

May 2017

# LSAC REPORT

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL



## DEAN KELLYE TESTY NAMED LSAC PRESIDENT AND CEO



Kellye Y. Testy, Dean of the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, has been named the new

President and CEO of the Law School Admission Council. Dean Testy, a nationally and internationally known advocate for access and diversity in the law, brings vision and operational experience to LSAC's mission of ensuring student success and high-quality legal education.

Dean Testy brings substantial experience as a law school dean and business leader to her new post, along with effective partnerships throughout legal education, including with the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) for which she served as President in 2016.

"I am honored to assume the role of President and CEO of LSAC, an organization whose sole mission is to serve law schools, law students, and legal education," Dean Testy said. "In a time of considerable change in the

legal profession and the academy, we look forward to accelerating key partnerships, integrating technology intelligently, and serving our members in ever-more innovative and effective ways,” she added.

In announcing the appointment, LSAC Board of Trustees Chair Susan L. Krinsky said: “Dean Testy’s enthusiasm for LSAC’s mission is clear, and her commitment to diversity and access to legal education is inspiring. We believe Dean Testy’s experience and commitment are perfectly suited to her new role. Her leadership in pursuit of quality legal education will allow LSAC to reach even greater heights of success in serving our member schools and their students.”

Dean Testy led the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle for eight years, hiring a new generation of outstanding faculty, significantly expanding philanthropic resources, advancing equity and inclusion, and heightening the school’s stature and visibility. *National Jurist* magazine recently named her the second-most influential person in legal education. A native of Bloomington, Dean Testy received both her undergraduate and law degrees at Indiana University. She graduated summa cum laude and Order of the Coif, and then clerked on the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit before joining the academy. A beloved teacher and expert in corporate law and governance, Dean Testy has published extensively in those fields, as well as in several others.

We are looking forward to welcoming Dean Testy at our annual meeting and educational conference in Palm Desert, California. ■

## LSACREPORT

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View from  
the Chair

## Changes

SUSAN KRINSKY

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



**A**s I've said to virtually anyone who has asked me (and to many who haven't), my work with LSAC over the past (gulp) 30-plus years has been the highlight of my professional life. That is even more so for my time as chair. It happens that I find joy in getting to know and understand organizations and their relationships to other people and to other

organizations. I may be a particularly slow learner, but it's only now as I come to the end of my term as chair that I realize how much I learned in just the last two years, despite having been involved with LSAC for many years before that. I knew about the commitment to excellence and quality. I knew the names and the capabilities of the services and products LSAC provides and the commitment to access and diversity that are a hallmark of this organization. But I'm not sure I understood the complexity of almost everything LSAC does or what it takes to be able to make important changes.

This has been a time of great change for LSAC, with events that we neither anticipated nor wished for. A day doesn't go by that I don't think about Dan Bernstine and wish that I could talk with him and hear his advice. Unfortunately, that's not a choice any of us were given. I have felt privileged and honored to be on the front lines as many changes took place and continue taking place. Our partnership with Khan Academy has the potential to be a game-changer for test takers who cannot afford or choose not to take a commercial prep course. Our recent decision to increase the number of test administrations will make the process of

applying to law school easier for both test takers and our law school members. And we continue to explore other ways of delivering the LSAT—which, I probably don't have to remind this audience—is the gold standard for testing the kind of critical reasoning skills that students need to succeed in law school. Our new president and CEO, Kellye Testy, is the right person at the right time to lead LSAC. We are very fortunate that Kellye accepted this challenging and exciting role, and I, for one, cannot wait to see how her visionary leadership translates into an even more terrific LSAC. I am grateful that I have one more year on the Board as past-chair and that I'll have the opportunity to watch as Kellye and our new Board chair, Chris Whitman, navigate through the ever-changing environment in which we find ourselves. Stay tuned!

Thank you to all of you who offered words of encouragement and understanding during my time as chair. I'm not sure there's anything I can say that will adequately convey to Thorny Steele the depth of my gratitude for his willingness to step in at a critical moment to lead our extraordinarily capable and resilient staff. And I thank LSAC's staff for providing the kind of support that I could never have imagined existed, but against which I'll always measure others.

One more thing: get involved with LSAC at whatever level is comfortable for you. Not too long ago, one admission professional mentioned that she wasn't really trained for the work she's doing, but just grew into it. That comment led to our recent boot camp for senior admission professionals and the upcoming summer workshops for midlevel professionals. That's just one small example of how you can make a difference. This is *your* organization, and it's your ideas and needs that give the organization direction. I think you'll find the experience as rewarding as I have. ■

## Passages to India

Athornia Steele



The LSAT—India was first administered in 14 cities across India in May 2009, and at that time it was used only for admission to the brand-new Jindal Global Law School. Jindal wanted to enhance the status of the school, which was being marketed as “India’s First Global Law School.” This month, the LSAT—India was administered in 20 cities and the score is accepted by approximately 80 law schools in India. This growth is the result of a concerted effort by LSAC and our LSAT—India partner Pearson Vue, which administers the test on our behalf. I traveled to India with Lily Knezevich, LSAC’s senior director of test development, to observe the administration of the test and to meet with representatives of law schools who are currently using the test in their admission process and other law schools that may be interested in accepting the LSAT.

The trip allowed us to gain valuable insights into India’s legal education system. We were able to provide information about how the skills tested on the LSAT relate to success in law school, and about the test development process. We also presented information on the psychometric research that takes place before and after a test administration. They were impressed with our processes and thought other Indian law schools would welcome the opportunity to learn about the benefits of using the test in the admission process. Currently, many law schools in India use the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) for admission. That test does not test the most important skills necessary for success in law school or the practice of law.

As a result of the feedback from legal educators in India, we are planning a series of three regional, one-day conferences sponsored jointly by LSAC and Pearson Vue on the subject of the LSAT—India.

By all measures, our trip to India was a success—we informed, listened, and learned, which resulted in a strategy for further developing our relationship with Indian law schools, increasing the use of the LSAT—India, and sending more of our passages to India. ■

## A Desert Setting for Hot Admission Topics

There is no disputing that the climate in law school admissions is changing. Each of us is feeling the effects, but there is no reason to go it alone. LSAC's 2017 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference will take place May 31–June 3 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, California. The annual meeting is the perfect setting to congregate with law school admission colleagues to explore tactics, strategies, and coping mechanisms for the challenges we are facing. The theme of this year's conference is Embracing the Changing Climate in Law School Admissions.

Featured speakers include:

- Jer Thorp, a data artist whose work focuses on adding narrative meaning to huge amounts of data. Through cutting-edge data-visualization techniques, Mr. Thorp helps people and corporations take control of the information that surrounds them, using technology and data as a new way to tell stories.
- Francesca Gino, a professor of business administration in the Negotiation, Organizations & Markets Unit at Harvard Business School, and the author of *Sidetracked: Why Our Decisions Get Derailed, and How We Can Stick to the Plan*. In her session, Professor Gino will explain exactly why our decisions get derailed and what we can do to stick to the plan—at work, in our personal lives, and as organizations.
- Jia Jiang is the founder and CEO of Wuju Learning, a company that helps organizations become fearless through rejection training. Also known as the “Rejection Guy,” Mr. Jiang is the author of the best-selling book, *Rejection Proof*. He is a newly minted TED speaker, and his blog, *100 Days of Rejection Therapy*, documents and analyzes his journey to discover and conquer the fear of rejection.

The conference schedule is overflowing with learning and networking opportunities. A new addition this year is a full-day, preconference Admission Leadership Boot Camp for senior JD admission professionals. The boot camp is designed to provide advanced, intensive training on skills required for senior-level admission leaders to function effectively in the current admission climate, and will include sessions on leadership, strategy, enrollment management, implicit bias, and crisis management.

And, of course, there will be healthy doses of food, fun, relaxation, news, and conversation along with all of the serious stuff. ■



## LSAC Continues Research on Digital LSAT Delivery Options

On May 20, 2017, a select group of volunteers took advantage of a unique opportunity to preview a tablet-based LSAT at roughly 20 testing centers throughout the US, including one in Puerto Rico. The pilot test is part of our ongoing research into future LSAT delivery options. There was no charge to take the pilot test, and participants received a \$100 gift card. A total of 1,000 seats were available for the Digital LSAT Pilot Test, and nearly that number of test takers registered for the pilot test, but the final participant count was not yet available for this newsletter.

The pilot test included actual LSAT questions, but did not result in an LSAT score. Like the LSAT, the Digital LSAT consists of five sections of multiple-choice questions. The pilot test was given under conditions similar to those of an actual LSAT administration, with the timing of the sections identical to the paper-and-pencil test (35 minutes for each section).

Many registrants were attracted to the pilot test as extra preparation for taking the actual LSAT. They received a detailed performance report listing the number of questions answered correctly for each of the three LSAT question types (Analytical Reasoning, Logical Reasoning, and Reading Comprehension) and the number answered correctly for each of several skill areas within each LSAT question type.

LSAC has been researching computerized delivery systems for the LSAT for two decades, and began exploring the tablet-based model in 2012. No decisions regarding implementation of the Digital LSAT will be made until all aspects of the delivery system have been tested and the performance of the test on the system can be verified. Pending the results of the pilot test, a larger field test may take place in October 2017. ■

# LSAC Partners with Khan Academy to Offer Free LSAT Prep for All

LSAC announced in February that an agreement had been reached with California-based Khan Academy on a partnership that will make personalized, free LSAT practice widely available to all.

Traditionally, students have paid test prep providers anywhere from hundreds to thousands of dollars for various LSAT test prep packages. The LSAC-Khan platform will include practice LSATs as well as a rich array of video tutorials, explanations, and learning tools. The platform will be hosted at KhanAcademy.org and is expected to launch in the second half of 2018.

Interim LSAC president Athornia Steele said that LSAC is “committed to providing students an opportunity to learn the skills they need most to do well on the LSAT and succeed in law school. We’re excited to provide a resource that focuses on deeper learning for everyone.” ■

## Important Policy Revision on LSAT Limitations

Starting with the September 2017 LSAT, there will no longer be any limitations on the number of times a test taker can take the LSAT in a two-year period. LSAC has revised this policy as part of its planning for additional administrations of the LSAT. ■

## CRS Change Management

LSAC has received numerous requests from member law schools for changes to the Candidate Referral Service (CRS). In response, the Services and Programs Committee created a work group to review the

requests and, in conjunction with LSAC's Information Services Division (ISD), develop the appropriate mechanism for addressing change requests for new LLM areas of interest and JD coursework choices. A guiding principle of the group was the importance of maintaining a manageable list of courses and interest areas that reflects the needs of member schools generally and not individual school preferences. The Services and Programs Committee agreed with the work group's recommendations, as did the Board of Trustees, and ISD will be moving forward with the changes.

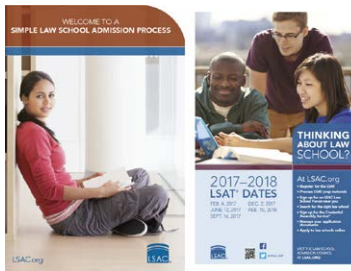
Currently, there are 23 LLM areas of interest and 20 JD coursework choices. The work group recommended using similar names for similar fields across both groups in the interest of consistency. The work group defined broader categories for areas of interest and coursework that could incorporate more types of law (including future developments) and make it possible for member law schools to use CRS to target candidates with their specific programs.

Schools that want to request a new category are asked to submit the request to Law School Support Services and provide justification, including the reason the new category is an important area of law to be added to CRS and why the current categories are insufficient. In addition, if the requestor knows of other schools that could benefit from the new category, that information should be included in the request.

The revised list of CRS categories will be made available in the very near future. ■

## Order LSAC Posters and Brochures at LSAC.org

Member law schools and prelaw advisors can now order LSAT posters and the *Welcome to a Simple Law School Admission Process* brochures directly from [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org). After logging in, law schools should find the **Publications** on the



menu at left and click on “Poster and Brochure Order Form.” Prelaw advisors should look for the form on the Prelaw Advisor Information Center home page after logging in. Schools and prelaw advisors need only select the item they wish to order, specify the quantity, and submit the completed form—and the order will then be processed. There are also links on the page to allow users to view the poster and brochure before the order is completed . ■

## US Fee Waivers to Be Centralized

LSAC established its fee waiver program in 1968 to ensure that no one is denied access to law school because of the inability to pay for the LSAT and other essential applicant services. The LSAC process for granting fee waivers has been revised and streamlined over time. Today, a US law school candidate can easily apply for a fee waiver online.

For the past 10 years, LSAC has granted an average of \$2.5 million each year in fee waivers. LSAC fee waivers are unique among testing organizations because fees are waived for all essential services, not just the test.

Currently, law schools can grant LSAC fee waivers to any candidate who requests one—without regard to a candidate’s need or LSAC’s guidelines. Because there is no limit on the number of waivers a school can grant, and there is no requirement to have or follow any specific criteria for determining eligibility, the potential for unequal treatment exists. Therefore, in order to promote fairness, access, and consistency for all candidates, the US fee waiver process going forward will be entirely online through [LSAC.org](http://LSAC.org). This change will be effective July 1, 2017. ■

# 2017 Forum Schedule

City	Date	Hotel
Washington, DC	Saturday, July 22, 2017	Omni Shoreham Hotel
Toronto, ON	Monday, September 18, 2017	Hyatt Regency Toronto
Miami, FL	Saturday, October 7, 2017	Hyatt Regency Miami
Chicago, IL	Tuesday, October 10, 2017	Palmer House Hilton
Atlanta, GA	Friday, October 13, 2017	Westin Peachtree Plaza
New York, NY	Friday, October 20–Saturday, October 21, 2017	New York Hilton Midtown
Houston, TX	Saturday, October 28, 2017	Omni Houston Hotel
San Francisco, CA	Thursday, November 2, 2017	Marriott Marquis San Francisco
Los Angeles, CA	Saturday, November 4, 2017	The Westin Bonaventure Hotel
Boston, MA	Friday, November 10, 2017	Renaissance Boston Waterfront

## Board Approves Forums Work Group Recommendations

The Forums Work Group reviewed the 2016 forums season and prepared a report for the Services and Programs Committee. The work group concluded that the increased attendance at eight out of ten JD forums was a result of improved marketing and the collaborative efforts of member schools, prelaw advisors, LSAC, and an external marketing firm.

As part of its review, the work group shared its recommendations with member schools and provided opportunities for member feedback. The work group reviewed all of the feedback and incorporated relevant submissions into its report. After approval of the recommendations by the Services and Programs Committee, in May 2017 the LSAC Board of Trustees approved the recommended revisions to LSAC's forums, which include:

1. Revising the Forum 101 script to emphasize professionalism and the misconduct and irregularities process;
2. Standardizing meal hours across all forums to start two hours after forums begin;
3. Standardizing the weekday forum schedule: 1:00–6:00 PM;
4. Discontinuing holding a separate LLM forum in New York; instead allow LLM representatives to participate at every forum;
5. Adding an LLM-related workshop to each forum’s workshop schedule;
6. Discontinuing workshop livestreaming; and
7. Moving the Chicago forum to a Saturday starting in the summer of 2018.

LSAC’s Member Support Services team will provide additional information about changes affecting the upcoming forum season as soon as possible.



## Registration Open for LSAC Summer Workshops

The 2017 Summer Workshop program was designed for midlevel law school admission professionals who aspire to move into a law school leadership role. A work group of experienced admission professionals have designed the program to include sessions on Understanding Yourself, Understanding the Law School Admission Leadership Role, and Developing Core Competencies. The workshops will be held in three locations in July; registration opened in May and closes on July 11. Registration information is at [LSAC.org](http://LSAC.org); after logging in, go to Events/Recruitment. ■

Location	Date	Time
American University Washington College of Law Washington, DC	July 21, 2017	9:00 AM–3:00 PM
Loyola University Chicago School of Law Chicago, IL	July 24, 2017	9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Loyola Law School Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles, CA	July 26, 2017	9:00 AM–3:00 PM
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## Statement of Good Admission and Financial Aid Practices Revised

In May 2017, LSAC's Board of Trustees approved the Services and Programs Committee's revised Statement of Good Admission and Financial Aid Practices (Statement). The Statement Work Group recommended that the current JD Statement be revised into one document that encompasses both JD and LLM programs. This decision grew out of a previous discussion about the overwhelming similarities between the two Statements.

Within the new, comprehensive Statement, sections where there were differences between JD and LLM programs were identified and addressed. The work group received feedback from both the JD and the LLM admission communities and incorporated relevant submissions into the revisions.

Copies of the revised Statement will be posted on [LSAC.org](http://LSAC.org) at the Data & More tab under Publications as soon as the revisions have been made. ■

## Diversity Initiatives Grants Approved

LSAC will bestow grants on two established organizations that are dedicated to increasing the number of lawyers from underrepresented minority groups in the legal profession. These grants, to be distributed over the next five years, were recommended by the Diversity Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. Both organizations will celebrate 50 years of programs toward those stated goals.

The Prelaw Summer Institute (PLSI) of the American Indian Law Center targets and



Outgoing LSAC Board Chair Susan Krinsky and CLEO Board Chair Angela Birch Cox sign a document in early May to memorialize their commitment to work together to promote diversity in law.

prepares Native American students for legal careers. Its alumni include Native American lawyers in a variety of fields, including the judiciary, tribal law, government, legal education, public interest, and major law firms. LSAC began funding the PLSI program when the Bureau of Indian Affairs reduced its support for the program.

The Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), founded in 1968, has created programs that include a summer intensive residential program. Other workshops and services have produced judges, lawyers, law professors, and other legal professionals. LSAC has supported CLEO since its inception.

The Diversity Committee also supported the activities of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Subcommittee's programs during the 2017 LGBT Bar Lavender Law Conference, and continued to review and support [DiscoverLaw.org](http://DiscoverLaw.org) branded activities, including the Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars Program (PLUS). ■

## ACES<sup>2</sup> News

- **New Look**—This summer, the ACES<sup>2</sup> user interface will have a new look and other improvements that will allow better control and customization. Both the Information Services Division Advisory Group (ISDAG) and the more recently formed Usability Work Group reviewed the new interface and provided valuable input regarding the design. There will be previews of the new screens at the upcoming annual meeting.
- **Password Security**—In response to requests from law schools, LSAC has improved the password security rules and features in



ACES<sup>2</sup>. These changes allow users to align access to ACES<sup>2</sup> more closely to university password and security policies. The system administrator in the admission office is now responsible for controlling password changes and strength definitions, according to the policies set forth by each individual law school or university.

## Meeting Colleagues in India

In early April, LSAC Interim President Athornia Steele and Senior Director of Test Development Lily Knezevich traveled to India as ambassadors for the LSAT—India. They spent time in both Delhi and Mumbai, meeting with representatives from law schools that use the LSAT—India and others interested in the law school admission process. They also met with the Pearson Vue team that administers the test.

The annual LSAT—India administration will take place on May 21 of this year. This will be the ninth administration of the test. ■



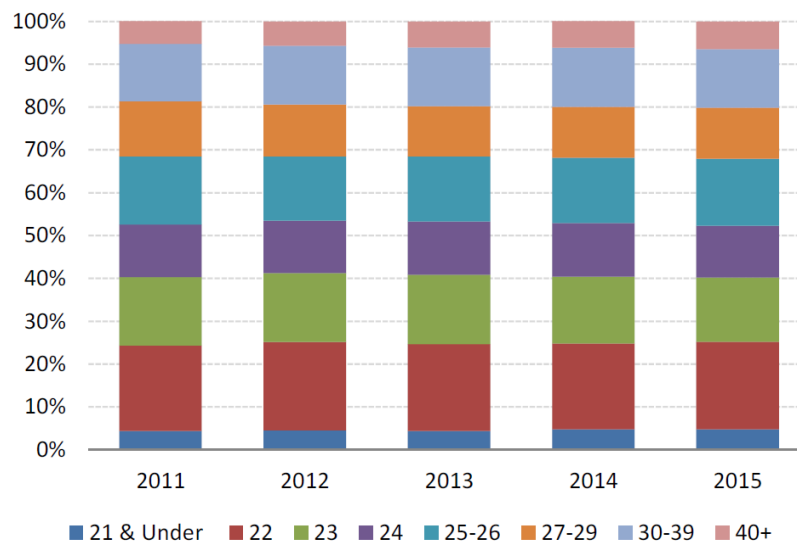
PHOTO: From left to right: **Aman Soni**, business development manager (Pearson VUE), **Neetu Dhadwal**, project manager (Pearson VUE), **P.C. Suraj**, marketing manager (Pearson

VUE), **Lily Knezevich**, senior director of test development (LSAC), **Athornia Steele**, interim president (LSAC), and **Divyalok Chetan Sharma**, senior director—client development (Pearson VUE).

## Statistics

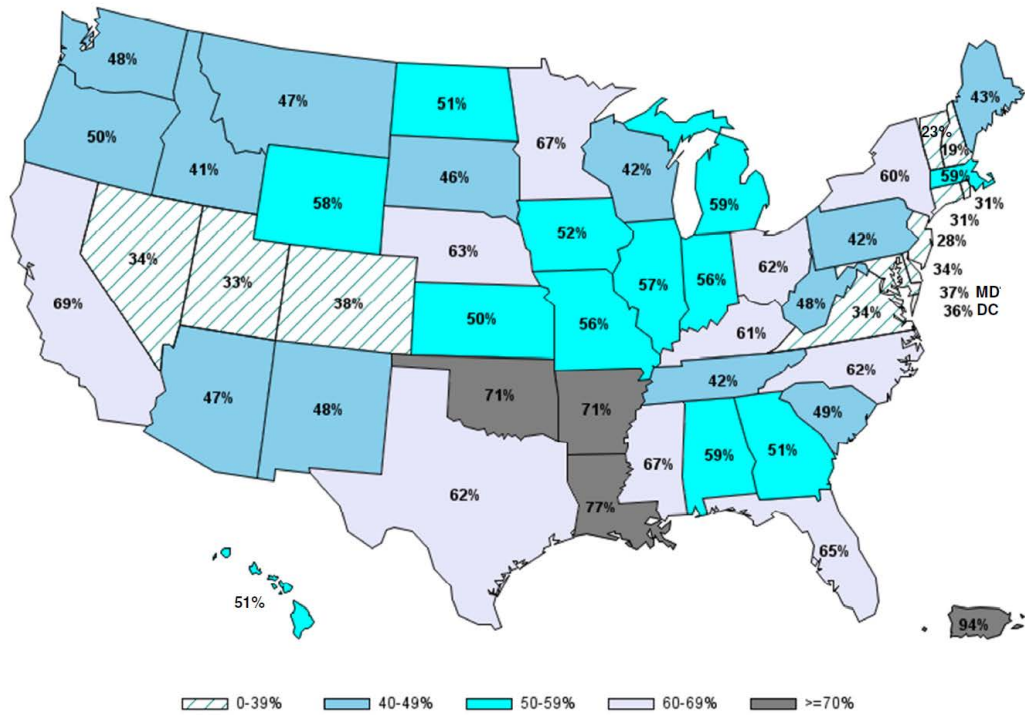
### Age Distribution of Law School Applicants

There was little change in the age distribution of applicants from 2011 to 2015. Each year, 22-year-old applicants constituted the largest age group, and about half of all applicants were between 22 and 24 years old. Around 30% of applicants were between 25 and 29, and close to 20% were over 30. For each year, the median age was 24, and the mean (average) was between 26 and 27.



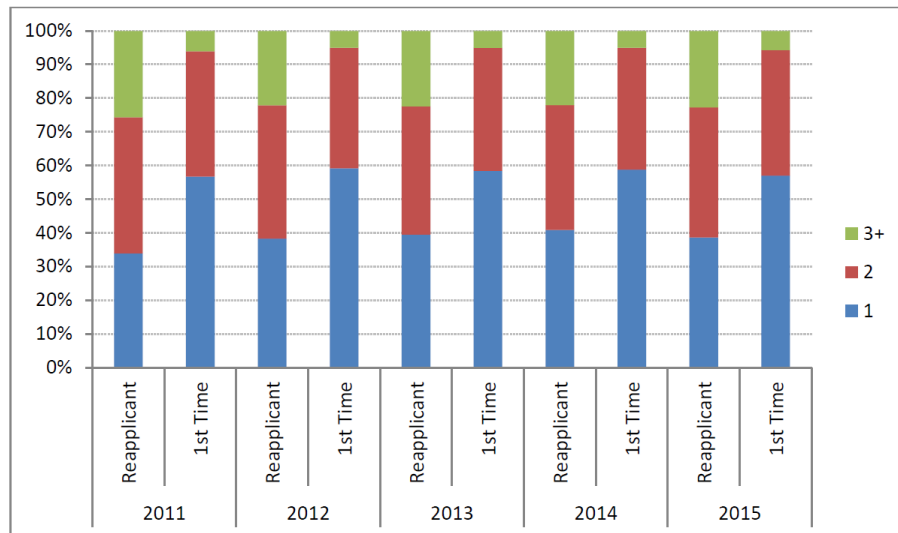
### Students Who Remained In-State, 2008–2015

Puerto Rico had the highest percentage of students remaining in-state (94%), followed by Louisiana (77%), Arkansas (71%), and Oklahoma (71%). Students in New Hampshire, Vermont, and New Jersey were the least likely to remain in-state (20%, 23%, and 28%, respectively). There was a weak correlation (0.10) between remaining in-state and the number of law schools located in the state.



## Applicants/Reapplicants

The chart below shows the number of reportable LSAT scores by percentage of first-time applicants and reapplicants. Reapplicants took the LSAT more times than first-time applicants. Each year, close to 60 percent of reapplicants took the LSAT two or more times within that year. A majority of first-time applicants took the LSAT only once each year.



## 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), grants reports (GR), and LSAT technical reports (TR) can be downloaded at [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org).

### Research Report

Jean-Paul Fox & Vera Broks

*Research Report 16-06: Marginalized Measurement Variance Modeling and Bayes Factor Testing*

November 2016 ■

### Statistical Report

Kimberly Dustman, Ann Gallagher, & Josiah Evans

*Statistical Report 16-01: Location and Law School Matriculation*

November 2016 ■

## LSAC CALENDAR

### 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

18 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*

### DECEMBER 2017

2 LSAT Administration