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From: no-reply@americanbar.org <no-reply@americanbar.org>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 11:12 AM
To: ABA Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar <legaled@americanbar.org>
Subject: Create uniform law school admissions standards

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Message: Law schools need uniform deadlines for application submission, decision notification, and commitment deadlines. The current system is confusing for both law schools and applicants. Requiring students to make a decision about where to attend school only days after receiving a decision is unethical, especially as students make great effort to apply early in the admission cycle with the hope of hearing back from schools as soon as possible. Similarly, schools should be required to furnish financial aid information long before students must commit to a school; requiring students to submit their paperwork months in advance, only to leave them waiting until right before deposit deadlines, is an embarrassment. Therefore, I would like to suggest that law schools adhere to the following deadlines:

1. Applications cannot be submitted after February 1. This will allow schools to know exactly when they will have all of their applications to review, and they will be able to make decisions in the context of the entire applicant pool.

2. All admission decisions (accept, waitlist, reject) must be released to applicants no later than April 1. A uniform deadline several weeks after the application submission deadline, and months after many applicants have already applied, will make the commitment decision easier for both students and law schools.

3. The deposit deadline for students should be no earlier than May 1. Currently, many students receive a decision no more than 2 or 3 weeks, and sometimes only days, before deposit deadlines. Students should have time to make an informed decision. Law school is expensive, and students need time to sort between their options.
4. Financial aid and scholarship notification should be made no later than April 1 for students admitted before then, and April 7 for students admitted on April 1. Applicants need this information in order to make informed decisions.

Thank you for taking these suggestions into account.