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From the Managing Director:
The ABA Law School Accreditation Project: The $5M Solution to a $65M Problem

Barry A. Currier
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

If the ABA law school accreditation process did not exist, someone would invent it. It is a very efficient solution to an important problem. Here’s why that is so.

Multiple jurisdictions. There is no national bar admission in the United States. Fifty-six (56) states, districts, and territories license U.S. lawyers. Each has plenary authority over bar admissions within their borders. Basically, every jurisdiction requires passing its bar examination as a condition of admission to the bar. Eligibility to take that exam generally requires completion of a qualifying legal educational program.

Law schools. There are approximately 240 law schools in the United States, 203 of which are ABA-approved to award the J.D. degree. Each year, there are more than 30,000 graduates of those ABA-approved schools. Most of those graduates want to take the bar examination and become licensed lawyers. Often, the graduate wants to take the bar in the state where she went to law school, but not always. For example, increasingly graduates move to where the work is.

The prospect of varying education standards. From the jurisdiction’s point of view, how does it decide what education meets its requirements? From the law school’s perspective, how might it construct its program and advise its students regarding admissions requirements that might vary considerably among the states? Students are caught in the middle. Do they have the information they need to make intelligent choices about their education, with their future prospects in mind?

An efficient solution. This is where the ABA law school accreditation project comes into play. All jurisdictions accept a J.D. degree from an ABA-approved law school as satisfying their educational requirements for eligibility to sit for the bar examination. In many states, earning a J.D. from an ABA-approved school is the only way to meet that education requirement. Jurisdictions retain their authority, but exercise it by accepting that a J.D. degree from a school approved by the Council of the Section of
Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar demonstrates that the graduate has had an appropriately rigorous and comprehensive legal education. The ABA-approved law school J.D. becomes a transportable credential, relieving the school and the graduate from concerns about varying education requirements among the states.

Similarly, jurisdictions are relieved of the need to adopt education standards and enforce them against over 200 law schools. States’ bar admissions processes count on the Council to adopt and enforce a set of reasonable requirements.

Without the ABA law school accreditation process every school would have to have personnel and space to make sure it is in good standing with every admitting jurisdiction, and every admitting jurisdiction would have to have staff and space to adopt and enforce educational standards on over 200 law schools.

I estimate the total cost of this activity to be in the range of $65 million annually: 250 entities (about 50 jurisdictions and about 200 law schools) spending about $250,000 each (estimating two persons – salary and benefits – plus space, and other operating expenses = $62.5 million, rounding to $65 million for the sake of discussion). For the admitting jurisdictions the expenses cover setting standards and reviewing law schools for compliance with them. For schools, the expenses are to keep track of the rules in multiple jurisdictions and advise and provide services/support to students/graduates seeking admission.

The Council’s budget for doing this work is about $5,000,000. The efficiency of the process is compelling – if it didn’t exist, someone would invent it. It solves a $65 million problem.

To make this efficient process also a sound one, the Council must establish appropriate standards and enforce them fairly. To do that, it needs the participation of excellent lawyers, judges, and academics, which we are fortunate to have. So long as this continues to be true, the work that the ABA has done and supports in the ABA law school accreditation process serves the profession, the public, students, and the law schools extraordinarily well. It is a $5 million bargain for both the education and professional communities we serve.
Section Spotlight: 2019-2020 Committee Opportunities

Erin Ruehrwein
Section Director

It’s that time of year when the Section begins to consider appointing new members to its committees for the upcoming bar year. Serving on Section committees presents a valuable opportunity to participate in the planning of programs, produce publications, lead new efforts and activities, and network with your colleagues. Below I describe the missions of our Section committees. If you are interested in serving on a Section committee, please contact me at Erin.Ruehrwein@americanbar.org by June 15, 2019.

Conferences & Programming Committee
This committee leads the Section's conceptualization, planning, organization and implementation of workshops and conferences. It also serves to identify new program and webinar topics.

To view the current committee roster, click here.

Publications Committee
This committee guides the Section's publishing program, working to produce new editions of current publications and new publications.

To view the current committee roster, click here.

Law School Development Committee
This committee focuses on fundraising in the law school setting and plans the Law School Development Conference for law school deans, faculty, and development officers. This committee will oversee the 2020 Law School Development Conference.
Third Party Comments Invited for Law Schools Undergoing Accreditation Site Visits in Fall 2019

The law schools listed below are scheduled for site evaluation visits in Fall 2019. Any additional visits scheduled after the date of this memo will be posted on the Section’s website.

Consistent with Internal Operating Practice 4(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 Spring 2019 visits should be sent by August 15, 2019. Please click on this link to submit third party comments.

Law schools undergoing accreditation site visits in Fall 2019 are:

- Atlanta John Marshall (Regular Comprehensive)
- Oklahoma City University (Regular Comprehensive)
- North Carolina Central University (Regular Comprehensive)
- Seattle University (Regular Comprehensive)
- South Dakota (Regular Comprehensive)

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

Appalachian School of Law
Elizabeth McClanahan

Brooklyn Law School
Michael Cahill

Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law
Steven Payne

Chicago-Kent College of Law
Anita Krug

Cincinnati, University of, College of Law
Verna Williams

Creighton University School of Law
Joshua Fershee

District of Columbia, University of the,
David A. Clarke School of Law
Renee McDonald Hutchins

Duquesne University School of Law
April Barton

Florida A&M University College of Law
Nicola Boothe Perry (Interim)

George Washington University School of Law
Christopher Bracey (Interim)

Georgia State University College of Law
Leslie Wolf (Interim)

Maine, the University of, School of Law
Dmitry Bam (Interim)

Miami, University of, School of Law
Patricia White

Mitchell | Hamline School of Law
Peter Knapp

Nebraska, University of, College of Law
Anna Shavers (Acting)

North Dakota, University of, School of Law
Michael McGinniss

Northern Kentucky University
Salon P. Chase College of Law
Judith Daar

Notre Dame Law School
G. Marcus Cole

Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law
Charles H. Rose III

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
Lincoln Davies

Pacific McGeorge, University of the, School of Law
Michael Colatrella (Interim)

Penn State Dickinson Law
Danielle Conway

Regent University School of Law
Mark Martin

Rutgers Law - Camden
Kimberly Mutcherson (Co-Dean)

Santa Clara University School of Law
Anna Han (Interim)

South Dakota, University of, School of Law
Neil Fulton

South Texas College of Law Houston
Michael Barry

Stanford Law School
Jenny Martinez

Stetson University College of Law
Michèle Alexandre

Utah, University of, S.J. Quinney College of Law
Elizabeth Kronk Warner

Wake Forest University School of Law
Jane Aiken

Western Michigan University Cooley Law School
James McGrath

*New dean appointments since January 2019. For corrections, please email Erin.Ruehrwein@americanbar.org.
Nominating Committee Announces 2019-2020 Council Slate

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Gregory G. Murphy of the Greg Murphy Law Firm, presents the following slate to the Council and the Section for election in August 2019:

Chair (automatic under Section Bylaws)
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 years 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 Chair-Elect.

Chair-Elect
Election to a One-Year Term
The Honorable Scott Bales
Chief Justice
Arizona Supreme Court
Phoenix, Arizona

Scott Bales joined the Arizona Supreme Court in 2005 and became Chief Justice in 2014. He regularly teaches as an adjunct professor at the law schools at Arizona State and the University of Arizona. Justice Bales 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. He is currently a member of the Council, serving as its Vice Chair, and previously served as a member and Chair of the Council’s Accreditation Committee.

After completing his five-year term as Chief Justice, Bales will retire from the Arizona Supreme Court in July 2019. This fall, he will become the Executive Director of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System ("IAALS"), at the University of Denver.

Bales was named by the American Judges Association as the 2018 recipient of the Chief Justice Richard W. Holmes Award of Merit, which recognizes “outstanding contributions to the judiciary.” He also received the 2018 Ernest C. Friesen Award of Excellence, presented annually by the Justice Management Institute to an individual who has demonstrated vision, leadership, and sustained commitment to the achievement of excellence in the administration of justice.
Before his appointment to the Court, Bales had practiced law in Arizona for nearly 20 years as both a private and public lawyer. From 2001-2005, he worked at Lewis and Roca LLP, where his practice focused on appellate and complex litigation. He served as Arizona’s Solicitor General from 1999-2001. Justice Bales also was a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Policy Development, a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney’s Office in Phoenix, and a Special Investigative Counsel for the Justice Department’s Inspector General. He clerked for Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Joseph T. Sneed III on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

After graduating from Michigan State University with degrees in history and economics, he received a master’s degree in economics and his law degree from Harvard.

Vice Chair
Election to a One-Year Term
Leo P. Martinez
Professor
University of California, Hastings College of the Law

Leo Martinez is Dean and Albert Abramson Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of California, Hastings College of the 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. He is currently a member of the Council.

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 was 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 that issued its final report in 2014.

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 recently finished his term as a member of the University of Kansas Chancellor’s 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.

Secretary
Re-election to a Two-Year Term
Antonio García-Padilla
Dean Emeritus and Professor
University of Puerto Rico School of Law

Before becoming the eighth president of the University of Puerto Rico in November 2001, Antonio García-Padilla had been dean of its school of law for 15 years. He is the president of the Puerto Rico Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation. Earlier in his career he served as law clerk to Judge Stephen
G. Breyer, now Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, then serving as a circuit judge in the Federal Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and to Justice Angel M. Martin of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico.

Dean García-Padilla has served on the Section’s Accreditation Committee and currently serves as the Section’s Secretary. He has also served as a member of the council of the American Law Institute. Dean García-Padilla received his law degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law in 1978 and a master’s in law from Yale Law School in 1981.

Members-at-Large

Re-election to a Three-Year Term

David Byers
Administrative Director of the Courts
Arizona Supreme Court
Phoenix, Arizona

David Byers is the Arizona Supreme Court’s Administrative Director of the Courts. He is responsible for overseeing the operations of the Arizona Court system with over 10,000 employees and a total budget of $740M. The system also operates both juvenile and adult probation programs and 13 juvenile detention centers. Mr. Byers began his career with the court in 1978 as the first director of the Foster Care Review Board. Before being appointed administrative director by the Arizona Supreme Court in 1992, Mr. Byers was the director of the Program Services Division, director of Adult and Juvenile Probation, and deputy director of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Mr. Byers has also served as chairman of the $34B Arizona State Retirement System; and is currently a member of the State Bar of Arizona, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, the Arizona Prosecuting Attorney’s Advisory Council, the Governor’s Drug and Gang Policy Council, and the Department of Justice Global Advisory Committee. He is the founder and first president of the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers, and cofounder of the Arizona Friends of Foster Care Foundation.

Mr. Byers earned a B.A. from Northern Iowa University and a master’s degree from Arizona State University. He was honored with the 2012 Gabe Zimmerman Leadership Award, the 2013 Warren E. Burger Award, the National Center for State Courts’ Distinguished Service Award, the Arizona Supreme Courts Distinguished Service Award, the State Bar’s Award of Appreciation, and the Cedar Falls, Iowa 1970 Man of the Year Award.

Joseph K. West
Partner and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Duane Morris LLP
Washington D.C.

Joseph K. West is a partner in the trial group at Duane Morris, LLP. He also serves on the firm’s partners board and is also the firm’s Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. He handles complex litigation matters and advises global companies on a wide array of matters. His clients currently include the Dubai-based Al Ahli Holding Group; Mercedes Benz-USA, Altria, Discover Financial Services, Inc. and Jabil Circuit, Inc.
Mr. West was formerly Associate General Counsel - Head of Global Outside Counsel Management at Walmart Stores Inc. where he was responsible for managing the company’s relationships with its outside law firms worldwide, including oversight of over 600 law firms and a budget of over $300 million. He was also a member of Walmart’s Class Action – Complex Litigation Group wherein he helped manage a number of groundbreaking matters including the largest class action matter in U.S. history.

A nationally recognized expert on diversity and inclusion, Mr. West previously served as CEO of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA), a national advocacy group that conducts research and training on corporate diversity and inclusion issues. He has lectured and written extensively on this issue and currently represents, trains and advises numerous publicly traded companies, their boards and CEOs on issues related to diversity and inclusion and the compliance, risk management and corporate strategies associated with this important and growing area of concern. Mr. West was recently elected to the board of directors of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Mr. West was appointed by ABA President Paulette Brown to the ABA Commission on Diversity and Inclusion 360. He was a member of the ABA Task Force on the Financing of Legal Education and has served on the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. He was also a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel's ACC Value Challenge Steering Committee and formerly served on the Arts Council of New Orleans and the Walton Arts Center Corporate Leadership Council. Additionally, former Louisiana governor Kathleen Blanco appointed him to chair the Louisiana State Museum Board.

He is a graduate of Tulane Law School and formerly served as an adjunct professor of trial advocacy at Tulane. He currently lectures at the George Mason Antonin Scalia School of Law on corporate leadership and diversity and was recently retained by the school to help develop the first of its kind curriculum in corporate diversity and inclusion.

Election to a Three-Year Term

Mary Lu Bilek
Dean
The City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law

Mary Lu Bilek has served as dean of CUNY School of Law since 2016. Under her leadership, the Law School has been named “the premier public interest law school in the country” and tops the list of “the most diverse law schools in the country.” Having joined the faculty shortly after the school opened, Bilek served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for three deans and is credited with leadership in moving the school to accreditation, developing and implementing CUNY Law’s innovative curriculum, spearheading programs that increased the diversity of the Law School and the profession, and supporting the development of programs to address the justice gap.

Bilek served as dean of the University of Massachusetts School of Law from 2012-2016, charged to lead the Commonwealth’s new public law school to accreditation. Under her leadership, UMass Las saw a rise in applications and academic credentials, as well as an increase in student diversity.

Bilek served on the ABA Special Committee on the Professional Education Continuum, chaired the Section on Legal Education Diversity Committee, and has served on many ABA Site Visit Teams, chairing
several. She regularly participates on the faculty of the Site Visit Team and Chair Workshops and has served on the faculty of the New Deans Workshop. She has served on the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission and the Boards of the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, the National Center for Economic Justice, and CALI. She is a member of the NYC Bar’s Council on the Profession, the Task Force on Right to Counsel, and the Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession.

Named as one of the Most Influential People in Legal Education by *National Jurist* in 2016, Bilek graduated *summa cum laude* from St. Mary’s College and *cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

**David A. Brennen**  
Dean and Professor  
University of Kentucky College of Law

David A. Brennen joined UK in 2009 from the University of Georgia School of Law where he was a professor since 2006 and from the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) where he served a two-year term as deputy director. Along with more than 20 years of experience in the classroom, Brennen is regarded as an innovator in the field of nonprofit law as it relates to taxation. He is a co-founder and co-editor of Nonprofit Law Prof Blog, founding editor of Nonprofit and Philanthropy Law Abstracts, co-founder of the AALS Section on Nonprofit and Philanthropy Law and a co-author of one of the first law school casebooks on taxation of nonprofit organizations.

Brennen received his bachelor’s degree in finance from Florida Atlantic University in 1988 and his law degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 1991, where he also received his LL.M. in tax law in 1994. In 2002, Brennen was elected to the American Law Institute where he is an adviser on its project titled, “Principles of the Law of Nonprofit Organizations.” Brennen has also served in leadership roles with AALS, the Society of American Law Teachers and the American Bar Association’s Section of Legal Education.

Brennen began his career in legal education as an adjunct professor at Florida A&M University in 1994. He also taught as a professor at Syracuse University College of Law, the University of Richmond School of Law and Mercer University School of Law prior to his last position at the University of Georgia. In addition, Brennen taught as a visiting professor at the University of Alabama and Temple University.

His law practice work began with Moody & Salzman, PA in Gainesville, Florida. He went to work with Bobo, Spicer & Ciotoli, PA in West Palm Beach, Messer, Vickers, Caparello, Madsen, Lewis, Goldman & Metz, PA in Tallahassee and the State of Florida Department of Revenue.

He has been a member of the Florida Bar - Tax Section, American Bar Association - Section of Taxation and the National Bar Association. In addition, he has served on several boards and held many special appointments, including being appointed to American Bar Association Accreditation Committee, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Reaffirmation Committee, and the boards of directors for Access Group and Hospice of the Bluegrass.
Eduardo M. Peñalver
Dean and Professor
Cornell Law School

Eduardo M. Peñalver is the Allan R. Tessler Dean and Professor of Law. He became Cornell Law School's 16th Dean on July 1, 2014. Dean Peñalver most recently served as the John P. Wilson Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School.

He received his B.A. from Cornell University and his law degree from Yale Law School. Between college and law school, he studied philosophy and theology as a Rhodes Scholar at Oriel College, Oxford. Upon completing law school, Dean Peñalver clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and at the Supreme Court for Justice John Paul Stevens.

Dean Peñalver’s scholarship focuses on property and land use, as well as law and religion. His work explores the way in which the law mediates the interests of individuals and communities. His writing on property has appeared in numerous leading law journals. His book, *Property Outlaws* (co-authored with Sonia Katyal), published by Yale University Press in February 2010, explores the vital role of disobedience within the evolution of property law. His most recent book, *An Introduction to Property Theory* (co-authored with Gregory Alexander), was published by Cambridge University Press in 2011.

Dean Peñalver previously taught at Cornell Law School (2006-2012) and at Fordham Law School (2003-2006). He has also been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School and Yale Law School.

Law Student Division Member
Election to a One-Year Term

Zachary Faircloth
Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law
JD Expected May 2020

Zachary Faircloth is a law student at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law where he is a Hatton W. Sumners Scholar and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the *SMU Law Review*. Mr. Faircloth also participates in a variety of advocacy competitions and serves as a research assistant for Professor Hillel J. Bavli and an Academic Success Program mentor.

Prior to law school, Mr. Faircloth earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and a B.A. in Political Science with College Honors from Louisiana State University, where he served as LSU Student Body President and the only student member of the LSU System Board of Supervisors. Mr. Faircloth was a Rhodes Scholarship Finalist and recipient of the Sean O’Keefe Leadership Award, the highest award presented to an LSU senior. During his time at LSU, Mr. Faircloth also served as president of his fraternity Phi Gamma Delta, a co-founder of the LSU Club Baseball Team, and Vice President of Engineers Without Borders-LSU.

Mr. Faircloth’s past work experience includes serving as a Congressional intern for the office of Congressman Garret Graves, a control systems intern with ExxonMobil, a summer associate with Baker Botts LLP, a summer associate with Fish & Richardson P.C., and a judicial extern for Judge Sam Lindsay of the Northern District of Texas.
The election of Council officers and members will take place at the Section’s annual business meeting, Saturday, August 10, during the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

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Article IX, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar provides that 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 June 1. 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 15.
Remembering Talbot “Sandy” D’Alember te

Talbot “Sandy” D’Alember te, former ABA president and chair of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, passed away Monday, May 20, at age 85.

D’Alember te served as chair of the Section from 1982-1983. He was the 1998 recipient of the Section’s Robert J. Kutak Award, which is presented annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the collaboration of the academy, the bench and the bar.

D’Alember te served as president of the ABA from 1991 to 1992 and was the recipient of the ABA Medal, the association’s highest honor, in 2003. He helped found the ABA’s Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative in 1990, which was expanded to cover all the world’s regions and is now called the Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI).

He served as a law professor at Florida State University, including serving as its president from 1994 to 2003, and dean of the university’s law school from 1984 to 1989.

James P. White, who served as consultant of the Section from 1974-2000, stated, “Sandy D’Alember te was an example of the best of the legal profession. He was an innovator and internationalist who made legal education and the profession more open and transparent.”

To read more about D’Alember te in the ABA Journal, click here.
ABA Announcements

New ABA Logo and Membership Model

On May 1, the ABA launched a new logo and a new membership model. The new model offers a suite of new benefits, more personalized content based on member preferences, better communications, and a streamlined dues structure for members.

**New benefits include:**

- Complimentary opportunity to join the Law Practice Division and GPSolo Division
- Access to materials developed by the Center for Professional Responsibility (CPR) on ethics standards for lawyers and judges, including more than 40 premier CLE offerings
- Online, on-demand access to professional development and continuing legal education through a new CLE Member Benefit Library including access to more than 400 titles in the library
- Section members will have access to even more titles and premium content in their related practice areas

To learn more about the New Membership Model, [click here](#).

ABA Well-Being Pledge & Campaign

The ABA Well-Being Pledge & Campaign, developed by the ABA Working Group to Advance Well-Being in the Legal Profession, is designed to support lawyer well-being and address the profession’s troubling rates of alcohol and other substance-use disorders, as well as mental health issues. Based on a framework developed by working group member Patrick Krill, the campaign’s goals are to raise awareness, facilitate a reduction in the incidence of problematic substance-use and mental health distress and improve lawyer well-being. From education to policies to culture, the seven-point pledge identified in the Campaign reflects the core areas on which legal employers should focus and the concrete steps they should take as they seek to achieve those goals.

The Campaign Pledge calls upon legal employers (including law firms, law schools, corporate entities, government agencies and legal aid organizations) to first: (a) recognize that substance use and mental health problems represent a significant challenge for the legal profession and acknowledge that more can and should be done to improve the health and well-being of lawyers; and, (b) pledge to support the Campaign and work to adopt and prioritize its seven-point framework for building a better future.

If you’re interested in learning more about the Campaign and Pledge or signing the Pledge, [click here](#).
The Path to Law Student Well-Being Podcast Series
This podcast series, sponsored by the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, and Law Student Division, sets out action items for the legal community, including specific steps law schools can take, to shift the culture of the legal profession towards one that is focused on well-being.

View the Podcast Series

ABA Commission on Disability Rights Pledge for Change
The ABA-CDR has a voluntary Pledge for Change, which calls on law firms, corporate counsel, law schools, and bar associations to commit to fostering the recruitment, hiring, retention, and advancement of lawyers with disabilities. At least one in every five adults in the US has a disability at any given time, and law students, lawyers, and other legal professionals are no exception; yet, disability is often a forgotten category in the discussion of diversity and inclusion. Especially with awareness of mental health and other disabilities increasing in the academic world, it is more important than ever for law students with disabilities to know that their schools and communities support them, and for the legal profession as a whole to see more schools making that statement.

To learn more or to join the list of signatories, click here.
Section Events

New Deans and Deans Workshops
New Deans Workshop: June 11-13
Deans Workshop: June 13-15
The Westin Denver Downtown Hotel
Denver, CO

*These workshops are invite-only.

If you want to get something done in a law school, assign it to an associate dean! Associate deans are called upon to run the day-to-day functions of a school. As such, they must draw upon a number of different skills, most of which were not those for which they were hired as faculty members. During this conference, new and experienced associate deans will learn from seasoned leaders about how to improve their skill sets. Whether you are in academic affairs, faculty research and development, or student affairs, this conference will help you to become better in your role. Recognizing that none of us work in a vacuum, there will also be opportunities to examine ways that different associate deans at a school can work together.

To learn more and to register, click here.

Annual Meeting Student Debt Program
Friday, August 9
11:00 AM
Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, CA

The Section will once again host a complimentary program, in collaboration with the Law Student Division, focused on managing student debt. Please watch for more information regarding the program panelists and topics.
Recent Webinars
The Section presented two complimentary webinars in May.

Teaching Strategies and Assessments to Disrupt Implicit and Explicit Bias
This webinar features Mercer University School of Law Professor Teri McMurtry-Chubb as she summarizes her empirical research project on the relationship between racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia and how law students formulate arguments in brief writing. The webinar provides concrete strategies for course planning and assessment that integrate cultural competency learning outcomes and performance criteria and introduced attendees to critical pedagogies (teaching strategies) designed to disrupt students’ implicit and explicit biases.

Adjunct Faculty—Supporting Essential Partners in the Law School Curriculum
This webinar focuses on strategies for identifying, recruiting, training, supporting, and evaluating those energetic souls who have other high-level legal employment, and somehow make the time to teach a law school class in addition to doing their “day job.” Panelists include:

Moderator:
Eileen A. Scallen, Professor of Practice, UCLA School of Law

Speakers:
Kim D. Chanbonpin, Professor and Director of Lawyering Skills, The John Marshall Law School
Michael Hunter Schwartz, Dean and Professor, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law
William J. Snape, III, Assistant Dean of Adjunct Faculty Affairs, American University Washington College of Law

The recordings and materials for both webinars are posted on the Section’s website.

Upcoming Events
For a list of upcoming meetings, programs, and events, visit the Section's events page.