

I have been trying to clear my schedule to attend. I may yet be able to do so. But in case I cannot I wanted to share one important, if small, point that impacts significantly the calculating of placement statistics in an unfair and unduly pernicious way for many law schools. I believe that both the ABA and USNEWS questionnaire ask for information regarding placement that requires that we breakout stats for graduates known to be employed from graduates who are in a full-time degree program. The ABA use of that breakout then results in graduates who are enrolled in a degree program not being included in the number of graduates known to be employed. Why pursuing a full-time degree program would not be considered a form of employment is beyond me. As a result law school placement stats are penalized for schools where students encouraged or otherwise, to seek LL.Ms, MBAs, Ph.D or other credential building programs immediately following graduation from law school. Aside from inexplicably discouraging the promotion by law schools of laudable and important programs, such a policy works a particularly discriminatory impact on "non-elite" schools which often produce graduates who may more often feel the need to augment their J.D. in order to compete in a range of different "high academic achievement" based professions including, ironically legal education. I have pointed out this problem in the past but I do not know if any attention has been directed to the issue. If it has not then your committee would be urged by me to consider the matter.