The Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) is pleased to submit to the Council this report of its activities since its last written report.

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 “virtual” 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 February 2020:

• CLEA’s ABA and Bar Standards Advocacy Committee drafted a position statement with respect to this year’s bar examinations, which was subsequently adopted by CLEA’s Board of Directors. The statement is linked here: https://www.cleaweb.org/page-1006700/8913993. In May, the Committee drafted a letter to the ABA Council in support of SALT's letter urging suspension of Standard 316. Most recently, the Committee submitted a memorandum to the Council in response to its request for suggestions for the Standards Review Subcommittee’s agenda for 2020-2021. In that memorandum, CLEA noted that the Council’s open sessions have grown exceedingly perfunctory, suggesting that all real deliberations occur in previously-held closed sessions and affiliates continue to be shut out of all Standards Review Subcommittee deliberations.

• CLEA partnered with the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education to deliver a virtual clinical conference with 475 registrants from July 21–July 23. The virtual conference used several different formats including asynchronous videos, plenaries, large group discussion sessions, and small group discussion and affinity groups. The two plenaries were entitled, Facing New Suns: Futuristic Lawyering for Black Liberation and Black Lives Matter and the Future of Clinical Legal Education. In addition, the conference highlighted a webinar entitled, Top 5 Tips for Teaching Clinic Online. The full Conference Program can be accessed here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ig0oczood5fmgil/AACz8373FWuebrkUv3V6JqFYa?dl=0 &preview=AALSCLEA+Virtual+Conference+Program+FINAL+7.20.2020+FINAL.pdf

Session recordings and materials will be posted on the CLEA and AALS Clinical Section websites.
CLEA’s New Clinicians Committee in coordination with CLEA’s Best Practices in Pedagogy Committee organized a virtual New Clinicians Conference, which was held June 15-18 for almost 250 registrants. Each day, the conference offered webinar programming on the topics of In-House Clinic Design, Externship Clinic Design, Classroom Teaching, Supervision, and Scholarship, and included follow-up small group discussions that allowed participants to get to know other new clinicians, explore questions about webinar content, and raise specific challenges faced in their work.

CLEA’s Best Practices in Pedagogy Committee assumed editorial duties of the Best Practices Blog. The new co-editors of the blog are Melanie DeRousse and Davida Finger. The most recent blog post can be accessed here: https://bestpracticeslegaled.com/ In addition, the Committee has planned its second year of the “teaching justice” series, which highlights new experiential approaches to teaching justice in the classroom, drawing on the wisdom of the current resistance movement and examining its intersections within a number of areas of law. Upcoming webinars in the series include Beyond the Carceral State: Critically Teaching Criminal Law & Criminal Procedure on October 9, 2020 and Teaching Critical Lawyering on November 18, 2020. For information on how to register, updates about the series, and recordings of past programs, please visit CLEA’s Teaching Justice webpage at https://www.cleaweb.org/Teaching-Justice-Webinar-Series.

CLEA’s Awards Committee collaborated with the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education to host a joint virtual award ceremony in May to honor the following awardees: Alexis Karteron (M. Shanara Gilbert Award); Sameer Ashar (Ellmann Memorial Clinical Scholarship Award); and The University of Chicago Law School Federal Criminal Justice Clinic (CLEA Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Case or Project). A recording of the event is posted on the CLEA Facebook page here: https://www.facebook.com/cleaweborg/posts/10163377276875315?notif_id=159085867686664&notif_t=page_post_reaction

CLEA’s Externship Committee is working to support the planning and organization of the Externships 10 Conference, which will now be held virtually on October 21-23, 2020. In addition, the Committee has completed its paid externship survey and is working to compile a report on the survey results. The Committee is also continuing to track the application of the ABA Standards to externship programs and to develop a “universal” training video for field supervisors.

CLEA’s Faculty Equity & Inclusion Committee began collecting best practices for equitable clinical faculty hiring and plans to produce future resources available through
CLEA and AALS. In addition, the Committee worked with the AALS Clinical Conference planning committee to organize a plenary session on faculty diversity and barriers to the profession that included two committee members as speakers, in addition to a concurrent workshop organized by the committee to discuss experiences of hiring and identify potential solutions. The plenary and workshop will hopefully take place at the 2021 conference.

- CLEA’s Social Justice Issues Committee worked with the AALS Clinical Section on a Joint Statement addressing the coronavirus-related vulnerabilities faced by the communities we serve and urging immediate action at the local, state, and federal levels. The statement is linked here: https://www.cleaweb.org/page-1006700/8844914. In addition, the Committee is continuing its initiative to spotlight and amplify the work of law school clinics to advance social justice. To read their blog posts, please visit CLEA’s News Blog here: https://www.cleaweb.org/page-1006700.

- CLEA’s Newsletter Committee published the most recent newsletter in May 2020. To read the newsletter, please go to this link: https://www.cleaweb.org/resources/Documents/CLEA%20Newsletter%20Spring%202020%20FINAL%205.14.20.pdf

- CLEA’s Communications Committee continues to broadcast information about CLEA’s advocacy initiatives and events through our website (https://www.cleaweb.org/) and social media platforms, e.g. Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/Clinical-Legal-Education-Association-153481815314/) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/cleaweb?lang=en).

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,

Kendall L. Kerew
Georgia State University College of Law
CLEA President