

Stephen N. Zack
President

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-7598
(312) 988-5109
Fax: (312) 988-5100
E-mail: abapresident@abanet.org

July 20, 2011

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2011, regarding the transparency of law school scholarship data available to prospective students. The Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA), as the Department of Education's recognized accreditor for legal education, is required by the Department's regulations to operate separately and independently from the ABA. For that reason, the Section has prepared for you a separate, detailed memo, addressing your concerns that accompany this letter.

I do want to emphasize that the ABA shares your concerns: No one could be more focused on the future of our next generation of lawyers than the ABA and the legal profession we serve.

The Council of the Section, and the accreditation-related Committees of the Section, are populated by a very diverse group of professionals (legal academics, judges, private practitioners, university representatives, students and public members) who are elected or appointed to bring their expertise and good judgment to the process; and to represent the needs and aspirations of students and the public. They are dedicated volunteers who take their responsibilities seriously and believe in the intrinsic value of a high quality and affordable legal education. Attached to the Section response is a list of the qualifications and backgrounds of the Council.

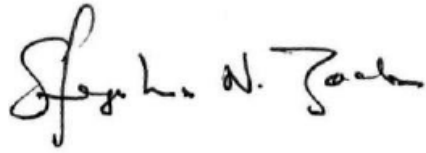
Much of this issue revolves around students making informed, thoughtful choices. The ABA distributes information that can help. Enclosed, please find a paper the Association produced entitled, "The Value Proposition of Going to Law School" that has gained wide coverage in mainstream press and by legal bloggers for its simple, clear approach to helping potential law students weigh their decisions. The ABA also encourages more young people to read the highly detailed, comparative information about law schools, published in the ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools. This publication includes extensive chapters on Financing a Legal Education, Finding a Job and a chart on law school tuition. Each ABA approved law school has a four-page section in the Guide containing valuable information and data about the school, including a chart on Grants and Scholarships. The Guide also is posted free on the Law School Admission Council website.

July 20, 2011

Page 2 of 2

This is a dynamic time for the legal profession and those who will one day lead it. The ABA will do everything possible to ensure this next generation has rewarding careers in the law that serve the American people's needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen N. Zack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a stylized 'Z'.

Stephen N. Zack