Keeping Up To Data – November 2018

Welcome to LSAC's first "Keeping Up to Data" podcast for the 2018-19 admission cycle. I'm Josiah Evans, Interim Director of Psychometrics at the Law School Admission Council. These podcasts are intended to provide busy law school admission professionals with descriptions of the data trends we're seeing. This week, I'm focusing on the early JD applicant and application numbers, as well as test-taker volumes and attendance at the LSAC Forums.

Let's start with LSAT-takers. We've had 3 test administrations so far this year, as opposed to the 2 we had last year at this time, so we can't provide apples-to-apples registrant or test-taker comparisons like we could in the past. Remember, also, that although we added test administrations, we did not expect an increase in test-takers overall —just a redistribution. Test registrations (remember, not all of which became actual test takers) for the June, July, September, and November admins are **down 8.8%,** as compared to the June, September, and December tests last year. With our recent test schedule changes, that means only two tests remained for last year at this time, whereas we have *three* more tests for the current cycle – January, March, and June. It's certainly possible that with a total of six administrations this year, some candidates are feeling less pressure to take the test early. We'll have to wait and see.

Test-taker counts (as opposed to registrants) for June, July, and September this year were 62,908 as compared to 67,337 for June and September last year—a decrease of about 6.6%. Keep in mind that September 2018 numbers are still preliminary. As soon as they're final, we will update the website.

Forum attendance by prospective JD students has been mixed, with 4 forums down, and 3 up. Overall, attendance has been flat, with about 5,750 individuals attending the 7 forums for which we currently have final data. Next time, I'll be able to include the San Francisco, Houston, and Boston Forum counts. On the LLM side, the numbers are very small, with under 100 attendees at all Forums combined. Again, LLM attendance has been flat overall, after 7 Forums. We did see increases in Chicago and Washington, DC.

And now the numbers you've probably been waiting for. First, some cautions. It's early. Numbers are always volatile early in the cycle, and that's why those of us who are social scientists are very reluctant to ascribe too much weight to these early numbers or to draw any predictive conclusions. Having said that, as of November 1st, ABA **applications are up** 14.6% compared to last year at this time, and ABA **applicants are up** 17.6%. **Canadian *applications*** are down 27.2% and ***applicants*** are down 22.7%

For both ABA and Canadian volumes, check out our new website where we update these numbers every night. Go to www.LSAC.org, click on **Data and Research**, and then **Data Library** to link to the Current Volume Summaries. And if you would like more options, choose the **Interactive Summary** and you will be able to see numerous data visualizations and drill-downs. If you're a member and you log in, remember we have many, many additional reports available to you.

As the admission season progresses, we'll use this podcast to continue to describe trends, and to take a deeper dive into some of the reports that are available to

you through our website and ACES2. If you have questions or suggestions, send them to podcast@LSAC.org. Until next time, thank you for listening to LSAC's "Keeping Up to Data" podcast.