STATEMENT OF ABA SECTION OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR REGARDING DISMISSAL OF LMU APPEAL AND LAWSUIT

CHICAGO, October 29, 2012 – Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law today voluntarily dismissed without prejudice its lawsuit against the American Bar Association.

LMU had filed its action in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee in December 2011 after the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar denied LMU’s application for provisional approval. The court denied LMU’s motion for a preliminary injunction and stayed the action on January 18, 2012, concluding in part that LMU was required to complete the Section's appeal procedure. The school then filed its appeal of the Council's decision to the Section's appeals panel. Today, the school also dismissed that appeal.

LMU has now initiated a new application for provisional approval in accordance with the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools. The ABA will send a site team to the school during the spring semester, after which the team will prepare a report of the facts necessary to determine whether the school is operating in substantial compliance with the Standards and has a reliable plan for coming into full compliance. The report will be considered by the Accreditation Committee, which will make its recommendation to the Council. The Council will then decide whether to grant provisional approval to the law school.