



July 23, 2018

To ABA Council Members:

LSAC has had an extraordinary year, my first as President and CEO. Since our last update, we have been reengineering many of our services and processes to better serve law schools, applicants, and legal education, with much more to come. I am pleased to share some highlights with the Council.

- The number of **applicants and applications** to ABA-approved law schools for the 2018-2019 academic year continues to increase. As of July 20, there are 60,153 applicants to ABA-approved law schools, up 8.2% from 55,580 at this time last year. Applications are up 8.8%, from 353,161 last year to 384,300 this year. Last year at this time, we had 99% of the final count.
- **Registration for the June and July LSAT administrations** combined is up by 30% over the June 2017 LSAT administration, which was up nearly 20% from the previous June. Roughly 66% of the June/July 2018 registrants are first-time test takers. The overall increase in test takers for the testing year completed in February 2018 was 18.1%.

Administration	Registration
June	24,909 (Final count)
July	14,523
Sum	39,432 YTD Jun/Jul 18
	30,333 June 2017
	9,099 30.0%

Please note that we are looking at the June and July test administrations together this year because we think that is the best comparison as we move to more frequent test dates. You can always find daily updated volume at LSAC.org. We are studying how applicants spread out over more frequent test dates, and we will keep you posted on emerging national and regional trends.

- LSAC has been (and will continue) actively supporting the admissions community during this time of uncertainty about **ABA Standards** governing admission. Many remain concerned about the substance of the proposed changes. Even more are concerned about the potential changes to the ABA's accreditation standards in the absence of guidance on reporting obligations under Standard 509 and interpretive clarity on several concepts in the proposed standards. LSAC has reached out to the Section to share the questions we are hearing from member institutions, and their hopes that clear guidance will be forthcoming prior to implementation should any changes be adopted. We stand ready to help the Section and law schools navigate these uncertainties. We all share the desire that any changes be orderly and clear to avoid candidate confusion and maintain clarity and fairness across schools.

- In addition to the increase in test takers, the **frequency of LSAT administrations is increasing** to 6 this year and to 10 in subsequent years.
- The **Digital LSAT** will launch next year. LSAC has patented a new process and entered into a significant partnership that will lead the industry in quality and security of computerized testing.
- June test takers got their **LSAT scores a full week earlier** than last year. We are working on ways to provide scores even earlier and will have more news about that in the months to come.
- We have added a special phone line and dedicated staff to help students requiring accommodations for the test and vastly improved our **support for disabled candidates**.
- **LSAC's Annual Meeting and Educational Conference** in June in Las Vegas was the most highly attended annual meeting in LSAC's history. At the meeting, I had the pleasure of jointly announcing, with Sal Khan of Khan Academy, the great news that **free** LSAT preparation is now available through Khan Academy's award-winning educational platform that reaches millions of students around the world. The course is tailored to each learner and builds core critical thinking skills students need for success on the LSAT and in law school. Here is the link to the course: <https://www.khanacademy.org/prep/lsat>. Prelaw advisors, candidates, and law schools have been elated about this confidence- and skill-building advancement in high quality LSAT prep because it helps to level the playing field for all test takers. We are supplying website banners, posters, and handouts to prelaw advisors, law schools, and testing sites to ensure that all potential law students know about this new LSAT prep option.
- Annually, at our annual meeting, LSAC recognizes law schools that have demonstrated the utmost commitment to increasing diversity in law school and the legal profession. This year, the University of Washington School of Law won the **Diversity Matters award** in the Impact category for the greatest number of students from LSAC's target audience who participated in pipeline events. The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and Willamette University College of Law tied in the Innovation category for demonstrating the most creativity in their programs and in audience targeting. Southwestern Law School received the award in the Justice category for offering a program that connected participants to criminal justice issues and made a positive impact on the local community. Regional awards for pipeline programs that promote access to justice and the legal profession went to Marquette University Law School, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Stetson University College of Law, and University of New Mexico School of Law. Law schools that host an LSAC Diversity Matters event between May 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019 will be eligible for the 2019 awards.
- LSAC licenses LSAT content to many test preparation organizations. In addition to the free test prep we now offer through Khan Academy, we are working with several test prep companies that wish to provide **free prep courses to LSAC fee waiver recipients**. Potential LSAT takers who cannot afford commercial test prep courses will now have a choice of options to prepare for the test.

- In August, at the same time we launch our completely redesigned website, LSAC will launch a **major national digital ad campaign** to highlight the importance of the rule of law, promote the value of a law degree, and build a diverse pipeline of new lawyers. The objectives of the campaign are to expand the justice pipeline for more individuals who are not currently represented, increase visibility about the many ways that a legal education is used in varied career pathways as well as the many programs law schools offer, take advantage of the redesign of the website to drive students to a new landing page that provides inspiration about legal education and the profession, and support the process of applying to and being admitted to law school. The campaign will run into the fall. Prelaw advisors and law schools will be able to participate with materials they can use to expand the reach of the campaign. This campaign is designed to benefit legal education and access to justice by inspiring more students to discover law.
- A very successful **LSAC Law School Forum** was held on Saturday, July 21 in Washington, DC. With 925 JD candidates participating, JD attendance was up 14% from last year. Fifteen LLM candidates also attended, up 63% from last year.

LSAC Law School Forum Dates, Times, and Locations 2018

Toronto, ON

Monday, September 17,
1:00 PM–6:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Toronto

Chicago, IL

Saturday, September 29,
11:00 AM–4:00 PM
Palmer House Hilton

Los Angeles, CA

Saturday, October 6,
11:00 AM–4:00 PM
The Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Miami, FL

Saturday, October 13,
11:00 AM–4:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Miami

Atlanta, GA

Friday, October 19,
1:00 PM–6:00 PM
Westin Peachtree Plaza

New York, NY

Friday, October 26,
1:00 PM–6:00 PM
Saturday, October 27,
11:00 AM–4:00 PM
New York Hilton Midtown

San Francisco, CA

Friday, November 2,
1:00 PM–6:00 PM
Marriott Marquis San Francisco

Houston, TX

Saturday, November 10,
11:00 AM–4:00 PM
JW Marriott Houston

Boston, MA

Monday, November 12,
1:00 PM–6:00 PM
Boston Marriott Copley Place