STATEMENT ON THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION

In February, the American Bar Association Board of Governors approved the creation of an innovative new entity—the Commission on the Future of Legal Education. The Commission will explore possible changes to methods of training and testing the future generations of law students. The 10-member Commission will seek to bring the perspectives of various constituencies to the table including judges, deans, professors and practitioners. Various subcommittees of the Commission will focus specifically on key issues including the bar exam, alternative teaching methods, length of law school and other issues identified by the group.

The Commission adds to the ABA’s long-standing commitment to, and support of, quality legal education. This includes the work of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar and the Council of that Section. The Council is the recognized accrediting authority for J.D. programs. In that capacity, it operates separately and independently of the larger ABA. The Section offers programs for its members, publishes books related to legal education and bar admissions, and prepares reports on topics of interest to the legal education community.

The Commission and the Section look forward to working together to ensure that legal education in this country provides the best possible preparation for the nation’s future lawyers.