



SYLLABUS

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

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Update From the Managing Director



William E. Adams
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

It has been a busy time for the office and the Council despite the holiday season lull for many others. Below is a summary of Council actions and other accreditation-related work since the fall.

The Council of the ABA [Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar](#) met both virtually and in person in Phoenix, Arizona, on Feb. 17, to consider matters on its [public agenda](#), including recommendations, reports, and other issues. The Council took the following actions:

- Decided to move forward with the plan, outlined in [Resolution 300](#) that was rejected by the ABA House of Delegates (HOD) on Feb.6, regarding changes to the admission standards, including making the requirement of an admissions test score school optional. The proposal states that sound admissions policies and practices may include consideration of admission test scores, among other factors. Currently, a “valid and reliable test” is required in most circumstances. The revision to Standard 503 reiterates that a test may be used as part of the admission policies and requires a school to identify any test that it uses. The Council’s plan would be implemented during the 2025-26 admissions cycle for the 2026-27 entering first-year class.

The Council’s decision now goes back to the HOD, which is the association’s policy-making body and meets twice a year. Under ABA rules and procedures, the HOD has a maximum of two opportunities to review a proposed change by the Council; it can concur, reject or return with recommendations. But final approval to change [ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools](#) rests with the Council. The next HOD meeting is in August in Denver.

- Approved for Notice and Comment proposed [revisions](#) to the Distance Education-related standards (105, 306, and 311) that would raise the number of distance education credits permitted without the need for a substantive change application to 50 percent of the credit hours required for the J.D. degree, consistent with the U.S. Department of

Education's (USDE) current requirements. The proposed change is intended to give law schools more flexibility to offer students more credits via distance education than are currently allowed under the Standards (1/2 vs. 1/3 of the credits required for the J.D. degree). Additional flexibility will be provided by removing the 10-credit-hour cap during the first one-third of the student's legal education program.

However, this new flexibility will require law schools to advise students taking Distance Education Courses to check with the jurisdictions in which they may seek admission to the bar to ensure that the number of credits to be earned via Distance Education Courses or the level of Distance Education Courses (first-year course vs. upper-level course) will not alter their eligibility to take the bar exam and be admitted to the bar in those jurisdictions. In a related move, an [Application to Offer Distance Ed Starting Fall 2023](#) for law schools to complete regarding their distance education offerings for the Fall 2023 semester and beyond was approved.

- Approved for Notice and Comment proposed [revisions](#) to Standard 307 (Studies, Activities, and Field Placements Outside the United States) and 509 (Required Disclosures).

The change to Standard 307 aims to clear up confusion mainly stemming from two subsections (subsections (c) and (d)) that require credits not to exceed certain limits and then another subsection (subsection (e)) that requires credits from those subsections and others not to exceed another limit. The proposal re-organizes the Standard to make it more succinct and easier to understand, but the original requirements of the Standard and its Interpretation have not changed.

In terms of Standard 509, the changes similarly are aimed to reduce confusion among law schools as to who is considered an administrator for Annual Questionnaire reporting purposes. As a result, the Council will ask for the number of staff instead of administrators on the Annual Questionnaire and publish this data on each law school's ABA 509 Information Report. To make this change in the ABA 509 Information Report, "administrator" must be replaced with "staff" in Standard 509.

- Approved the [changes](#) after Notice and Comment revising the language of Rules 13 and 32.

The Council received nine comments on revisions to Standard 304, specifically subpart (c). The Strategic Review Committee will discuss any further recommended revisions to Standard 304, including Standard 304(c) on the definition of a law clinic.

The changes to Rule 13 incorporate Internal Operating Practice 18, which states that the Council may grant a school in noncompliance with a standard an additional extension of up to three years beyond the two years now given. The most significant change incorporated into Rule 13 eliminates the requirement that the school be in compliance

with all other standards to receive the additional extension. The explanation for the change noted non-compliance with other Standards could be minor or could be resolved within the extension of time granted by the Council, so this revision gives law schools more flexibility to seek an extension of time to return to compliance with all standards.

The revision to Rule 32 seeks to clarify that each member of the Appeals Panel to Council accreditation decisions must fit into one of five categories and can only serve in that one category consistent with U.S. Department of Education regulations.

The revisions to Rules 13 and 32 require review by the HOD under ABA procedures stated above and should be filed for HOD concurrence for its August meeting.

- Heard a report and update from its [Questionnaire and Template Committee](#).

As was reported by the Questionnaire and Template Committee, it has also been very busy in the past few months. It and Dan Becker have been communicating with other groups to discuss best practices in collecting information about individual's sexual orientation, disability, and gender identity. There will be a worktable in March which will assemble persons with expertise in data privacy to discuss any potential issues that arise in collecting such information. The collection of this demographic information will begin with the 2023 Annual Questionnaire. The Committee is also discussing assembling an Advisory Committee regarding the Annual Questionnaire similar to the Advisory Committee to the Employment Questionnaire. Similar to the latter Committee, the proposed committee would discuss the questions in the questionnaire in detail to determine ways to make the questions more easily understood, provide examples of situations faced by schools and how to answer questions based on the examples, and provide staff with reference notes to refer to when tricky questions arise. The Questionnaire Committee will decide whether to assemble such a committee and how to go about it later in the Spring.

In other news from the Office, a roundtable was held to discuss the Library Standards. The comments received have been shared with the Strategic Review Committee for it to consider whether amendments to those Standards are in order. Finally, the Office has released the [national bar pass statistics](#).

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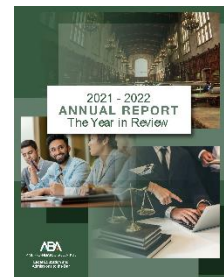
From the Section Director: Section Spotlight – New Publications, Upcoming Programs, and Call for Nominations



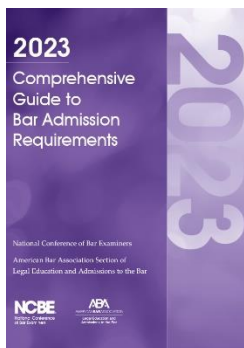
Erin Winters
Section Director

Annual Report

The Section's *2021-2022 Annual Report* is available on the [Section's website](#). The *Annual Report* includes reports from the Section's staff and leadership, and covers topics including accreditation, site visits, enrollment statistics, Section activities, special events, and more.



Visit the [Annual Publications Archive](#) webpage to view past editions.



2023 Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements

Each year the Section collaborates with the National Conference of Bar Examiners on this publication. The 2023 edition is available [here](#).

Upcoming Programs

New Deans' Workshop

June 7-9, 2023
Sable Navy Pier
Chicago, IL

Deans' Workshop

July 5-7, 2023

Westin Denver Downtown

Denver, CO

Associate Deans Conference

July 11-13, 2023

InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile

Chicago, IL

Annual Questionnaire Training

July 14, 2023

InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile

Chicago, IL

Site Evaluation Workshop

August 24-26, 2023

Chicago, IL

More information regarding these events, including hotel reservation and registration information, will soon be available on the [Section's website](#).

Nominations Sought for 2023-2024 Council and 2023 Kutak Award

Later in this newsletter, you will find announcements regarding nominations for the 2023-2024 Council and the 2023 Kutak Award. With the deadlines quickly approaching, I encourage you to read more about these opportunities to submit nominations.

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Nominating Committee Seeks Names for 2023-2024 Council Slate

The Section's Nominating Committee invites suggestions for at-large positions on the 2023-2024 [Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar](#). There are six such positions to be filled, each for a three-year term, one being a public member.

Three of these positions are currently occupied by members eligible to be re-elected to a second term. Nominees are sought in the categories of judges, academics, practitioners, and public members.

There are three leadership positions to be filled, chair-elect and vice-chair, each for a one-year term, and secretary, for a two-year term and currently occupied by a member eligible to be re-elected to a second term.

One position for Section Delegate of the ABA House of Delegates must also be filled.

The slate of Section officers and Council members will be presented for election at the Section's business meeting during the ABA Annual Meeting in August.

The deadline for nominations is no later than close of business on **Friday, March 10, 2023**.

All nominations must be submitted through the online [Council Nominations](#) process.

2022-2023 Nominating Committee

Chair:

Scott Bales
Chief Justice (Retired)
Arizona Supreme Court

Cassandra Hill
Dean and Professor
Northern Illinois University College of Law

Gordon B. Burns
Associate Justice
California First District Court of Appeal,
Division Five

Leo P. Martinez
Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus
University of California, The College of the
Law, San Francisco

Sarah Correll
Associate
Ice Miller LLP

Honorable Phyllis D. Thompson
Judge
DC Court of Appeals

Olympia Duhart
Associate Dean for Faculty Development
Nova Southeastern University
Shepard Broad College of Law

Adrien K. Wing
Associate Dean for International and
Comparative Law Programs and Professor
University of Iowa College of Law

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Nominations Sought for 2023 Kutak Award



Nominations are sought for the 2023 Robert J. Kutak Award. Established in 1985 by the Section and the national Kutak Rock law firm, the award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the collaboration of the academy, the bench, and the bar. The award is in memory of Mr. Kutak, a distinguished Omaha lawyer, champion of legal reform, and advocate for legal education.

Nominations can be sent via email to carl.brambrink@americanbar.org.

The deadline for submitting nominations is March 10, 2023.

For more information about the Robert J. Kutak Award and the list of past recipients, visit the [Kutak Award page](#).

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ABA Announcements: Legal Education Police Practices Consortium Update and New Policing Practices Class

The [ABA Legal Education Police Practices Consortium](#) is excited to announce the third class of fellows will run from January 23-April 17, 2023. Consisting of 41 students from 28 ABA-accredited law schools in 18 states and the District of Columbia, students virtually meet weekly to learn about a variety of themes related to policing and public safety in the United States from external speakers. Presenters hail from the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing at Arizona State University, the Center for A New American Security Center for Justice Research and Innovation, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, amongst other experts from [Consortium-member schools](#).

In addition to the weekly meetings, students will be responsible for researching and determining if law school collaboration is appropriate with a local police department or civil rights or legal aid organization working on issues related to policing. Where partnership is pursued, student fellows might support agencies in data collection and analysis, providing legal summaries, supporting the development or revision of legal training material, or public/officer perception surveys. Findings will be considered for publication at member schools as well as across ABA publication outlets. This work builds upon the research and outreach initiated by previous fellowship classes.

The Consortium fellowship is run twice annually in fall (August-November) and spring (January-April). Please reach out to the Consortium for any questions related to the fellowship at LEPPC@americanbar.org. A list of participating schools and the identified fellows are listed on the following pages.

In January 2023, students at [Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law](#) will be able to participate in an innovative new class entitled Policing Practices. Taught by Associate Dean of Faculty and Professor of Law [Melanie Reid](#), this course will touch on a host of topics related to the evolution and proposed reforms of modern policing, including policing strategies, training, oversight, culture and community engagement. Aside from the formal curriculum, additional learning is anticipated through the involvement of active and retired law enforcement from across the country. Through engagement with the [ABA Legal Education Police Practices Consortium](#) as well as the Criminal Justice Section's Law Enforcement Committee, representatives from a host of different police agencies were sought. Participating on a voluntary basis, officers will be involved to support the learning of students as well as hear about their concerns and brainstorm opportunities to strengthen collaboration between communities and police departments. This course, held virtually, will emphasize experiential learning through the use of break out groups and class exercises to promote information sharing and partnership between the lawyers of tomorrow and police.

LMU and the Consortium are considering expanding this course across the country. For more information or to support this initiative, please contact the Consortium's director at jessalyn.walker@americanbar.org or LEPPC@americanbar.org.

Name of Consortium Member School	State	Name of Fellow
Albany Law School	New York	Korra Johnson
Arizona State University	Arizona	Yan Idrissov
Campbell Law School	North Carolina	Sarah M Varela
Campbell Law School	North Carolina	Jaden Grimes
Cleveland State University College of Law	Ohio	Sarah Lennon
Cleveland State University College of Law	Ohio	Christina Lakatos
Cleveland State University College of Law	Ohio	Riley Meyers
Drexel Kline School of Law	Pennsylvania	Grace Meili
Florida International University College of Law	Florida	Alexandra Gonzalez
Georgetown Law	Washington DC	Holly Ludvigsen
Hofstra Law	New York	Rebecca Zerbo
Lincoln Memorial University School of Law	Tennessee	Dedra Brown
Lincoln Memorial University School of Law	Tennessee	Elizabeth Luminoso
Lincoln Memorial University School of Law	Tennessee	Kimberly Trotter
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law	Louisiana	Morenike Erinkitola
LSU Law	Louisiana	Shelby Terrell
McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific	California	Matt Munoz
Mitchell Hamline School of Law	Minnesota	Tacota Monay LeMuel Jacqueline Zarccone
Northern Illinois University	Illinois	Riotto
Northern Illinois University	Illinois	Madalyn Daughrity

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law	Illinois	Laxmi Mantrawadi
Quinnipiac University School of Law	Connecticut	Aimee Nicolich
Roger Williams University School of Law	Rhode Island	Morgan L. Alger
Roger Williams University School of Law	Rhode Island	Katie Gradowski
Southern University Law Center	Louisiana	Whitley Parker
St. Thomas University College of Law	Florida	Jasmine St Clor
St. Thomas University College of Law	Florida	Christopher Duany
St. Thomas University College of Law	Florida	Cydnei Nettles
Suffolk University Law School	Massachusetts	Mario Treto
Suffolk University Law School	Massachusetts	Abbey Chappell
Syracuse University College of Law	New York	Kendall Anderson
Syracuse University College of Law	New York	Richard Dominguez
Texas A&M University School of Law	Texas	Holly Harrison
University of Arizona College of Law	Arizona	Devyn Arredondo Jamie Harrington- Greenwell
University of Arkansas School of Law	Arkansas	
University of Mississippi School of Law	Mississippi	Jakob Gammons
University of Pittsburgh School of Law	Pennsylvania	Olivia Kruger
Wayne State University Law School	Michigan	Wade Henney
Wayne State University Law School	Michigan	Karma Dadoush
WMU Cooley Law School	Michigan	Melissa Bianchi
WMU Cooley Law School	Michigan	Stephen J. Tobler

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