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Barry A. Currier, Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

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Too Hard, Too Soft, or Just Right: Can There Be Too Much “Transparency”?

Barry A. Currier
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

In the story of the three bears, Goldilocks made several stabs at finding the bed, the chair, and the porridge that were “just right” for her. In the data collection and reporting business in which the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar increasingly finds itself, we have struggled over the years with what is the “just right” amount of data to collect and to publicly report. These days, the reporting piece is part of a conversation about “transparency.”

Like apple pie, today transparency is something that it is downright un-American to be against. But the word and the concept are somewhat vacuous because they are overused and most often invoked when someone thinks that there hasn’t been enough of it.

The amount and granularity of the data that the Section publicly reports has substantially increased in recent years. Some would have the Section do more – collect more, and more detailed, data; and make public all the data that is collected. This push is fueled by (a) a few incidents in the recent past where a law school deliberately reported false and misleading data; (b) a budding industry of observers and commentators on the state of legal education who go through what schools do report with a fine-toothed comb, looking for errors and misstatements; and (c) the influence of rankings on law school and law school applicant behavior.

As calls for more transparency suggest, society generally now favors more disclosure. For one thing, technology makes it easier to collect and to publish data. For legal education, the substantial investment that students make for the J.D. degree is a reason to provide enough and accurate information on which they can rely to make educated decisions about law school. At this point, for better or worse, the influence of rankings comes to the fore. Law school applicants are not unique in having their choices be influenced by rankings. Today everything can be, and most things are, ranked. Sometimes it’s just less work to follow a ranking than it is to do your own homework. That may be true for students as they make decisions about whether to go to law school and what school to choose.

Rankings can be data-driven, but often they are determined by nothing more than opinion or name recognition. They become perverse when they incorporate enough data to give them a patina of substance, but remain largely the product of (uninformed) opinion. Such is the case with the law school rankings published by U.S. News and others.
Because U.S. News and many other law schools rankers rely on data that the Section collects (which the
rankers then ask the schools to submit to them), both what the Section collects and how it enforces ABA
Standard 509 are important to law schools, to potential law students, and to commentators/reporters
on legal education.

Standard 509(a) requires that all information that a law school “reports, publicizes, or distributes” be
“complete, accurate, and not misleading.” Taken literally, this mandate calls on the Council and the
Section staff to police the behavior of law schools with respect to data at such a level of detail that it
may not be helpful to the potential law students at which the Standard is aimed.

The current employment outcomes report is an instructive example. What should a law school be
required to report about its graduates’ employment outcomes? We can certainly debate what data
would be most helpful to potential law students. But, given the changes taking place in the legal
profession and the debt that most law students are incurring to earn the J.D. degree, few would argue
that law schools should not be required to report anything about employment outcomes. That would be
“too soft,” too little to be acceptable.

On the other hand, currently law schools are required to submit employment outcomes in such fine-
grained detail that the spreadsheet aggregating these outcomes for the ABA-accredited law schools
contains more than 31,000 cells. That may be “too hard,” too much detail to be useful to its target
audience. What level of detail is “just right,” and when is it, in the common vernacular, “TMI”?

There is unavoidable paternalism involved in resolving that question, particularly when one person’s
transparent piece of information is another person’s piece of data that needs to be further unpacked.
The politics of the Council significantly simplifying the reporting now required are difficult. To some, any
simplification would be an “anti-transparency” move. But it is fair to ask whether we have elaborated
the reporting in response to the interest, on occasion nothing more than a prurient interest, in
microscopic details that matter more to rankers and observers and less to the intended beneficiaries of
Standard 509 – potential law students who are trying to determine whether to go to law school or which
law school to attend. It is time-consuming and expensive for the law schools to gather this data and to
report it accurately. It is time-consuming and expensive for the Section to review it and enforce the
requirement for full and accurate reporting. Is the benefit worth the investment? Could somewhat
simpler be better?

There are other benefits to publicly reporting data, of course, including offering data that is useful to
scholars and others who study and report on legal education. Law schools, and in particular those who
administer them, also benefit from having information about legal education generally and other
schools specifically to assess the merits and successes of their programs. These utilities are incidental,
however, to what Standard 509 calls for - getting just the right amount of information to potential law
students to help them make informed decisions, not too little or too much.

Striking the right balance is important. This is a topic worthy of further thought and study.
We look forward to welcoming you to beautiful and vibrant Chicago, July 30 - August 4, for the 2015 ABA Annual Meeting. Featuring our Kutak Award Reception, Section Business Meeting, and a joint program on the very relevant topic of law student debt, the Annual Meeting offers plenty of opportunities to network with other ABA and Section members and discuss the latest topics in legal education.

If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to register and make your hotel arrangements as soon as possible by visiting the ABA Annual Meeting website. Our Section will meet at the Westin Chicago River North, conveniently located next to the ABA offices.

The Kutak Award Reception will be held on Friday, July 31 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Westin River North. We will honor E. Thomas Sullivan, president of the University of Vermont, with the 32nd annual Robert J. Kutak Award. The Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar and the national Kutak Rock law firm established the award in 1984 to be presented annually to an individual who has contributed significantly toward increased cooperation between legal education, the practicing bar, and the judiciary. The award is in memory of Mr. Kutak, a distinguished Omaha lawyer, champion of legal reform, and an advocate for legal education.

On Saturday morning from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., we will hold the annual Section Business Meeting where Section members will have the opportunity to vote on the slate of nominees for the 2015-16 bar year and witness the passing of the gavel from current Section chair, Joan Howland, associate dean and professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, to current chair-elect and 2015-2016 Section chair, the Honorable Rebecca White Berch, justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Finally, we will present a complimentary joint program with the Law Student Division entitled, Navigating the Waters of Student Debt, on Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Chicago Marriott Downtown, 540 N. Michigan Avenue. Don’t miss this program that will provide you with practical guidance and a discussion about the ways students and newer attorneys can effectively control expenses while pursuing a legal education and how to manage finances while establishing a legal career.

View the full schedule of our Annual Meeting events.
E. Thomas Sullivan is Recipient of the 2015 Robert J. Kutak Award

E. Thomas Sullivan, president of the University of Vermont, has been named the 2015 recipient of the Robert J. Kutak Award. The award is given out annually by the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to the collaboration of the legal academy, the bench, and the bar. It was established in memory of Mr. Kutak, a respected Omaha lawyer, who was committed to legal reform and a strong advocate for legal education. The announcement was made by Jeffrey Lewis, chair of the Kutak Award Committee and Joan Howland, chair of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

Sullivan became the 26th president of Vermont in 2012 after a long and distinguished career in legal education. He began his career as a member of the faculty of the University of Missouri Law School. He also served on the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis, before serving as dean the University of Arizona Law School. In 1995, Sullivan became dean of the University of Minnesota Law School, and from 2004 through January 2012 he served at Minnesota as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. In addition to his extensive administrative experience, Sullivan is also a nationally recognized authority and prolific scholar on antitrust law and complex litigation.

Throughout his career, Sullivan has been an active leader in the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. He has served as the chair and as a member of numerous ABA sabbatical evaluation teams. Sullivan was a member of the Section’s Council from 1996 to 2004, serving as the 2002-2003 Chair. His many other contributions to the Section include chairing the Task Force on
Accreditation Process, the Task Force on Long Range Planning and Strategic Objectives, the Rules Revision Committee, and the Nominations Committee.

Sullivan will receive the Robert J. Kutak Award at a reception in his honor on Friday evening, July 31 at the Westin River North during the 2015 ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Visit the Kutak Award page.
Council Approves Proposed Revisions to ABA Standards and Rules for Notice and Comment

At its meeting held on June 5-6, 2015, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar approved for Notice and Comment the following proposed revisions to the *ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools*:

- Standard 105 and Rule 29(a)
- Standard 305(e)(6) and Interpretation 305-3
- Interpretation 305-2
- Interpretation 311-4
- Standard 503
- Rule 29(b-f)

The proposed revisions and accompanying explanations are published on the Section’s website: Notice and Comment

We solicit and encourage written comments on the proposed changes by letter or e-mail. Written comments should be submitted no later than Friday, July 10, 2015.

A hearing on these proposed changes is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2015, at 10 a.m. The hearing will be held at the American Bar Association, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago.

Please address written comments on the proposals and requests to speak at the hearing to JR Clark, jr.clark@americanbar.org, by Friday, July 10, 2015.
2015-2016 Section Council Slate Announced

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Kent Syverud, chancellor and president of Syracuse University, presented the following slate to the Council. The election of Council officers and members will take place at the Section's annual business meeting, Saturday, August 1, 10:15-11:15 a.m., at the Westin River North during the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

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 20. 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 24.

Chair (automatic under the Bylaws)
The Honorable Rebecca White Berch
Justice
Supreme Court of Arizona

Rebecca White Berch, the Section’s chair-elect, was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in March 2002 and served as its 23rd chief justice from 2009 to 2014. Before her appointment to the state Supreme Court, she served the state of Arizona as solicitor general, chief deputy attorney general, and as a court of appeals judge. Following graduation from the Arizona State University (ASU) College of Law in 1979, Justice Berch practiced law in Phoenix. In 1986, she joined the faculty at the ASU law school as director of the legal writing program and academic support programs.

For the Section, she has served on the Bar Admissions Committee, including two years at its chair. Before joining the Arizona Supreme Court, Justice Berch served on the Arizona Bar Examinations Committee. She currently serves on the board of trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners and is a past member of the board of directors of the Conference of Chief Justices. In addition to her J.D. degree, Justice Berch holds a master’s degree in English. She has published numerous law review articles, and the law school textbook she co-authored, Introduction to Legal Method and Process, is in its fifth edition and is used in law schools throughout the nation. Justice Berch is a strong proponent of pro bono work; the Pro Bono Suite at ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law is named in her honor.
Chair-Elect
Gregory G. Murphy
Billings, Montana

Gregory “Greg” Murphy has been practicing law in Montana for over 34 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 a U.S. Court of Appeals judge before returning to Montana to practice law. 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, and chair of the Multistate 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. He is currently serving as co-chair of the Uniform Bar Examination Committee.

Murphy’s service to the Section includes serving as chair of the Accreditation Committee, and as a member of the Council. He is currently vice-chair of the Council. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute. He has received numerous awards for his leadership and service in bar admissions and his community. Cornell University Law School has invited him to serve as its Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence for the fall term 2015.

Vice Chair
Maureen O’Rourke
Dean
Boston University School of Law

Maureen O’Rourke is the dean and Michaels Faculty Research Scholar at the Boston University School of Law. Dean O’Rourke joined the law school faculty in 1993 after working at IBM Corporation, where she handled software licensing issues. At the law school, her scholarship is focused on the intersection of intellectual property law and other fields, such as contract and anti-trust law. Dean O’ Rourke is co-author of a leading copyright casebook, Copyright in the Global Information Economy. She has published articles in the law reviews of Columbia, Duke, Iowa, and Minnesota and the technology journals of Berkeley, Harvard, and Boston University. She was the associate reporter on the American Law Institute’s Principles of Software Contracting Project and is a member of the Marist College Pre-Law Advisory Board, past chair of the Association of American Law Schools sections on the Law School Dean and Computers & The Law, and a past member of the Boston Bar Association Council. She currently serves on the Access Group’s board of directors and has been a member of the Section Council since 2009.

Dean O’Rourke graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree from Marist College and earned a J.D. from Yale Law School. In May 2000, she became Boston University’s sixth recipient of the
Metcalf Award, the school’s highest teaching honor. She served as acting dean for two years prior to becoming the dean in 2006.

Members-at-Large Nominated for Re-election to a Three-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 the school of law for 15 years. During his tenure as president, he launched an ambitious agenda for the institution in all relevant fields. He returned to his chair in the law school in October 2009 as dean emeritus where he teaches courses and seminars in civil procedure, constitutional and commercial law. He is the president of the Puerto Rico Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation. Dean García-Padilla has published extensively about legal and education in Puerto Rico and abroad.

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. Martín of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. Dean García-Padilla has also been an adviser to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, Dr. José Trías Monge.

For the Section, Dean García-Padilla has served on the Accreditation Committee. He has also served as president of the Luis Muñoz Marín Foundation of Puerto Rico and 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. He recently published a book about his years as university president.

James M. Klein
Distinguished Visiting Professor
Charleston School of Law

James Klein began his academic career more than 40 years ago as a clinical professor at the University of Toledo College of Law. While at the University of Toledo, Professor Klein served as associate dean for academic affairs and as the college of law’s interim dean for two years. During this time, he was on the Ohio Deans Council and was involved in bench and bar committees statewide and in Toledo. In 2008-
2009, he was the law school’s representative on the Ohio State Bar Association Task Force on the Education of Lawyers.

Professor Klein’s university activities included serving as the NCAA faculty athletic representative for 17 years and membership on many university committees. In 2007, he was appointed to a university professorship. Upon his retirement in 2009, he was awarded emeritus status. Currently, Professor Klein is a visiting professor at Charleston School of Law where he teaches civil procedure and directs the externship program. While on leave in spring 2015, Professor Klein served as a Fulbright Specialist and taught a graduate school law course on American Judicial Process and Civil Procedure at the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai.

From 1997 to 2003, Professor Klein served on the Accreditation Committee and has served on nine law school site evaluation teams, serving five times as team chair. He has also served on the Nominating Committee, the Curriculum Committee, and the ad hoc Accreditation Consistency Committee. Professor Klein earned an A.B. degree from the University of Michigan and a J.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Cynthia Nance  
Dean Emeritus & Nathan G. Gordon Professor of Law  
University of Arkansas School of Law (Fayetteville)

Cynthia Nance served as the dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law from 2006 through 2011, and is both the first African-American and first woman to serve in this position. She earned a B.S. *magna cum laude* from Chicago State University, an M.A. in finance from the University of Iowa and a J.D. with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Professor Nance is past chair of the American Association of Law Schools' Employment Discrimination and Labor & Employment Law sections. For the ABA, she is a Council member of the Section on Labor and Employment Law (LEL) and represents the LEL Section in the ABA House of Delegates. She was recently appointed to the ABA Center on Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

Other professional affiliations include serving on the board of the National Association of Law Placement Foundation, the American Law Institute, the Deans' Development Committee of the American Inns of Court, the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Board and as chair of the LSAC Finance and Legal Affairs Committee. She is a consultant to the Kettering Foundation Legal Education and Democracy Project.

The recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, Professor Nance is a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, an American Bar Association Fellow, and a 2012 recipient of the ABA Spirit of Excellence Award. She was a recipient of the inaugural Judge Andree Layton Roaf Award. She was also honored as the 2005 Arkansas Bar Association Outstanding Lawyer-Citizen. In 2004, she received the University of Arkansas Alumni Association's Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award for Public Service.
and was recognized in 2003 as a Northwest Arkansas Woman of Distinction and a Northwest Arkansas Martin Luther King Individual Achievement Award recipient. She has been honored as one of 25 Minority Trailblazers and 20 Women of Influence by Arkansas Business. In 2009, the University of Arkansas' chapter of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was renamed the Cynthia E. Nance Chapter of BLSA.

The Honorable Jequita H. Napoli  
Special Judge  
Cleveland County District Court  
Norman, Oklahoma

Judge Napoli was appointed as the Special District Judge in Cleveland County (Norman), Oklahoma in 1996 and is recognized as a judicial leader on issues of mental illness and domestic violence. She served for eight years as a member of the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners including a term as chair. During her tenure on the Oklahoma Board, Judge Napoli worked to enhance the close relationship between the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Oklahoma judiciary, and the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners.

Since 2007, Judge Napoli has been a member of the ABA House of Delegates and in 2008-2009 was selected by Carolyn Lamm, then-president of the ABA to serve on the ABA Task Force on Law School Accreditation. She served six years, from 2004 to 2010, on the Accreditation Committee, and served on the Foreign Programs Subcommittee from 2008 to 2012, including two terms as chair (2008-2009 and 2011-2012).

For 12 years, she served on the board of trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), including a term as chair in 2002-2003. Judge Napoli also served as the chair of the NCBE’s Multi-State Professional Responsibility Examination Committee, overseeing the MPRE, the examination on professional ethics that is administered in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and a number of American territories. Judge Napoli earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration with distinction from the University of Oklahoma and a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Members-at-Large Nominated for Election to a Three-Year Term

Leo P. Martinez  
Professor  
University of California, Hastings College of the Law

Leo P. Martinez is the Albert Abramson Professor of Law 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.

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 ranging from the *Stanford Law Review* to the *Tulane Law Review* to the *Yale Law and Policy Review* to the *China EU Law Journal*.

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

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 Department of Post Secondary Education, 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), and Harvard University (IEM), 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 serves on the executive committee of the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions, the Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee, the Access to Justice Commission of the Alabama Supreme Court, the governing board of the A+ College
Ready Advanced Placement Program for 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) and currently serves on the AC’s Foreign Programs subcommittee.

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.

The Honorable Mary R. Russell  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of Missouri

Mary R. Russell, a seventh-generation Missourian, was elected chief justice by her colleagues for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2013. (She will continue as a member of the court after July 1, 2015). She 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, Chief 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.

Chief 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.
Chief 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.

Section Representative to the House of Delegates
Nominated for Election to a Three-Year Term

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

Judge Oliver was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio by President Bill Clinton in 1994 and became chief judge in 2010. 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, 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 Litigation Section’s Minority Trial Lawyer Committee.
Law Student Division Member
Nominated for a One-Year Term

Josephine Bahn
New York Law School
JD expected 2016

Josephine Bahn is a student at New York Law School where she serves on the Student Bar Association, as a Fellow on the ASAFE Securities, Finance Law & Business Seminar, student ambassador in the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, and an associate for the Center for Business and Financial Law and the Center for International Law. She has also contributed to CityLaw and worked as a research assistant for several professors. She currently serves as vice chair of the ABA Law Student Division’s Student Bar Association and its Second Circuit Lieutenant Governor for Programming.

Ms. Bahn has worked as a legal intern at Leav & Steinberg, LLP; a law clerk and research assistant at Winston & Winston, P.C.; a law clerk in the Law Office of Simon Kogan; and an intern to the Honorable Fernando J. Gaiton, Jr., senior district court judge in the United States District Court, Western District of Missouri. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

Return to cover.
Join us at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago

Section Headquarters Hotel
The Westin Chicago River North
320 N. Dearborn
312.744.1900

Section Schedule

Thursday, July 30
Chair’s Dinner
6:00-9:30 p.m.
The Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
By Invitation

Friday, July 31
Council Meeting
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Westin River North
River Level II
Grand Ballroom C

Kutak Award Reception
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Westin River North
River Level I
Astor Ballroom
Saturday, August 1
Deans Breakfast
8:00-10:00 a.m.
Westin River North
Promenade Ballroom A

Annual Section Business Meeting
10:15-11:15 a.m.
Westin River North
River Level II
Promenade Ballroom C

Sunday, August 2
Legal Education/Law Student Division Program
Navigating the Waters of Student Debt
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
540 N. Michigan Avenue
5th Floor - Scottsdale Room
ABA News

Randall Shepard to Receive the John Marshall Award from the ABA Judicial Division.

Randall Shepard, the former Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court and currently a senior judge in the Indiana Court of Appeals will receive The John Marshall Award from the ABA Judicial Division at the Annual Meeting in August. The award is named in honor of the fourth chief justice of the United States and was established to recognize those dedicated to the improvement of the administration of justice.

Justice Shepard served as the Section’s Council chair from 1998 to 1999. He will receive the award at the John Marshall Award Luncheon on Friday, July 31 at noon at the Chicago Marriott Hotel, 540 N. Michigan Avenue. Tickets are required.

With over $16 million spent in meetings annually, the ABA can use its volume buying power to secure discounted hotel rates and added perks for your law school’s next meeting or conference. Put ABA Leverage to work for you today! To learn more about this complimentary service visit ABALeverage.org.
New Dean Appointments

The Section has been advised of the following new dean appointments:

University of California-Los Angeles School of Law
Jennifer Mnookin
August 1, 2015

University of Chicago Law School
Interim Dean Geoffrey R. Stone
July 1, 2015

DePaul University College of Law
Jennifer Rosato Perea
July 1, 2015

University of Dayton School of Law
Andrew Strauss
Summer 2015

Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law
Charles I. Nelson
June 1, 2015

Florida Coastal School of Law
Interim Dean Mary Margaret Giannini
Spring 2015

University of Florida, Fredric G. Levin College of Law
Laura Rosenbury
July 1, 2015

George Mason University School of Law
Henry Butler
July 1, 2015

Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law
Acting Dean Matthew Lyon
March 2015

University of Mississippi School of Law
Interim Dean Deborah Bell
Spring 2015
Third Party Comments Invited for Law Schools Undergoing Accreditation Site Visits in Fall 2015

The law schools listed below are scheduled for sabbatical, provisional, or full approval site evaluation visits in fall 2015. Any additional visits scheduled after this notice will be posted on the Section’s website.

Consistent with Internal Operating Procedure 3(a), written comments related to current compliance with the Standards for Approval of Law Schools may be submitted to the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar with respect to law schools scheduled for site visits. Interested parties wishing to comment on current compliance with accreditation standards by law schools undergoing accreditation site visits during fall 2015 are encouraged to submit signed, written comments to the Section by August 15, 2015.

Law schools undergoing accreditation site visits in Fall 2015 are:

- Ave Maria School of Law (Sabbatical)
- Belmont University College of Law (Application for Full Approval)
- Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law (Sabbatical)
- Case Western Reserve University Franklin T. Backus School of Law (Sabbatical)
- University of Colorado Law School (Sabbatical)
- Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law (Sabbatical)
- University of La Verne College of Law (Application for Full Approval)
- Lewis & Clark Law School (Sabbatical)
- University of Oklahoma College of Law (Sabbatical)
- Seton Hall University School of Law (Sabbatical)
- University of St. Thomas School of Law (Sabbatical)
- University of South Carolina School of Law (Sabbatical)
- Stetson University College of Law (Sabbatical)
- Tulane University Law School (Sabbatical)
- Washington and Lee University School of Law (Sabbatical)

Written comments should be sent to:

Shirley Gonzalez
American Bar Association
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
321 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-7598
shirley.gonzalez@americanbar.org
Note: Your comments must be signed. Comments, with the signatures redacted, may be provided to the law school and to members of the site team reviewing the law school. Only comments directly related to the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools will be considered.