



REPORT
of the Clinical Legal Education Association
to the Council of the American Bar Association's
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
for its May 2018 Meeting

The Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) is pleased to submit to the Council this report of its activities since its last written report, submitted in August 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 August 2017:

- In August 2017, CLEA submitted a comment to the State Bar of California regarding the cut score for the California bar exam. CLEA urged the State Bar to consider the limitations of the current format of the bar exam and to weigh alternative tools for evaluating the full range of lawyering competencies required for practice.
- CLEA provided programming for new clinicians at several regional conferences including the Midwest Clinical Conference and the Southern Clinical Conference, both of which were held in October 2017.
- In March 2018, CLEA's Externship Committee conducted a follow-up 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. The CLEA Externship Committee is now in the process of analyzing the results and preparing for two webinars on the subject.
- CLEA worked with the planning committee of the March 2018 Externship Conference, to provide programming for new externship clinicians. Approximately 50 new faculty and administrators were in attendance.



- CLEA's Advocacy Committee submitted comments to the ABA regarding proposals to modify Accreditation Standards 303 and 304 (experiential courses) and 501 and 503 (admissions), and testified before the Standards Review Committee on April 12, 2018, regarding those proposed changes. CLEA appreciates the Standards Review Committee's receptivity to our comments.
- 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 from CLEA-related events in real time.
- CLEA's Research Committee developed and distributed a survey for distribution to all members, to elicit information about members' needs and concerns.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

Jeff Baker
Pepperdine University
CLEA President