

William Mitchell College of Law

Faculty Petition Opposing Proposed Changes to Existing ABA Standards Regarding Security of Position, Academic Freedom, and Attraction and Retention of Faculty

WHEREAS the Standards Review Committee of the American Bar Association's Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar ("Committee") has proposed substantial changes to ABA Standards 206, 405, and 603;

WHEREAS these changes would weaken:

- (1) Standard 206(c), mandating tenure for law school deans;
- (2) Standard 405(b), requiring an established tenure policy for traditional faculty;
- (3) Standard 405(c), mandating security of position for clinical faculty members;
- (4) Standard 405(d), mandating of security of position for legal writing faculty; and
- (5) Standard 603(d), supporting security of position for directors of law libraries;

WHEREAS William Mitchell prides itself on the fact that its clinical, legal writing, and library director faculty are full and equal members of the faculty;

WHEREAS the proposed changes would reverse progress made towards equal treatment for clinicians, legal writing faculty and library directors nationally;

WHEREAS these changes will diminish academic quality, academic freedom, and the role of faculty governance in the legal academy.

THEREFORE the undersigned faculty of William Mitchell College of Law state their opposition to the proposed changes to ABA Standards 206, 405, and 603 as presently outlined in the Committee's draft, dated January 8-9, 2011 and urge the dean to take all possible steps to resist the proposed changes.

/s/

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