

# LSAC REPORT

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL

## Making Dreams Come True: Annual Meeting 2016



All Photos ©Disney

**W**e make law school applicants' dreams come true, so it is fitting for us to hold our annual gathering at the official headquarters for making dreams come true—Disney World. LSAC's 2016

Annual Meeting and Educational Conference will be held June 1–4 at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, located in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The theme—"Making Dreams Come True: Inspiring the Next Generation of Law Students"—derives from the magical venue for this year's meeting. The Planning Work Group, with Michael Donnelly-Boylen as its chair, created a compelling schedule that includes options for the many and varied interests of LSAC members—from nuts-and-bolts mini-sessions to a special LLM track to meaty panels about the changing recruitment landscape.

Of course, there will be plenary speakers who will inspire us to dream big: Elizabeth Slavitt, vice president of learner strategy and operations at Khan Academy; Dennis Snow, an expert in customer service, employee development, and leadership training (who honed his skills over 20 years with the Walt Disney Company); and Vernā Myers, founder and president of the Verna Myers Company, which helps organizations in the for-profit, nonprofit, academic, and government arenas create and sustain inclusive environments where traditionally underrepresented groups can thrive.

In addition to the many networking opportunities built into the program,

there will be an orientation for first-time attendees, a mentoring program, and the popular Learning Lounge staffed by team members from Law School Support Services.

The Diversity Matters Award celebrates a law school that has demonstrated the highest level of outreach to racially and ethnically diverse students. The awards ceremony will be a highlight of the Welcome Dinner on Wednesday.

No annual meeting is ALL business and learning—there will be plenty of time to enjoy the comfort and luxury offered by Disney’s Beach Club Resort, with its pools, lagoons, and spas; water activities; and *Epcot*® Center close by. *Disney’s Hollywood Studios*® are just a short boat ride away. There is no place like *Walt Disney World*® Resort, and there is no meeting like LSAC’s Annual Meeting and Educational Conference! ■

## LSACREPORT

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## Changing Lives—One Dream at a Time

SUSAN KRINSKY

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



It is nearly time for LSAC's 2016 Annual Meeting at beautiful *Walt Disney World*® Resort. Every year, usually by February, we all start to look forward to this meeting—for the well-deserved opportunity to kick our feet back, for the chance to see each other and share the challenges and successes of the prior year with people who understand what we're talking about, and, of course, for the opportunity to

learn.

Law school admission has changed a lot over the years I've been a part of this profession, but two very important things have stayed the same—the supportive and collegial atmosphere created by the people who work in this field, and the opportunity to identify and work with some very promising students. Our presence at Disney World this year can't help but make me think about making dreams come true and the almost magical moments when I've been able to do that... the applicant who sat in my office and told me how after his parents died, he cared—alone—for two much younger siblings from the time he was a high school student; he somehow made it through college himself, and was now applying to law school. That applicant became an assistant district attorney and later opened his own practice. He has told me more than once that I changed his life. There is the young man who is about to graduate from my current school. He trained for the priesthood before he applied to law school, and he spent many years working with the poor. He has been the kind of student to whom professors give their first-ever A+ grade, and he has not once wavered from his goal of becoming a public defender. And the mother of three who had always wanted to go to law school. Her LSAT score and undergraduate record weren't confidence-inspiring, but she was. She had a hard time in law school, but she got through. Her passion was helping women and children who experienced domestic violence, and after graduation she worked for Legal Aid's domestic violence division. What she really wanted to do was to ensure that there was at least one

judge in her community who really understood family law, and she campaigned to create a special family docket in the court system. Years later, she was elected to fill that slot, a position she still holds. Maybe I helped to change her life, but she has changed hundreds of lives. And maybe that's the real magic—it's not so much the individual we bring to our school, but what that individual does after she graduates and goes into the world. What could be more rewarding?

By this time each year, we're all pretty tired and maybe even a little (a lot?) cynical. So for those of you attending our annual meeting, I hope you will use the time spent at Disney World to remember why we do what we do, recharge your batteries, enjoy your friends, and indulge in a little magic. I am, as always, honored to be a part of this group. ■

## The Stuff of Dreams

DANIEL O. BERNSTINE

PRESIDENT, LSAC

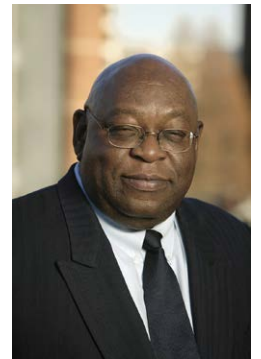
We are all looking forward to this year's Annual Meeting and Educational Conference at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The logo for Disney's parks includes the tagline: "Where Dreams Come True." Law schools are also in the dream business, and the dedicated admission professionals who will be attending the conference perform the magic (and hard work) that makes dreams of attending law school come true.

In our real world, technology does the job of Disney's singing forest animals and dancing brooms—helping applicants embark on the path to their dreams and making it easier for law schools to help them realize those dreams. All of the ingredients needed for a complete law school application process are combined in the Credential Assembly Service cauldron, and the resulting brew is tapped through ACES<sup>2</sup>. Magic!

It would not be an overstatement to say that many applicants would find Cruella De Vil to be less cruel than the LSAT. On the other hand, the test is a dream come true for admission committees needing to discern which princes and princesses are most likely to succeed in their law school.

If candidates had a magic lamp, they might wish for fee waivers for the LSAT and CAS, law school forums where they could attend workshops and meet law school representatives in person, and low-cost LSAT study materials. For many candidates, LSAC genies have granted all of these wishes!

Our annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to renew our spirits, so we can find fresh inspiration for making candidates' dreams come true. Great friendships like Buzz and Woody's, Bambi and Thumper's, and Dory and Marlin's are made and renewed at every LSAC Annual Meeting and



**Daniel O.  
Bernstine**  
President, LSAC

## 2016 Forum Schedule

City	Date	Hotel
Washington, DC	Saturday, July 23, 2016	Omni Shoreham Hotel
Toronto, ON	Tuesday, September 20, 2016	Hyatt Regency Toronto
Miami, FL	Saturday, October 1, 2016	Hyatt Regency Miami
New York, NY	Friday, October 14–Saturday, October 15, 2016	New York Hilton Midtown
New York LLM Forum	Saturday, October 15, 2016	New York Hilton Midtown
LLM Live-Stream Event	Saturday, October 15, 2016	–
San Francisco, CA	Thursday, October 20, 2016	Marriott Marquis San Francisco
Houston, TX	Saturday, October 22, 2016	JW Marriott Houston
Atlanta, GA	Friday, October 28, 2016	AmericasMart Atlanta (Hotel: Westin Peachtree Plaza)
Los Angeles, CA	Saturday, November 5, 2016	The Westin Bonaventure Hotel
Boston, MA	Friday, November 11, 2016	Boston Marriott Copley Place
Chicago, IL	Tuesday, November 15, 2016	Palmer House Hilton

## Law School Report Printing Policy Adjusted

In January 2015, LSAC notified member law schools that printing of law school reports would be discontinued as of June 30, 2020. This decision was a result of declining usage by members (less than 25 percent make use of this service) and increasing costs associated with the periodic replacement of high-speed printers. LSAC planned to charge a 10-cent-per-image printing fee for schools that continued to print paper reports starting on July 1, 2016, the beginning of LSAC's fiscal year.

Feedback from member schools indicated that the July 1 date would not

coordinate well with the 2015–2016 application cycle. As a result, LSAC has modified the schedule to better meet the needs of members. Schools that commit to stopping the printing of law school reports for the 2016–2017 application cycle will not be charged for printing 2015–2016 reports through September 2016. If these schools subsequently choose to continue to print law school reports for the 2016–2017 cycle, they will be charged retroactively for any printing done after July 1, 2016.

LSAC's regional teams are available to answer all questions about printing law school reports and associated charges. ■

## Evaluation Service to Be Discontinued in August

Beginning August 7, 2016, LSAC's Evaluation Service will end. After that date, it will no longer be possible for candidates to request evaluations, and evaluators will no longer be able to fill out or print evaluation forms. All pending evaluations must be completed by August 6, 2016.

The step was taken because of the very limited use of the service by law schools and applicants. Applicants were notified of the discontinuation in March 2016. ■

## LSAC Cosponsors PLANC Conference

LSAC is a major cosponsor of the 7th Quadrennial Pre-Law Advisors National Council (PLANC) Conference, which will be held at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago from June 7–10. Vivian Bowden, LSAC's Executive Director for Education, Prelaw Programs, and Member Support Services, will update conference participants about LSAC programs that are relevant to prelaw advisors and their advisees. Diversity Initiatives staff will lead a discussion on the use of social media in [DiscoverLaw.org](http://DiscoverLaw.org) programs. A number of other LSAC staff members will also be present to answer questions and run an information table at the event.

The theme for the conference is "Collaborate, Innovate, Navigate: Partnering for Success in a Changing Legal Landscape." The focus will be on increased partnership between advisors and law schools, forging new ideas (best practice and "next" practices), and transforming ideas into



action, with an emphasis on practicality. ■

### Quadrennial Conference



## LLM: More Than Half of LORs Submitted Electronically

In 2015–2016, roughly 14,500 letters of recommendation were submitted to the LLM Credential Assembly Service electronically—more than half of the total submitted by LLM candidates. LSAC first began offering electronic letters of recommendation for LLM applicants in August 2015.

Currently, 130 law schools accept letters of recommendation from LLM CAS, either on paper or electronically, and 127 law schools are using the electronic applications service. There have been 12,361 LLM CAS registrants to date for the 2015–2016 processing year, which is comparable to last year’s numbers at this time.

The chart below shows that the majority of LLM CAS registrants are from the United States, followed by China, then India. ■

## LLM CAS Registrants by Country (First Degree in Law)

Country of first law degree, 2015–2016	Registrants
USA	2,399



China	1,640
India	817
United Kingdom	754
Brazil	478
Nigeria	337
France	327
Korea, Republic of (South)	269
Mexico	253
Japan	218
Saudi Arabia	218

## Spanish LSAT Scheduled for November 2016

The Spanish LSAT will be administered at LSAC's two test centers in Puerto Rico on November 19, 2016. This will be the fourth administration of the Spanish LSAT; previous administrations took place in February 2014, December 2014, and December 2015. Test-taker volumes at these administrations have ranged from about 300 to over 400. The most recent administration in December 2015 had 319 test takers.

The LSAT is offered in Spanish as an option for Puerto Rican students whose first language is Spanish to apply to law schools in Puerto Rico. The JD programs at the three LSAC-member law schools in Puerto Rico—Inter American University School of Law, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and the University of Puerto Rico School of Law—all use Spanish as the primary language of instruction. ■

## Diversity Initiatives Activities Abound in 2016

Continuing LSAC's long-standing support of prelaw advisors, LSAC's Diversity Initiatives office held a workshop to address issues facing diverse students and generate strategies for improving student outcomes. The 2016 HACU/HBCU/Tribal College Prelaw Advisor Workshop, "Essentials for Advising Today's Students," took place in January in New Orleans, with 40 participants in attendance. Along with a session on multicultural student

advising and a law school student panel, several plenaries focused on optimizing strategic partnerships with law schools. The conference also featured an update on LSAC programs and services, including a session on the Law School Admission Test. Comments about the workshop by attendees ranged from “exceptional in every way” to “very beneficial—lots of great information and networking opportunities.”

In March, Diversity Initiatives’ assistant director, Yusuf Abdul-Kareem, met and exchanged ideas with colleagues at the 12th annual “A Dream Deferred” conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, organized by the College Board. The exchange of insights about innovative approaches for pipeline programs is expected to inspire and enhance the work that Diversity Initiatives does on behalf of African American students in the public educational system.

Also in March, the third annual [DiscoverLaw.org](#) Day for high school students took place at University of Pennsylvania Law School. Students from several Philadelphia high schools who are in the [DiscoverLaw.org](#) Student Ambassador Program were invited to learn more about the importance of early preparation in their journey toward law school. The highlight of the day was guest speaker Rhasheda Douglas, Title IX manager at Rowan University. More than 15 attorneys spoke with the students during dinner. A panel of law students from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Villanova University School of Law offered the high school students the opportunity to ask their questions of these experienced travelers on the road to a legal education and the profession. This [DiscoverLaw.org](#) event was a collaboration between local law schools, law firms, selected high schools, and LSAC, with the goal of empowering the students to be active participants in shaping the direction of their legal education.

Having completed her two-year term on the National Planning Committee of the College Board’s Prepárate Conference, Diversity Initiatives’ assistant director, Yessenia García-Lebrón, helped celebrate the 10th anniversary of that conference in New York in April, where she was thanked for her contribution. Yessenia had served alongside other educational leaders across the nation in helping to develop and execute this event. The conference provides strategies to increase the preparation, access, and college completion of Latino students in public schools.

In September, Diversity Initiatives will be hosting a Pipeline Diversity Conference. This year’s theme is “Pipeline Diversity Programs: Where Your Law School’s Legacy Begins.” Website and email alerts will be

providing specifics on dates, location, schedule, and registration details very soon. ■



**SAVE THE  
DATE**

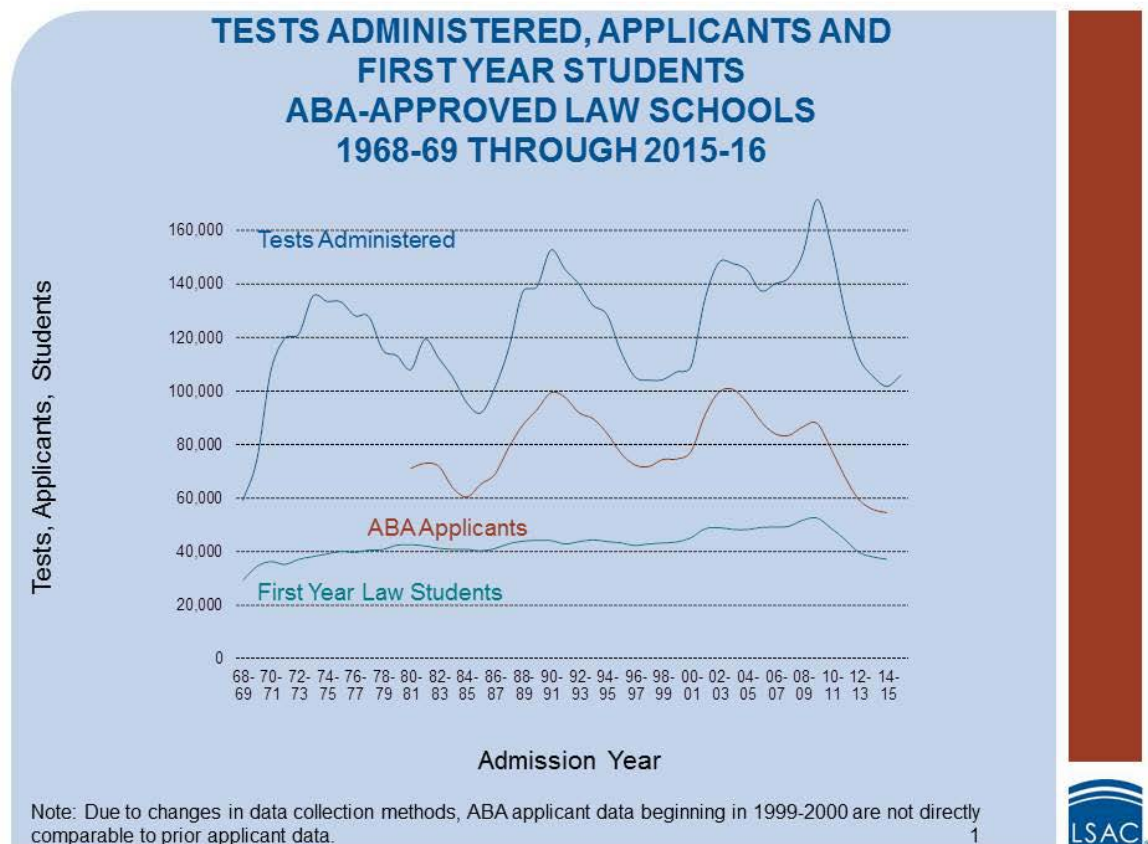
**2016 Pipeline Diversity Conference**

**Pipeline Diversity Programs: Where Your  
Law School's Legacy Begins**

September 13–15, 2016 • Miami, Florida • Hyatt Regency Miami

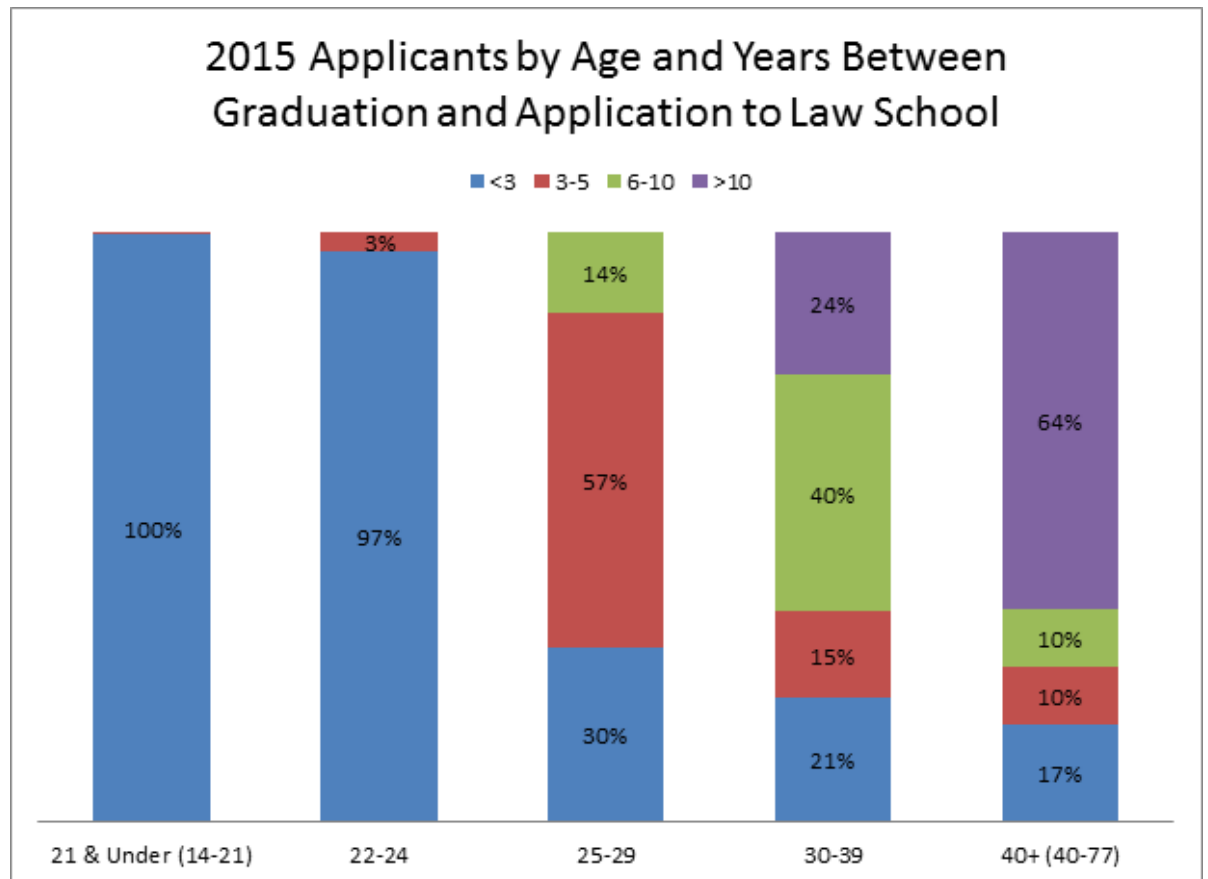


## Volume Data



The graph shows LSATs administered, ABA applicants, and first-year students from the years 1968–1969 to 2015–2016. Due to changes in data-collection methods, ABA applicant data beginning in 1999–2000 are not directly comparable to prior applicant data.

# Graduation and Application to Law School



This chart shows age and the number of years between college graduation and application to law school for 2015 all-term applicants to ABA law schools. Interestingly, about 1 in 5 people over 40 applied to law school less than three years after finishing their undergraduate education. Applicants' ages were defined as of September 1 of the law school academic year.

## Research Reports Available on LSAC.org

This list includes reports published online since December 2015. These reports and many other LSAC-sponsored research reports (RR), computerized testing reports (CTR), statistical reports (SR), grants reports (GR), and LSAT technical reports (TR) can be downloaded at [LSAC.org](http://LSAC.org).

Dmitry I. Belov

*Research Report 14-04: Detection of Aberrant Answer Changes via Kullback–Leibler Divergence*

October 2014

Dmitry I. Belov

*Research Report 16-01: Review of Modern Methods for Automated Test Assembly and Item Pool Analysis*

March 2016

Jean-Paul Fox

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

March 2016 ■

## GRANTS REPORTS

Milton C. Regan, Jr., and Lisa H. Rohrer

*Grants Report 15-02: A Fragile Balance: Business, Profession, and Culture in the Large Law Firm*

October 2015

Atinuke Adediran, John Hagan, Patricia Parker, & Gabriele Plickert

*Grants Report 16-01: Making the Best of a Bad Beginning: Young New York Lawyers Confronting the Great Recession*

March 2016 ■

## LSAC CALENDAR

### JUNE 2016

1–4 Annual Meeting and  
Educational Conference  
*Lake Buena Vista, FL*

6 LSAT Administration

### JULY 2016

15 Boot Camp Planning Work  
Group  
*Philadelphia, PA*

23 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*Washington, DC*

29– Board of Trustees Retreat  
30 *Chicago, IL*

### SEPTEMBER 2016

7–10 Newcomers Conference  
*Philadelphia, PA*

16 Investment Committee  
*TBA*

20 Canadian Law School  
Recruitment Forum  
*Toronto, ON*

23 Services and Programs  
Committee  
*TBA*

24 LSAT Administration

24 Diversity Committee  
*TBA*

### OCTOBER 2016

1 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*Miami, FL*

14 Audit Committee  
*New York, NY*

14–15 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*New York, NY*

20 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*San Francisco, CA*

22 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*Houston, TX*

28 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*Atlanta, GA*

### NOVEMBER 2016

4 Misconduct and Irregularities  
in the Admission Process  
Subcommittee  
*Los Angeles, CA*

5 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*Los Angeles, CA*

11 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*Boston, MA*

15 Law School Recruitment  
Forum  
*Chicago, IL*

18 Test Development and  
Research Committee  
*TBA*





19 Finance and Legal Affairs  
Committee  
*TBA*

**DECEMBER 2016**

3 LSAT Administration

9–10 Board of Trustees  
*Yountville, CA*