AccessLex Institute is pleased to provide the following update to the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar Council:

**AccessLex Center for Education and Financial Capability**

As reported in the February update, AccessLex has been developing a comprehensive, innovative and effective financial education program created expressly for law students. This groundbreaking free resource is designed to drive the knowledge gain and behavior change essential to increasing the financial capability of the law school student community.

Following a 9-month pilot program that included the participation of more than 5,000 law students from 43 law schools, and the subsequent creation of a curricular map, online platform, one-on-one counseling appointment scheduling system, and much more – registration for MAX by AccessLex (“MAX”) opened to member law schools on May 16 and closed on June 30, 2017. During this period, 120 law schools registered for the MAX program. This represents 60% of our member law schools and reflects the desire of schools to help their students be successful – in school and beyond.

This campaign has also spurred a number of interesting conversations about developments that are emerging at the institutional and state level. These include:

- The creation of holistic wellness programs on law school campuses – covering physical, psychological, financial and other areas.
- The potential for state bar associations to include completion of a personal finance program as a prerequisite for state bar passage.

Overall, administrators are excited by the ability to offer an exceptional program that is tailored to their law school population, built on feedback from law school students and structured to allow participation at different levels to address individual student needs and goals.

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**MAX by AccessLex** is available to first-year law students for the 2017-2018 academic year. MAX for second- and third-year law students is currently in development and will launch in Fall 2018 and Fall 2019, respectively.

First-year law students (1Ls) participating in the 2017-2018 program will move on to the curriculum customized for 2Ls beginning in Fall 2018 as a new cohort of 1Ls are introduced to MAX. Fall 2019 will mark the first full iteration of the 1L-2L-3L track with the first MAX students graduating in Spring 2020.
Since our last update, the AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence has worked with various other nonprofit organizations to produce and disseminate important research on topics related to our three guiding tenets of access, affordability and the value of legal education:

- In partnership with Urban Institute, “The Price of Graduate and Professional School: How Much Students Pay” was released in June 2017;
- With data provided by the American Bar Association, the Legal Education Data Deck: Key Trends on Access, Affordability and Value was released in September 2017;
- In partnership with Urban Institute, “Graduate and Professional School Debt: How Much Students Borrow” is forthcoming (November 2017);
- In partnership with Urban Institute, “Financing Graduate and Professional Education: How Students Pay” is forthcoming (November 2017);
- In partnership with NACUBO, “Tuition Discounting Study of Private Law Schools” is forthcoming (November 2017);
- In partnership with Gallup, “Life After Law School: A Pilot Study Examining Long-Term Outcomes Associated with Graduating Law School and the Value of Legal Education” is forthcoming (November 2017); and
- In partnership with Urban Institute, “After Graduate and Professional School: How Students Fare in the Labor Market” is forthcoming (TBA).

AccessLex Institute believes that the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act presents a strong opportunity to strengthen graduation and professional education and to help students better manage their educational journey and succeed in their chosen careers. To this end, we have initiated a grassroots #MakeTheCase advocacy campaign to encourage members of the law school community to take an active role in advocating for policies like the preservation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness, required additional loan counseling for students, income-driven repayment plan simplification and more. For more details, visit AccessLex.org/policy-and-advocacy.