Thank you for the opportunity to offer a written report for the May 2020 Council meeting. 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 are earmarked for student emergency relief with schools administering distribution in a manner consistent with already established criteria for emergency relief on their campuses. More than 190 eligible law schools have already taken advantage of the Program.

**Bar Success Research Grant Program: Application Cycle Open**

The [AccessLex Bar Success Research Grant Program](#) is currently accepting Letters of Inquiry. This Grant Program supports ongoing or proposed research activities premised on developing studies that will yield evidence-based findings relating to the bar exam, including but not limited to: predictors of bar exam performance; bar exam test design and/or efficacy; study methodologies; and effective bar exam success interventions. The application period ends on May 31.

**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 23,000 students from 161 Member law schools.

On May 1, AccessLex held its 2020 MAX by AccessLex Grand Prize Scholarship Drawing. Every MAX lesson completed earns students an additional entry into three random drawings throughout the academic year. A total of $330,000 is awarded each year – $30,000 in December and March, and $270,000 in May. Scholarships toward tuition (1Ls and 2Ls) and student loan repayment (3Ls) were awarded to the following nine lucky student participants:
1Ls
• $40,000 Elizabeth Finazzo, Case Western Reserve University School of Law
• $25,000 Kenneth On, University of Southern California Law School
• $25,000 Lane Spears, University of Virginia School of Law

2Ls
• $40,000 William Wimbish, University of Idaho College of Law
• $25,000 Hannah Oates, University of Kentucky College of Law
• $25,000 Sabreigha Dixon, New York Law School

3Ls
• $40,000 Nickolette Daniels, Texas Southern Univ. Thurgood Marshall School of Law
• $25,000 Tyler Lipositz, Villanova University Widger School of Law
• $25,000 Andrew Bougard, Southern University Law Center

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Amidst an unprecedented time of stay at home orders, suspended travel, remote instruction, and general shifting priorities, AccessLex took a multi-pronged approach to provide service and resources to schools and students without interruption, including:

Expanded Services
To accommodate the nearly 250 previously scheduled on-campus workshops this spring, AccessLex increased the number of general open-enrollment and MAX webinar schedules to over 50 events per month. Also, all Accredited Financial Counselors® extended their availability to over 20 hours per person each week to service potential demand as students navigate the financial implications of the shifting landscape.

Development of a New Webinar – ‘Managing Your Money During the COVID-19 Pandemic’
Topics for this new webinar include organizing financial accounts and debt, bridging unemployment and income uncertainty, prioritizing outflows, and constructing credible support systems during the crisis.
New COVID-19-Specific Podcasts
AccessLex Institute’s [LEX Talk Money! Podcast](#) is addressing the most recent developments impacting students and student loan borrowers with episodes like:

- Resetting Your Financial Strategies in a Pandemic
- The CARES Act and Its Impact on Student Loan Borrowers
- Will I Receive a Stimulus Payment?
- 3 Steps to Surviving Unemployment Uncertainty
- The Could’s and Should’s of Using Credit in a Crisis

LexScholars by AccessLex®
Due to COVID-19, the residential component of [LexScholars by AccessLex℠](#) scheduled for this July is canceled. However, free LSAT preparation and comprehensive law school admission counseling is still being provided to 250 eligible applicants. 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.

Raising the Bar Newsletter
[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. The Spring 2020 issue of Raising the Bar is now available.