2012–2013 Changes to ABA Standards and Rules

Featured Articles
2012 ABA Annual Meeting Recap
ABA Judicial Clerkship Program Applications Sought
New Section Publications

News and Announcements
Call for Margaret Brent Award Nominations
Comments Invited for Upcoming Law School Site Visits
Amendments made to Standard 509, Rule 16 and Foreign Program Criteria

At its meeting on August 3, 2012, the Council of the Section approved changes to Criteria for Approval of Foreign Semester and Year-Long Study Abroad Programs Established by ABA-Approved Law Schools and Criteria for Approval of Foreign Summer and Intersession Programs Established by ABA-Approved Law Schools.

At its meeting on August 6–7, 2012, the ABA House of Delegates concurred in changes to Standard 509 and Rule 16 of the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools. These changes clarify the obligations of schools with respect to the reporting and publication of consumer information and strengthen the range of sanctions that may be imposed for violations of the Standard. The changes align employment outcomes disclosure requirements with the reporting requirements previously approved by the Council upon recommendation by the Questionnaire Committee.

The changes became effective immediately. Following is a brief explanation of the changes. For the complete commentary, redlined version of the amended Standard and Rules Procedures, the approved forms for Standard 509, and redlined copies of the revised Criteria visit the Section’s website.

Standard 509. CONSUMER INFORMATION
The revised Standard 509 mandates that all consumer information that a law school reports, publicizes or distributes must be complete, accurate and not misleading to a reasonable law school student or applicant, and specifically states that violations of the Standard may result in sanctions under Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools. The proposal delineates information that schools must disclose on their websites concerning a range of matters, including employment outcomes of graduates and the renewal of conditional scholarships. In addition, the Standard requires schools to provide conditional scholarship renewal data to all applicants being offered conditional scholarships.

Rule 16. Sanctions
The revision to Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools provides that the sanctions of probation and removal from the list of approved law schools may be imposed even where a school is in compliance with the Standards at the time sanctions are imposed.

Criteria for Approval of Foreign Programs
Criteria Section II.B. (Faculty) of the Criteria for Approval of Foreign Semester and Year-Long Study Abroad Programs Established by ABA-Approved Law Schools

Criteria Section IX. (Procedures for Approval) of the Criteria for Approval of Foreign Summer and Intersession Programs Established by ABA-Approved Law Schools; and

Criteria Section X. (Procedures for Approval) of the Criteria for Approval of Foreign Semester and Year-Long Study Abroad Programs Established by ABA-Approved Law Schools.

The proposed amendments to the Faculty section of the Foreign Semester and Year-Long Study Abroad Criteria are based on experience in the operation of these programs and feedback from law schools. The proposed amendments to the Procedures for Approval clarify the approval process for law schools seeking to establish foreign summer/intersession programs and foreign semester/year-long study abroad programs.

Copies of the 2012-2013 ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools can be purchased in the ABA Webstore. They are also posted on the Section’s website.

Visit our Standards archives page for previous editions.
Elections, Honors, and the Curriculum Survey are Focus of Section Activities

2012-2013 Section Council Elected
Kent Syverud, dean of Washington University School of Law, was elected to the office of Section chair at the annual business meeting on Saturday, August 4 in Chicago. The Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr., chief judge of the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Ohio, was elected chair-elect; Joan S. Howland, associate dean and professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, was elected vice chair; and Raymond C. Pierce, partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, was elected secretary. Newly elected Council members include James M. Klein (Charleston School of Law), Cynthia Nance (University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, School of Law), Antonio Garcia-Padilla (University of Puerto Rico School of Law), and the Honorable Jequita H. Napoli (Cleveland County District Court, Norman, Oklahoma).

Complete list of the 2012–2013 Section Council

Chairperson’s Dinner
John O’Brien, 2011-2012 Section Chair, hosted the annual Chairperson’s Dinner on Thursday, August 2, at the University of Chicago’s Gleacher Center overlooking the Chicago River. Dean O’Brien recognized Immediate Past Chair Christine Durham and outgoing Council members Martin Burke, Dennis Lynch, Morgan Sammons, and Charles Wilson for their service.

Robert J. Kutak Award Reception
Jeffrey E. Lewis, dean emeritus and professor at Saint Louis University School of Law, received the 2012 Robert J. Kutak award at a reception on Friday, August 3, at the Swissotel.
A Survey of Law School Curricula: 2002-2010

Catherine L. Carpenter, professor at Southwestern Law School and editor of A Survey of Law School Curricula: 2002-2010, presented the Survey’s major findings at a program on Saturday morning at the Swissotel. Published this past summer, the Survey is the result of more than two years of effort by the Section’s Curriculum Committee and Section staff. One hundred and sixty-seven of ABA-approved law schools responded to the web-based survey in the fall of 2010. Results of the new Survey reveal a renewed commitment on the part of faculties to review and revise their curricula to produce practice-ready professionals.

After the Survey was published, Professor Carpenter received numerous requests to present additional detailed information on professional skills offerings that enhances the materials in the 2010 Survey. As a result, she prepared A Closer Look at the Numbers. Specifically included are two charts that contain comparative data from the published 2002 Curriculum Survey and 2010 Curriculum Survey on regularly offered upper division professional skills courses and live-client clinical opportunities.
Program Offers Skills Training and Networking Opportunities for Minority Law Students

The annual ABA Judicial Clerkship Program will take place February 7–9, 2013 at the Midyear Meeting in Dallas. For a participation fee of $3,000, ABA-approved law schools can send up to six students to the program that includes panel discussions, a research and writing exercise, and informal social events to develop networking skills and opportunities. Co-sponsored by the ABA Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline and the ABA Judicial Division, the program simulates the clerkship experience, exposes students to what judicial clerks do on a daily basis, broadens their career options, shows how to apply for a judicial clerkship, and demonstrates the benefits of clerking. Students also have the opportunity to be considered for the Business Law Section’s Diversity Clerkship Program and the Litigation Section’s Judicial Internship Opportunity Program.

For more information and to apply visit ABA Judicial Clerkship Program.
Discounts and Free Downloads Available for Designated Publications

**The ABA's First Section: Assuring a Qualified Bar**  

Written by Susan K. Boyd, a former Syllabus editor, The ABA’s First Section traces the history of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar from 1893 to 1993. It is now available as a free download on the Section’s website and a limited amount of hard copies are available for purchase in the ABA webstore. The Section is currently at work on an updated version, which is expected in late 2013.

**The ABA Guide to International Bar Admissions**  
Editors: Russell W. Dombrow & Nancy Matos  
Product Code: 5210208  Regular Price: $89.95  Section Members: $69.95

Published in conjunction with the ABA Section of International Law, this guide provides an overview of the bar admissions process in more than 50 countries. Information includes issues of language, educational requirements, character and fitness, traineeship requirements, challenges facing foreign applicants, reciprocity and who to contact about the bar admissions process.

**The Unofficial Guide to Legal Studies in the U.S. for Foreign Lawyers**  
Editors: Albert Vincent Y. Yu Chang & Johana Mantilla Gomez  
Product Code: 5210219  Regular Price: $89.95  Section Members: $69.95

Published in conjunction with the ABA Section of International Law, this guide is written for the benefit of foreign lawyers who want to study the law in the United States. Included is a discussion of factors to consider in deciding whether or not to study in the U.S., guidance on the application and admissions process, an overview of the law school experience and taking the bar exam, and insight into career opportunities.

**2012-2013 Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools**  
Product Code: 529008412ED  Price: $15.00

Setting forth the Standards that law schools must meet to obtain and retain ABA approval, the 2012-2013 edition contains all revisions approved during the 2011-2012 association year.
Annual ABA Award Honors Women for Professional Excellence and Mentoring Efforts

The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession is seeking nominations for the 23rd Annual Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards. These awards will be presented at a luncheon on Sunday, August 11, 2013 during the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

The award was established in 1991 to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women lawyers. Each year, this award honors five outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence within their area of specialty and have actively paved the way to success for other women lawyers. These women demonstrate excellence in a variety of professional settings and personify excellence on either the national, regional, or local level.

The deadline to submit the nomination form and supporting materials is the close of business on Monday, December 3, 2012.

For details and to submit a nomination, visit Margaret Brent Awards
Comments Invited for Upcoming Law School Site Visits

Interested parties wishing to comment on current compliance with accreditation standards of law schools undergoing site visits in spring 2013 are encouraged to submit signed, written comments. Law schools undergoing accreditation site visits in spring 2013 are:

Albany Law School
Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law
Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
Golden Gate University School of Law
Gonzaga University School of Law
University of Kansas School of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law
University of La Verne College of Law
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
Mississippi College School of Law
North Carolina Central University School of Law
Northeastern University School of Law
Rutgers University School of Law-Newark
Seattle University School of Law
University of South Dakota School of Law
Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Vermont Law School
Western New England University School of Law
Whittier Law School
Widener University-Delaware, School of Law
Widener University-Harrisburg, School of Law
University of Wisconsin Law School

Written comments must be received by December 28, 2012 and sent to Shirley Gonzalez, American Bar Association, Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654.

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 relating to the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools will be considered.