Fall is here, and we’ve had an exciting and productive start to the season. We are pleased to offer a report on various data we are seeing so far this cycle. Current volume data is now posted in the data library on our website. As of October 23, there are 8,547 applicants for 2020 to U.S. law schools. Last year at this time, there were 8,951 applicants, representing a 4.5% decrease, but a 17.4% increase when compared to two years ago. Applications are up slightly at 40,813 so far this year compared to 40,410 at this time last year, but compared to two years ago, applications are up 23.2%. Currently, there are 808 applicants to Canadian member law schools. Last year at this time, there were 620 applicants, representing a 30.3% increase. Applications are up at 1,980 so far this year compared to 1,418 at this time last year. Since we are still early in the cycle, numbers are relatively small and volatile, and we caution against reaching conclusions based on this early data.

This report provides further insight into test-taker volume and application trends, along with other pipeline-building activities to catalyze and enhance the future of justice and prosperity by educating and inspiring people to consider law school. We also encourage you to visit our new history timeline and related blog as we celebrate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the conception of the LSAT. Further, on our Law:Fully blog, you will find key insights from our skills analysis study; we will release the full report later this month. As previously mentioned, we are using the feedback from this study to guide the development of additional assessment tools for legal education.

We value your support and partnership as we continue making strides in building a just and prosperous world that is truly reflective of the society it serves, and thereby move ever closer to the promise of equal justice for all.

Kellye Y. Testy
President and CEO
Law School Admission Council
Update on LSAT Test Takers

Final test taker numbers for July are in, and so are the results of how many of those test takers decided to keep — and how many decided to cancel — their July test scores. Over 22,700 took the July LSAT; approximately half were assigned to the new digital format and the rest were assigned to the paper-and-pencil version. For the July test only, all test takers, regardless of which version they took, were given the opportunity to see their scores before deciding whether to keep or cancel them. Approximately half of the July test takers in each testing modality decided to keep their scores. The vast majority of test takers who canceled their scores had either previously taken the LSAT or have registered for a future LSAT. We expect that most of the remaining test takers will take advantage of the free retake that is offered through the April 2020 LSAT administration.

While final September test taker numbers are not yet available, it appears that over 19,000 people took the exam. The next LSAT administration will take place on Monday, October 28; over 18,000 have registered. For the November 25 LSAT, we currently have over 30,000 registrants.

News and Research

HOW KEY SKILLS NEEDED FOR LAW SCHOOL CONTINUE TO SHAPE THE LSAT

We are continuously evaluating the LSAT to ensure that it remains the most effective, fair, and valid assessment of candidates’ potential for success in law school and continues to play a vital role in expanding opportunity and access to the widest diversity of students possible.

As part of these efforts, we recently completed an updated survey of the skills students need for success in law school that provides important information that we will use as we consider changes to the LSAT in the months and years ahead.
Among other significant survey findings, we learned that the key skills currently assessed by the LSAT (critical reading, logical reasoning, and analytical reasoning) continue to be critical to success in law school, and that skills measured by broader assessment tools, such as basic algebra, geometry, and vocabulary, are viewed by law school faculty as far less relevant. The survey also identified areas that are growing in importance for law school, including some noncognitive skills such as teamwork and contributing to a group assignment or discussion, identifying common ground and solutions, demonstrating cultural competency, working well in a diverse environment, and work habits and time management.

Some of the areas we will be looking at in the future include the overall length of the test; different ways of assessing critical reading and analytical skills that could make the test even more accessible to an even wider range of potential candidates; and how can we assess other skills, including the noncognitive skills that law schools are increasingly telling us are critical to success.

You can read more about our Skills Analysis Survey on our Law:Fully blog. A full report will be published later this month.

LSAC AND LSAT HISTORY

Did you know it’s been nearly 75 years since the conception of the LSAT? On May 17, 1945, the admissions director at Columbia Law School wrote a letter to the College Entrance Examination Board suggesting the creation of a “law capacity test” to use in admission decisions. The rest, as they say, is history. To honor LSAC’s rich history of creating a vibrant and supportive ecosystem for law schools and their candidates, we have launched a timeline on LSAC.org celebrating our journey from that 1945 proposal letter to where we stand today — as leaders in promoting quality, access, and equity in law school admission.

In conjunction with the timeline, we have also launched a new blog post on Law:Fully highlighting our history of opening access to legal education. We invite you to check out the new timeline and blog post as you join us in reflecting on the progress we’ve made and the promise each step brings us closer to — equal justice for all in a world where the legal professional truly reflects the diversity of the society it serves.
While our milestone moments are something to celebrate, we never take our eyes off the road ahead. Our new blog post, “How the Digital LSAT Will Shape the LSAT of the Future,” highlights how the rich data provided by the Digital LSAT will open new doors for research and analyses — and insights into areas for innovation and improvement.

Expanding the Legal Pipeline

“BUILDING THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE” HBCU TOUR

This month, we kicked off our “Building the Future of Justice” HBCU Tour, featuring a series of seminars by LSAC’s Presidential Innovation Fellow Miguel Willis. The “Building the Future of Justice” tour is part of LSAC’s commitment to advancing access and equity through law and legal education. We strongly believe the idea that the legal profession should reflect the ever-increasing diversity of our society. The goal of the seminars is to demystify the legal education application process while inspiring students at HBCUs to consider a career in law.

The seminars are free and open to all students interested in exploring a career in law. Each event is designed to provide attendees with clear and concrete information and to connect them with the resources that can best prepare them for the law school admission process, including a deep dive into preparing for and taking the LSAT. Miguel is sharing his own experience as a first-generation college graduate navigating the law school admission process and the many challenges he overcame throughout his law school journey.

For information on dates and locations, please visit LSAC.org/HBCUtour and you may also contact diversityoffice@LSAC.org.
DISCOVER LAW INITIATIVE AND BE indiVISIBLE CAMPAIGN

LSAC’s Discover Law initiative is aimed at expanding outreach to attract a more diverse and representative set of candidates to law school. This initiative was designed to help college students and recent college graduates, particularly those from underserved groups, learn about the benefits of a law degree.

We recently expanded this effort with the launch of our BE IndiVISIBLE campaign, which aims to generate awareness and interest among prospective law school students through storytelling by real people from various backgrounds and at different points along their law school journeys. To date, approximately 100,000 people have engaged with the campaign, which is aptly named BE IndiVISIBLE, as it celebrates our differences and our unity in law as we boldly and actively work to build a just and prosperous world together.

While we quickly got the campaign up and running, we are now in the process of launching a substantial digital marketing effort to bolster our reach, beginning with college undergraduates and, over time, adding high school and middle school students (and those who support and influence them) — as we know decisions about whether to go to law school are often made early on.

COMING IN DECEMBER: LAW COLLEGE FORUM IN INDIA

We are pleased to announce the 2019 Law College Forum, which will be held from December 5-6, 2019, in New Delhi, India. Building on our longstanding presence in India and expertise in planning successful and high-quality recruitment events across the U.S. and Canada, we are excited to be coordinating this inaugural event. Much like our Law School Forums, the Law College Forum is an open-house-style recruitment event that makes it easy for law schools to meet with prospective students on a more personal level. This event will allow high school students to connect with local Indian law colleges about undergraduate programs as well as the few U.S. schools that offer 3+3 programs; it is also geared toward legal professionals and current law graduates in India who are interested in pursuing an LLM degree and other graduate law programs.

We will share a recap of this event in a future LSAC update.
WINNERS OF INAUGURAL JUSTICE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

This past spring, with LSAC funding of $30,000 in prize money, the Access to Justice Tech Fellows Program expanded to include the Justice Innovation Challenge, through which entrepreneurial law students from around the nation were invited to develop solutions that address real-world access-to-justice problems and help civil legal providers stretch limited resources. In August, the finalists presented their solutions to a panel of judges that included Kellye Y. Testy, president and CEO of LSAC; Judy Perry Martinez, president of the American Bar Association; James Sandman, president of the Legal Services Corporation; Kristen Sonday, cofounder and COO of Paladin; and Elizabeth Grossman, director of national partnerships and programs for Microsoft Cities Team – Civic Engagement. Three winners were selected.

Columbia Law School student Emilie Schwarz received top honors with a first-place win for her project Pocket VAWA Self-Petitions, an online tool designed to help increase access to justice for immigrant domestic violence survivors by providing legal information, checklists, and prescreening for VAWA self-petitions and U visas. Along with $15,000, Emilie’s prize provided her with mentorship to help her refine the project and further develop the solution.
Georgetown University Law Center student Anna L. Stone came in second place, receiving $10,000, for her web-based app My Legal Needs, which helps LGBT and nonbinary people identify their medical and legal needs. Third place and a $5,000 prize went to University of Miami School of Law student Talia Boiangin for her Cyber Civil Rights Resource Guide, an accessible resource guide for victims of online abuse.

“I want to applaud the tremendous effort each of these individuals and teams put forth in bringing their projects to life,” LSAC President and CEO Kellye Testy said. “Each entry embraced the spirit of this challenge and offered novel, accessible solutions that address community legal needs — and, in turn, advance LSAC’s core mission of making justice accessible to all.”

The three honorees presented their projects to a national group of stakeholders on Oct. 1 at the Justice Innovation Challenge Winners Showcase event at the Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Events and Updates

**LAW SCHOOL FORUMS UPDATE**

Fall means forums! These popular open-house-style events provide a unique opportunity for our member law schools to personally connect with prospective law students. In September, forums were held in Toronto and Miami. And in October, forums were held in Houston, New York, Atlanta, and San Francisco. Including our July forum in Washington, D.C., and as of October 22 prior to the San Francisco forum, a total of 4,787 prospective JD applicants have attended the 2019 forums, representing a 2.7% increase so far over last year. To view the full season of forums, including those happening in November, please visit [LSAC.org/lawschoolforums](http://LSAC.org/lawschoolforums).
LSAC AMBASSADORS ON THE MOVE

Our Ambassadors program assists law schools and prelaw advisors in supporting the success of candidates during their legal education journey. Our trained experts in law school admission are available for educational presentations and professional consultations on a variety of topics including the LSAT and how to use the vast array of LSAC resources available to schools and candidates.

In September, team director Gisele Joachim attended the Mid-Atlantic Prelaw Conference in Washington, D.C., where she served on a panel alongside admissions deans Shani Butts (Catholic) and Katrin Hussman Schroll (Maryland) to provide prospective law school applicants with admission information and assistance. She also traveled to the MAPLA conference in Milwaukee to provide an LSAC update.

The Ambassadors team recently visited colleges and universities in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas to provide prelaw students with information about the Digital LSAT, LSAT Writing, and LSAC services.

If you or your staff are interested in engaging with the LSAC Ambassadors or requesting one to attend an event, please visit LSAC.org/events/lsac-ambassadors-program.

LIVE WITH KELLYE AND KEN

If you missed our October 21 “Live with Kellye and Ken” show, it is available here for playback. We had record-breaking attendance for the topic, “The Law School Application Process,” and thank deans Jennifer Johnson (Lewis & Clark), Kimberly Mutcherson (Rutgers), Kevin Washburn (Iowa), and Charles Campbell (Faulkner) for their participation.

Please save the date for our next show, which will be held on Monday, December 2, at 4 p.m. ET and will feature a discussion on “The Virtual L1 Classroom.” We look forward to sharing more details, including guest panel and registration information. To view past shows, visit LSAC.org/live-with-kellye-and-ken.