercise of sound judgment in the application of admission policies or academic standards and retention policies might reduce enrollment below the level necessary to support the program.*

**Standard 502. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

(a) A law school shall require for admission to its J.D. degree program a bachelor's degree, ~~or successful completion of three-fourths of the work acceptable for a bachelor's degree, from that has been awarded by~~ an institution that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a law school may also admit to its J.D. degree program:

1) an applicant who has completed three-fourths of the credits leading to a bachelor's degree as part of a bachelor's degree/J.D. program if the institution is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; and

2) a graduate of an institution outside of the U.S. if the law school assures that the quality of the educational program of that institution is equivalent to that of institutions accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

~~(b)(c)~~ In an extraordinary case, a law school may admit to its J.D. degree program an applicant who does not satisfy possess the educational requirements of subsections (a) or (b) if the applicant's experience, ability, and other qualifications ~~characteristics~~ clearly show an aptitude for the study of law. ~~The admitting officer shall sign and place in the admittee's file a statement of the considerations that led to the decision to admit the applicant. For every such admission, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the admittee's file.~~

***Interpretation 502-1***

*Before an admitted student registers, ~~or~~ Wwithin a reasonable time thereafter after an admitted student registers, a law school shall have on file the student's official transcript ~~showing receipt of a bachelor's degree, if any, and~~ verifying all academic work credits undertaken and degrees conferred. "Official transcript" means a transcript certified by the issuing ~~school~~ institution to the admitting law school or delivered to the admitting law school in a sealed envelope with seal intact. A copy supplied by the Law School Data Assembly Service is not an official transcript, even though it is adequate for preliminary determination of admission.*

### **Standard 503. ADMISSION TEST**

**A law school shall require each applicant for admission as a first-year J.D. student to take a valid and reliable admission test to assist the school and the applicant in assessing the applicant's capability of satisfactorily completing the school's educational program. In making admissions decisions, a law school shall use the test results in a manner that is consistent with the current guidelines regarding proper use of the test results provided by the agency that developed the test.**

#### ***Interpretation 503-1***

*A law school that uses an admission test other than the Law School Admission Test sponsored by the Law School Admission Council shall establish that such other test is a valid and reliable test to assist the school in assessing an applicant's capability to satisfactorily complete the school's educational program.*

***Interpretation 503-2*** This Standard does not prescribe the particular weight that a law school should give to an applicant's admission test score in deciding whether to admit or deny admission to the applicant.

#### ***Interpretation 503-3***

*A pre-admission program of coursework taught by members of the law school's full-time faculty and culminating in an examination or examinations, offered to some or all applicants prior to a decision to admit to the J.D. program, also may be useful in assessing the capability of an applicant to satisfactorily complete the school's educational program, to be admitted to the bar, and to become a competent professional.*

#### ***Interpretation 503-4***

*The "Cautionary Policies Concerning LSAT Scores and Related Services" published by the Law School Admission Council is an example of the testing agency guidelines referred to in Standard 503. [See Appendix 2]*

### **Standard 504. CHARACTER AND FITNESS QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

~~(a) A law school shall advise each applicant that there are character, fitness and other qualifications for admission to the bar and encourage the applicant, prior to matriculation, to determine what those requirements are in the state(s) in which the applicant intends to practice.~~

**(a) A law school shall include the following statement in its application for admission and on its website:**

**In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.**

**(b) The law school should shall, as soon after matriculation as is practicable, take additional steps to apprise entering students of the importance of determining the applicable character, fitness, and other requirements qualifications. for admission to the bar in the jurisdiction(s) in which they intend to seek admission to the bar.**

**~~(b) The law school may, to the extent it deems appropriate, adopt such tests, questionnaires, or required references as the proper admission authorities may find useful and relevant, in determining the character, fitness or other qualifications of the applicants to the law school.~~**

**~~(c) If a law school considers an applicant's character, fitness or other qualifications, it shall exercise care that the consideration is not used as a reason to deny admission to a qualified applicant because of political, social, or economic views that might be considered unorthodox.~~**

#### **Standard 505. PREVIOUSLY DISQUALIFIED APPLICANT**

**~~A law school may admit or readmit a student who has been disqualified previously for academic reasons upon an affirmative showing that the student possesses the requisite ability and that the prior disqualification does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the course of study at the admitting school. In the case of admission to a law school other than the disqualifying school, this showing shall be made either by a letter from the disqualifying school or, if two or more years have elapsed since that disqualification, by the nature of interim work, activity, or studies indicating a stronger potential for law study. For every admission or readmission of a previously disqualified individual, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the admittee's file. [Moved to 501 (c)]~~**

##### ***Interpretation 505-1***

***The two year period begins on the date of the original determination to disqualify the student for academic reasons.***

##### ***Interpretation 505-2***

***A student who enrolled in a pre-admission program but was not granted admission is not a student who was disqualified for academic reasons under this Standard.***

#### **Standard 506. APPLICANTS FROM LAW SCHOOLS NOT APPROVED BY THE ABA**

**~~(a) A law school may admit a student with advanced standing and allow credit for studies at a law school in the United States that is not approved by the American Bar Association ("non-ABA approved law school") if:~~**

**~~(1) the non-ABA approved law school has been granted the power to confer the J.D. degree by the appropriate governmental authority in the unapproved law school's jurisdiction, or graduates of the non-ABA approved law school are permitted to sit for the bar examination in the jurisdiction in which the school is located;~~**

~~(2) the studies were “in residence” as provided in Standard 304(b), or qualify for credit under Standard 305 or Standard 306; and (3) the content of the studies was such that credit therefore would have been granted towards satisfaction of degree requirements at the admitting school.~~

~~(b) Advanced standing and credit hours granted for study at a non-ABA approved law school may not exceed one third of the total required by an admitting school for its J.D. degree.~~

#### ~~Standard 507. APPLICANTS FROM FOREIGN LAW SCHOOLS~~

~~(a) A law school may admit a student with advanced standing and allow credit for studies at a law school outside the United States if:~~

~~(1) the studies were “in residence” as provided in Standard 304, or qualify for credit under Standard 305;~~

~~(2) the content of the studies was such that credit therefore would have been granted towards satisfaction of degree requirements at the admitting school; and~~

~~(3) the admitting school is satisfied that the quality of the educational program at the foreign law school was at least equal to that required by an approved school.~~

~~(b) Advanced standing and credit hours granted for foreign study may not exceed one third of the total required by an admitting school for its J.D. degree.~~

#### *~~Interpretation 507-1~~*

*~~This Standard applies only to graduates of foreign law schools or students enrolled in a first degree granting law program in a foreign educational institution.~~*

#### Standard 505. GRANTING OF J.D. CREDIT FOR PRIOR LAW STUDY

(a) A law school may admit a student and grant credit for courses completed at:

(1) another law school approved by the American Bar Association if the courses were undertaken as a J.D. student;

(2) a law school in the United States that is not approved by the American Bar Association if graduates of the law school are permitted to sit for the bar examination in the jurisdiction in which the school is located, provided that:

(a) the courses were undertaken as a J.D. student; and

(b) the law school would have granted credit toward satisfaction of degree requirements if earned at the admitting school; or

(3) a law school outside the United States if the law school would have granted credit towards satisfaction of degree requirements if earned at the admitting school.

**(b) A law school may grant credit toward a J.D. degree to a graduate of a foreign law school for credit hours earned in an LL.M. or other post-J.D. program it offers if:**

**(1) that study led to successful completion of a J.D. course or courses while the student was enrolled in a post-J.D. law program; and**

**(2) the law school has a grading system for LL.M. students in J.D. courses that is comparable to the grading system for J.D. students in the course.**

**(c) A law school that grants credit as provided in Standard 505(a) or (b) may award a J.D. degree to a student who successfully completes a course of study that satisfies the requirements of Standard 305 and that meets all of the school's requirements for the awarding of the J.D. degree.**

**(d) Credit hours granted pursuant to 505(a) and (b) shall not, individually or in combination, exceed one-third of the total required by the admitting school for its J.D. degree.**

#### **Standard 506 ~~508~~. ENROLLMENT OF NON-DEGREE CANDIDATES**

Without requiring compliance with its admission standards and procedures, a law school may enroll individuals in a particular course or limited number of courses, as auditors, non-degree candidates, or candidates for a degree other than a law J.D. degree, ~~provided that~~ **only if such enrollment does not adversely affect the quality of the course or the law school program interfere with the ability of the law school to operate in compliance with the Standards and to carry out its program of legal education.**

#### **Standard 507 ~~510~~. STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS**

A law school shall ~~take~~ **demonstrate** reasonable steps to minimize student loan defaults, including provision of debt counseling at the inception of a student's loan obligations and ~~prior to~~ **again before** graduation.

##### ***Interpretation 507-1***

*The student loan default rates of a law school's graduates, including any results of financial or compliance audits and reviews, ~~shall be considered~~ **are relevant** in assessing the extent to which a law school complies with this Standard.*

##### ***Interpretation 507-2***

*For law schools not affiliated with a university, the school's student loan cohort default rate ~~shall be~~ **is sufficient**, for purposes of Standard 507, if it is not greater than 10% for any of the three most recently published annual cohort default rates. ~~If the school's cohort student loan default rate is not sufficient under this Interpretation, the school must submit a plan for approval by the Accreditation Committee for coming into compliance with this requirement.~~*

*Failure to comply with ~~the~~ Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or having a student loan cohort default rate greater than the rate permitted by ~~the~~ Title IV is cause for review of a law school's overall compliance with the Standards. Schools shall demonstrate that they have resolved all areas of deficiency identified in financial or compliance audits, program reviews or other information provided by the United States Department of Education.*

**Interpretation 507-3**

*The law school's obligation ~~shall be~~ is satisfied if the university, of which the law school is a part, ~~provides to law students~~ takes the reasonable steps described in this Standard.*

**Standard ~~508~~ 511. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

**A law school shall provide all its students, regardless of enrollment or scheduling option, with basic student services, including maintenance of accurate student records, academic advising and counseling, financial aid and debt counseling, and ~~an active~~ career counseling service to assist students in making sound career choices and obtaining employment. If a law school does not provide these types of student services directly, it ~~must~~ shall demonstrate that its students have reasonable access to such services from the university of which it is a part or from other sources.**

**Standard 509. CONSUMER INFORMATION**

**(a) All consumer information that a law school reports, publicizes or distributes shall be complete, accurate and not misleading to a reasonable law school student or applicant. Schools shall use due diligence in obtaining and verifying consumer information. Violations of these obligations may result in sanctions under Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools.**

**(b) A law school shall publicly disclose on its website, in the form and manner and for the time frame designated by the Council, consumer information in the following categories:**

**(1) admissions data;**

**(2) tuition, and fees, living costs, and financial aid, ~~conditional scholarships and refunds;~~**

**(3) conditional scholarships;**

**(4)(3) enrollment data, including academic, transfer, and other attrition/~~graduation~~ rates;**

**(5)(4) numbers of full-time and part-time faculty, professional librarians, and administrators;**

~~(6)(5) — curricular offerings, academic calendar, and academic requirements class sizes for first year and upper class courses; number of seminar, clinical and co-curricular offerings;~~

~~(6) — library resources;~~

~~(7) — facilities; and~~

~~(7)(8) employment outcomes; and~~

~~(8) bar passage data.~~

(c) A law school shall publicly disclose on its website, in a readable and comprehensive manner, the following information on a current basis:

(1) refund policies;

(2) curricular offerings, academic calendar, and academic requirements; and

(3) its policies regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution of higher education. The law school's transfer of credit policies must include, at a minimum:

(i)(1) A statement of the criteria established by the law school regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution; and

(ii)(2) A list of institutions, if any, with which the law school has established an articulation agreement.

~~(d) — A law school shall publicly disclose the employment outcomes of its J.D. graduates on its website.~~

~~(1) — The employment outcomes shall be posted on the school's website each year by March 31 or such other date as the Council may establish.~~

~~(2) — The employment outcomes posted must be accurate as of February 15th for persons who graduated with a J.D. degree between September 1 two calendar years prior and August 31 one calendar year prior.~~

~~(3) — The employment outcomes posted shall remain on the school's website for at least three years, so that at any time at least three graduating classes' data are posted.~~

~~(4) — The employment outcomes shall be gathered and disclosed in accordance with the form, instructions and definitions approved by the Council.~~

~~(e) (d)~~ A law school shall publicly disclose on its website, in the form designated by the Council, its conditional scholarship retention data. A law school shall also distribute this the data required under Standard 509(b)(3) to all applicants being offered conditional scholarships at the time the scholarship offer is extended.

~~(f)~~ (e) If a law school elects to make a public disclosure of its status as a law school approved by the Council, it shall do so accurately and shall include the name and contact information of the Council.

***Interpretation 509-1***

*A law school that lists in its course offerings a significant number of courses that have not been offered during the past two academic years and that are not being offered in the current academic year is not in compliance with this Standard. Current curricular offerings, for the purposes of Standard 509(c), are only those courses offered in the current and past two academic years.*

***Interpretation 509-2***

*Subject to the requirements of subsection (a) above, a law school may publicize or distribute additional information regarding the employment outcomes of its graduates. A law school may publicize or distribute information in addition to that required by this Standard, including but not limited to the employment outcomes of its graduates, as long as such information complies with the requirements of subsection (a).*

***Interpretation 509-3***

*Any information, beyond that required by the Council, regarding graduates' salaries that a law school reports, publicizes or distributes must clearly identify the number of salaries and the percentage of graduates included in that information.*

***Interpretation 509-4 509-3***

*A conditional scholarship is any financial aid award, the retention of which is dependent upon the student maintaining a minimum grade point average or class standing, other than that ordinarily required to remain in good academic standing.*

**Standard ~~510~~ 512. STUDENT COMPLAINTS IMPLICATING COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS**

**(a) A law school shall establish, publish, and comply with policies with respect to addressing student complaints.**

**(b) A law school shall maintain a record of student complaints submitted during the most recent accreditation period. The record shall include the resolution of the complaints.**

***(e) Interpretation 510-1***

*A "complaint" is a communication in writing that seeks to bring to the attention of the law school a significant problem that directly implicates the school's program of legal education and its compliance with the Standards.*

***Interpretation 510-2 ~~512-1~~***

*A law school's policies on student complaints must address, at a minimum, procedures for filing and addressing complaints, appeal rights if any, and timelines.*

**American Bar Association  
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar**

**CHAPTER 5 - ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT SERVICES**

**DRAFT for Notice and Comment – CLEAN  
March 2013**

**Standard 501. ADMISSIONS**

- (a) A law school shall maintain sound admission policies and practices consistent with the Standards, its mission, and the objectives of its program of legal education.**
- (b) A law school shall not admit an applicant who does not appear capable of satisfactorily completing its program of legal education and being admitted to the bar.**
- (c) A law school shall not admit or readmit a student who has been disqualified previously for academic reasons without an affirmative showing that the prior disqualification does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete its program of legal education and be admitted to the bar. For every admission or readmission of a previously disqualified individual, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the admittee's file.**

***Interpretation 501-1***

*Among the factors to consider in assessing compliance with this Standard are the academic and admission test credentials of the law school's entering students, the academic attrition rate of the law school's students, the bar passage rate of its graduates, and the effectiveness of the law school's academic support program.*

***Interpretation 501-2***

*Sound admissions policies and practices may include consideration of admission test scores, undergraduate course of study and grade point average, extracurricular activities, work experience, performance in other graduate or professional programs, relevant demonstrated skills, and obstacles overcome.*

**Standard 502. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) A law school shall require for admission to its J.D. degree program a bachelor's degree that has been awarded by an institution that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.**
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a law school may also admit to its J.D. degree program:**
  - 1) an applicant who has completed three-fourths of the credits leading to a bachelor's degree as part of a bachelor's degree/J.D. program if the institution is**

accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; and

2) a graduate of an institution outside of the U.S. if the law school assures that the quality of the educational program of that institution is equivalent to that of institutions accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

(c) In an extraordinary case, a law school may admit to its J.D. degree program an applicant who does not satisfy the requirements of subsections (a) or (b) if the applicant's experience, ability, and other qualifications clearly show an aptitude for the study of law. For every such admission, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the admittee's file.

***Interpretation 502-1***

*Within a reasonable time after an admitted student registers, a law school shall have on file the student's official transcript verifying all academic credits undertaken and degrees conferred. "Official transcript" means a transcript certified by the issuing institution to the admitting law school or delivered to the admitting law school in a sealed envelope with seal intact.*

**Standard 503. ADMISSION TEST [ALTERNATIVE ONE]**

**A law school shall require each applicant for admission as a first-year J.D. student to take a valid and reliable admission test to assist the school and the applicant in assessing the applicant's capability of satisfactorily completing the school's educational program. In making admissions decisions, a law school shall use the test results in a manner that is consistent with the current guidelines regarding proper use of the test results provided by the agency that developed the test.**

***Interpretation 503-1***

*A law school that uses an admission test other than the Law School Admission Test sponsored by the Law School Admission Council shall establish that such other test is a valid and reliable test to assist the school in assessing an applicant's capability to satisfactorily complete the school's educational program.*

***Interpretation 503-2***

*This Standard does not prescribe the particular weight that a law school should give to an applicant's admission test score in deciding whether to admit or deny admission to the applicant.*

**Standard 504. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

(a) A law school shall include the following statement in its application for admission and on its website:

**In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend**

to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

(b) The law school shall, as soon after matriculation as is practicable, take additional steps to apprise entering students of the importance of determining the applicable character, fitness, and other requirements for admission to the bar in the jurisdiction(s) in which they intend to seek admission to the bar.

#### **Standard 505. GRANTING OF J.D. CREDIT FOR PRIOR LAW STUDY**

(a) A law school may admit a student and grant credit for courses completed at:

(1) another law school approved by the American Bar Association if the courses were undertaken as a J.D. student;

(2) a law school in the United States that is not approved by the American Bar Association if graduates of the law school are permitted to sit for the bar examination in the jurisdiction in which the school is located, provided that:

(a) the courses were undertaken as a J.D. student; and

(b) the law school would have granted credit toward satisfaction of degree requirements if earned at the admitting school; or

(3) a law school outside the United States if the law school would have granted credit towards satisfaction of degree requirements if earned at the admitting school.

(b) A law school may grant credit toward a J.D. degree to a graduate of a foreign law school for credit hours earned in an LL.M. or other post-J.D. program it offers if:

(1) that study led to successful completion of a J.D. course or courses while the student was enrolled in a post-J.D. law program; and

(2) the law school has a grading system for LL.M. students in J.D. courses that is comparable to the grading system for J.D. students in the course.

(c) A law school that grants credit as provided in Standard 505(a) or (b) may award a J.D. degree to a student who successfully completes a course of study that satisfies the requirements of Standard 305 and that meets all of the school's requirements for the awarding of the J.D. degree.

(d) Credit hours granted pursuant to 505(a) and (b) shall not, individually or in combination, exceed one-third of the total required by the admitting school for its J.D. degree.

## **Standard 506. ENROLLMENT OF NON-DEGREE CANDIDATES**

**Without requiring compliance with its admission standards and procedures, a law school may enroll individuals in a particular course or limited number of courses, as auditors, non-degree candidates, or candidates for a degree other than a J.D. degree, only if such enrollment does not interfere with the ability of the law school to operate in compliance with the Standards and to carry out its program of legal education.**

## **Standard 507. STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS**

**A law school shall demonstrate reasonable steps to minimize student loan defaults, including provision of debt counseling at the inception of a student's loan obligations and again before graduation.**

### ***Interpretation 507-1***

*The student loan default rates of a law school's graduates, including any results of financial or compliance audits and reviews, are relevant in assessing the extent to which a law school complies with this Standard.*

### ***Interpretation 507-2***

*For law schools not affiliated with a university, the school's student loan cohort default rate is sufficient if it is not greater than 10% for any of the three most recently published annual cohort default rates.*

*Failure to comply with Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or having a student loan cohort default rate greater than the rate permitted by Title IV is cause for review of a law school's compliance with the Standards. A school shall demonstrate that it has resolved all areas of deficiency identified in financial or compliance audits, program reviews or other information provided by the United States Department of Education.*

### ***Interpretation 507-3***

*The law school's obligation is satisfied if the university, of which the law school is a part, takes the steps described in this Standard.*

## **Standard 508. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

**A law school shall provide all its students, regardless of enrollment or scheduling option, with basic student services, including maintenance of accurate student records, academic advising and counseling, financial aid and debt counseling, and career counseling to assist students in making sound career choices and obtaining employment. If a law school does not provide these types of student services directly, it shall demonstrate that its students have reasonable access to such services from the university of which it is a part or from other sources.**

## **Standard 509. CONSUMER INFORMATION**

**(a) All consumer information that a law school reports, publicizes or distributes shall be complete, accurate and not misleading to a reasonable law school student or applicant. Schools shall use due diligence in obtaining and verifying consumer information. Violations of these obligations may result in sanctions under Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools.**

**(b) A law school shall publicly disclose on its website, in the form and manner and for the time frame designated by the Council, consumer information in the following categories:**

- (1) admissions data;**
- (2) tuition and fees, living costs, and financial aid;**
- (3) conditional scholarships;**
- (4) enrollment data, including academic, transfer, and other attrition;**
- (5) numbers of full-time and part-time faculty, professional librarians, and administrators;**
- (6) class sizes for first year and upper class courses; number of seminar, clinical and co-curricular offerings;**
- (7) employment outcomes; and**
- (8) bar passage data.**

**(c) A law school shall publicly disclose on its website, in a readable and comprehensive manner, the following information on a current basis:**

- (1) refund policies;**
- (2) current curricular offerings, academic calendar, and academic requirements; and**
- (3) policies regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution of higher education. The law school's transfer of credit policies must include, at a minimum:**
  - (i) A statement of the criteria established by the law school regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution; and**
  - (ii) A list of institutions, if any, with which the law school has established an articulation agreement.**

**(d) A law school shall distribute the data required under Standard 509(b)(3) to all applicants being offered conditional scholarships at the time the scholarship offer is extended.**

**(e) If a law school elects to make a public disclosure of its status as a law school approved by the Council, it shall do so accurately and shall include the name and contact information of the Council.**

***Interpretation 509-1***

*Current curricular offerings, for the purposes of Standard 509(c), are only those courses offered in the current and past two academic years.*

***Interpretation 509-2***

*A law school may publicize or distribute information in addition to that required by this Standard, including but not limited to the employment outcomes of its graduates, as long as such information complies with the requirements of subsection (a).*

***Interpretation 509-3***

*A conditional scholarship is any financial aid award, the retention of which is dependent upon the student maintaining a minimum grade point average or class standing, other than that ordinarily required to remain in good academic standing.*

**Standard 510. STUDENT COMPLAINTS IMPLICATING COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS**

**(a) A law school shall establish, publish, and comply with policies with respect to addressing student complaints.**

**(b) A law school shall maintain a record of student complaints submitted during the most recent accreditation period. The record shall include the resolution of the complaints.**

***Interpretation 510-1***

*A “complaint” is a communication in writing that seeks to bring to the attention of the law school a significant problem that directly implicates the school’s compliance with the Standards.*

***Interpretation 510-2***

*A law school’s policies on student complaints must address, at a minimum, procedures for filing and addressing complaints, appeal rights if any, and timelines.*