



SYLLABUS

American Bar Association Section of
Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

Summer 2019

VOLUME 50 NUMBER 4

FEATURED ARTICLES

From the Managing Director

Barry Carrier
Managing Director

Section Spotlight: Programming Update

Erin Ruehrwein
Section Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Honorable Christine M. Durham is the 2019 Robert J. Kutak Award Recipient

Council Member Joseph K. West Receives Chambers and Partners' Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award: Diversity & Equality

Search for the Next Managing Director Begins

Third Party Comments Invited for Law Schools Undergoing Accreditation Site Visits in Fall 2019



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Legal Education and
Admissions to the Bar

From the Managing Director



Barry A. Currier
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

You will see elsewhere in this issue of *Syllabus* the announcement of a search for the next Managing Director. I will depart at the end of the 2019-2020 Council year, sometime next summer. It has been a privilege to have my job. Much has been accomplished, but the new Managing Director will find a full-to-overflowing plate of both day-to-day and longer-term important work to be done.

The regular work of the Council in recent years has been driven by the impact of the recession on legal education and profound changes in both the legal profession and higher education sectors. The changes continue. Indeed, we are closer to the beginning, not the end, of the change cycle. We might prefer to catch our breath, digest what has been done, and assess next steps; but the need for change persists and there is no time to waste – we will be multi-tasking for the foreseeable future.

Among the big picture, long-term matters to be tackled is how the ABA law school accreditation process can be improved to better assure, indeed advance, the quality of the education that law schools deliver to their students while, at the same time, broadening access to legal education and taking steps to assure that we are producing graduates who will help build a more inclusive, fair, and just legal system. The process must intentionally shift its focus to more clearly place students, the quality of learning, and meaningful access as the core of what we do and how we do it. What more should the Standards require to provide that focus? What could or should be stripped from the Standards, eliminating what is superfluous to these central organizing themes? Our current Standards and practices were built for a different time, a different legal profession, and a different cohort of students. At the end of the day, tweaking the current Standards may not be sufficient or wise. Perhaps a new approach is needed.

A significant piece of what the future will bring is fundamental change in the legal services marketplace where almost all law graduates will spend their careers. That change may be fast or slow, but it is already happening and inevitable. The demand for persons educated in the law who can work in the legal services industry without the need for a full J.D. degree, or at least the cost/debt that may be associated with earning that degree, is increasing. There are ways to restructure J.D. programs to reduce cost and shorten the time to degree. But, the demand across so many sectors of our economy is for education and credentials targeted to the specific work that needs to be done. The legal services sector,

as is already apparent, is not immune to such demands. Law schools can and should play a leadership role in helping the profession and the legal services sector adapt. How should the accreditation process itself adapt so it does not interfere with (at least) and (even better) support law schools who seek to play a leadership role in this evolution?

The current Council year concludes with the adjournment of the ABA House of Delegates meeting on August 13. Diane Bosse, a New York lawyer, will be the new Council chair. I look forward to working with her. Jeff Lewis, Dean Emeritus and Professor at St. Louis University School of Law, will finish his term as Council chair. It has been a real pleasure for me (and for Jeff, too, I hope) to have had the opportunity to work closely together this past year. Jeff met me at the airport in Gainesville, Florida now many decades ago, when he was on the hiring committee at the University of Florida College of Law and I was interviewing for a job there. We were colleagues at UF for 19 years; I was his Associate Dean for six of them. Though we do not see eye-to-eye on everything and our careers have taken us to different places, we remain close friends. It was a delightful serendipity to find ourselves back together this past year, working closely together again. Thanks, Jeff, for your service and your friendship.

Return to cover.

Section Spotlight: Programming Update



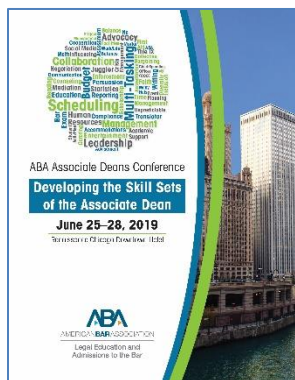
Erin Ruehrwein
Section Director

New Deans and Deans Workshops

The Section held its workshops for new deans and deans in Denver, June 11-15. Thirty-seven new deans attended the New Deans Workshop which focused on topics including finance and budgets, work-life balance, faculty management, development, staff and administration, and students.

The Deans Workshop had over 120 attendees and featured programs on management, communication, leadership, budgeting, crisis management, and governance, to name a few. Attendees had the opportunity to network at receptions and dinners and to hear from Keynote Speakers Colonel Linell Letendre who serves as a professor and Head of the Department of Law at the United States Air Force Academy, and Phil Weiser who is the Attorney General of Colorado.

2019 Associate Deans Conference



The Section hosted its Conference for Associate Deans in Chicago, June 25-28. The conference drew over 125 attendees from law schools across the country and provided valuable networking opportunities as well as engaging and relevant sessions on topics including mental health, legal issues, becoming a dean, work-life balance, and assessments, among others.

Attendees also had the opportunity to attend a keynote presentation by Dean Darby Dickerson of The John Marshall Law School. Dean Dickerson's presentation "Preparing to Be a Law Dean" provided helpful guidance and advice on the process of becoming dean.

Materials from the conference are available and can be found [here](#).

Site Evaluation Questionnaire and Annual Questionnaire Training

Training for the Site Evaluation and Annual Questionnaires was held in July in Chicago. With over 100 attendees, the training covered all seven sections of the Annual Questionnaire and the Self Study, various Standards of interest, and recurring issues in putting together a Self Study and law school self-assessment. Attendees also saw a debut of the new site visit tracking dashboard and received a tutorial on the new dashboard.

Materials from the training can be found [here](#).

ABA Annual Meeting

Student Debt Program

Friday, August 9

11:00 AM

Marriott Marquis San Francisco

Yerba Buena Salons 12/13 (Lower B2 Level)

Co-Sponsored by the Law Student Division

[View the Flyer](#)

Annual Section Business Meeting

Friday, August 9

1:00 -2:00 PM

Marriott Marquis San Francisco

Foothill J (Second Level)

[View the Business Meeting Materials](#)

Program Materials Archive

Visit the Section's [Program Materials Archive](#) to access Section webinars and past conference materials.

Upcoming Events

For a list of upcoming meetings, programs, and events, visit the Section's [events page](#).

Return to cover.

The Honorable Christine M. Durham is the 2019 Robert J. Kutak Award Recipient

Christine M. Durham
Appellate Attorney
Zimmerman Booher
Salt Lake City, UT

Justice Christine Durham retired from the Utah Supreme Court in 2017, after serving as a Justice for 35 years and as Chief Justice and Chair of the Utah Judicial Council for 10 of those years. She currently serves as co-chair for Utah's Coordinating Committee on Access to Justice and the Utah Center for Legal Inclusion. Prior to joining the Utah Supreme Court, she served on the state trial court after several years in private practice. She received her A.B. with honors from Wellesley College and a J.D. from Duke University.



Justice Durham is past president of the Conference of Chief Justices of the United States and also past chair (2010-2011) of the American Bar Association's Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. She is an emeritus member of Duke University's Board of Trustees, the Council of the American Law Institute, and the Board of Overseers for the Rand Corporation's Institute for Civil Justice. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and served on the governing boards of the American Inns of Court Foundation, the Appellate Judges Conference of the ABA, the ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession, the Federal Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure and is past president of the National Association of Women Judges.

Justice Durham has been active in judicial education. She was a founder of the Leadership Institute in Judicial Education and served on the ABA's President's Task Force on the Future of Legal Education, as well as the Advisory Board for the Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers Project of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at Denver University. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of University of the People, an accredited tuition-free online institution (www.UoPeople.edu). She helped create and lead the Utah Coalition for Civic Character and Service Education and served on the Utah Commission on Civic Education. She taught state constitutional law for many years at the S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, and served for twelve years on the Utah Constitutional Revision Commission. She has received honorary degrees from five Utah universities and has been recognized nationally for her work in judicial education and efforts to improve the administration of justice.

In nominating Justice Durham for the award, Jeffrey Lewis, Council Chair stated: "The Honorable Christine Durham has a record of unparalleled and distinguished service to the legal profession and the public which it services. She served for thirty-five years as a justice of the Supreme Court of Utah, including ten years as Chief Justice and a term as President of the Conference of Chief Justices. She served as Chair of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. She is an exemplar of Robert J. Kutak's vision of one deserving of this award which carries his name."

Justice Durham will be honored at a reception on Friday, August 23 in Chicago at the Park Hyatt in conjunction with the Section's Council Meeting. The [Kutak Award](#) is presented annually to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to the collaboration of the legal academy, the bench, and the bar. The award was established in memory of Mr. Kutak, a respected Omaha lawyer, who was committed to legal reform and a strong advocate for legal education.

Return to cover.

Council Member Joseph K. West Receives Chambers and Partners' Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award: Diversity & Equality



Joseph West (center) receiving his award.

Joseph K. West, current Council member and Partner and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Duane Morris, is the recipient of the inaugural Chambers and Partners' Lifetime Achievement Award: Diversity & Equality. West was selected for his commitment to furthering the advancement of diversity and inclusion and was honored at the 2019 USA Chambers Diversity and Inclusion Awards in June in San Francisco.

"I'm both humbled and honored to be the first person chosen for this award," said West. "The legal profession has come a long way in opening up opportunities for diverse lawyers, but there is

still much more work to be done. Collectively, we have to do a better job of reaching out to historically under-represented populations in our profession and then retaining our diverse talent once they join us. That will come over time by intentionally recruiting diverse lawyers and including them in the fabric and leadership structures of their organizations."

London-based Chambers and Partners is considered one of the world's most exclusive rating services for attorneys, law firms and corporate legal departments.

To read more about West, his involvement in diversity and inclusion efforts, and the award, [click here](#).

Return to cover.

Search for Next Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education Begins

The search process for the next Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education for the ABA's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is underway. The Section's current Managing Director, Barry Currier, has announced that he will leave his position in the Summer of 2020.

For the past seven years, Currier has served as Managing Director, having previously served four years as Deputy Consultant on Legal Education from 2000-2004.

A Search Committee, chaired by Jeff Lewis, will oversee the process, with the Council being central to the process. A search firm will be selected to assist with the search. The Committee will hold its first meeting in Chicago at the end of the month with a goal of selecting candidates for the position by January 2020 and a final candidate by February.

Search Committee Roster

Dean David Brennen
University of Kentucky School of Law

Sarah Correll
Practitioner in Indianapolis

Honorable Matthew B. Durant
Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court

Dean Kevin R. Johnson
U.C. Davis School of Law

Dean Emeritus and Professor Jeffrey E. Lewis
Saint Louis University School of Law

Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr.
Judge, U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

Dean Emerita and Professor Maureen A. O'Rourke
Boston University School of Law

Suzanne K. Richards
Practitioner in Columbus and Member of NCBE
Board of Trustees

Jarisse Sanborn
ABA General Counsel

Daniel Thies
Practitioner in Illinois

Honorable Phyllis D. Thompson
Judge, D.C. Court of Appeals

Return to cover.

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 Fall 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:

- 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.

Return to cover.