



Northeastern University

School of Law

December 1, 2010

Dean Arthur Gaudio
Chair, ABA Questionnaire Committee
Western New England School of Law
1215 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01119

Dear Dean Gaudio and Members of the ABA Questionnaire Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Northeastern University School of Law to provide input into your review of the methodology used by the ABA to collect graduate placement data from accredited law schools. Although we are unable to send a representative to the Committee meeting on December 13, we hope that this letter can inform the Committee's deliberations.

Office of the Dean
120 Knowles Center
400 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

617.373.3307
f 617.373.8793
www.neu.edu/law

We all share the same goal: to provide an accurate and meaningful picture of the employment outcomes of recent law school graduates to the ABA, prospective students and the public. We support the efforts of the ABA to re-examine the methodology currently in use to collect data regarding law school placement.

The National Association of Law Professionals (NALP) has done an outstanding job of collecting detailed and comprehensive information from law schools and then reporting the aggregate results. We applaud NALP for consistently being responsive to changes in the legal marketplace and also for being mindful of the need to have year to year comparative data so that we have an historical record and context in which to evaluate and analyze information.

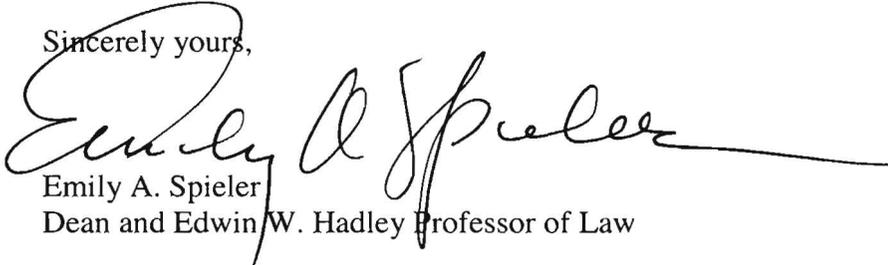
While we are asked by NALP and the ABA to report all employment, whether it is professional legal work or non-professional, it is not sufficiently clear that the placement figures include employment of all types. We believe that all law schools should be providing a comprehensive report of employment outcomes. It needs to be clear what the figures that are reported represent.

Recently, NALP has recommended changes for the data to be collected for the Class of 2011. NALP will be collecting information on whether graduates are working in paid or volunteer positions, whether short-term positions are being funded by outside organizations or law schools, and the start dates for jobs. NALP is continuing to collect information on the type of work that graduates are doing (attorney, law clerk, paralegal, non-legal, etc.), and the nature of the work settings (e.g., law firm, business, government, public interest, academic).

The current ABA questionnaire asks for some, but not all, of the information law schools report to NALP. We believe that the NALP approach, including these changes, should be adopted by the ABA for graduate placement data, beginning with the Class of 2011. It is critical that the ABA collect comprehensive information and try to ensure that the information reported out is comprehensive so that it reveals the complex story behind the numbers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Emily A. Spieler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Emily A. Spieler
Dean and Edwin W. Hadley Professor of Law