

**From:** Dellinger, Myanna F

**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 3:54 PM

**Subject:** Tenure, ABA law school accreditation

Dear JR Clark:

I write to comment on ABA Standard 403.

I encourage the ABA to do all it can in to support the tenure and tenure-track roles of law school faculty. I have personally encountered difficulties in the job market as a law professor writing about "controversial" topics such as big game hunting for "sport" and climate change.

To ensure quality instruction and research, it is very important to ensure law faculty as peaceful and secure a job situation as possible. In today's volatile and shrinking market, that's already difficult enough. However, tenure and being on tenure track can give one a valuable sense of at least some security to discuss important issues and to try out different teaching methods, etc. If one did not have that - and, for example, were an adjunct, the risk presents itself that professors would simply focus on what is easy and popular to earn the pay check.

Tenure is highly important in today's increasingly political environment as well with "fake news," deregulation discussions, withdrawals from international agreements, etc. This is so because with more job security and longer job horizons come more courage to speak up about laws and issues that are not simply popular or populist, but important for the long term of society.

Best regards,

Myanna Dellinger, J.D. (Coif), M.A.  
Associate Professor of Law  
University of South Dakota School of Law