The Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) is pleased to submit this report of its activities since its last report in March 2017.

With more than 1300 dues-paying members, CLEA is the largest association of law professors in the nation. Through its conferences, meetings, website and social media platforms, CLEA has created both real and digital communities of law faculty who are engaged or interested in clinical and experiential education.

These are some of the highlights of CLEA’s activities since March 2017:

- In May, CLEA’s Externship Committee conducted a survey of ABA-approved law schools, to gather information related to the lifting of the prohibition against paid externships. The survey sought information about schools’ policies regarding compensation, funding, and permissible reimbursement for students enrolled in field placement courses and the experiences of schools that are now permitting paid externships. Responses were submitted by 119 schools. The CLEA Externship Committee is now in the process of analyzing the results.

- On May 6, 2017, CLEA held its biennial New Clinicians Conference, with 61 new faculty members in attendance. The full-day conference included five plenary sessions covering topics such as Clinical Teaching and Design, Clinical Supervision, and Clinical Scholarship. A substantial portion of the day was devoted to small group discussions that expanded on the topics addressed in the plenary sessions.

- CLEA’s Best Practices Implementation Committee made presentations on the book “Building on Best Practices” at the AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education in May and at the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, held in July at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Committee members will offer additional presentations at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Conference in August and at the Midwest Clinical Conference in October.
• CLEA’s Communications Committee continues to make improvements to our website and social media platforms, which provide information about upcoming conferences and job openings, as well as “live” updates about CLEA-related activities in real time.

• CLEA’s Advocacy Committee has submitted written comments in response to several proposals to modify the ABA Accreditation Standards, specifically with respect to admissions tests, bar passage, and instruction by full-time faculty.

• CLEA’s Research Committee is in the process of developing a survey for distribution to CLEA members, designed to gather data regarding the impact of changes in both the legal profession and legal education and the resulting advocacy needs of our members.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to work with the Council as an affiliate and to engage with Council members to improve legal education and the process of bar licensing.

Sincerely,

/s/    /s/
C. Benjie Louis    Beth G. Schwartz
Hofstra University    Fordham University School of Law
CLEA Co-President    CLEA Co-President