



While we are all having a different kind of summer than we had envisioned, I hope you are still getting a chance to enjoy some time with loved ones and are remaining safe and healthy. Amid this difficult period of uncertainty, I am grateful for how well the legal education community has come together to protect the integrity of law and education. The critical need for a strong legal system that advances law, justice, and democracy has rarely been more apparent. We are proud to work alongside the ABA Council and Section staff, our member law schools, and other valued

organizations within the legal education ecosystem as we strive to create a just and prosperous world in which all may thrive.

A strong legal system starts with a robust pipeline to law school, and we have been working harder than ever to make sure that pipeline remains strong. As you will read below, in warp time we rolled out a new way of delivering the LSAT, called LSAT-Flex, that helped applicant volumes surpass the prior year. Law school candidates can continue their enrollment journeys from the safety of their own homes, which has been met with enthusiastic support from schools and candidates alike. LSAC will remain committed to this delivery mode as long as is necessary in this pandemic.

In addition to providing more detail on applicant volumes and the LSAT-Flex below, this report updates you on our latest initiatives, with particular attention to how we are furthering the long overdue resurgence in antiracism education and activism. For LSAC, which has put diversity, equity, and inclusion at the core of our mission for over 70 years, this welcome resurgence must be sustained. In that spirit, you will see updates on how we have continued to deliver our [PLUS programs](#) (including adding a new national online component); launched a new [Justice Hour Series](#); awarded prizes for a [writing competition](#) on equity; redesigned our [national law school forums](#); and bolstered data and educational programs for member schools and our many other constituents.

As always, I welcome your questions as well as your suggestions on how we can continue to advance legal education together.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Y. Testy".

Kellye Y. Testy

President and CEO

Law School Admission Council

LSAT Update



LSAT-FLEX CONTINUES TO SUPPORT CANDIDATES ALONG THEIR ENROLLMENT JOURNEYS

Since we began administering the LSAT-Flex in response to the COVID-19 emergency, approximately 32,000 LSAT-Flex tests have been successfully completed. We appreciate the broad support we have received from our member schools, allied organizations, and others in the law and education community as we developed a completely new way of administering the LSAT in an incredibly short period of time. The next LSAT-Flex will be administered the week of August 29 to a very high number of registrants — close to 35,000 at present.

As part of our commitment to ensuring every test taker has the equipment and other resources they need to take the LSAT-Flex, we have assisted thousands of candidates in obtaining a loaner device, an internet connection, or a quiet place to test. Many of these individuals are applying for admission to law school this fall and would not have been able to do so without this assistance.

We are especially pleased the LSAT-Flex helped applicant volumes catch up to last year's numbers (which were the highest since 2012). The COVID-19 crisis had created a significant and growing shortfall in the number of candidates applying to law school this year, especially from some underrepresented groups. Since the May LSAT-Flex scores were released on June 5, applicants for fall 2020 are now up 0.9% above 2019 levels and continuing to rise. In May, the number of Black or African American applicants was lagging 5.3% behind 2019; this group's applicant numbers are now slightly *ahead* of last year's (up 0.9%). While Hispanic/Latinx applications were down 1.5% as of May 31, they are now actually running 3.0% above 2019 levels. Puerto Rican applications are up 6.5%. We haven't seen as much improvement in applicant volume as we would like among some groups, such as American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, but we are seeing some improvement. Overall, applications are about equal with last year: as of July 28, we have 379,129 applications compared with 379,256 in 2019.



INTRODUCING SCORE PREVIEW

In response to requests and feedback from candidates and member schools, we have created a new score preview option, which will be available starting with the August 2020 test administration. Designed to ease the pressure and anxiety often felt by first-time test takers, [Score Preview](#) will allow them the opportunity to see their LSAT score before deciding whether to keep it as part of their LSAC transcript and have it reported to law schools. This option is available only once and is also covered by our fee waiver program for candidates with demonstrated financial need.

News and Research



THE FUTURE OF DEI AT LSAC

In June, we bid a bittersweet farewell to our longtime friend and colleague, Kent Lollis, LSAC's vice president and chief diversity officer who led the charge for diversity, equity, and inclusion at LSAC for nearly three decades. Mr. Lollis retired after a prolific career driven by his pioneering efforts to level the playing field for all who sought to make the world a better place by adding their voice to the legal profession. With an unwavering commitment to building a future of justice that mirrors the diversity of society, he was, and will surely continue to be, an advocate, champion, and mentor for underrepresented communities. While his retirement arrives at a difficult time for race equity, his contributions in this arena, and the rich heritage of achievements he built at LSAC, inspire us to continue the fight for equal justice so that we may honor his service by amplifying ours.

LSAC will conduct a national search for a new chief diversity officer, but in the interim, LSAC's Deputy for Legal and Global Higher Education Camille deJorna will serve as LSAC's interim chief diversity officer. Given the critical role diversity, equity, and inclusion plays in LSAC's mission, and particularly at this time in our world where the imperative of antiracism priorities grows ever stronger, we are grateful for Ms. deJorna's steady leadership and depth of experience as we move forward to advance Mr. Lollis's vision and work. LSAC Director of Educational Equity Initiatives Fé LopezGaetke and a new team of DEI staff are also working hard to continue directing and developing our many DEI programs.



DEI WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS

We recently announced the winners of our 2020 diversity, equity, and inclusion writing competition. This biennial competition is open to all currently enrolled law students. This year's participants were asked to write on the topic of **why a diverse and inclusive bar is essential for equality, justice, and the rule of law**, with a \$5,000 prize to be awarded to one winner from each of three categories (1L, 2L, and 3L/4L). Submissions were evaluated by a panel of law school faculty, legal writing instructors, and LSAC DEI Committee members to determine the winning entries.



Dianna Saucedo-Chirinos, of University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, won the competition in the first-year law student category with her essay, "[A Case for Representation and Inclusivity \(PDF\)](#)." She said her decision to pursue a law degree arose after working at a local law firm. "When I started, I had law school in the back of my mind, but not until I saw the logistics involved with representing Latinx clients did I seriously consider law school." Her winning essay was inspired by the "culture shock" she experienced upon starting law school last year. "I'd spent half of my life in Los Angeles and attended UCLA where protests and 'radical' movements have heavy participation and support," she explained. "The oppressive language I had forced myself to unlearn was popping up again in the classroom and I felt compelled to write about the dire need for more students who look like me in law school," she explained.



Christina John, of Fordham University School of Law, won the competition in the second-year law student category with her essay, "[It's Your Choice: Diversity and Inclusion or Irrelevance and Extinction \(PDF\)](#)." John's decision to pursue law was motivated by her desire to make the legal system more accessible to lower-income BIPOC communities. As a young woman whose parents were both immigrants from India, she says that she personally never knew a lawyer growing up and that if her family ever needed a lawyer, they were completely lost on how to navigate the system. John drew inspiration for her winning essay after advocating for increased diversity, equity, and inclusion at her law school. "I wanted to make the case for why it is vital to seriously engage in antiracist work," she said, adding that she hoped the data, history, and exploration of other DEI successes and failures detailed in her essay would motivate schools to back their words up with meaningful action.



Hakeem Muhammad, who recently graduated from Northeastern University School of Law, won the competition in the third-year law student category with his essay, "[Why A Diverse Bar is Paramount to Protecting the Constitution \(PDF\)](#)." Growing up in a heavily impoverished neighborhood in Chicago's South Side, Muhammad witnessed a lot of gang activity, which later motivated him to research the origins of gang violence and history of African Americans in Chicago and led to his discovery of African American legal theorist and lawyer Derrick Bell. "I was very inspired by the depth of his analysis and believe his legal education allowed him to offer the Black community cogent insights on their political and social realities," said Muhammad, who was also inspired by *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, in particular Malcom X's statement that one of his greatest regrets was his lack of formal education and that he believed he would have become a great lawyer but simply never had the opportunity. "The fact that one of the most prolific critics of racism in American society desired to be a lawyer showed me the power of legal education to positively combat structural racism in American society." His winning essay was inspired by his desire to research the impact that a lack of diversity in the legal profession has on African American defendants in criminal trials.



FALL 2020 CANDIDATE ENROLLMENT SURVEY RESULTS

To gain a clearer picture of the fall 2020 admission landscape, we invited applicants to JD and LLM programs for fall 2020 to complete an online survey about their law school enrollment plans. Close to 4,500 candidates responded, 92% of whom were JD applicants (the other 8% were LLM applicants). You can [request the full report](#) through our website, but below are a few noteworthy insights.

- 83% of JD respondents (and 40% of LLM respondents) said they **definitely will** (71% JD/27% LLM) or **probably will** (12% JD/13% LLM) attend law school this fall, while 12% of JD respondents (and 54% of LLM respondents) said they **probably will not** or **definitely will not** attend law school this fall, and an additional 5% of JD respondents (6% of LLM respondents) said they were **unsure** about their plans.
- For JD respondents, 68% (and 35% of LLM respondents) said their decision to attend law school in fall 2020 would **not be affected** if classes are offered online-only, while 7% of JD applicants (and 35% of LLM applicants) said they **would defer their law school enrollment** if classes are offered online-only.

Many candidates noted that they would need more information about the cost of online classes, but they expressed a preference for online instruction due to increased safety.

- 60% of JD respondents (and 42% of LLM respondents) said they **would not consider any alternatives to attending law school** this fall, including working or attending other graduate/professional school programs.



HOW CHANGES IN GRADING SYSTEMS IMPACT CERTAIN GROUPS

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis and the pass/fail grading systems adopted by many undergraduate institutions in response to disrupted learning, LSAC had begun examining the progression of undergraduate yearly grade-point average (GPA) among law school applicants for different groups of students. The spring 2020 — or “coronavirus semester” — grading situation, and the challenges it would pose for law school admission officers, prompted us to analyze whether LSAT scores could help provide information to support comprehensive evaluation relative to spring 2020 grades, which are incorporated into cumulative grade-point averages (UGPA).

Generally, increases are seen in applicants’ GPAs across time, but the rate of increase can vary by group. Some groups, including females, first-generation college students, and the bottom 40% of LSAT test takers, have been particularly impacted — and potentially hurt by — the move to a pass/fail grading system, as their grades tend to show the most significant increase (relative to other groups) in their senior undergraduate year. Thus, holistic admission decisions remain very important to preserving the integrity of the law school admission process as we all work to build a diverse and inclusive future of justice. You can read the [full report on our website](#).



LSAC UNIVERSITY — A COMMUNITY FOR LEARNERS

We recently launched LSAC University, our new online learning platform created to provide training and professional development courses for law school admission professionals of all experience levels. We are excited to foster a community of learners through course offerings that can be completed anytime, anywhere, even on a mobile device. Participants can choose from several short courses that they can complete on their own schedule and will also have access to recorded webinars, presentations, and resources with information on best

practices, tips, and know-how for surviving — and thriving — during challenging times. LSAC University is one more way in which we are pleased to support the law school admission community, helping them expand their knowledge and sharpen their skills in order to do their best work for our candidates.

Expanding the Legal Education Pipeline



SUPPORTING LAW SCHOOL CANDIDATES IN INDIA

Responding to the COVID-19 emergency, LSAC successfully delivered the first-ever online remotely proctored LSAT—India exam to approximately 5,670 candidates in the safety of their own homes from July 19-29, allowing them to continue to pursue their goal of a legal education and career. The LSAT—India is currently accepted by 22 law schools in India. The in-person exam had originally been scheduled for June 7.

Also in July, LSAC convened a formal online meeting of the 12 Indian law schools that are members of the LSAC Global Alliance. The meeting was hosted by LSAC President and CEO Kellye Testy, with deans from the member schools sharing their views on how the Alliance can help build the future of legal education in India and attract more Indian law schools to become a part of the effort.

We continue to host webinars for law school candidates in India, with recent topics including why now is a good time to study law, how families can support the legal education journey, and how to prepare for the LSAT—India.



LSAC DEVELOPS NEW PROGRAMS TO SERVE PRELAW STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Seeking alternative ways to deliver the experience and learning offered by the Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program, LSAC has moved this summer's residential programs online. PLUS programs are targeted, but not restricted, to college students from racial and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented in the legal profession. The programs are designed for students in their first two years of college.

Not only are about 200 students participating with seven host law schools in this nearly month-long remote learning event, but an additional 430 students will be able to participate in the Prelaw Focus: PLUS Webinar Series. These weekly webinars, running through mid-August, will explore navigating the law school journey, with topics such as the LSAT, preparing for the law school admission process, and how to finance a legal education.

LSAC would like to thank and recognize the seven schools that are participating in PLUS Online: The University of Akron School of Law, The University of Alabama School of Law, University of Houston Law Center, University of Oregon School of Law, University of Puerto Rico School of Law, St. John's University School of Law, and The University of Texas at Austin.



REIMAGINING COMMUNITY IN AN ERA OF SOCIAL DISTANCING: HELPING LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS SUCCEED AND THRIVE

In late June, we hosted a livestream discussion, sponsored by our Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Subcommittee, in which a panel of current and recently graduated law students [shared their experiences](#) and thoughts about the present and future of the LGBTQIA+ law school community. The webinar, entitled "Reimagining Community: How to Succeed and Thrive as an LGBTQIA+ Law Student in 2020," explored the unprecedented challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic and turbulent political climate have created for the notion of "community" with regard to LGBTQIA+ law students. The panel discussed what an affirming community in social distancing conditions *does* look like for LGBTQIA+ law students and how to navigate difficult and uncomfortable conversations — particularly in these times of political controversy and civil unrest — with those law students, faculty, and staff whose perspectives and philosophies marginalize the LGBTQIA+ community. We look forward to supporting our LGBTQIA+ candidates and students with more webinars like these in the future.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE TECH FELLOWS PROGRAM

LSAC is proud to support the [Access to Justice Tech Fellows Program](#), which was designed to identify and equip the next generation of civil justice leaders to ensure equitable access to justice for all. Founded by LSAC Presidential Innovation Fellow Miguel Willis, the program, now in its fourth year, serves legal aid organizations by providing law students to assist with technology projects that solve access to justice issues.

The program recently announced its 2020 fellows — a cohort of 23 creative and diverse law students with a passion for leveraging technology and other interdisciplinary approaches to advance legal access in communities across the nation. Each fellow has been placed within a host organization and will spend their summer working on projects that address urgent legal needs in low-income and marginalized communities across the country. The 10-week program also involves a series of writing challenges designed to allow each fellow to produce writing samples and develop their voice in the legal arena.



LSAC AND ABA COLLABORATE ON SPECIAL PROJECT TO PROMOTE DISABILITY AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

In preparation for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, LSAC and ABA staff members are working on a collaborative video highlighting diversity within the legal profession, with a specific focus on advocating for legal employers to consider hiring lawyers with disabilities. The video, which is being recorded remotely leveraging Zoom, will capture a variety of people within the legal education community, from law school students to law professors, legal employers, and lawyers, all of whom are managing a disability, with examples including muscular dystrophy and visual and hearing impairments.

We are excited about this opportunity to work with the ABA on such an important initiative.

Events and Updates



LSAC PRESENTS NEW JUSTICE HOUR SERIES

Following the tragic killing of George Floyd and police brutality protests that swept across our nation in the days leading up to our planned celebration of Pride Month, LSAC's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Subcommittee decided to replace their scheduled "happy hour" with a community "justice hour," which has since evolved into a series exploring various issues with a focus on working together for true equity and positive change. Since that inaugural event, our Justice Hour Series has featured a discussion on the [AALS Law Deans Antiracist Clearinghouse Project](#) and a livestream [presentation by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky](#) of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law regarding two recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions profoundly impacting LGBTQIA+ and undocumented individuals in the United States and their broader implications for our country and the rule of law.

Our next Justice Hour is slated for August. We are also continuing to offer several other opportunities for our community to connect through our now bimonthly Deans Dialogues, which we cohost with AALS while involving the ABA and other allied organizations, and regularly scheduled webinars focused on topics that are specific to admission professionals and prelaw advisors.



LAW SCHOOL INCLUSION WORKSHOP — CALL TO ACTION: CREATING A DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE LAW SCHOOL CLIMATE

From July 7-9, LSAC cohosted the “Call to Action: Creating a Disability-Inclusive Law School Climate” workshop, along with the ABA Commission on Disability Rights, Burton Blatt Institute, National Disabled Law Student Association, and The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation.

The workshop brought together deans, directors, specialists, diversity officers, faculty, students, and legal professionals from across the nation to focus on the experiences of law students with disabilities and brainstorm on how schools and the profession can be more supportive and inclusive. The three-day workshop included a range of stories from several current and former law students with disabilities who discussed topics such as navigating law school and difficulties faced when they entered the workforce.

“This was an intentional and engaging workshop that effectively motivated those involved to start moving toward a more disability-inclusive future in legal education,” said Leanne Shank, LSAC’s senior vice president for legal and corporate affairs, who, along with LSAC’s director of educational equity initiatives, Fé LopezGaetke, was part of the planning group for this workshop. Both also participated in the sessions and were joined by LSAC’s new DEI policy and research analyst, Elizabeth Bodamer.



LAW SCHOOL FORUMS UPDATE

Each fall, LSAC's Law School Forums provide candidates with the opportunity to connect with more than 100 law school representatives from around the country. With COVID-19 resurging in many areas of the country, we have turned our attention to offering a robust series of digital forum experiences in September, October, November, and likely December. Candidates will be able to attend digital forums from the comfort of their own homes. We will continue to offer educational programming on the application process and financial aid, among many other topics. By hosting our forums online this year, we hope to broaden access and garner even more participation from law school aspirants.



SUMMER WORKSHOPS AND NEWCOMERS CONFERENCE GO DIGITAL

While COVID-19 has rendered in-person events impossible at this time, we are pleased to still be able to offer the educational programming that our admission community looks forward to each year — now in an innovative and interactive digital format. Each summer, LSAC hosts a series of workshops designed as opportunities for professional development and continuing education that offer admission professionals in-depth learning on a single topic. This year's Summer Workshops were held in a series of weekly sessions in July and focused on Unite, LSAC's new enrollment management system that was developed in consultation with member schools to help them create a bigger, more qualified pipeline of prospective students using digital insights to inform recruiting and marketing efforts. Designed as the "next generation" of our proprietary admission software formerly known as ACES², Unite will begin its rollout to a select group of smaller volume schools this summer and fall, with the majority of schools to be converted to the new system during the spring and summer of 2021.

Our Newcomers Workshop is also going digital this year. Traditionally held in Philadelphia each September, Newcomers enables those new to the world of law school admission the opportunity to learn from more seasoned admission professionals while also learning about LSAC's services for admission offices and networking with colleagues. This year's workshop will be held in a series of four weekly sessions in September and will include some special online events to help those new to the admission community get to know one another.



LIVE WITH KELLYE AND KEN — THE FUTURE OF ACCESSIBILITY IN LAW

Our [most recent edition](#) of Live with Kellye and Ken, focused on the future of accessibility in law, included discussion of how law schools can ensure candidates and students with disabilities get a fair chance and are provided with reasonable accommodations at all times, especially now as we continue to navigate the pandemic. We remain deeply committed to ensuring that those with disabilities are equipped with the tools and resources they need to add their diverse voices to the world of law and always welcome a chance to bring attention to the topic of accessibility in legal education.

We are currently working on the next Live with Kellye and Ken event for August; the topic will be social justice. You may view [past episodes](#) on our website.



LAW:FULLY — STORIES THAT ENLIGHTEN, INSPIRE, AND INFORM

We continue to explore the latest issues in law, justice, and legal education through our blog [Law:Fully](#), posting frequently on topics related to race equity, accessibility, and diversity, as well as trends in law school admission and how we are supporting candidates during these challenging times. A few recent posts include [Pride and a Passion for Justice: One Student's Journey for Change](#), a profile of recent law school graduate Charlie Stegner-Freitag and their courageous journey to pursue a legal education; [Living, Working, and Achieving While Black](#), written by LSAC's recently retired vice president and chief diversity officer Kent D. Lollis about his life and leadership in DEI; and [LSAC Celebrates 30 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#), highlighting the passage of this landmark law and our commitment to helping those with disabilities pursue a legal education.

To submit a story suggestion for Law:Fully, please email news@LSAC.org.