

**University of Connecticut School of Law
Resolution Regarding Proposed Changes to the ABA Standards
Governing Security of Position**

(Adopted by unanimous vote on May 13, 2011.)

The faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Law wishes to express its strong opposition to any move by the American Bar Association (“ABA”) Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, Standards Review Committee (“Committee”) to weaken current ABA standards regarding tenure and comparable security of position for law school faculty, deans, and library directors.

Security of position is the most effective means to protect academic freedom and meaningful participation in faculty governance. It is a key tool in the mission to secure and retain an excellent, committed faculty. Security of position is especially important for those who have historically been underrepresented in academia, including people of color and women of all races, who otherwise might be reluctant to express new points of view or demands for accommodation of work and family life. It provides a crucially important zone of protection for clinical professors, who over the years have repeatedly been subject to outside pressure for their championing of unpopular causes and claims against powerful opponents. The pressure to grant security of position to legal writing faculty has also catalyzed a welcome move to acknowledge their valuable contributions, at a time when the profession is increasingly demanding excellent legal skills instruction.

Any move to weaken the standards on security of position is particularly dangerous now, when budget pressures may tempt universities to turn to less qualified, short-term employees as a shortsighted savings measure. We join the large and growing list of law schools, legal organizations, and distinguished individuals who have urged the Committee to retain the provisions for security of position in the current standards, and we encourage our dean to advocate to this end.