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Chicago, IL

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AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Section of Legal Education  
and Admissions to the Bar

Office of the Consultant on  
Legal Education to the

American Bar Association

321 N. Clark Street

Chicago, IL 60654-7598

(312) 988-6738

E-mail: [legaled@americanbar.org](mailto:legaled@americanbar.org)

<http://www.americanbar.org/legaled>

October 17, 2013

Dr. Joseph A. DiPietro  
President  
University of Tennessee  
800 Andy Holt Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek  
Chancellor  
University of Tennessee  
527 Andy Holt Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dean Douglas A. Blaze  
University of Tennessee  
College of Law  
1505 West Cumberland Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1810

Dear President DiPietro, Chancellor Cheek, and Dean Blaze:

Attached please find the decision of the Accreditation Committee at its meeting on September 19-21, 2013, with respect to the University of Tennessee College of Law.

President Thomas C. Galligan, Jr., Accreditation Committee Chair, recused himself from the Committee's consideration of the University of Tennessee College of Law and was not present in the meeting during the Committee's consideration of the School. Associate Dean Anne Lukingbeal, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting during his recusal.

The Committee's Findings and Conclusions do not reflect a comprehensive checklist evaluation of each Standard and each facet of the institution. Indeed, this letter focuses, by the very nature of the process, essentially on concerns or possible aspects of non-compliance identified in the site evaluation report of the School or arising out of submissions or questionnaire answers by the School. Because the general impressions of different site teams are inherently noncomparable, the Accreditation Committee does not attempt to summarize all the information that could be gleaned from a site evaluation report, and recipients of this letter are encouraged, therefore, to consult the full site evaluation report for collegial advice and general impressions of the team. The site evaluation team does not make the official findings or conclusions for the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the

Page 2  
President DiPietro, Chancellor Cheek, and Dean Blaze  
October 17, 2013

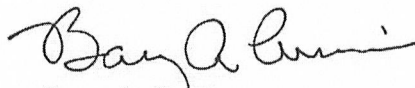
Bar of the American Bar Association. These are made by the Accreditation Committee and the Council of the Section.

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education regulations applicable to recognized accrediting agencies, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is required to conduct interim monitoring of each ABA-approved law school to determine whether each school remains in compliance with the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools. This monitoring and review is in addition to the regular site evaluation process and is being conducted on an annual basis. The School may receive in any year a request for information as a result of the interim monitoring.

A law school that is approved by the American Bar Association continues in that status pending final action by the Accreditation Committee and Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

Please feel free to call me, Deputy Consultant Scott Norberg, or Executive Assistant Cathy A. Schrage if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Barry A. Currier  
Managing Director for Accreditation and Legal Education

BAC/cs  
Attachment

**Note:** Because of the high ethical standards to which lawyers are held, character evaluations are conducted of all applicants for admission to a state bar. State requirements vary, and you should obtain information about qualifications for admission to the bar of the state where you intend to practice. Similarly, failure to provide complete and truthful answers to these questions may result in revocation of admission or other disciplinary action. In addition, state bar examiners may conduct background investigations prior to your admission to the bar. Therefore, you are advised to check transcripts and/or consult with school officials holding disciplinary records before answering these questions. If admitted, you are obligated to update this information throughout law school.

Request for Additional Information to Determine Compliance with Standard 505

(5) The Law School reports that, for each of the two students readmitted within the last three years following exclusion for deficient academic performance, it has included in the admittee's file documentation identifying the considerations that led to the decision to readmit.

Request for Additional Information to Determine Compliance with Standard 701 and Interpretation 701-2(3)

(6) The Law School states that five offices will be available exclusively for the use of adjunct faculty during the 2013-14 academic year. Additional space will be available to adjunct faculty on an as-needed basis in three other offices, four conference rooms, and Law Library study rooms.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

(1) Based upon the additional information the Law School provided, the Committee concludes that it has sufficient information to conclude that the University of Tennessee College of Law is in compliance with the Standards in the following respects:

- (a) Standard 212(b) and Interpretation 212-3. [See Finding of Fact (2).]
- (b) Standard 302(a)(3) and Interpretation 302-1. [See Finding of Fact (3).]
- (c) Standard 504(a). [See Finding of Fact (4).]

Page 4 of 4  
University of Tennessee College of Law

- (d) Standard 505. [See Finding of Fact (5).]
- (e) Standard 701 and Interpretation 701-2(3) [See Finding of Fact (6).]

**(8) The University of Tennessee College of Law remains on the list of law schools approved by the American Bar Association.**

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**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Cathy A. Schrage  
Chicago, IL

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

April 23, 2013

Section of Legal Education  
and Admissions to the Bar

**Office of the Consultant on**

**Legal Education to the**

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Dean Douglas A. Blaze  
University of Tennessee  
College of Law  
1505 West Cumberland Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1810

Dear President DiPietro, Chancellor Cheek, and Dean Blaze:

Attached please find the decision of the Accreditation Committee at its meeting on April 11-13, 2013, with respect to the University of Tennessee College of Law.

President Thomas C. Galligan, Jr., recused himself from the Committee's consideration of the University of Tennessee College of Law and was not present in the meeting during the Committee's consideration of the School.

The Committee's Findings and Conclusions do not reflect a comprehensive checklist evaluation of each Standard and each facet of the institution. Indeed, this letter focuses, by the very nature of the process, essentially on concerns or possible aspects of non-compliance identified in the site evaluation report of the School or arising out of submissions or questionnaire answers by the School. Because the general impressions of different site teams are inherently noncomparable, the Accreditation Committee does not attempt to summarize all the information that could be gleaned from a site evaluation report, and recipients of this letter are encouraged, therefore, to consult the full site evaluation report for collegial advice and general impressions of the team. The site evaluation team does not make the official findings or conclusions for the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association. These are made by the Accreditation Committee and the Council of the Section.

ACTLET49298.1

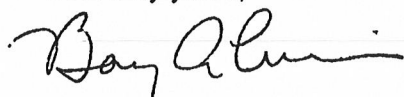
Page 2  
President DiPietro, Chancellor Cheek, and Dean Blaze  
April 23, 2013

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education regulations applicable to recognized accrediting agencies, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is required to conduct interim monitoring of each ABA-approved law school to determine whether each school remains in compliance with the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools. This monitoring and review is in addition to the regular site evaluation process and is being conducted on an annual basis. The School may receive in any year a request for information as a result of the interim monitoring.

A law school that is approved by the American Bar Association continues in that status pending final action by the Accreditation Committee and Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

Please feel free to call me, Deputy Consultant Scott Norberg, or Executive Assistant Cathy A. Schrage if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Barry A. Currier  
Managing Director for Accreditation and Legal Education

BAC/cs  
Attachment

cc: Dean Donald J. Weidner  
Dean Janet Brown  
Professor Eric Easton  
Associate Dean Rafael Gely  
Professor Faye Jones  
Professor Kay P. Kindred  
J. Charles Mokriski

(74) For the 2011-12 fiscal year, the Law School generated \$9,256,110 in tuition and fees; its total expenditures were \$15,965,753. Additional revenue for the Law School came principally from University support (\$3,525,374) and endowment income (\$1,115,201). Since the last site visit, the Law School's endowment has increased from approximately \$10 million to \$17 million.

(75) The Law School has and anticipates adequate financial resources to sustain a sound program of legal education and to accomplish its mission.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

(1) The Accreditation Committee concludes that it currently has insufficient information to make a determination as to the Law School's compliance with the Standards in the following respects:

- (a) Standard 212(b) and Interpretation 212-3, with regard to the requirement that the Law School demonstrate by concrete action its commitment to having a faculty that is diverse with respect to gender, race, and ethnicity, in that it is unclear what actions the Law School has taken to increase the diversity of its adjunct faculty. [See Finding of Fact (35).]
- (b) Standard 302(a)(3) and Interpretation 302-1, in that the record is unclear regarding the nature of the required faculty supervision for the Expository Writing requirement. [See Finding of Fact (8).]
- (c) Standard 504(a), in that it is not clear that the Law School advises applicants that there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar, and to encourage applicants, prior to matriculation, to determine what the requirements are in the state or states in which the applicant intends to practice. [See Finding of Fact (48).]
- (d) Standard 505, in that it is not clear that the Law School includes, for every readmission of a previously disqualified individual, a statement in the admittee's file of the reasons that led to the decision. [See Finding of Fact (49).]
- (e) Standard 701 and Interpretation 701-2(3), in that it is not clear that there is sufficient office space for part-time faculty members adequate for faculty-student conferences. [See Findings of Fact (26) and (72).]

(2) Based on its review of the site evaluation report, the Committee encourages the President and Dean to consider carefully the following issue relating to the Law School:

The listing on the Law School's website of courses that have not been offered during the past two academic years and are not being offered in the current academic year. A law school that lists a significant number of such courses is not in compliance with Standard 509(b)(5) and Interpretation 509-1. [See Finding of Fact (53).]

Although this matter does not require a response from the University and Law School, it nonetheless merits close attention and review.

**RESPONSE REQUESTED:**

(1) The Committee requests that the President of University of Tennessee and the Dean of the Law School submit a report by August 1, 2013, with all relevant information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the Standards noted in Conclusion (1) above. Specifically, as to Conclusions (1)(a)-(e), provide information to demonstrate:

(a) The actions by the Law School to increase the diversity of its adjunct faculty. *Perry, George, Michael*

→ (b) The nature of the required faculty supervision for the Expository Writing requirement. *me*

✓ (c) The Law School advises applicants that there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar, and encourages applicants, prior to matriculation, to determine what the requirements are in the state or states in which the applicant intends to practice.

→ (d) The Law School includes, for every readmission of a previously disqualified individual, a statement in the admittee's file of the reasons that led to the decision. *Katue*

→ (e) The Law School has sufficient office space for part-time faculty members adequate for faculty-student conferences *me - J.R. office*  
*5 + George + Perry*

(2) Upon review of the information provided by the Law School in response to Conclusions (1)(a)-(e), the Committee may, in accordance with Rule 13(b), determine that the Law School is not in compliance with the Standards.

*Paine/mutter  
2 by Amy  
Wirtz  
[Jendrek]*

*lets do a survey*



**Subject:** Re: Programmatic Accreditation Records on File  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 9:55:35 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Schaefer, Paula <paula.schaefer@tennessee.edu>  
**To:** Browning, Ashley <ashleyb@tennessee.edu>  
**CC:** Wilson, Melanie <mdwilson@utk.edu>  
**Attachments:** ABA Accreditation Letter 2013.pdf, ABA Letter LLM Acquiescence 2015.pdf, image001.png, image002.png

Hi Ashley,

I am attaching: (1) the ABA's 2013 letter regarding UT College of Law's Accreditation; and (2) the ABA's 2015 letter providing acquiescence for the LLM program. The LLM program is not a program that the ABA reviews for purposes of accreditation; they provide acquiescence allowing us to have the program. Information about that is available at this link: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/llm-degrees\\_post\\_j\\_d\\_non\\_j\\_d/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/llm-degrees_post_j_d_non_j_d/)

I am going to forward a 2015 email from Mary Albrecht explaining why the LLM did not need to be reported to SACSCOC.

Finally, ABA's website explains that fully accredited schools have site visits every 10 years. The ABA's website lists the College of Law's next scheduled site visit for the 2022-23 academic year. [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/accreditation/law\\_school\\_site\\_visits/future\\_site\\_visits/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/accreditation/law_school_site_visits/future_site_visits/)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Paula

Paula Schaefer  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs &  
Professor of Law  
University of Tennessee College of Law  
1505 W. Cumberland Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996  
<https://law.utk.edu/people/paula-schaefer>  
View my research on my SSRN author page:  
<http://ssrn.com/author=1228159>



---

COLLEGE OF LAW

---

**From:** "Browning, Ashley" <ashleyb@tennessee.edu>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 3:06 PM  
**To:** "Wilson, Melanie" <mdwilson@utk.edu>

**Subject:** FW: ABA Letter  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 9:57:04 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Schaefer, Paula <paula.schaefer@tennessee.edu>  
**To:** Browning, Ashley <ashleyb@tennessee.edu>  
**CC:** Wilson, Melanie <mdwilson@utk.edu>  
**Attachments:** DOC072015-07202015083826.pdf, image001.png

Ashley,

Here is the email from Mary Albrecht I mentioned in my last message.

Paula Schaefer  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs &  
Professor of Law  
University of Tennessee College of law  
1505 W. Cumberland Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996  
<https://law.utk.edu/people/paula-schaefer>  
View my research on my SSRN author page:  
<http://ssrn.com/author=1228159>



COLLEGE OF LAW

---

**From:** Albrecht, Mary Lewnes  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2015 9:31 AM  
**To:** Ripley, Cora Desmond; McFall II, Michael W  
**Cc:** Long, Alex  
**Subject:** FW: ABA Letter

Cora and Michael -

Attached is the letter from the ABA regarding the LL.M. (Master of Law). They "acquiesce" to the College of Law's addition of the LL.M. program. On the last page under the heading Conclusions, items 3 and 4 seem to indicate that the degree is not an accredited program. Basically, they approved that the College of Law added the program with the proviso that having it doesn't detract from the JD, which is accredited. The program is available for the first time fall semester 2016.

I have not reported this degree to SACS COC as a substantive change because it is not a significant departure from programs we already have. We are approved to offer Master degrees; no new faculty, library or physical resources are needed; and less the 25% of the credit hours needed for the degree were added to the catalog.

Just thought you two probably needed to see the letter. I have added it to the Provost drive:  
I:\Vol03\Provost\UG Academic Affairs\Academic Program Reviews\Accreditation Letters\Law ABA 2015-07-06

LLM.pdf.

Mary

Mary Lewnes Albrecht, PhD  
Associate Vice Provost for Accreditation  
865-974-3635  
malbrech@utk.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: Held, Karen Marie  
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 9:12 AM  
To: Albrecht, Mary Lewnes <malbrech@utk.edu>  
Subject: ABA Letter

Hello Mary,  
Here is the scanned ABA latter.  
Karen

“Never give up... Never surrender!” – Tim Allen as Jason Nesmith, Galaxy Quest

-----Original Message-----

From: Office of the Chancellor [<mailto:chancellor@utk.edu>]  
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 8:39 AM  
To: Held, Karen Marie <kheld1@utk.edu>  
Subject: Send data from MFP-07119779 07/20/2015 08:38

Scanned from MFP-07119779.  
Date: 07/20/2015 08:38  
Pages:3  
Resolution:200x200 DPI  
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Abha Pandya  
Chicago, IL

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Newark, DE

Patricia Timmons-Goodson  
Fayetteville, NC

Frederic White  
Fort Worth, TX

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E-mail: [legaled@americanbar.org/legaled](mailto:legaled@americanbar.org/legaled)

July 6, 2015

Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek  
University of Tennessee  
527 Andy Holt Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0184

Dean Melanie D. Wilson  
University of Tennessee  
College of Law  
1505 West Cumberland Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37916

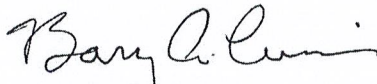
Dear Chancellor Cheek and Dean Wilson:

Attached please find the decision of the Accreditation Committee at its meeting on June 25-27, 2015, with respect to the application of the University of Tennessee College of Law for acquiescence in a Master of Law in United States Business Law (LL.M.).

President Thomas C. Galligan, Jr., and Associate Dean Susan L. Kay recused themselves from participation in the Committee's consideration of this matter.

Please feel free to call me, Deputy Managing Director William E. Adams, Executive Assistant Cathy A. Schrage, or Paralegal Shirley A. Gonzalez if you have questions or need clarification or guidance.

Sincerely yours,



Barry A. Currier  
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

BAC/cs  
Attachment

RECEIVED

JUL 07 15

OFFICE OF THE  
CHANCELLOR

## DECISION OF THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

June 2015

The Accreditation Committee (the "Committee") at its June 25-27, 2015 meeting, considered the application of the University of Tennessee College of Law (the "Law School") for acquiescence in the establishment of a new Master of Law in United States Business Law. The Committee had before it the Law School's Major Change-Post J.D./Non J.D. Degree Programs in Addition to J.D. Questionnaire, dated April 20, 2015; the Law School's most recent Self Study prepared in 2012; a letter dated April 20, 2015, from Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek and Dean Douglas Blaze; and the minutes of the Law School faculty meeting of January 29, 2014.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT:**

(1) The Law School has proposed to offer a Master of Law (LL.M.) in United States Business Law. The program would begin in the fall 2016 semester.

(2) The Law School reports that its anticipated enrollment in the new Master of Law program in the first year of the proposed program will be three full-time students with an eventual enrollment of "around ten" students in four years. The Law School has an enrollment of 442 J.D. students.

(3) Students in the Master of Law in United States Business Law will be permitted to enroll in courses offered in the J.D. program. Students in the LL.M. program will have priority in course registration over students in the J.D. program. In general, the Law School does not believe that J.D. students will be excluded from any courses based upon current enrollments for classes of interest to the LL.M. students. The Law School anticipates that there might be two courses that can reach maximum enrollment, however, and is prepared to offer multiple sections to insure that J.D. students will be able to take the courses.

(4) The Law School has a proposed curriculum for the degree.

(5) The Law School will require TOEFL scores of at least 570 (paper-based exam), 30 (computer-based exam) or 88 (Internet-based exam).

(6) The Law School does not anticipate that any additional faculty, library resources, classroom space, or offices will be necessary to operate the program. The Law School will add a one-third time staff position to support the program.

(7) The program will be directed by Professor George Kuney, a full-time member of the faculty.

(8) The Law School anticipates additional expenditures of \$27,100 for the first year of the new program and \$27,342 in the second year.

(9) The Law School anticipates income from tuition and fees of \$37,752 per student the first year and \$39,214 per student the second year.

(10) The Law School faculty approved the proposal for the LL.M. program at its meeting on January 29, 2014.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

(1) The Committee concludes that the Master of Law in United States Business Law will not interfere with the ability of the Law School to operate in compliance with the Standards and to carry out its program of legal education. [Standard 313.]

(2) Accordingly, under authority delegated by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, the Committee acquiesces in the application of the Law School for the establishment of the Master of Law in United States Business Law to a maximum enrollment of 12 full-time students. [Standard 506.]

(3) Acquiescence in a degree program other than the J.D. is not an approval of the Master of Law (LL.M.) in United States Business Law program itself and, therefore, the Law School may not announce that the program is approved by the Council. [Standard 313 and Interpretation 313-1.]

(4) The Committee calls the attention of the Law School to the requirement that enrollment in this and every non-J.D. program offered by the Law School must be limited such that enrollment does not interfere with the ability of the Law School to operate in compliance with the Standards. [Standard 506.]