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From the Chair: Transparency and its Limits

Maureen A. O’Rourke
Dean, Boston University School of Law
2017-2018 Council Chair

In 2008, the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar’s Special Committee on Transparency made a number of recommendations to the Section’s Council regarding “how the accreditation process should be structured and administered to assure appropriate transparency while also safeguarding confidentiality for any information and aspects of the process that should be confidential.” Special Committee Report, at 1. This year, the Standards Review Committee (SRC) reviewed the 2008 Report, considered the accreditation project’s progress toward implementing the Report’s recommendations, and suggested additional steps. Also this year, Law School Transparency prepared a report entitled “A Way Forward: Transparency in 2018” (LST Report) for the Iowa State Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division. In this column, I discuss briefly just a few of the highlights of these reports and the evolution of the Council’s approach to providing more information on the accreditation process to schools and more relevant data to prospective students. The Council has made great strides in transparency. Because, however, the law school market as well as the employment market have changed dramatically over the years, it may be time for it to identify a systematic analytical method for considering how to evaluate more requests for transparency, whatever their source (within or without the ABA). This will help it provide the most robust and useful public disclosure while also guarding against transparency for its own sake.

The Special Committee Report focused, inter alia, on recommending steps to educate both the public and law schools by placing more information on a revamped Section website. It suggested the website feature an explanation of the accreditation process, including a summary of frequent issues noted by site visit teams. It recommended that that the Managing Director’s Office (then the Consultant’s Office) issue Guidance Memos to schools in appropriate circumstances and hold educational sessions to help schools understand and comply with the Standards for accreditation. It also determined that recommending changes to the consumer data schools must publish was outside of its charge, but noted, “The reporting of bar passage data . . . should be reviewed [and] concerns have also been raised about the adequacy of data reporting in the areas of financial aid, employment, and tuition among others.” Special Committee Report, at 10-11.
In its review of the Special Committee Report, the SRC noted the many enhancements the Section has made in providing information on the accreditation process. For example, the Section now has a more robust website, containing a great deal of information on the accreditation process as well as meetings of Committees and the Council. The SRC Report also highlighted the Managing Director’s increasing use of Guidance Memos distributed to deans and available on the website. It recognized the Section’s continuing use of workshops as an educational tool, recommending that it give consideration to increasing the number of webinars. Regarding consumer data, the SRC recommended no further action given the volume of data that is now broadly available.

Indeed, over the last 10 years, the Council has used Section 509 of the Standards to require broad disclosures. They include, *inter alia*: “tuition and fees, living costs, and financial aid . . . employment outcomes; and bar passage data.” Schools are required to report information according to a Council-approved questionnaire. Section software takes the data provided and formats it into what we call the “509 Report.” Each school is required to post its Standard 509 Report on its website, thus making it easier for prospective students to compare schools. Further, the Council has adopted a quite fine-grained employment outcomes report that categorizes jobs in a number of ways, including whether they are school funded. Schools are required to post their employment outcomes using the form generated by the Section’s software (thus again enabling comparability), and these results are published far earlier than 10 years ago.

The LST Report focuses much less than the Special Committee Report on transparency in the accreditation process and much more on consumer information, advocating in contrast to the SRC, *inter alia*, for more disclosure of financial aid, tuition data, completion rates, and bar pass results than that which is currently required. It emphasizes the utility of disaggregating data by race, ethnicity, and gender, and proposes a simplified employment form that decreases the number of reporting categories.

Generally, in evaluating suggestions for enhanced consumer disclosures, the Council should begin by ensuring that it thoroughly understands current requirements and what has changed to raise the question whether those requirements should be adjusted. If convinced that new practices justify revisiting existing disclosures, the Council should next consider whether it can obtain and present data in a way that would be accurate and useful to prospective students. In so doing, it should not ignore administrative costs – changing requirements often, if not always, results in schools having to report more information or the same information differently, adjusting software systems, and designing new forms. The Council should ask whether the benefits of a particular data collection and presentation effort is worth the costs. Here, I will consider just one of the LST Report’s proposals – disaggregation of financial aid – using this rubric.

Currently, schools report the number of students receiving grants and categorize those grants into less than ½ tuition, ½ tuition to full tuition, full tuition, and more than full tuition. Additionally, schools must publish the 75%, 50%, and 25% grant amounts. Schools must disclose whether they offer conditional scholarships – ones that may be reduced or eliminated altogether if a student fails to meet certain requirements.

Much has changed in the financial aid world in the last 10 years. Many schools have moved away from a primarily need-based financial aid strategy to a primarily merit-based one. Additionally, as law school applications declined, schools began to increase their discount rates substantially, making the actual tuition paid less (sometimes substantially less) than “sticker price.” LST recommends that the Council require “. . . disaggregated data on the amount of tuition paid by class year . . . race, and gender; [and] data on applicants and scholarships by gender [and] race/ethnicity. . . .” LST Report, at 11. LST’s hope is that the availability of this information would help students understand the true cost of attendance and
their relative bargaining position, and assist the Council in, for example, its enforcement of Standards requiring concrete action to enroll a diverse class (i.e., to the extent that diverse students score less well on the LSAT and schools are using the majority of their financial aid budgets to reward merit in the form of LSAT scores, schools may not be meeting their diversity obligations). Disaggregation by year would also help students understand that their costs may change over time.

The aforementioned market changes seem reason enough to revisit financial aid disclosures. Before adopting the LST proposal or some other data collection and disclosure requirement, though, the Council should consider administrative challenges. While schools know to whom they are making awards and at what level, they may need to update their systems to enable sorting that data by, for example, race, ethnicity, and gender. The Section too would need to update its systems and forms to take account of different data fields and develop a new form to present the information clearly. One would think that in 2018, system updates should not be prohibitively expensive, but many schools and the Section itself are running on antiquated systems. Any new requirements should be thoughtfully designed with the goal of forward compatibility should those mandates change again.

Another important question to consider is whether the data could be presented in a way more likely to educate than to mislead. Financial aid can be tricky to put into context because awarding strategy changes as the admissions season unfolds and the class begins to take shape. The exact same student may receive a different financial aid offer solely because of a difference in the time of admission not because of discriminatory intent. Perhaps then, any disclosure should be accompanied by admissions date ranges, which, in turn, would further complicate system updates and presentation to prospective students.

Although generally irrelevant to the Council’s consideration of disclosure requirements, schools do seem likely to oppose enhanced financial aid disclosures because they view awarding strategy as analogous to a trade secret. Although prospective students, through various social media channels, compare financial aid offers, they (and other law schools) would find it quite difficult to reverse engineer a particular school’s strategy. At the same time, though, students who are not savvy enough to use social media to compare offers and attempt to entice schools into bidding wars, are disadvantaged by the relative opacity of those awards.

The Council might consider, as it has sometimes (e.g., in the case of transfer information), whether it should collect the data and review it internally before making it public. This would give it time to consider how to address any anomalies, and how to present it publicly in the most useful way.

Moreover, the Council would be well-advised to avoid making piecemeal changes to its data collection and presentation because of the cost concerns noted above. Ultimately, the best consumer information might be an informational grid that describes the school’s entering class across a number of categories and tracks that class from entry through graduation to bar pass and first employment. An applicant then could assess chances of admission as well as what the initial part of a career would look like, both professionally and financially. We are a long way from such an approach, however, so we may have no choice but to address disclosure issue by issue. As the Council does so, it should employ a consistent analytical approach to help ensure public confidence in its decisions.
From the Managing Director: Moving Legal Education Regulation Forward in an I/O and Segmented Environment

Barry A. Currier
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

In the accreditation world, including the ABA law school approval accreditation process, we are transitioning from reliance on input measures, mostly, to reliance on outcome measures, more so. There have been, and will continue to be, inputs and outputs, but the balance is shifting.

Another shift in the air, even if we do not often talk about it openly and frankly, is acknowledging that law schools operate in distinct markets, although they have many things in common. The commonalities will continue, but the differences are becoming more pronounced.

Some resist the shift to outcome measures. Some resist changes that would formalize any differences due to segmentation in the legal education marketplace. Both are realities, however, and we will adjust to them. Can we take advantage of these shifts to modernize and improve the operation of the accreditation process?

What if, for example, the accreditation process looked at three or four core outcomes (non-transfer attrition, graduation rates, bar pass rates, and (maybe) job outcomes), together with one, fundamental input measure – finances, and re-designed our system beginning there? Schools might be classified into three groups: [1] schools with low non-transfer attrition, high bar pass rates, high employment rates (maybe high JD-required employment rates); [2] schools with high non-transfer attrition, low bar-pass rates, low employment outcomes; and [3] schools that do not fall into either group.

Schools with outcomes that far exceed minimum standards might simply have to demonstrate those outcomes, provide some additional information (or links to where the information can be found) and have their accreditation continued based on a paper record. Schools in the second group would be subject to more detailed annual reporting and oversight, including site visits or fact-finding visits, as needed. All other schools would be subject to a regular, periodic review, including a site visit, every $N$ (somewhere between 7 and 10) years. Might an approach along these lines make sense for the profession, legal education, and for the process itself?
Inevitably, there would have to be more (we are creatures of a regulatory environment). Some inputs - policies and requirements - are required by the Department of Education’s criteria (Standards) for accrediting agencies. Examples are policies on student complaints, and requirements for loan counseling. The Council would maintain some others that are important. For example, disclosures about bar admissions processes and disclosure of consumer information. All schools would have to verify that they meet those requirements. But a much simpler reporting and verification process for them is certainly possible, and a site visit would usually not be needed just for them.

This takes us to the heart of the “inputs” matter: how many credits for the J.D. degree, what does the program require to be completed or mastered, admissions requirements (accredited undergraduate degree, admissions tests), attendance policies, limitations on delivery of education (in F2F classes, distance learning, practice settings), time to degree, restrictions on the granting of credit for coursework done before a student becomes a law student, employment status of the faculty who teach the curriculum (or the dean or the librarian) to schools to address, and the like.

Some of these are needed to preserve the notion of the degree – what makes it an academic and professional qualification. Those inputs, for me, are found, mostly, in the program of legal education – the learning outcomes that must be achieved – for the school to be accredited and the assessment of whether a school is achieving them. Learning outcomes and the assessment that goes with them are both inputs (what they are) and outcomes (demonstrating student achievement or mastery). They differ from other inputs (e.g., time to degree, the pedagogy used, or the employment status of the teacher) in this basic way. I do realize that many people conflate what a graduate is required to master and who helps them master it or how long it must take to master it. But a revised approach might eliminate most of those inputs and give the schools, particularly those who can demonstrate that certain fundamental outcomes have not only been achieved, but are regularly exceeded by a significant measure, more flexibility to work toward their missions and goals with less intrusion from the accreditation process.

Our standards focus way less on learning outcomes and assessment schemes than they do on some of the other input measures, where our time and emotional energy are often spent. Maybe that’s because, as legal educators and as a Council, there is so little agreement on what these learning outcomes should be. However, developing a system that allows our process to accommodate the reality of segmentation of the legal education marketplace may provide a pathway forward where all law schools can continue to exist within one regulatory regime.
Section Spotlight: Section Involvement Opportunities, Upcoming Events and Program Materials Archive

Section Involvement Opportunities

The Section offers a variety of volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved in Section events and activities including serving on committees and assisting in conference planning and publication production, to name a few. If you are interested in any of the below opportunities, please contact Section Director Erin Ruehrwein at Erin.Ruehrwein@americanbar.org.

- Serve on the Conferences and Programming Committee
- Serve on the Publications Committee
- Assist with the new edition of the Adjunct Faculty Handbook
- Serve on the 2019 Associate Deans Conference Planning Committee
- Participate as a panelist for the Legal Career Central Webinar Series (see below)
- Submit a Book Proposal

Legal Career Central Webinar Series
The Section is collaborating with ABA Legal Career Central on its Career Choice webinar series, a free webinar series for ABA members that highlights various practice areas. Panelists will discuss an overview of their job, career path, day in the life, and necessary skills.

If you are interested in presenting, please contact Erin Ruehrwein at Erin.Ruehrwein@americanbar.org. We are seeking presenters to cover the following careers: tenured professor, adjunct professor, law librarian, associate dean, trial professor, and/or education faculty member in a law-related department.

Upcoming Events

2018 Law School Development Conference
May 29-June 1
Loews Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
AccessLex Webinar Series on Student Debt
For more information on this webinar series, click here.

Co-Sponsored Podcast Series
The Path to Law Student Well-Being

Co-Sponsored Webinar
Special Education 101 for Attorneys
June 19, 2018 1:00 PM ET

Save the Date:
August 3 – Annual Meeting Law Student Debt Program
August 24 – Free Webinar – How to Become a Law School Dean
Summer 2019 – Associate Deans Conference

Program Materials Archive
Visit the Section’s Program Materials Archive to access Section webinars and past conference materials including:

- The Weight of Law School: Recognizing and Rebounding from Depression
- Best and Worst Practices in Law School Diversity Initiatives
- The Uniform Bar Exam: Where Are We Now and We Are We Headed?
- Integrating Experiential Learning in the Classroom
- Various Law School Development, Associate Deans, Deans and New Deans conference materials
Section Announcements

Dean Emerita Nina S. Appel to Retire from Loyola University Chicago’s School of Law After More Than 40 Years of Service

Loyola University Chicago’s School of Law has announced that Dean Emerita Nina S. Appel will retire at the end of the academic year. Appel joined Loyola’s full-time law faculty in 1973 and went on to serve as associate dean from 1976 to 1983, dean from 1983 to 2004, and dean emerita from 2004 to the present—and now is retiring in June after nearly a half-century at Chicago’s Jesuit university. Appel is one of the longest serving women deans in ABA history.

Appel’s contributions to legal education and Loyola University Chicago are immeasurable. She is the founder of Loyola University Chicago’s Center for Business Law, its nationally ranked Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy, and cofounder of its internationally recognized Civitas ChildLaw Center. Under Appel’s leadership, Loyola began the hugely successful Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) degree programs, which has launched the school ahead-of-the-curve in online legal education.

Loyola law alumni have honored Appel with one of their highest awards, the Medal of Excellence. A former member and chair of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, Appel was honored with the section’s Robert J. Kutak Award for her significant contributions to the collaboration of the academy, the bench, and the bar. She also received her alma mater’s Distinguished Columbian in Teaching Award and was named one of 10 highly influential women leaders in Today's Chicago Woman’s “20th Century Hall of Fame.”

A retirement celebration to honor Appel’s distinguished career Loyola was held on Thursday, April 26, at Loyola University Chicago’s Philip H. Corboy Law Center, 25 E. Pearson Street, Chicago. More than 250 faculty, staff, alumni and students attended the reception.

Section Welcomes New Staff Member Genevieve Ferraro

Please join us in welcoming Genevieve Ferraro, who joined the Section staff in March. As the Manager of Legal Education Assessment Services, she is responsible for administering the site visit process including the recruitment of teams, recruitment and training of new volunteers, and oversight of the report submission process. She also assists in responding to questions from schools and in the work of the Accreditation Committee.
Early in her career, Genevieve practiced corporate and tax law in Chicago. She has spent most of her career in legal and educational publishing. Most recently, she held the position of Managing Editor at Pearson Education. Genevieve has a B.A. in business administration from Drake University, a J.D. from Creighton University and an LL.M. from DePaul University in tax law. Genevieve is also certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP).
Third Party Comments Invited for Law Schools Undergoing Accreditation Site Visits in Fall 2018

The law schools listed below are scheduled for sabbatical, provisional, or full approval site evaluation visits in Fall 2018. Any additional visits scheduled after the date of this memo will be posted on the Section’s website.

Consistent with Internal Operating Practice 3(a), written comments related to current compliance with the Standards for the Approval of Law Schools may be submitted to the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. Comments on law schools with Fall 2018 visits should be sent by August 15, 2018. Please click on this link to submit third party comments.

Law schools undergoing accreditation site visits in Fall 2018 are:

2018 Fall Site Visits

- Arizona, University of (Sabbatical)
- Chapman University (Sabbatical)
- Chicago-Kent College of Law (Sabbatical)
- Concordia University (Four-Year)
- Denver, University of (Sabbatical)
- Mitchell | Hamline School of Law (Three-Year)
- Missouri, University of (Sabbatical)
- Ohio State University (Sabbatical)
- Southern Methodist University (Sabbatical)
- Yale University (Sabbatical)

Note: Your comments must be signed. Only comments directly related to the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools will be considered.
New Dean Appointments

University of California, Irvine School of Law
L. Song Richardson

University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law
Colin Crawford

Appalachian School of Law
Sandra McGlothlin

University of Iowa College of Law
Kevin Washburn

University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Amy Wilderman

University of Washington School of Law
Mario Barnes

UNT Dallas College of Law
Felecia Epps

Pace University, Elisabeth Haub School of Law
Horace Anderson (Interim)

Gonzaga Law School
Jacob Rooksby

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law
Theresa Beiner

Northern Kentucky University, Salmon P. Chase College of Law
Michael Whiteman (Interim)

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
Kim Yuracko

Duke University School of Law
Karen (Kerry) Abrams

Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law
Charles D. Campbell (Interim)

Washburn University School of Law
Carla Pratt

Western New England University School of Law
Sudha Setty

University of Arkansas School of Law
Margaret Sova McCabe

University of Miami School of Law
Osamudia James (Acting)
Nominating Committee Announces 2018-2019 Council Slate

The Nominating Committee, chaired by The Honorable Rebecca White Berch, Justice (Retired) of the Arizona Supreme Court, presented the following slate to the Council:

Chair (automatic under Section Bylaws)
Jeffrey Lewis
Dean Emeritus and Professor
Saint Louis University School of Law
St. Louis, Missouri

Jeffrey Lewis joined Saint Louis University School of Law as dean in 1999 and served in that capacity for 11 years. He returned to full-time teaching in 2010 with the title of dean emeritus and professor. He began his law teaching career in 1970 at the University of Akron School of Law. He served on the law faculty at the University of Florida from 1972 to 1999, and during his tenure at Florida he served as associate dean for seven years and dean for eight years. Dean Lewis earned both his bachelor’s degree and law degree from Duke University.

Dean Lewis has been active with the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) throughout his career. He previously served on the Council from 1999 to 2004. He also chaired the Accreditation Committee and the Standards Review Committee, served on the AALS Accreditation Committee, and chaired or served as a member of more than 20 ABA/AALS site evaluation teams. Dean Lewis is the current chair-elect of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

Chair-Elect
Election to a One-Year Term
Diane Bosse
Special Counsel
Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.
Buffalo, New York

Diane F. Bosse practices law in Buffalo, New York. She was appointed to the New York State Board of Law Examiners in 1998, and has been its chair since 2001. She served on the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners from 1999 to 2008 (chair, 2006-2007), and is presently a member of the Conference's Testing Task Force. Ms. Bosse is a past president of the Defense Trial Lawyers of Western New York and a past member of the boards of directors of the Bar Association of Erie County and of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association.

Prior to serving on the Council, Ms. Bosse served on the Accreditation Committee for six years (2007-2013), including two as committee chair; on the Standards Review Committee for three years (2004-2007); and on the Bar Admissions Committee for two years (2002-2004). Ms. Bosse is an elected member of the American Law Institute. Ms. Bosse received her undergraduate and law degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo and currently serves as the Section’s vice chair.
Scott Bales joined the Arizona Supreme Court in 2005 and became Chief Justice in 2014. He regularly teaches courses as an adjunct professor at the law schools at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona. He is also a member of the Council of the American Law Institute and formerly served as the chair of the Appellate Judges Conference of the ABA’s Judicial Division and on the board of directors for the Conference of Chief Justices.

Before his appointment to the Court, Justice Bales worked at Lewis and Roca LLP from 2001-2005, served as Arizona’s Solicitor General from 1999-2001, and, was an Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1994-1999. He also was a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Policy Development and a Special Investigative Counsel for the Justice Department’s Inspector General.

Justice Bales earned a B.A., summa cum laude, from Michigan State University, an M.A. in economics from Harvard University, and a J.D., magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor on the Harvard Law Review from 1981 to 1983. He also was a Teaching Fellow from 1979 to 1983 at Harvard University and received the Allyn Young Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economics in 1980 and 1981. After graduating from law school, he clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, Judge Joseph T. Sneed III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Office of the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Leo Martinez is the Albert Abramson Professor of Law at the University of California, Hastings College of Law. He served as UC Hastings’ academic dean for twelve years and he served as the acting chancellor and dean of the college in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Professor Martinez is a past president of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). He has chaired or served on more than two-dozen ABA law school site evaluation visits and he has assisted ten law schools in their strategic planning. He is a member of the American Law Institute (ALI); he is one of the academic advisers on the ALI’s Principles of the Law of Liability Insurance project, and he was a member of the ABA Task Force on the Future of Legal Education.

Outside of academia, Professor Martinez has chaired the boards of four different non-profit organizations including KQED, Inc.; Public Advocates, Inc.; the St. Francis Hospital Foundation; and Public Media Company. He is a member of the board of CollegeTrack, a Bay Area-based organization that
provides mentoring for high school students living in low-income and underserved areas and he is a member of the University of Kansas Chancellor’s Club Advisory Board.

Professor Martinez is a co-author of a leading insurance law casebook, a co-editor of a four-volume insurance treatise, and the author of many articles on tax, insurance law, and legal education that have appeared in journals including the *Stanford Law Review*, *Tulane Law Review*, *Yale Law and Policy Review*, and the *China EU Law Journal*.

Charles Ray Nash, Ed.D
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
The University of Alabama System
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Charles R. Nash has served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for The University of Alabama System since 1992. As the senior academic officer in the System, he is the chief liaison to academic, institutional research, and planning officials at The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville. He advises the Chancellor on all academic policy matters and provides primary leadership in program planning, development, and review. Additionally, he is the liaison officer for the UA System to the Alabama Department of Education, the Alabama Community College System, and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. In 2009, his duties were expanded to include Student Affairs functions for The University of Alabama System.

Dr. Nash holds a bachelor’s degree from Jackson (Mississippi) State University, a master’s degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a doctoral degree from Mississippi State University; and has studied at Southeastern Louisiana (graduate study), Stanford University (distance learning), Harvard University (Institute for Education Management), and the Oxford Roundtable.

Prior to assuming his current position, Dr. Nash served as Associate Executive Director (Vice President) for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He has also held the position of Dean of the School of Education at Armstrong Atlantic State University (Georgia) and Director of Special Studies and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Development for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. He began his career teaching junior high school science and served as a high school assistant principal and as an elementary school principal.

Dr. Nash completed a six-year term on the executive committee of the board of directors of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and served on the executive committee of the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions. He serves on the Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee, the Access to Justice Commission of the Alabama Supreme Court, the governing board of the A+Education Partnership of Alabama, and the New York Academy of Sciences/SUNY STEM Advisory Committee. For the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, he has served on the Accreditation Committee (AC), the Council, and the AC’s Foreign Programs subcommittee and the Non-JD subcommittee as Chairman.

In 2009, Dr. Nash was inducted into the McComb, Mississippi High School Hall of Fame and was chosen as Citizen of the Year in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. In 2010, he was named a Pillar of the Community of West Alabama. He was presented the first Friend of the Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Initiative Award and the NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award. In September 2013, Nash was inducted into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame.
Charles has also served as the President of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa, the United Way of West Alabama, the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Vice President and Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Black Warrior Council of Boys Scouts of America, Chairman of the APLU Chief Academic Officers Council, Chairman of the Alabama Council of University of Chief Academic Officers, Chairman of the National Council of University System Chief Academic Officers, etc.

The Honorable Mary R. Russell
Judge
Supreme Court of Missouri
Jefferson City, Missouri

Mary R. Russell, a seventh-generation Missourian, is a judge of the Supreme Court of Missouri. She was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2004 and served a two-year term as chief justice from July 2013 through June 2015. Justice Russell was raised on a dairy farm in Ralls County, near Hannibal and was educated in the Hannibal public schools. She attended Truman State University, graduating summa cum laude with both a bachelor of science and a bachelor of arts. She earned a J.D. from the University of Missouri–Columbia School of Law.

Upon graduation from law school, Justice Russell clerked for the Honorable George Gunn of the Supreme Court of Missouri. She then practiced law in Hannibal with the law firm of Clayton and Rhodes until her appointment to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, in 1995. At the court of appeals, she served as chief judge from 1999 to 2000. She was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2004.

Justice Russell is active in many professional and legal organizations around the state and country, including the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline of Judges; Missouri Lawyers Trust Account Foundation; a commission to select a federal judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in 1993; House of Delegates to the American Bar Association; Young Lawyers Council of The Missouri Bar; numerous Missouri Bar committees; the Missouri Press-Bar Commission; and the Supreme Court Civil Rules Committee and Appellate Practice Committee. She is a past co-chair of the Appellate Practice Committee of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) and has served as chair on other committees in BAMSL.

She also has served on a variety of statewide boards and commissions including the board of governors of Truman State University (president, 1996), Missouri State Senate Reapportionment Commission in 1991, the Missouri Council on Women’s Economic Development, and the Missouri Job Development and Training Council.

Justice Russell is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Women’s Justice Award, the Faculty/Alumni Award from University of Missouri–Columbia, the Citation of Merit Award from the University of Missouri–Columbia School of Law, the Distinguished Alumni Award–Truman State University, the Legal Services of Eastern Missouri Equal Justice Award, the Lasting Legacy award from Missouri CASA, the Soroptomist International Women Helping Women Award, the Jefferson City Rotarian of the Year, Zonta Woman of Achievement in Jefferson City, the Matthews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club Appreciation Award and the Kirkwood Citizen of the Year. She is also named in the 2015 Ingram’s 50 Missourians You Should Know. She is a Henry Toll Fellow, a member of the Missouri Academy of Squires and a member of the Rollins Society of the University of Missouri.
Election to a Three-Year Term

Pamela Lysaght  
Glen Arbor, Michigan

Pamela Lysaght retired in 2015 from the faculty at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law where she was the inaugural director of the Applied Legal Theory and Analysis Program and was instrumental in designing the law school’s Writing Across the Curriculum Program. She co-chaired the Curriculum, Strategic Planning, and Assessment Committee for nearly a decade, and she served one year as associate dean for academic affairs. She received the law school’s James T. Barnes, Sr. Memorial Faculty Scholar Award in 2003 for demonstrated excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service. Ms. Lysaght received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan with Distinction and her J.D. from the University of Detroit. While in law school, she was a member of the Law Review and the Moot Court Board of Directors.

A recognized expert in the legal writing and research field, Ms. Lysaght is the co-author of Michigan Legal Research (three editions) and Successful Legal Analysis and Writing: The Fundamentals (four editions), the co-creator and a co-author of CiteStation, and a contributor to the Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs (2d edition). Additionally, she has published articles in the Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute. Ms. Lysaght is a member of the Association of Legal Writing Directors, serving as president in 2000-2001, and the Legal Writing Institute. She served on the editorial board of the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute from 2008-2016. In 2004, she was awarded the Thomas F. Blackwell Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing by the governing boards of the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute.

Within the Section, Ms. Lysaght currently serves as Chair of the Standards Review Committee, and she served on the Accreditation Committee from 2010-2016, including one year as vice chair (2015-2016). She has chaired, or served on, several ABA site evaluation teams and is a former member of the ABA Communication Skills Committee. In addition to her work for the Section, Ms. Lysaght is a member of the Glen Arbor Township Planning Commission, the Glen Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Glen Arbor Art Center Board of Directors.

Daniel R. Thies  
Associate  
Sidley Austin LLP  
Chicago, Illinois

Daniel R. Thies is a litigation associate in Sidley Austin LLP’s Insurance and Financial Services group. His practice focuses on insurance and financial services class action defense, reinsurance litigation, and commercial litigation and disputes.

Mr. Thies has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the John Marshall Law School, teaching Intellectual Property Trial Advocacy. He is a member of the Accreditation Committee of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, and has served on the Section Council previously as the Law Student Member (2008-10) and as the Liaison from the Young Lawyers Division (2013-2016). He has served as the Reporter for the 2009–2010 ABA Presidential Commission on the Impact of the Economic Crisis on the Profession and Legal Needs, and as the Reporter for the 2012–2013 Illinois State Bar...
Association (ISBA) Special Committee on the Impact of Law School Debt on the Delivery of Legal Service. He has also represented Illinois as a delegate in the ABA Young Lawyers Division Assembly.

Mr. Thies is a member of the ISBA’s Federal Civil Practice Section Council and the Young Lawyers Division Council, and served as Chair of the ISBA Standing Committee on Legal Education, Admission, & Competence in 2016-17.


Mr. Thies holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he was the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy.

Rebecca Hanner White (Retired)
Dean and Professor
The University of Georgia School of Law
Athens, Georgia

Rebecca Hanner White, Dean and J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Georgia School of Law, served as dean of the law school from 2003 until 2015. Previously, she served as associate provost and associate vice president of academic affairs for UGA. She specializes in the areas of labor law, employment discrimination, employment law and labor arbitration. White retired from the law school on May 31, 2016.

White’s scholarship, cited by federal and state courts across the country, includes numerous articles and books on employment discrimination and labor law. In 2000, White received the Josiah Meigs Award, UGA’s highest honor for teaching excellence. She was selected by law students six times as the recipient of the Faculty Book Award for Excellence in Teaching and received the John C. O’Byrne Memorial Award for Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations. She served as a UGA Senior Teaching Fellow in 2000-01 and was inducted into UGA’s Teaching Academy. In 2002, she was selected as a Senior Faculty Fellow for the university’s Foundation Fellows program. In 2015, she received both the law school’s Distinguished Service Scroll Award and the University of Georgia Alumni Association’s Faculty Service award. She served on the ABA’s Section of Legal Education’s Accreditation Committee from August 2011 until August 2016, chairing the Committee during her last 2 years of service.

White earned her undergraduate degree from Eastern Kentucky University and graduated first in her class from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the Kentucky Law Journal. She served as a judicial law clerk to Chief Judge George C. Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, then practiced labor and employment law at the law firm Dinsmore & Shohl in Cincinnati, Ohio before beginning her teaching career at UGA.
Election to a Two-Year Term

Gregory G. Murphy
Billings, Montana

Gregory Murphy has been practicing law in Montana for more than 37 years. After being awarded a B.A. with high honors at the University of Montana, he earned a J.D. at Notre Dame Law School where he was a Thomas and Alberta White Scholar and served as associate editor of the Notre Dame Law Review. After graduation, he served a law clerkship with the Honorable John F. Kilkenny of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit before returning to Montana to practice law where he enjoys the highest peer review ratings.

Mr. Murphy has long been active in bar admissions and legal education. He has served as chair of the Montana Board of Bar Examiners, chair of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), chair of the Multistate Bar Examination Committee, and chair of the Uniform Bar Examination Committee. For approximately a decade he served on the Multistate Performance Test Drafting Committee. He has served on and chaired numerous other committees and boards. Mr. Murphy was elected to the Council in 2010, served as vice chair from 2014 to 2015, chair-elect from 2015 to 2016 and chair from 2016 to 2017. He currently serves on the Section Council as Immediate Past Chair. Mr. Murphy’s service to the Section also includes a term as chair of the Accreditation Committee. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute and has received numerous awards for his leadership and service in bar admissions and his community.

Section Representative to the ABA House of Delegates
Re-election to a Three-Year Term

The Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr.
Judge
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
Cleveland, Ohio

Judge Oliver was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio by President Bill Clinton in 1994 and served as chief judge from 2010 to 2017. Judge Oliver holds a B.A. from the College of Wooster, an M.A. in political science from Case Western Reserve University, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law. From 1975 to 1976, Judge Oliver was a law clerk for the late Judge William H. Hastie of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Oliver was an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio, where he served as chief of the Civil Division and chief of appellate litigation. From 1982 to 1994, he was a professor at Cleveland State University’s Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and served as associate dean from 1991 to 1994.

He is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Wooster and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the New York University Black, Latino, Asian Pacific American Law Alumni Association. He is a member of the American Law Institute, the American Bar Foundation, and the board of trustees of the College of Wooster. Judge Oliver has served on the Judicial Conference of the United States, and is currently a member of its Civil Rules Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Section’s Council from 1996 to 2005 and from 2011 to 2015, including a term as chair in 2013-2014.
He has also served on the Accreditation Committee, the Standards Review Committee and numerous site visit teams. Judge Oliver previously served as co-chair of the ABA Section of Litigation’s Minority Trial Lawyer Committee.

Law Student Division Member
Election to a One-Year Term

Sarah Correll
Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law
JD Expected May 2019

Sarah Correll is a law student at Indiana University’s Robert H. McKinney School of Law where she serves as an editor for the Indiana Law Review, research assistant for the Agricultural Law Program, and a student recruitment assistant. Ms. Correll also serves as a fellow for the Program on Law and State Government, a volunteer for the Student Outreach Clinic, and a graduate student representative for the Student Development Funding Committee.

Ms. Correll earned a B.S. in Agricultural Economics with Highest Distinction from Purdue University in 2016, where she served as the speaker at the University’s Commencement Ceremony. During her time at Purdue, she served on the Student Government and Student Fee Advisory Committee and was the only student member of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

Ms. Correll’s past work experience includes serving as a government relations intern at Indiana University, legal extern for the office of Congresswoman Susan Brooks, and a judicial extern for Chief Justice Rush of the Indiana Supreme Court.

The election of Council officers and members will take place at the Section’s annual business meeting, Saturday, August 4, at the InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel during the ABA Annual Meeting.

One or more additional nominations may be made for any designated seat on the Council, including officers of the Council (except Chairperson and Immediate Past Chairperson), by petition signed by not less than 50 members of the Section in good standing, not more than 10 of whom are residents of any one state. A person so nominated shall be called the “petitioner”. The petition shall specify which nominee the petitioner is challenging and shall state that the petitioner has agreed to the nomination and meets the criteria for the position being sought. The petition shall be delivered in person or by mail to the Section Office at the Association headquarters and must be received no later than July 15. The Secretary shall thereupon confirm that such individual is eligible to serve if elected. If additional nominations are made, the Chairperson shall distribute to the membership a final notice of nominations as soon as practical, but no later than July 22.
**Upcoming Section Events**

**View the Section Events Calendar**

**May 29-June 1**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Law School Development Conference**

The 2018 Law School Development Conference is scheduled for May 29-June 1 at the Loews Chicago Hotel. The conference theme is *Rewriting Your Story: Adapting to Changing Donor Demands and Shifting Alumni Expectations* and will bring together law school deans and development professionals to discuss, learn and collaborate on issues surrounding the changing philanthropic landscape, new development approaches, and best practices.

Keynote Speakers include **Esther Choy**, President & Chief Story Facilitator of the Leadership Story Lab and **Valerie Jarrett**, Senior Distinguished Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School and Senior Advisor to the Obama Foundation. Ms. Jarrett will participate in a moderated conversation with Dean Dan Rodriguez during the conference luncheon on Thursday, May 31.

For more information about the conference and to register, [click here](#).

**June 5-7**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**New Deans Workshop**

This year’s program will take place from June 5th (late afternoon) through June 7th (mid-afternoon) at The Kimpton Gray Hotel, 122 W. Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois, 60603.

The program is organized and offered by a committee of experienced law school deans. This year’s faculty include Mark Alexander (Villanova), Mary Lu Bilek (CUNY), Paul Caron (Pepperdine), Andy Klein (Indiana-Indianapolis), Lyrissa Lidsky (Missouri), Wendy Perdue (Richmond), and Dan Rodriguez (Northwestern). Also participating in the program are Judy Areen (AALS), Chris Chapman (AccessLex), Kellye Testy (LSAC), Bill Adams (ABA) and Barry Currier (ABA).

The program provides an overview of the many issues and matters that deans will encounter, and provides an opportunity to develop valuable connections and friendships within the decanal community.

For more information, please contact Adrienne Tucker at Adrienne.Tucker@americanbar.org.

**Save the Date – More Information Coming Soon**

**August 3**  
**Annual Meeting Student Debt Program**

**August 24**  
**Free Webinar – How to Become a Law School Dean**

**Summer 2019**  
**Associate Deans Conference**
Section Headquarters Hotel
InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile
505 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

Preliminary Section Schedule

Thursday, August 2
Council Meeting
Chair’s Dinner
6:00-9:00 p.m.
By Invitation

Friday, August 3
Council Meeting
Law Student Debt Program
Kutak Award Reception
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 4
Deans Breakfast
Annual Section Business Meeting
Details will be posted on the Section’s website as they become available.

Visit the ABA Annual Meeting website.
Section Publications

2018 Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements
The Comprehensive Guide sets out the rules and practices of all U.S. jurisdictions for admission to the bar by examination and on motion, including legal education, character and fitness, bar examinations, and special licenses. The 2018 issue is available as a free download or for purchase in the ABA webstore.

Annual Report
The Annual Report provides an overview of the activities and accomplishments of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar during the previous Association year. It includes information on the topics of accreditation, standards review, site visits, special events and activities, and the Section's leadership.

Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs – New Edition
The Section is currently working on a new edition of the Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs. Please watch for this new edition to be released in early 2019!

Adjunct Faculty Handbook – Call for Volunteers
The Section plans to produce an updated edition of the Adjunct Faculty Handbook. If you are interested in contributing to this new edition, please contact Section Director Erin Ruehrwein at Erin.Ruehrwein@americanbar.org.

Book Proposals – Call for Submissions
As a reminder, the Section publishes its own books and periodicals and is always seeking new book proposals. If you would like to submit a book proposal, please send the proposal directly to Section Director Erin Ruehrwein at Erin.Ruehrwein@americanbar.org.