

Report from LSAC

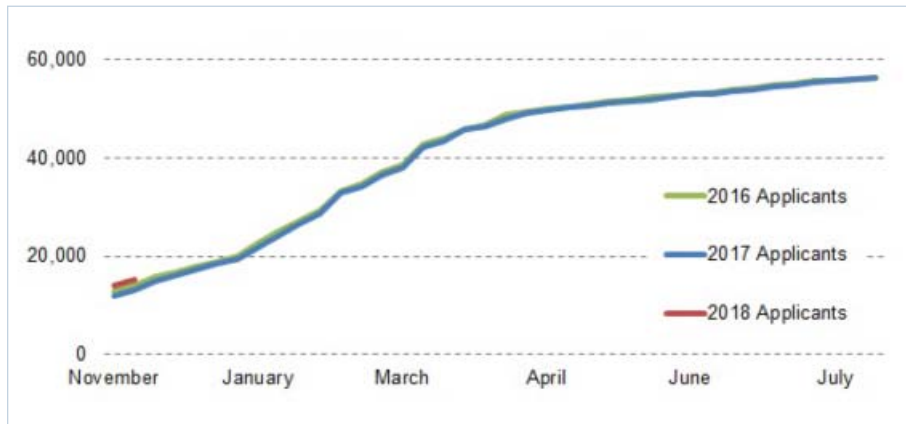
December 2017

Applicants Increase 14.2% in First 2018–2019 Volume Report

Applicants to ABA-approved law schools are up 14.2 percent and applications are up 17.1 percent compared to this time last year. As of November 24, there were 81,877 applications submitted by 15,083 applicants for the 2018–2019 academic year. Last year at this time, we had 24 percent of the final applicant count. In a trend continuing from last year, women are the larger group of applicants at 53 percent. For Canadian law schools, there were 19,245 applications submitted by 5,241 applicants for the 2018–2019 academic year. Applicants are up 1.1 percent and applications are up 3.4 percent from 2017–2018. Last year at this time, we had 78 percent of the Canadian applicants and 77 percent of the Canadian applications.

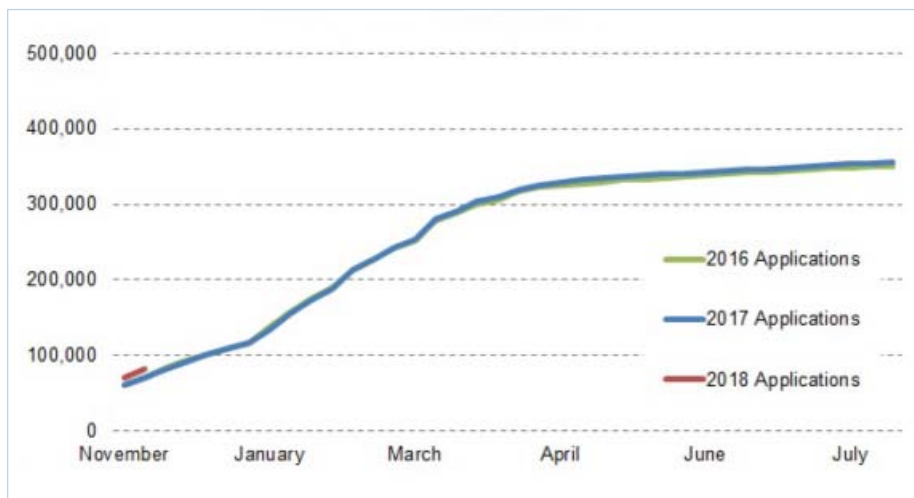
Although we expect these volumes to fluctuate as the admission process for 2018–2019 moves forward, we are cautiously optimistic that this will be a good year for law school applicant volume. For weekly volume updates, go to LSAC.org/lisacresources/data/three-year-volume.

ABA Applicants by Week



Last year at this time, we had 20 percent of the final application count.

ABA Applications by Week



Diversity Matters

The Law and Leadership Institute, LLC (LLI)—a statewide pipeline program in Ohio—was conceived as a way to prepare “at risk” students for success in college and beyond by increasing the desire for college achievement, improving college and analytical skills, and introducing participants to a range of legal careers. These goals align closely with LSAC’s core values of promoting access to legal education and emphasizing diversity in both legal education and the legal profession, which is why LLI received a three-year LSAC Diversity Initiatives grant in 2014.

Researchers with the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs completed a formal evaluation of LLI programming and methods that began in 2015. Based on instructors’ evaluations, most students significantly improved in writing, self-confidence, problem solving, public speaking, legal knowledge, and self-discipline. Approximately 90 percent of LLI’s graduating students have matriculated in college. Their reach extends throughout Ohio and across the country. Two students who started in the first year of the statewide program began law school this fall.



LLI recruits urban schools to provide academic enrichment to students who would not otherwise have access to academic and career development opportunities. Participants include students who want to be lawyers, as well as students who just need help finding their way to college. The majority of LLI students plan to be the first in their households to graduate from college.

LLI has acknowledged its “impressive” students who are “working hard to secure admission to college and a bright future.” In addition to LSAC, the Institute receives funding from the Ohio Supreme Court, the Ohio State Bar Foundation, other district courts in the state, Proctor & Gamble, local banks, and a host of individual donors.

Five Law Schools Selected for \$300,000 Prelaw Undergraduate Scholar Grants



The University of Akron School of Law, The University of Alabama School of Law, Duke University School of Law, University of Houston Law Center, and St. John’s University School of Law will have the resources to assist first- and second-year college students who want to learn more about the legal profession and earning a law degree thanks to LSAC’s Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program. The program is designed to increase the number of lawyers from underrepresented groups by introducing college students early on to the skills important for success in law school. Each of the five law schools will receive a three-year grant totaling \$300,000, disbursed in three \$100,000 installments, so that each can host 20–30 participants for about four weeks during three summers,

paying them a stipend of \$1,000 each. Upon completing the program, participants also receive an LSAC fee waiver that they can use to cover the cost of taking the LSAT, all of their law school application fees, and registering for LSAC’s Credential Assembly Service. A free *Official LSAT SuperPrep* book is included as part of the fee waiver package.

“We consider LSAC PLUS programs to be an investment in the future of the diversity of the legal profession,” said Kellye Testy, LSAC President and CEO. “The schools that are the recipients of PLUS grants have designed programs that introduce students from diverse backgrounds to the rigors and rewards of a career in law. Grants for PLUS programs are provided by LSAC’s Diversity Initiatives Fund.”

Since 2002, 23 LSAC-member law schools have received grants to host these programs, with 2,342 students participating. The majority of participants—51 percent—have been African American, followed by Hispanic/Latino participants at 14.7 percent. Of these PLUS alumni, 79 percent were admitted to law school, compared to 72 percent of similar applicants. PLUS alumni were also admitted to more law schools, with 3.4 admits for participants compared to 2.7 admits for similar applicants. Alumni also improved their undergraduate GPA by an average of 2.7 percent from freshman year to the time of law school application, compared to a GPA average drop of -0.5% for similar applicants.

LSAT Volume Increase Continues

June Test Takers	Percent Change
27,606	19.8%
September Test Takers	Percent Change
37,146	10.7%
December Registrants	Percent Change
45,632**	26.4%

**December registrants as of 12/1/17.
Final volume will be posted at [LSAC.org/lisacresources/data/lisats-administered](https://lsac.org/lisacresources/data/lisats-administered).

Spanish LSAT Rescheduled

The Spanish LSAT in Puerto Rico has been rescheduled for the following two dates: December 16, 2017, and February 3, 2018. The test could not be administered on its originally scheduled date, November 18, 2017, due to the widespread and severe damage from Hurricane Maria.

All test takers who previously registered for the November 18 Spanish test are automatically registered for the December 16 administration. Registrants who prefer not to take the test on December 16 have the option to switch to February 3 free of charge or, if they do not wish to take the test on either of the new dates, they will get a full refund of their LSAT registration fee.

Registration for the February 3 Spanish LSAT is open until January 4, 2018, at [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org).

LSAT or GRE: Candidate Questions Answered

Changes in the admission practices of some law schools to include accepting the LSAT or the GRE for admission have generated many questions from candidates about how to handle test scores in the application process. We have tracked the questions we have received so far, and published a web page with the answers, which we will be promoting widely in an effort to help candidates. We will update the page as more questions bubble up and more information becomes available.

Leanne M. Shank Named LSAC General Counsel



Longtime Washington and Lee University General Counsel Leanne Shank has joined LSAC's leadership team as general counsel and corporate secretary. She arrived in Newtown on November 20.

"LSAC is very fortunate to have found in Leanne a leader with extensive experience in higher education legal affairs combined with a broad background in organizational governance," said Kellye Testy, president and CEO of LSAC. "Her skills, talent, and commitment to service are a perfect match for the new LSAC."

Leanne served as Washington and Lee's in-house counsel since 1995. She managed all of the legal affairs of the university. She earned her JD at the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill and her BA in Psychology and Public Justice at SUNY at Oswego. She is a member of the bar in Virginia and the District of Columbia, and will join the bar in Pennsylvania as well.

Leanne has been active in numerous professional and volunteer organizations, including the Virginia Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Virginia Governor's State Council of Higher Education Task Force on Sexual Assault, the United Way of Lexington-Rockbridge County, and the Campus Kitchen of Washington and Lee University. She is chair-elect of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, of which LSAC is a member.

2017 Forum Attendance Confirmed Increased Interest in Law School

Participation at all of the 2017 Law School Forums increased over last year, with total attendance up nearly 16 percent. Table 1 details candidate attendance.

Forum	2017	2016	Change
Atlanta	742	687	Up 8.0 %
Boston	675	459	Up 47.1%
Canada	375	364	Up 2.9%
Chicago	608	482	Up 26.1%
Houston	611	545	Up 12.1%
Los Angeles	926	879	Up 5.3%
Miami	500	463	Up 8.0%
New York	1731	1435	Up 20.6%
San Francisco	413	329	Up 25.5%
Washington, DC	853	691	Up 23.4%
Total	7434	6415	Up 15.9%

Table 1

New Check-in System

LSAC's Member Support Services and Technical Services groups updated and streamlined the forum check-in process. The previous check-in process took up to two minutes per attendee, causing long lines in the registration area in busier cities. Under the new system, attendees scan their own tickets at the check-in desk and can use electronic tickets on their mobile devices if they choose to. A badge is immediately printed once a ticket is scanned. Attendees who use the new process move through check-in in 15 seconds. Preregistered attendees who forget their tickets can still complete the check-in process in less than 30 seconds. Forum attendees, law schools, and LSAC staff members have positively reviewed the new process.

JD and LLM Representation Combined

This is the first year that every forum welcomed LLM representatives from each school along with JD representatives, replacing the stand-alone LLM event in New York. Many schools sent LLM-specific representatives; others cross-trained both JD and LLM staff members so any staff member was able to answer attendee questions. An LLM-related workshop was added at each forum to encourage the attendance of candidates seeking an LLM degree. Law schools continue to strongly support the forums, as shown in Tables 2 and 3.

JD Forum	Schools Registered in 2017	Schools Registered in 2016	Schools Registered in 2015	Schools Registered in 2014
Atlanta	188	188	185	188
Boston	156	154	141	153
Canada	103	109	95	116
Chicago	180	190	169	177
Houston	176	177	155	168
Los Angeles	165	165	162	165
Miami	168	165	164	172
New York	189	190	188	190
San Francisco	145	141	138	147
Washington, DC	183	189	188	186

Table 2

LLM Forum	Schools Registered in 2017	Schools Registered in 2016	Schools Registered in 2015	Schools Registered in 2014
Atlanta	42	-	-	-
Boston	38	-	-	-
Canada	32	-	-	-
Chicago	41	-	-	-
Houston	38	-	-	-
Los Angeles	41	-	-	-
Miami	41	-	-	-
New York	54	59	52	55
San Francisco	38	-	-	-
Washington, DC	33	-	-	-

Table 3

2018 LSAC Law School Forum Schedule

The revised 2018 LSAT schedule freed up a Saturday in the fall, allowing us to move the Chicago Forum to a fall Saturday. Table 4 details the 2018 forum schedule.

Saturday, July 21	Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC	Friday, October 19	Westin Peachtree Plaza Atlanta, GA
Monday, September 17	Hyatt Regency Toronto Toronto, ON	Friday, October 26 Saturday, October 27	New York Hilton Midtown New York, NY
Saturday, September 29	Palmer House Hilton Chicago, IL	Friday, November 2	Marriott Marquis San Francisco San Francisco, CA
Saturday, October 6	The Westin Bonaventure Hotel Los Angeles, CA	Saturday, November 10	JW Marriott Houston Houston, TX
Saturday, October 13	Hyatt Regency Miami Miami, FL	Monday, November 12 (Veterans Day)	Boston Marriott Copley Place Boston, MA

Table 4

Happy Holidays!



LSAC Board of Trustees and staff members send holiday greetings from the recent Board meeting. From left: Gisele Joachim, Seton Hall; Danielle Flores de Benzerga, guest; Tracy Simmons, McGeorge; Bayrex Marti, Michigan; Michael States, Ohio State; Rebecca Scheller, Wisconsin; Robert Schwartz, UC-Los Angeles; Kellye Testy, LSAC; Kent Lollis, LSAC; Sondra Tennessee, Houston Law; Troy Lowry, LSAC.