April 5, 2018

Dr. Clayton Hess
President
Lincoln Memorial University
6965 Cumberland Gap Parkway
Harrogate, TN 37752

Dean Gary R. Wade
Lincoln Memorial University
Duncan School of Law
601 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Dear President Hess and Dean Wade:

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations (34 C.F.R. § 602.26) applicable to recognized accrediting agencies, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is required to post a letter describing the basis for an action when the Accreditation Committee (the “Committee”) concludes that a law school is significantly out of compliance with ABA Standards pursuant to Rule 12(a)(4). Pursuant to ABA Internal Operating Practice 4 of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, this public memorandum is being issued within 24 hours of the time the Law School was notified of the Committee’s decision.

At its March 15-17, 2018 meeting, the Committee considered the status of the Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law (the “Law School”) and concluded that the Law School is not in compliance with Standards 501(a) and (b) and Interpretations 501-1, 501-2, and 501-3.

The Law School has been asked to submit a report by August 1, 2018, and to appear before the Accreditation Committee at its November 15-17, 2018 meeting. If the information provided in the written report demonstrates compliance with the Standards listed above, then the Committee may find the Law School to be in compliance with the Standards and cancel the hearing.

This letter will be posted on our website (www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/news_announcements/) to comply with the U.S. Department of Education regulations until the matter is resolved.
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A law school that is approved by the American Bar Association continues in that status pending final action by the Accreditation Committee and Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

Please feel free to call me, Deputy Managing Director William E. Adams, Jr., or Director of Accreditation Administration JR Clark if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Barry A. Currier  
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

BAC/jrc

cc: United States Department of Education  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges  
Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
Tennessee Board of Law Examiners