MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2020

TO: Interested Persons and Entities

FROM: Diane F. Bosse, Council Chair
Scott Bales, Council Chair-Elect
William E. Adams, Jr., Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

RE: Standards Review Special Agenda Item-Distance Education

The Council will be submitting to the House of Delegates for consideration at its August 2020 meeting proposed changes to the *ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools* related to the process for a law school to start a distance education program. As a reminder, law schools do not need to apply for acquiescence to start or expand a program until the law school seeks to exceed the current limits.

The Council will be considering potential substantive changes to the Standards related to distance education in the upcoming academic year. To that end, the Council welcomes ideas and suggestions regarding substantive changes to the *ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools* related to distance education.

The Standards currently define a distance education course as one in which more than one third of the instruction involves the use of technology to support interaction among students and the faculty member. The Standards limit the number of credit hours for distance education courses that may be awarded towards the J.D. degree to one third of the required credits and permits up to ten of those credit hours to be earned during the first year of a student's program of legal education. While the Council specifically requests comments as to whether these restrictions are appropriate and suggestions for any modifications, all comments on the substantive issues related to distance education are welcome.

Comments and suggestions will initially be considered by the Council’s Standards Review Subcommittee as it develops its proposed agenda for the 2020-2021 academic year. The proposed agenda will be submitted to the Council at its August 2020 meeting.
Please submit your suggestions to Mary Kearin, mary.kearin@americanbar.org by Friday, July 24, 2020.

Thank you.

__________________
William E. Adams, Jr. | Managing Director, Accreditation and Legal Education
ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
321 N. Clark St., 21st Floor | Chicago, IL 60654 312.988.5103
william.adams@americanbar.org