Thank you for the opportunity to offer a written report to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. This brief update calls attention to a few of the most recent activities that AccessLex Institute has undertaken in support of its mission.

**Establishment of a $5 Million Law Student Emergency Relief Program**

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, AccessLex Institute created a $5 million Law Student Emergency Relief Program to provide direct resources to law students during these challenging times. Because the crisis exacerbated financial pressures on law students—in many cases, to a level that could jeopardize the continuation of their studies—AccessLex made $25,000 available to every nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved law school in the nation. Funds were earmarked for student emergency relief, with schools administering distribution in a manner consistent with already established criteria for emergency relief on their campuses. By early June, nearly 200 law schools had applied for and received $25,000 from the Program – 100% of eligible law schools.

**Helix Bar Review by AccessLex® Update**

Progress continues on the creation of AccessLex Institute’s new bar prep program, Helix Bar Review. With the learning management platform in development and UBE content well underway, California and Florida state-specific materials are now proceeding on schedule. A program demo will be available this fall. While the COVID-19 crisis continues to forge a changing legal education landscape, AccessLex is confident that Helix Bar Review’s exceptional quality and lower, no-profit pricing will help rationalize the current commercial bar prep market – which for decades has exacted outsized profits from aspiring lawyers.

**AccessLex Weighs in on Next COVID-19 Relief Package**

While the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides emergency grants to students and schools, as well as relief for federal student loan borrowers, more support is needed. To that end, as the Senate works on the next COVID-19 relief package, AccessLex Institute has been actively engaging with Members of Congress to ask that it include student- and borrower-friendly provisions.
Most recently, AccessLex urged Members of Congress to support public service workers by including provisions from S.1203, the *What You Can Do for Your Country Act*. AccessLex believes the federal government must ensure that it keeps its promise to those Americans who are risking their health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic – nurses, teachers, and other essential workers – by strengthening the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

*Read the letters sent to Congress in recent weeks.*

**MAX by AccessLex® Grand Prize Scholarships**

AccessLex Institute’s signature personal finance program exclusively for law students, MAX by AccessLex®, continues to attract law schools and student users. MAX currently serves more than 25,000 students from 165 law schools.

On May 1, AccessLex held its 2020 MAX by AccessLex Grand Prize Scholarship Drawing. To incentivize students to improve their financial capability, each MAX lesson completed earns a student an additional entry into three random drawings throughout the academic year. Scholarships toward tuition (1Ls and 2Ls) and student loan repayment (3Ls) were awarded to the following nine lucky student participants:

**MAX $40,000 Grand Prize Scholarship Winners**

- Nickolett Daniels, ‘20 Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- William Wimbish, ‘21 University of Idaho College of Law
- Elizabeth Finazzo, ‘22 Case Western Reserve University School of Law

**MAX $25,000 Grand Prize Scholarship Winners**

- Andrew Bougard, Southern University Law Center ‘20
- Tyler Lipositz, Villanova University Widger School of Law, ‘20
- Sabreigha Dixon, New York Law School, ‘21
- Hannah Oates, University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, ‘21
- Kenneth On, University of Southern California Gould School of Law, ‘22
- Lane Spears, University of Virginia School of Law, ‘22
Upcoming AccessLex Events

As COVID-19 continues to disrupt all manner of normalcy across the country, and with the upcoming fall a question mark in many ways, AccessLex canceled this year’s LexCon ‘20 – Student Success and Financial Capability Conference and the 2020 AccessLex Legal Education Research Symposium. Both were to be held in Nashville in November.

However, the Symposium and LexCon@Home, an adapted version of our Annual Conference for graduate and professional school administrators, will be held as online events on Thursday, December 3rd, and Thursday, December 10th, respectively.

There is no registration fee for either event. Registration opens in September.

(Please note – These events will return to the Grand Hyatt Nashville on November 1 – 4, 2021.)

Raising the Bar – Summer 2020 Edition

Raising the Bar, a newsletter dedicated to the exchange of evidence-based ideas about the bar exam, features distinguished commentaries, recent bar-related publications, information about research grant opportunities for scholars and bar scholarships for students, upcoming conferences with bar-related sessions, and Academic Success Program (ASP) and organization program profiles.
LexScholars by AccessLex®
Due to COVID-19, AccessLex canceled the residential component of LexScholars by AccessLex℠, scheduled for this July. However, AccessLex is still in the process of providing free LSAT preparation and comprehensive law school admission counseling to 250 applicants accepted into the program.

LexScholars is a unique diversity pipeline program designed to benefit aspiring law students from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds who possess potential for law school success but may be unlikely to gain admission due to unfavorable LSAT scores and undergraduate grades. LexScholars will take place in its full form in Summer 2021.