Regulation of Legal Education
Reasons for Accreditation

- Ability to take bar examination
- Access to student loans guaranteed by government
- Credibility
ABA Legal Education Hierarchy

- ABA Board of Governors
  - Board may only refer back to Council 2 times and then Council prevails

- Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

- Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar

- Consultant on Legal Education
  - Accreditation Committee
  - Standards Review
  - Other Committees
The Committees

- Adjunct Faculty
- Bar Admissions
- Clinical Skills
- Communication Skills
- Curriculum
- Deans' Workshop
- Diversity
- Government Relations and Student Financial Aid
- Graduate Legal Education
- Grievance
- Independent Law Schools Forum
- International Legal Education
- Kutak Award
- Law Libraries
- Law School Administration
- Law School Development
- Law School Facilities
- New Deans' Seminar
- Nominating
- Parliamentarian
- Pre-Law
- Professionalism
- Questionnaire
- Standards Review
- Technology and Education
ABA Accreditation Hierarchy

Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar

Accreditation Committee

House of Delegates involved only if there is a denial
The 25-member Council is the governing body of the Section. It is vested with the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the Section's business, develops budgets, and authorizes expenditures of the Section's monies. With the Accreditation Committee, the Council is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national accrediting agency for U.S. law school programs leading to the J.D. degree. The Council meets four times a year.
AALS Membership

AALS Executive Committee

Membership Review Committee
Bar Exam Standards

Court of Appeals

ABA Standards

NY Standards

Albany Law School
Government Guaranteed Loan Standards

- U.S. Department of Education
- Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar
- Albany Law School
Who are the Council Members?

- 1996 Consent Decree
- 25 members
- 3 year terms
- 1 year officer
- No more than 50% people whose primary occupation is legal education
- Rotate Chair between academics and non academics
- Nominating committee appointed by Chair
Officers

- **Chair: Honorable Christine Durham** has been on the Utah Supreme Court since 1982.
- **Chair-Elect: John F. O'Brien** has been dean of New England Law | Boston since 1988.
- **Vice-Chair: Kent Syverud** is the dean and Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor at Washington University School of Law.
- **Secretary: J. Martin Burke** served as dean at the University of Montana School of law from 1988 through 1993.
- **Immediate Past Chair: Jerome C. Hafter** is a partner in the Jackson, Mississippi office of Phelps Dunbar, LLP.
The Honorable Rebecca White Berch was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in March 2002 and became its 23rd chief justice in 2009.

General Leo A. Brooks Sr. retired in January 1984 from the United States Army, having reached the grade of Major General.

Paulette Brown is Partner and Chief Diversity Officer at the national law firm of Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP.

Edwin J. Butterfoss is a professor at Hamline University Law School in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Michael J. Davis is the Centennial Teaching Professor of Law at the University of Kansas School of Law.

Honorable Martha Craig Daughtrey In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed her to serve as a circuit judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit in Nashville.
• Robert D. Dinerstein is a professor of law at American University Washington College of Law.
• Susan Gainey-Odoyo (Young Lawyers Division Liaison) is a former partner at the firm of Kightlinger & Gray in Indianapolis, Indiana.
• Tracy Allen Giles Esq., is a partner in the firm of Giles & Lambert, P.C. in Roanoke, Virginia,
• Joan S. Howland is the Roger Noreen Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Information and Technology at the University of Minnesota Law School.
• Dennis O. Lynch is dean emeritus and professor of law at the University of Miami School of Law.
• Bryan M. O’Keefe (Law Student Division Member) is a law student at Pennsylvania State University, The Dickinson School of Law,
• Maureen A. O’Rourke is dean and Michaels Faculty Research Scholar at the Boston University School of Law.
• **Raymond C. Pierce** is the dean of North Carolina Central University School of Law.

• **Morgan T. Sammons, Ph.D.** is the dean of the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University in San Francisco, California.

• **Edward N. Tucker** is a senior director with the accounting firm of Ellin & Tucker, Chartered.

• **Honorable Charles R. Wilson** is a judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.
The Perfect Storm

Legal Education

- ABA Accreditation
- AALS Membership
- Bar Examiners
- U.S. News
- Institutional Governing Boards
- Direct Student Lending
- Carnegie
- Debt Load
- Employer Expectations
- Job Market/Economy
- Best Practices
Examples of Inconsistency

- Cut costs – U.S. News; students still want “services;” ABA Standards
- Shorten legal education – NY still requires residency semesters; bar passage
- More experiential learning – Bar examination coverage; ABA Standards
- Shift resources from scholarship – AALS membership; faculty interest; U.S. News; big law & judges still favor schools with significant research agendas
- In many ways these also reflect an inconsistency on short term v. near term v. long term goals, e.g.,
  - More experiential learning may be inconsistent with short term goal of bar passage.
  - Hiring for today’s standards and bar exam may not be consistent with future standards and bar exam
  - Reducing the size of the student body does not necessarily directly correlate with reducing faculty size because of the multiple pressures.
Other Groups and Associations

- LSAC
- Access Group
- N.Y. Board of Law Examiners
- National Conference of Bar Examiners
- American Law Deans Association