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 “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 February 2019:

- CLEA’s Committee for Faculty Equity and Inclusion, formerly the Committee for Faculty Diversity, has authored *The Diversity Imperative Revisited: Racial and Gender Inclusion in Clinical Law Faculty*, an essay that will be published in the Fall 2019 edition of the Clinical Law Review. Seeking to raise awareness and deepen the commitment to racial justice in law school clinics, the essay examines clinical faculty diversity and assesses historical trends in the racial and gender composition of clinical faculty from 1980–2017, using existing data.

- CLEA’s New Clinicians Committee hosted its biennial full-day New Clinicians Conference in May 2019 in San Francisco. A record 85 attendees participated in the Conference. This fall, the Committee will again provide programming for new clinicians at several regional clinical teaching conferences.

- Through the work of its Advocacy Committee, CLEA joined in a statement asking the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar to proceed with deliberation and transparency before taking any further action with regard to proposed changes to Standard 316 (Bar Passage). Separately, CLEA and the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) joined in a statement raising concerns regarding the lack of transparency into Council deliberations and requesting the Council to engage in open, collaborative processes as it pursues its important work. Former Advocacy Committee Co-Chair and Current Vice President/President-Elect Kendall Kerew attended the Council’s February meeting and presented an affiliate report on behalf of CLEA.
CLEA’s Best Practices in Pedagogy Committee has offered two sessions as part of its ongoing webinar series on Teaching Justice: Teaching Justice through Misdemeanor Defense (April 9, 2019) and Teaching Racial Justice (June 26, 2019). Featuring innovative faculty who present on new approaches to teaching justice in the classroom, each Teaching Justice session draws upon the wisdom of the current resistance movement and examines its intersections with criminal justice, immigration policy, racial justice, economic justice, and international human rights, among other issues. Recordings of the webinar sessions can be accessed at https://clea.wildapricot.org/page-1006700/6422668. The webinar series will continue into the 2019-20 academic year.

CLEA’s Externships Committee continues to develop field supervisor training resources and is collecting data and feedback from recently-visited schools to help externship clinicians effectively prepare for future ABA site visits. The Committee is also supporting the planning and organization of the Externships 10 Conference, which will be held at Syracuse University College of Law on March 27-29, 2020.

CLEA’s Social Justice Issues Committee launched a new initiative to spotlight and amplify the work of law school clinics to advance social justice. Each month, the Committee publishes a post about an ongoing social justice project or resources available within CLEA’s community. Previous posts can be accessed at https://www.cleaweb.org/page-1006700.


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. We recognize that the new structure of the Council has created challenges and we welcome any opportunity to help the Council increase transparency so that all constituencies are able to engage in open collaborative processes.

Sincerely,

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