First and foremost, I hope this update finds you safe and well. This is undoubtedly one of the most difficult times that any of us will ever experience both personally and professionally. I’d like to take the opportunity to say how proud I am to be a part of this amazing community which has unsurprisingly created solutions to problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in record speed, demonstrating our unrelenting commitment to building a strong legal system for all.

As a result of this emergency situation, we at LSAC quickly reimagined how to deliver the LSAT and continue to serve as the hub for law school admission as more and more people have begun working remotely. We are fortunate to live during a time in which technology enables us to remain connected even as we are forced to stay apart. I’m pleased to report that we were able to create the LSAT-Flex, an online, remotely proctored test which April registrants will be able to take the week of May 18; this will enable candidates to continue on their law school journeys and help schools meet their fall enrollment goals. We have also maintained strong connections with candidates, schools and institutions, allied organizations, and others through regularly scheduled webinars to discuss important topics and share best practices as we manage through this crisis together; we appreciate your partnership and support.

We would also like to provide you with a summary of the current application cycle. We are at about 90 percent of the expected total volume and with roughly 14,500 May LSAT-Flex test takers anticipated, we will end the cycle on par with last year’s 138,229 test takers. As of April 21, applicants are at 53,294 which is down 3.5 percent compared to last year and down 2.3 percent compared to two years ago. Applications are at 341,814 which is down 2.8 percent compared to last year and down 5.9 percent compared to two years ago. Currently, there are 6,666 applicants to Canadian member law schools, representing a 2.0 percent increase over last year. Applications in Canada are at 25,428, also representing an increase of 5.4 percent over last year. We invite you to visit the data library on our website for the latest volume data.
During times of crisis, we are reminded that the most vulnerable groups are particularly impacted and so we are working to provide as many resources as possible including additional information on our website, through discussion forums, and virtual events. For instance, we are moving our summer PLUS program online with the expectation that even more students from traditionally underserved groups will be able to participate.

I have kept this report brief out of respect for your precious time and attention which is rightly focused on the most pressing issues. But as always, I invite you to reach out with any questions and ideas for how we can support you as a valued allied organization as well as the greater legal community.

Best regards,

K. Y. Testy
President and CEO
Law School Admission Council
INTRODUCING LSAT-FLEX: A NEW, REMOTELY PROCTORED SOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The last regular administration of the LSAT was held in February. Nearly 10,000 people took the exam at testing locations around the world, bringing the total number of tests administered in the 2019-2020 testing cycle to just under 124,000. While both the March and April LSAT administrations had to be canceled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, affected registrants were given the option of rescheduling for a later administration, at no additional cost, or taking the new online, remotely proctored LSAT-Flex.

The LSAT-Flex is very much like the standard LSAT and is composed of genuine LSAT questions that have been developed and tested in accordance with our rigorous standards and multiyear processes. To meet the anticipated demand and needs of this remote testing solution, LSAT-Flex was composed of three 35-minute scored sections (compared to the four 35-minute scored sections and one unscored section that comprise the traditional test). Every LSAT-Flex includes one section each of Reading Comprehension, Analytical Reasoning, and Logical Reasoning. Test takers will continue to take LSAT Writing separately from the multiple-choice portion of the test.

LSAT-Flex results will enable us to accurately predict standard LSAT scores, and as a result, test takers will receive a score on the standard 120-180 LSAT range as well as a percentile ranking.

In this time of tremendous uncertainty, we are proud to provide a solution that can help ease the burden on our candidates and law schools, while continuing to serve the LSAT’s original purpose of promoting fairness, integrity, access, and equity in legal education.
INTRODUCING LAWHUB: A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT STUDENTS ALONG THEIR LEGAL EDUCATION JOURNEY

In March, we announced the launch of two new LSAT preparation products that will help law school candidates build their skills and confidence to take the LSAT and begin their journey toward a career in the field of law. These new products include Official LSAT Prep™ and Official LSAT Prep Plus™ which are designed to complement our wide range of existing test prep tools and services, including those offered through the Khan Academy, thus providing even more options to meet the individual needs and learning styles of aspiring law students.

Both digital products provide prospective test takers with authentic LSAT questions, self-paced and simulated test modes, a record of the student’s practice test history, and instant calculation of practice test score reports. Official LSAT Prep is free and the Official LSAT Prep Plus is a $99 annual subscription. Students who qualify for an LSAT test fee waiver will automatically qualify to receive Official LSAT Prep Plus, which includes more than 60 practice tests, at no cost.

LSAC is committed to helping create a legal system that mirrors the breadth and diversity of our society, and these new offerings will help advance that goal.

Expanding the Legal Education Pipeline

LSAT—INDIA™ POSTPONED, NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the LSAT—India, originally scheduled for May 17, has been postponed to June 7, 2020, to protect the health and safety of test takers and test center staff. Throughout this crisis, we have continued to reach out to our community of candidates and education professionals in India, encouraging them to visit our Discover Law India website for test prep resources and other important information.
We also recently shared news that we will be offering two scholarships for law school aspirants in India this year. The LSAT—India Topper Scholarship, which is being awarded for the second consecutive year, will offer up to a maximum of ₹4 lac to the 2020 LSAT—India Topper Scholar — the test taker who achieves the overall highest reported score on the LSAT—India at the upcoming June 7 test administration. In addition, we are introducing a new scholarship this year, the Shamnad Basheer Access to Justice Scholarship, named in honor of the late legal scholar and founder of Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA), an organization that helps candidates from marginalized communities study law, which will be based on the results of an essay competition. A maximum of ₹4 lac will be awarded to the 2020 LSAT—India test taker who submits the winning essay.

We are pleased to offer these scholarships to give law school aspirants taking the upcoming LSAT—India exam the opportunity to study at some of the best law schools in India.

Events and Updates

NEW WEBINAR SERIES TO SUPPORT AND CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

To support our schools and candidates during this time of uncertainty, we have created a series of webinars featuring a variety of topics of interest. Throughout March and April, we hosted webinars for admission professionals, prelaw advisors, candidates, and deans with topics ranging from moving events into the virtual realm, advising students and staying connected, law school admissions in the time of COVID-19, and leading during a pandemic. We have had overwhelming support for and participation in these webinars and thank the many allied organizations, university presidents and provosts, and other special guests who contributed their precious time and perspectives to help our community. We would like to especially thank Barry Currier and Bill Adams (ABA), Judy Areen (AALS), Jim Leipold (NALP), Judy Gundersen (NCBE), and Chris Chapman (AccessLex).

We will continue these weekly webinars as we move through this crisis together.
LIVE WITH KELLYE AND KEN

Our April edition of “Live with Kellye & Ken,” entitled “Strategizing with Distance Education in a Time of Uncertainty,” focused on deans who are now planning for the possibility of continued disruptions of the summer and fall academic terms, with COVID-19’s likely impact on summer employment, fall externships, and bar exams. Along with a distinguished panel of experts, Deans Emeritus Kellye Testy and Ken Randall discussed flexible and strategic planning for high quality legal education that included topics like admissions, curricular coverage, student support, and assessments.

Our next Kellye & Ken is May 20 and will focus on the future of accessibility and law.

LAW:FULLY

In a recent Law:Fully blog post, “Law School Admission in the Time of COVID-19: Top 10 Questions About the LSAT-Flex,” Kellye Testy answered the top ten most common questions that we have received since announcing that we were offering an online, remotely proctored version of the LSAT in response to the current health pandemic. Upcoming blogs will focus on Project 113, a collaboration among the ABA, LSAC, and Microsoft; a celebration of Law Day; and ways in which we are supporting the most impacted candidates during COVID-19.

Our Law:Fully blog explores the latest news and insights on legal education, from technology and innovation to diversity and inclusion, and features interviews with industry experts and leaders as well as law student profiles and other topics of interest to the community. To submit a story suggestion, please email news@LSAC.org.