

December
2016

LSAC REPORT

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL

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LSAC REPORT

In Memoriam



Dan Bernstine 1947–2016
LSAC President 2007–2016

Athornia Steele Is Interim President of LSAC

Athornia Steele, former chair of the Law School Admission Council's Board of Trustees, is serving as the interim president of LSAC following the sudden death of LSAC President Dan Bernstine on September 24. He was appointed to this position by current Board Chair Susan L. Krinsky.

Professor Steele has a long history with the Council. Since 1995, he has been an active volunteer on many of LSAC's standing committees, subcommittees, and work groups. Prior to serving as LSAC's Board chair from 2013 through 2015, he had been a member of the Board since 2005. He was also a member of the 2006–2007 President/Executive Director's Search Committee, which culminated in the selection of Dan Bernstine as president.

The search for a new president is in progress. Dean Krinsky established a search committee composed of Renée Post (Penn); Michael States (Ohio State); Kevin Washburn (New Mexico); John White (UNLV); Chris Whitman (Michigan); Susan Krinsky, chair (Maryland); and Camille DeJorna (associate deputy managing director, ABA). A search firm has been engaged and will be working with this group and LSAC's Board of Trustees in the coming weeks to develop a pool of candidates for the committee and Board to consider. ■

LSACREPORT

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View from
the Chair

The Gift of Knowing Dan

SUSAN KRINSKY

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



It's been a difficult season for many reasons, but the reason I'm going to write about is the sudden and unexpected loss of our friend, Dan Bernstine. I was lucky. I got to talk to him almost every day, I got to travel with him, and he had to be nice to me because I was the Board chair. Of course, I know that he would have been nice to me anyway, because he was nice to everybody.

I think every single one of us who ever met Dan learned just how nice he was. He had a gift not just for remembering our names, but remembering who we were, what was going on in our lives, what our concerns were. In fact, I'm not sure it was a matter of remembering as much as it was an ability to get to know and understand other people.

One of the benefits of my role at LSAC is that so many people who knew Dan have told me stories—stories of casual invitations to sit down and chat, or have lunch, or have a drink, even if they'd never spoken before. Stories of having asked Dan for advice and knowing that Dan's advice was solid and thoughtful. Stories of being included, of being respected, of being valued.

I have missed Dan every single day. Every day, something happens that results in my thinking, or even saying out loud, "I wonder what Dan would think about this." But what I've come to realize is that I often know what Dan would think or say or do, and I find myself comparing my own reactions to what Dan might have said. He was the kind of leader who would wait for you to ask his opinion and who would never insist on a particular path. There was a lot of back-and-forth, and in the end he wouldn't impose his opinion on anyone else. He expected you make a decision, and he trusted you to make a well-reasoned one. If you needed

help, he was there.

One of the things I said to the LSAC staff when I met with them on the Monday after Dan's death is that he helped to build and maintain a very strong organization with a very strong staff. He knew that they didn't need him to keep doing the wonderful work that they do. He was like that—he had confidence in people. As our Board member, Jack Miller, has said, "Dan was both good-hearted and clearheaded, and one trait never overrode the other." We are all very fortunate to have known him. ■

Interim
President

Dan's LSAC Legacy

Athornia Steele



After the sudden death of LSAC's President Dan Bernstine on September 24, I was asked to step in as LSAC's interim president. Amidst the utter sadness and sense of loss I encountered as I met with LSAC's staff on my first few visits to Newtown after this tragedy, I observed something else: Dan had cultivated a first-rate executive leadership team and senior staff, and they in turn had assembled dedicated and talented operational and

support teams, all committed to doing their very best to provide outstanding admission tools and services for LSAC's member law schools, prelaw advisors, and applicants.

I can't say that this came as a surprise—as Board chair I got to know a number of these hard-working individuals and their achievements, but meeting so many others personally for the first time and seeing them power through their grief, reassured me and should reassure you, the beneficiaries of LSAC's services, that Dan left LSAC in very good hands. I have worked in many different settings and was quite proud to see the dedication and camaraderie of the LSAC staff. LSAC is a great place to work, as evidenced by the longevity of the staff working there. This is an important part of Dan's LSAC legacy.

Since stepping into the position of interim president, I have been working with the staff to learn more about the initiatives and new services they have been working on. You will be hearing more about these as they proceed, but I am particularly excited about the progress of the research on the possibility of offering a tablet-based Digital LSAT. We anticipate moving into the field-testing phase of this research in spring 2017.

We are also moving forward with a comprehensive eLearning platform that will eventually create online access to training and educational tools for

law school admission offices, prelaw advisors, test-center personnel, and LSAC staff. The eLearning platform blends technology with educational content to provide broader access and flexibility.

With respect to these two initiatives, I was very impressed with the level of planning, problem identification, and problem solving that has taken place. It may seem to some that it takes LSAC an inordinate amount of time to bring an initiative to fruition. What I observed, and am hard-pressed to communicate, is the deliberativeness with which the staff proceeds on developing very important initiatives that will have wide-ranging implications for LSAC's work.

The information technology modernization that has been ongoing for the last few years is making great progress, with more to come, and the enhanced Forum marketing program has contributed to an increase in Forum attendees this year. All of these efforts began under Dan's leadership—they are the other part of Dan's LSAC legacy. I am extremely pleased and honored to participate in the continuing success of this very important organization. ■

How Fairness Is Built Into the LSAT

We recently distributed a document titled “About the LSAT,” which was developed as a concise tool for answering questions about the LSAT. Along with the positive messages we received from many of the recipients of this document, one member of our admission community requested additional information about LSAC’s test-development process and the steps we take to ensure that the LSAT is valid, fair, and unbiased. We thought that readers of this newsletter might also be interested in our response to this inquiry, which is reproduced below. Additional information can be found at <http://www.lsac.org/jd/lSAT/policies/lSAT-fairness-procedures>.

LSAC adheres to the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (<http://teststandards.net/>), which defines test bias as skill-irrelevant components of test scores that differentially affect the performance of different groups of test takers. The LSAC test-development process is designed to ensure that the LSAT is a valid, fair, and equitable assessment of skills critical for success in law school for all test takers.

The test-development process begins with the drafting of test questions, which are subjected to a thorough review by experts both internal and external to LSAC. A question is deemed acceptable for use only if it satisfies an extensive array of criteria, including, but not limited to, the following: it is not ambiguous; it has one, and only one, answer; it is fair to candidates of various educational backgrounds and interests; it is fair to candidates from various population subgroups; it assesses the appropriate skills; and it does not rely on subjective interpretation. The quality control steps that help ensure that the test questions meet LSAC standards are multilayered and robust. Questions that are ultimately selected to be included in a test form have been validated by internal reviews (including fairness reviews), external reviews (including external fairness reviews conducted by representatives of the major LSAT racial/ethnic subgroups), and statistical analyses (including analyses that ensure fairness).

Two additional steps are also taken to ensure fairness and equity. First, LSAT test forms are routinely disclosed (well over 7,000 questions have been disclosed since 1991) and can be challenged on the basis of potential for test bias, though no question has yet been challenged on the

basis of perceived bias in that question. Our robust disclosure policy allows the whole world to independently review LSAT questions for bias. Second, the differential prediction by the LSAT of first-year grades for gender and racial/ethnic subgroups is regularly analyzed (e.g., see [http://www.lsac.org/docs/default-source/research-\(lsac-resources\)/tr-12-02.pdf](http://www.lsac.org/docs/default-source/research-(lsac-resources)/tr-12-02.pdf)). ■

Notice for December 2016 LSAT Registrants

December 2016 LSAT scores **will not** be available until after February 2017 LSAT [registration deadlines](#) have passed. Therefore, if candidates think they may want to take the February 2017 test, they **must** register for it before they know their December 2016 score. December 2016 test takers with a reportable score can request a refund for both regular and late registration fees if they wish to withdraw their February registration after receiving their December score. Eligible candidates must submit a request for a refund by January 11, 2017. ■

Conference Targets Law School Pipeline



Nearly 100 law school faculty and staff attended the second Pipeline Diversity Conference sponsored by LSAC. The conference took place in Miami, Florida on September 13–15, 2016. The conference kicked off with an overview of efforts by LSAC and other organizations to identify and find solutions for issues that affect the choices of diverse students as they consider their career choices.

Participants examined funding and financial support, as well as methods for evaluating the effectiveness of pipeline programs, among other topics.

Breakout sessions focused on the obstacles facing African American and Latino males, serving community college students, writing grants, and using LSAC's DiscoverLaw.org Months to launch diversity pipeline programs.

Ruthe Ashley, a former president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and a long-time ABA leader, delivered the keynote address. Okianer Christian Dark, former LSAC trustee and Howard University administrator and law professor, closed the conference.

In addition to a full roster of educators and leaders of related organizations, a student panel provided perspectives on their experiences in pipeline programs. ■

2016 Law School Forums

Forum Attendance Continues to Rise

Law School Forum participation by both law schools and candidates rose in nearly every forum location in 2016. Enhanced forum marketing efforts and increased interest in law school (evidenced by an upturn in the total number of LSATs administered in the 2015-2016 testing year) may have been contributing factors. The chart below compares this year's candidate participation in each city to last year's.



MICHAEL STATES, Chair of the LSAC Finance and Legal Affairs Committee and Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid at Ohio State, and **Alma Miro**, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at Florida International, chat with forum attendees in New York.



IN NEW YORK CITY, forum attendees eagerly chat with law school admission professionals from around the country.

Forum	2016	2015	Change
Atlanta	687	617	+ 11%
Boston	457	363	+ 26%
Canada	364	359	+ 1.4%
Chicago	477	644	- 26%
Houston	545	354	+ 53.9%
Los Angeles	879	723	+ 21.6%
Miami	463	428	+ 7.6%
New York	1435	1328	+ 8%
New York LLM	81	97	- 1.9%
San Francisco	329	338	- 2.7%
Washington, DC	691	678	+ 1.9%

Updated Forum Rules

The Forums Work Group updated the Forum Rules to provide clear expectations and guidelines for law school representatives. The rules are intended to ensure that the forum experience is rewarding for both representatives and attendees. You can find the new rules on LSAC.org, in Events and Recruitment, Law School Forum Information.

Live-Streaming Expands Forums' Reach

On October 15, while a number of potential LLM candidates were meeting with law school representatives in person to learn about the many available LLM programs and how to apply, others who could not be there in person, were able to attend the LLM Forum workshops via live-streaming. JD live-stream events on the same weekend also increased the number of JD candidates who were able to benefit from the JD forum workshops. The sessions featured conversations among the presenters about key law school admission topics, with questions coming in from the virtual audience. Law schools that participated in any JD forum and/or the New York LLM forum are able to access the contact information for attendees and nonattendees for the live-stream events as well as the live events. The Forums Work Group continues to assess forum programming to ensure that it is available to benefit as many law schools and potential applicants as possible. ■

2017 Annual Meeting to be Held in CA



Plans for the 2017 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference are underway. This year's annual meeting will be held at JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, California. The planning work group met on December 7, 2016, and is

building a strong and interesting educational program. Mark your calendars and plan to join us on May 31–June 3, 2017. ■

Boot Camp—A Leg Up for Admission Leaders

Senior-level admission leaders who are seeking next-level professional

development will have a new opportunity before and during next year's LSAC Annual Meeting and Educational Conference. The Law School Admission Leadership Boot Camp will provide an advanced, intensive update of skills required for successfully navigating current admission realities.

The boot camp will start as a full-day preconference event at the 2017 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference in Palm Springs, California, with programming continuing throughout the conference. Topics will include leadership, strategy, enrollment management, implicit bias, and crisis management, among others.

The registration fee for the boot camp is \$250, and participants will pay for an additional night at the designated annual meeting hotel. Participants must also commit to register for the annual meeting. Registration will be available on the annual meeting website in the spring of 2017.

The senior JD admission professional (ADM) at each LSAC–member law school is invited to participate in the boot camp. ADMs who are unable to participate may nominate one senior-level JD admission professional to participate in their place; that individual should have the capability and experience to perform in a senior admission leadership role.

In recognition of those individuals who aspire to move into law school admission leadership roles and wish for similar training, the summer 2017 workshops are being designed to meet that need. ■

Statement of Good Admission Practices Under Review

The LSAC work group charged with reviewing and updating the LLM Statement of Good Admission and Financial Aid Practices has recommended broadening the recently revised JD Statement to include both admission populations.

Following the 2015 revision of the JD Statement, the Services and Programs Committee's work group turned its attention to the LLM Statement. After examining the substantive and structural aspects of the LLM Statement, the work group concluded that the general principles and practices applied to both statements, and that a broadening of the JD Statement to reflect the breadth and diversity of program portfolios that

many admission officers now manage would be a better course of action.

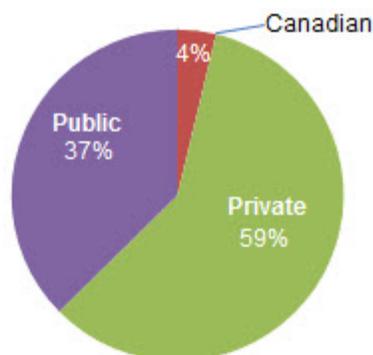
Proposed changes were sent to admission professionals on admit-L last month, with comments and feedback requested by December 31. The work group will now review the admission community's feedback and provide a recommendation in early spring 2017. ■

LLM Admission Professionals Survey: A Sampling of the Results

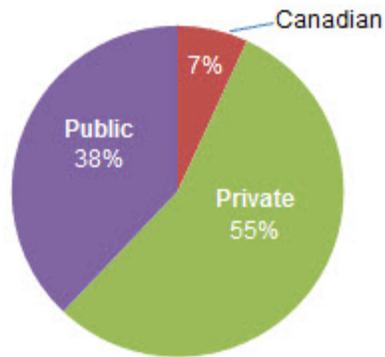
The LLM Admission Professionals survey was designed to help law schools develop strategies and policies to govern the LLM admission process. We are in the process of preparing a report on the results, which will be sent to all LSAC-member law schools and published on LSAC.org. In the meantime, here is a preview of some of the data gathered by the survey.

Of the 107 survey respondents, 4 were from Canadian law schools, 63 were from US private law schools, and 40 were from US public law schools. As the figures below show, these proportions are similar to the makeup of LSAC's membership.

LLM Survey Respondents by School Type

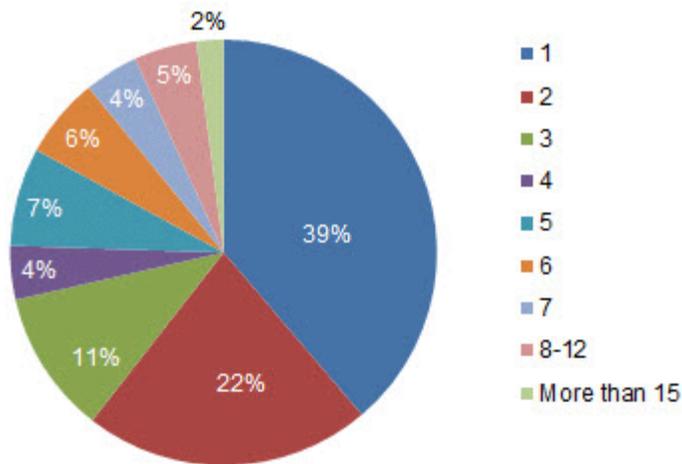


All LSAC-Member Schools by School Type



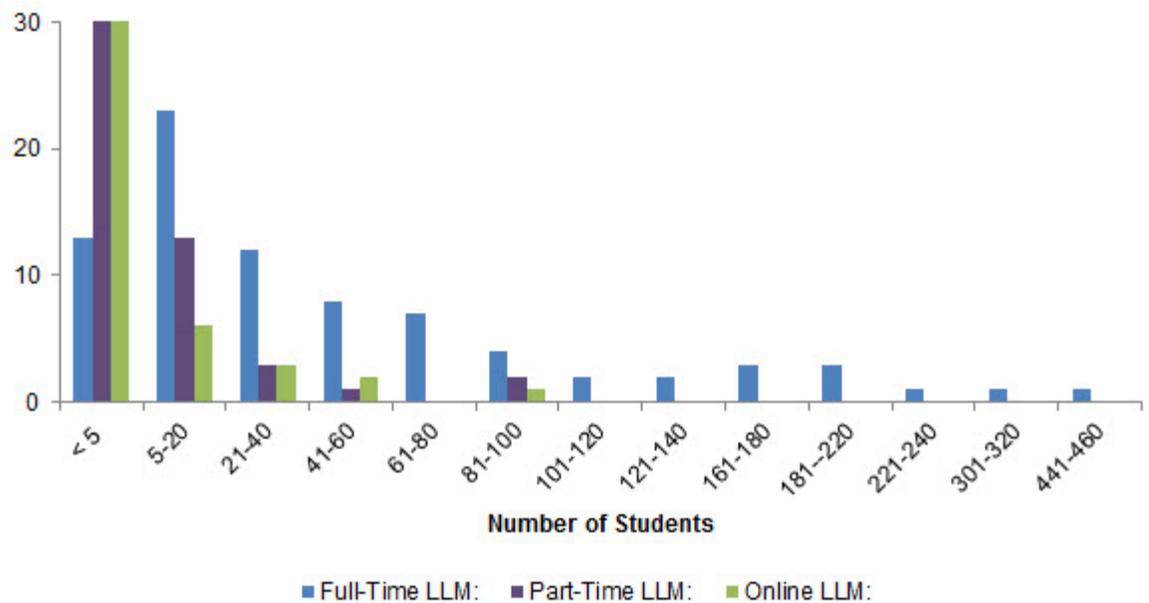
Most of the schools that responded have between 1 and 3 LLM programs.

Number of LLM Programs



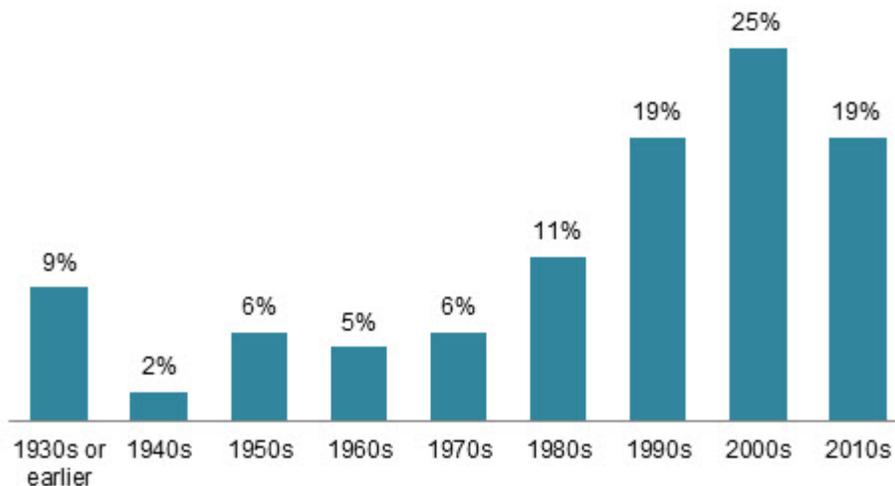
The fall 2015 entering class at most of these institutions consisted of fewer than 100 students, but some had 1L classes of over 200 students.

Size of Fall 2015 Entering Class



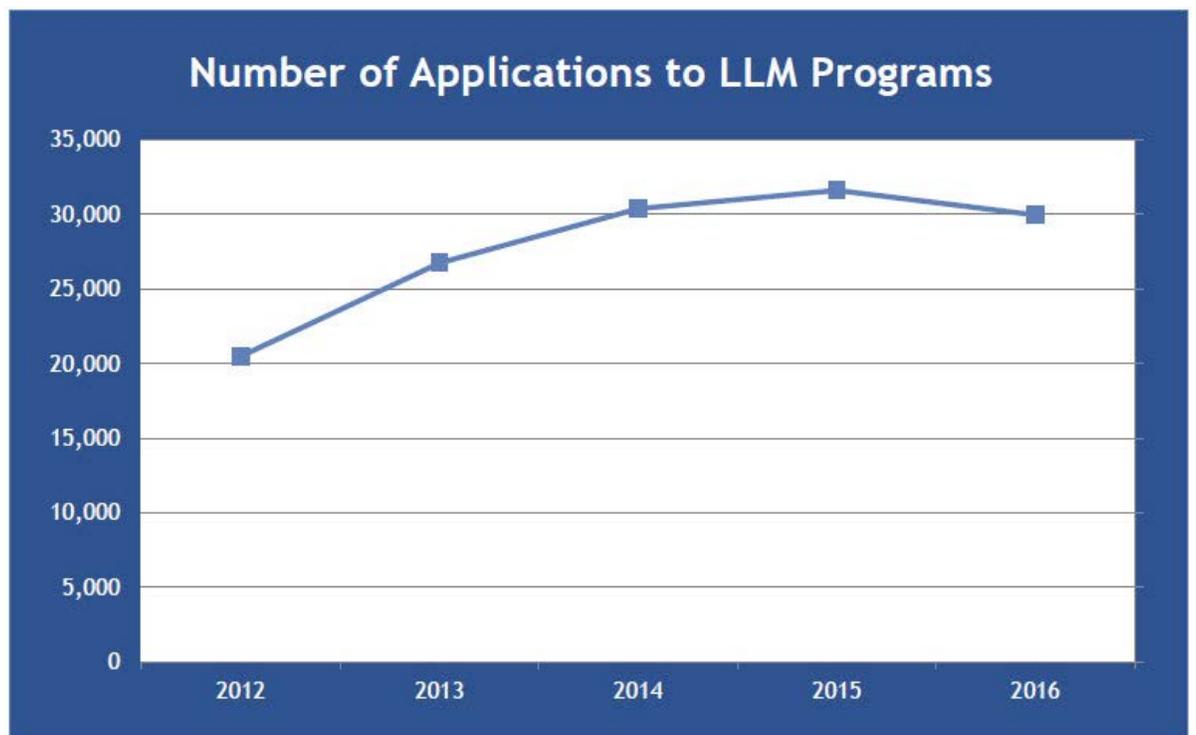
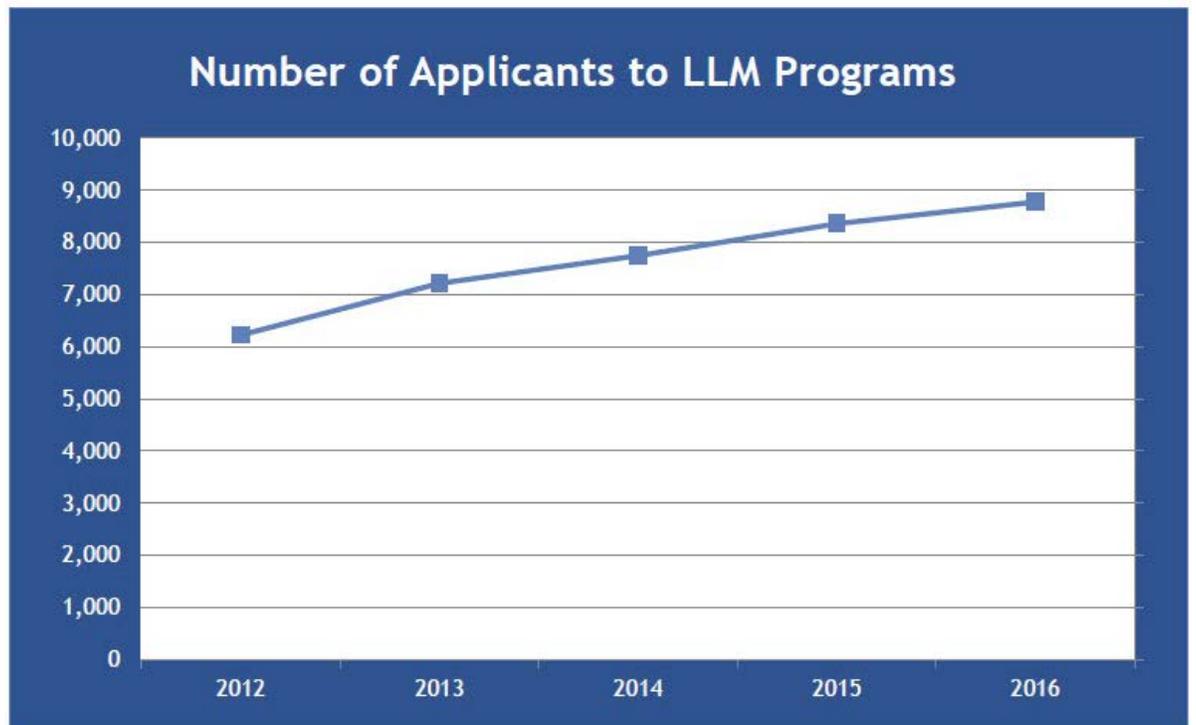
As the figure below shows, some LLM programs have been offered since the 1930s or earlier, but the majority of respondents reported that LLM programs were first offered at their institution between 1990 and the present.

Approximate Date LLM Program(s) Were First Offered

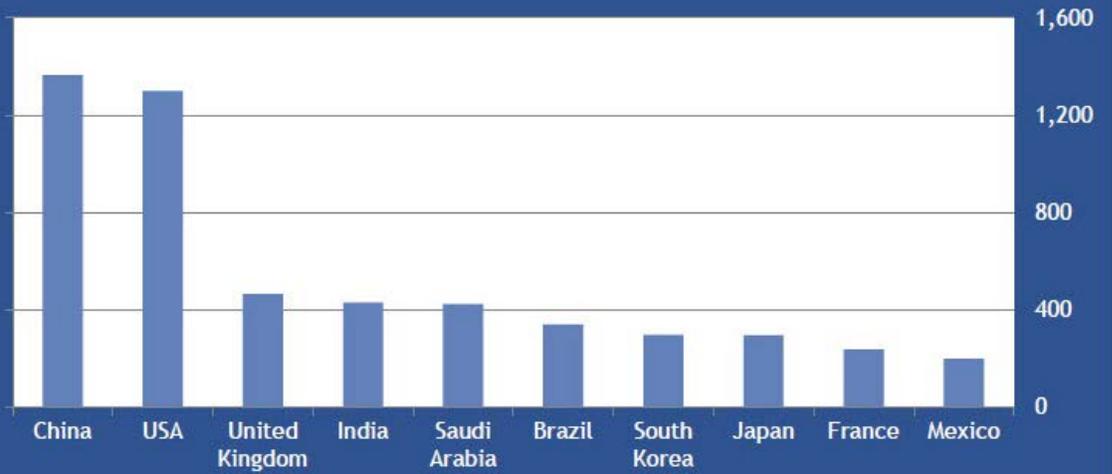


The complete report will contain data about current LLM program admission processes and more. We expect it to be available early in the new year. ■

LLM Graphs



Number of Applicants to LLM Programs by the Top Ten Countries of First Law Degree, 2015



Research Reports Available on LSAC.org

This list includes reports published online since May 2016. These reports and many other LSAC-sponsored research reports (RR), computerized-testing reports (CTR), statistical reports (SR), grant reports (GR), and LSAT technical reports (TR) can be downloaded at LSAC.org.

Research Reports

Dmitry I. Belov

Research Report 16-02: Optimal Detection of Aberrant Answer Changes
March 2016 ■

Jean-Paul Fox

Research Report 16-04: Joint Modeling of Ability and Differential Speed Using Responses and Response Times
March 2016 ■

LSAT Technical Reports

Lisa C. Anthony, Susan P. Dalessandro, and Tammy J. Trierweiler

LSAT Technical Report 16-01: Predictive Validity of the LSAT: A National Summary of the 2013 and 2014 LSAT Correlation Studies
March 2016 ■

LSAC CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2017

4 LSAT Administration

MAY 2017

31–Jun 3 Annual Meeting and
Educational Conference
Palm Desert, CA

JUNE 2017

12 LSAT Administration

JULY 2017

22 Law School Recruitment
Forum
Washington, DC

SEPTEMBER 2017

6–9 Newcomers' Workshop
Philadelphia, PA

16 LSAT Administration

19 Canadian Law School
Recruitment Forum
Toronto, ON

OCTOBER 2017

7 Law School Recruitment
Forum
Miami, FL

10 Law School Recruitment
Forum
Chicago, IL

13 Law School Recruitment
Forum
Atlanta, GA

20–21 Law School Recruitment
Forum
New York, NY

28 Law School Recruitment
Forum
Houston, TX

NOVEMBER 2017

2 Law School Recruitment
Forum
San Francisco, CA

4 Law School Recruitment
Forum
Los Angeles, CA

10 Law School Recruitment
Forum
Boston, MA

