

Resolution of the Faculty of Western State College of Law Regarding Proposed Changes to Existing ABA Standards Regarding Security of Position, Academic Freedom, and Attraction and Retention of Faculty

The Standards Review Committee of the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar ("Committee") has proposed substantial changes to ABA Standards 206, 405, and 603. These changes would dramatically reduce the ABA's longstanding commitment to a system of tenure and of security of position for law school deans, traditional faculty, clinical faculty, legal writing faculty, and librarians. Specifically, the proposed changes would weaken or eliminate the

- (1) Standard 206(c) mandate of tenure for law school deans;
- (2) Standard 405(b) requirement of an established tenure policy for traditional faculty;
- (3) Standard 405(c) mandate of security of position for clinical faculty members;
- (4) Standard 405(d) mandate of security of position for legal writing faculty; and
- (5) Standard 603(d) support for security of position for directors of law libraries.

Western State College of Law faculty vigorously opposes these proposed changes and adopts the following resolution opposing them on the grounds that they would:

- (1) Undermine the quality of legal education;
- (2) Undermine academic freedom in the legal academy;
- (3) Undermine faculty governance in the legal academy; and
- (4) Undermine the movement to bring clinical law professors, legal writing professors, and library directors into full membership in the academy.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, THAT:

The faculty of Western State College of Law opposes the proposed changes to ABA Standards 206, 405, and 603 in the Committee's draft for the April 2011 meeting; endorses and adopts the official comments in opposition to the proposed changes filed by the AALS (Association of American Law Schools), AAUP (Association of American University Professors), SALT (Society of American Law Teachers), CLEA (Clinical Legal Education Association), ALWD (Association of Legal Writing Directors), AALL (American Association of Law Librarians), and an informal group of past AALS presidents; and urges the Dean to take all possible steps to resist the proposed changes and to urge other law schools to do so as well.

Dated: May 13, 2011