

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



AccessLex
INSTITUTE®

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS®

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	1
Responding to the World Around Us	
AccessLex Law Student Emergency Relief Fund.....	3
A Message from Christopher Chapman on Racial Injustice and Inequality	5
Policy and Advocacy	6
Informed Mission. Mission Informed.	
LexScholars by AccessLex®	7
Grant-making a difference	9
Academic and Bar Success	10
Helix Bar Review by AccessLexSM	11
Success is a Habit	
MAX by AccessLex®	13
AccessLex Tools and Resources.....	15
AccessLex in the News	17
By the Numbers	19
Leadership	21
History of an Evolving Mission	23

WELCOME



CHRISTOPHER P. CHAPMAN

President and Chief Executive Officer
AccessLex Institute



W.H. (JOE) KNIGHT, JR.

Board Chair, AccessLex Institute
Distinguished Academic in Residence
Seattle University School of Law

It would be a huge understatement to say that 2020 has presented unparalleled challenges for all of us. But that fact doesn't make it any less true. It's been hard. With little warning, we all have been thrust into a seemingly indefinite period of uncertainty. Although some adjustments will ultimately prove to be temporary, we know others are here to stay. Yet, here we are, approaching this difficult year's close privileged with the opportunity to reflect on the many challenges we have faced—and, the ways we've become stronger for the experience.

Like all of you, when the pandemic hit and the severity of its impact began to be understood, AccessLex adapted, moving our entire work force to remote capability, a feat we would never have imagined possible at the beginning. We also thought hard about what the Company could do to help in an immediate and tangible way. Within two weeks in March, we established and made available a \$5 million Law Student Emergency Relief Fund, offering a \$25,000 donation to every nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved law school in the nation to distribute to students in dire need. Every eligible institution, 194 in total, took advantage of this program. Stories from some of the many students that this fund helped can be found in this report.

As spring bled into summer, the year got no easier. We were all witness to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and to other prominent examples that reinforced the facts about racial inequities that pervade and stubbornly persist throughout too many aspects of our society. We were outraged and saddened by these events and were left to ask ourselves several uncomfortable questions.

Our work at AccessLex is premised on a vision to broaden access to justice by increasing access to legal education and the profession. We push forward daily with the belief that we can create movement in the right direction by engaging and supporting the systemic changes needed in legal education and beyond, while working to empower individuals to become agents of that change. To that end, we continue to make significant investments in programs that benefit aspiring lawyers from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We remain committed to the critical work of making legal education, and ultimately, the legal profession and, our overall society, reflect the extraordinary diversity of our nation.

From a numbers' perspective, our MAX by AccessLex® personal finance program has surpassed 30,000 student users at 170 law schools, helping current students become more financially aware and able to manage through this difficult period of gaining a legal education during a pandemic. Our funded research efforts have now exceeded \$10 million in grants made. More significantly, that grantmaking is starting to bear real fruit, as evidenced recently, by the released research findings from two AccessLex grant-supported projects: *Examining the California Cut Score: An Empirical Analysis of Minimum Competency, Public Protection, Disparate Impact, and National Standards*, which was conducted by faculty from the Monterey College of Law, the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law—Bloomington, and the University of Michigan; and, *IAALS' Building a Better Bar Exam* with The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and the University of Denver. These are very enlightening developments that speak to the depth of our Company's intent and the growing breadth of our reach.

Finally, many hours and much effort have been dedicated this year to the design and development of a new signature resource: Helix Bar Review by AccessLexSM. Helix is being built from the ground up and will feature a state-of-the-art interface, flexible access, and the most innovative adaptive learning technology available. But the primary feature of Helix will be its transparent, no-profit pricing structure. It will be comprehensive bar preparation offered at cost to law school graduates – an unprecedented endeavor in this marketplace. Although an exciting initiative in itself, Helix is also a natural next step for our organization. From assisting students in choosing the right law school to preparing them for their best financial future, AccessLex has continually worked to build confidence into every step of the legal education experience. Developing an exceptional and affordable bar review program now furthers our scope along the bar success continuum.

Each of these aforementioned initiatives, and many others from the year, are presented in more detail within these pages. We are proud of the work we do here, and we are grateful for our alliance with you to serve your students. Please let us know your thoughts, impressions and suggestions as we continue to evolve in a genuinely ever-changing legal education landscape.

There has never been a year quite like 2020. Perhaps it's a bit cliché to say we're in this together. But that doesn't make that statement any less true. We consider ourselves fortunate to be on this journey with you.

RESPONDING TO THE WORLD AROUND US

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AccessLex Institute Donates \$5 Million to Establish Law Student Emergency Relief Fund

NEWS PROVIDED BY
AccessLex Institute →
Mar 30, 2020, 14:26 ET

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f t in p e

WEST CHESTER, Pa., March 30, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has sparked fear, disruption and uncertainty across the country, and law students have not been spared. In response, AccessLex Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping aspiring lawyers find their path to professional success, has created a \$5 million Law Student Emergency Relief Fund to provide direct resources to law students during this unique time. Beyond the concerns around adapting to online learning, completion of hands-on legal clinics, and the potential for delays in the bar exam, this crisis has exacerbated financial pressures on law students—in many cases, to a level that can jeopardize the continuation of their studies.

Through this \$5 million fund, AccessLex will make \$25,000 available to every nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved law school in the nation, with monies going directly to each school's designated student emergency fund. Law schools will then administer the funds in a manner consistent with the established criteria for emergency relief on their campuses.

"It is imperative that we act on our mission to positively impact the lives of law students in a tangible way when they need the support most," said AccessLex Institute President and Chief Executive Officer, Christopher P. Chapman. "The establishment of the Emergency Relief Fund is simply the right thing for AccessLex to do during this unprecedented time. It represents a targeted response in our effort to be there for those we serve everyday—the next generation of lawyers."

“

I cannot thank AccessLex enough for supporting me in this tough time! With the funds they were able to provide me, I was able to gain a peace of mind that is so hard to come by in this chaos. Thank you again, AccessLex!

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT



“We can’t thank AccessLex enough for its generosity during this worldwide public health emergency. We’re now able to increase exponentially the aid available to Elon Law students in crisis and bring them a measure of comfort as they keep focused on the goals they already set for themselves – to learn the law, pass the bar exam, and serve as lawyer leaders in the profession and their communities.”

LUKE BIERMAN, DEAN ELON LAW

“Words cannot describe how grateful my wife and I are for this generous assistance from AccessLex. To receive such significant help so quickly gives me such an uplifting and optimistic feeling - one that I haven’t felt in a while. I will remember this act of kindness and I will pay it forward to others in need.”

3L STUDENT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

”



BRIANNA BAKER SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT

“I want to thank AccessLex for their very kind gift. This gift is giving me and my family peace of mind in such uncertain times. The loss of my income was very much straining our financial situation. I am extremely grateful and thankful that you could help me and my law school colleagues.”



ALICIA OUELLETTE PRESIDENT AND DEAN ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

“This generous gift will help our students during this unprecedented time and add needed support to our student emergency fund. Thank you to AccessLex for stepping up and helping law students across the country.”

THANK YOU SO MUCH! Holy cow, this will absolutely be a HUGE help for myself and my family. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

3L STUDENT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SCHOOL OF LAW

\$25K IN RELIEF GRANTS AWARDED TO MIZZOU LAW STUDENTS

The AccessLex Institute provided Mizzou Law with a grant to assist 35 students with COVID -19 related emergency relief

Read more at law.missouri.edu



A Message from AccessLex Institute Chief Executive Officer Christopher P. Chapman

June 9, 2020 – The senseless killing of George Floyd and other recent events have again made explicit that racial injustice and inequality are prevalent stains on our society. It is beyond time that we all actively work to create and steward a nation where all people are treated justly.

AccessLex Institute was founded in 1983 with a mission to increase access to the legal profession by reducing the costs associated with paying for law school. This founding premise was rooted in an acknowledgment of the persistent inequalities that too often prevent people of color and people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds from furthering their education.

Today, our work is guided by an ambitious strategic plan premised on broadening access to justice by broadening access to legal education and the profession. We are making significant investments in programs that benefit aspiring lawyers from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We recognize that student loan policy is social justice policy; therefore, we advocate for financial aid regulations that are equitable and fair. Through our grantmaking efforts, we fund projects designed to help ensure that broadened access to legal education results in not only a more diverse legal profession, but a more diverse leadership and professional class overall.

No one person or organization can create the change we so desperately need. But, collectively, by the strength of shared goals and convictions, we can push forward daily to build positive momentum, effect positive actions, and ultimately, create positive change.

Let's work together to foster a nation that more closely resembles the more perfect Union referenced in the Constitution. Let's strive toward this lofty ideal every day.

Let's let none of this be meaningless.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris P. Chapman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Christopher P. Chapman
President and Chief Executive Officer
AccessLex Institute

Our policy experts routinely speak with lawmakers, policy advocates and other influencers on behalf of law students specifically, and in the interest of legal education on the whole.



April 3, 2020

Honorable Lindsey Graham, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As Congress works together on a fourth legislative package to provide further relief for millions of Americans impacted by COVID-19, AccessLex Institute urges you to consider changes to the Bankruptcy Code that would allow student loan borrowers to more easily access bankruptcy protections.

AccessLex Institute, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved member law schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today.....



May 28, 2020

Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

As the Senate begins work on the next COVID-19 relief package, AccessLex Institute urges you to include provisions that will assist postsecondary students and federal student loan borrowers. While the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act did provide emergency grants to students and schools, as well as relief for student loan borrowers, more support is needed.....

We've been consistent in our efforts to see student-friendly legislation proposed and passed into law, especially during this time of crisis.

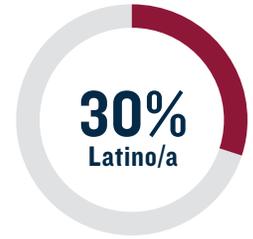
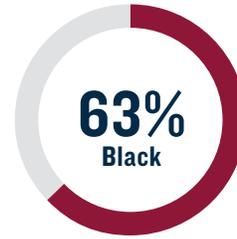
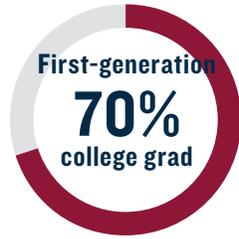
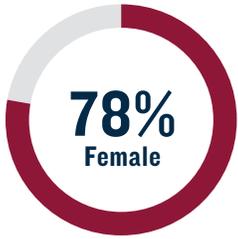
INFORMED MISSION. MISSION INFORMED.



Law is the least diverse profession in the United States. LexScholars by AccessLex is a diversity pipeline initiative determined to change that.

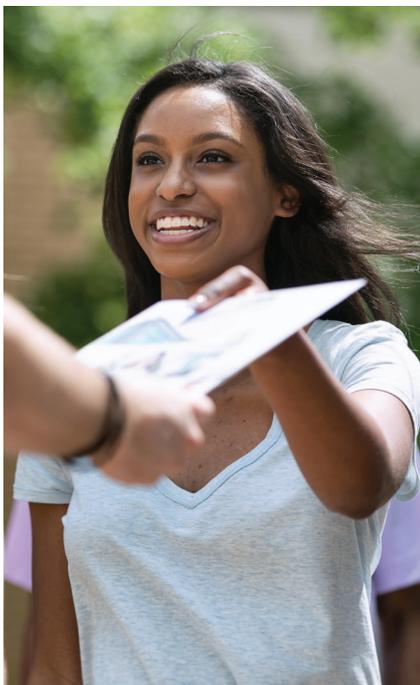
LexScholars is aimed at prospective law students from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds who possess potential for law school success but may be unlikely to gain admission due to unfavorable LSAT scores and undergraduate grades. Participants get access to LSAT preparation, law school admission counseling, financial education, wellness training, writing skills development and more.





The program formally launched on August 1, 2020 with 250 participants.

- **Female: 194 (78%)**
- **First-generation college grad: 176 (70%)**
- **Pell Grant recipient: 175 (70%)**
- **Black: 157 (63%)**
- **Latino/a: 74 (30%)**



52 participants who are interested in 2021 admission are receiving:

- Access to AccessLex pre-law and financial counseling services
- Full-length online Kaplan LSAT course
- Comprehensive admission counseling

162 participants who are interested in 2021 admission are receiving:

- Access to AccessLex pre-law and financial counseling services
- Full-length online Kaplan LSAT course

36 participants who are interested in 2022 admission are receiving:

- Access to AccessLex pre-law and financial counseling services
- Full-length online Kaplan LSAT course

All participants will allow AccessLex researchers to track their law school admission experiences and outcomes, and to use that information to aid their progression and develop diversity pipeline models that will benefit legal education, the profession, and society. We look forward to gathering and reporting this data in the years to come.

Grant-making a difference

Our grantmaking approach focuses on funding projects that have the potential to “move the needle” in legal education.

Nearly \$2 million in grants was awarded in 2020, with over \$10 million in grants awarded since 2014.

Groundbreaking research from some of our grantees has recently garnered national attention.

Groundbreaking New Study Examining the California Bar Cut Score

Published: October 14, 2020

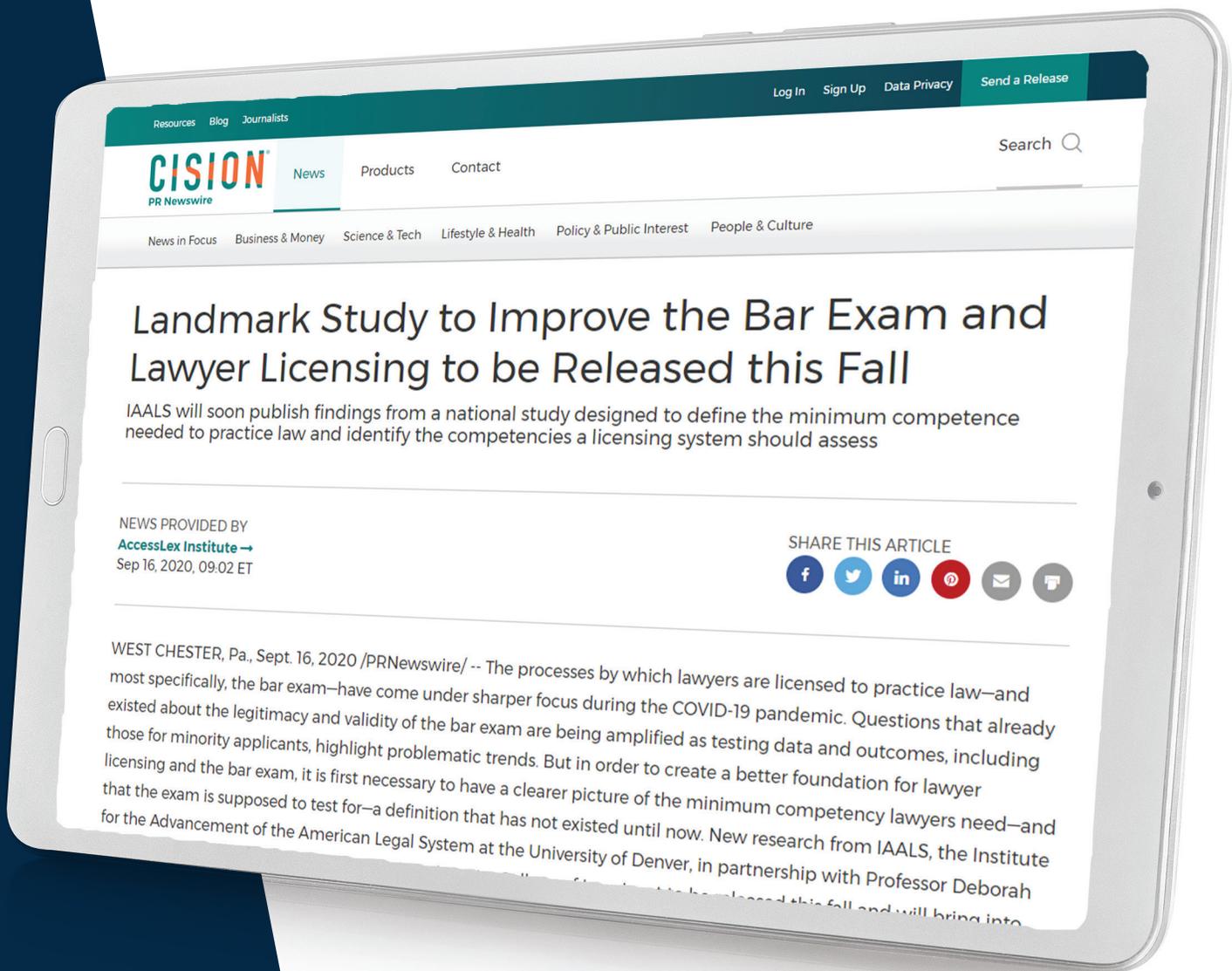
West Chester, PA (October 15, 2020) -- AccessLex Institute has published groundbreaking research that finds the minimum passing score (known as the “cut score”) on the California Bar Exam, which is the second highest in the nation, excludes minorities from admission to the bar at a disproportionately high rate and does not result in greater public protection in the state. The study, titled, “[Examining the California Cut Score: An Empirical Analysis of Minimum Competency, Public Protection, Disparate Impact, and National Standards](#),” was funded by a grant from AccessLex Institute to Monterey College of Law (“MCL”), located in Seaside, CA, and was undertaken because California and national policy makers previously have not had the benefit of detailed analysis of bar exam performance utilizing actual data to examine the effect of the bar exam cut score on the racial and ethnic composition of new attorneys joining the legal profession. The study also examined the commonly heard claim that a high bar exam cut score serves to protect the public from lawyers who do not have the minimum competency to practice law by using data on attorney discipline as a means of measuring competence.

The law school engaged a research team lead by Victor Quintanilla, Bicentennial Professor and co-Director of the Center for Law, Society & Culture at Indiana University, Maurer School of Law, and Dr. Sam Erman, Professor of Law at the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law. Professors Quintanilla and Erman’s work related to legal education and bar exam performance is well known, especially as the principal investigators of Mindsets in Legal Education (“MIP”), a project funded by AccessLex Institute. MIP developed and implemented The California Bar Exam Strategies and Stories Program to help test takers find productive ways to interpret the challenges, obstacles, and negative psychological experiences associated with preparing for the bar exam. MCL President and Dean Mitchel Winick and MCL Professor Christina Chong-Nakatsuchi worked with the research team as the lead writers for the written report.

Two large data sets were used. The first data set included de-identified scores of 85,727 examinees who sat for 21

Academic and Bar Success

We seek to materially and measurably increase student success in and beyond law school. And a primary focus of this mission includes increasing first-time bar exam passage nationwide.





Becoming lawyers is in their DNA. Empowering lawyers is in ours.

From assisting students in choosing the right law school to preparing students for their best financial future, nonprofit AccessLex Institute has worked for nearly 40 years to build confidence into every step of the legal education experience. And now, we're taking our organization's natural next step by developing **Helix Bar Review by AccessLexSM**, an affordable comprehensive bar review program.

With a state-of-the-art interface, flexible access and the most innovative adaptive learning technology available, law school graduates will have every building block they need to create success.

And beyond offering the most efficient and effective means of bar preparation, **Helix will be delivered at-cost with a transparent pricing structure**, which assures users will see our 'no profit' difference. By transparent we mean they'll see where every dollar they pay goes. The cost is the price. No negotiating, no random discounts, no games. And because AccessLex is sustained by a \$700 million charitable fund solely dedicated to the support of legal education, we are the one nonprofit with the resources, reason and resolve to successfully alter the paradigm of bar preparation to the benefit of law students for the long-run.





We believe every law student deserves access to an affordable best-in-class bar preparation program—and we are uniquely positioned to offer just that. Here’s how we’re doing it:

- **Low, no profit pricing.** Helix is offered at cost, so unlike commercial bar prep providers whose sole existence is to generate profits for themselves and their shareholders, AccessLex will never generate revenue from the students or schools we serve. No profits. Ever.
- **Personalized, interactive learning through technology.** Built entirely from the ground up without the burden of legacy systems and outdated learning methodologies, its personalized pathways, short concept videos, quick quizzes, gamification, and the most advanced MEE® module available are just some of the features that put Helix at the top for active learning and memory retention.
- **Tailored to what students need to know.** Helix identifies students’ knowledge gaps and dynamically adapts for maximum impact.
- **Powered by experts.** Heading up Helix development is a past Program Director and lead editor of the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE®).

We use a collaborative, research-based approach to program-building.

We believe that listening to, and engaging with, law school students, faculty, administrators and staff is imperative to a true understanding of what you want and need in a bar review program. Groups and individuals at over 100 law schools have participated in this process, including surveys, feedback sessions and interviews. We asked about every facet of bar review — from content to design to delivery. We even asked for recommendations of faculty that students enjoyed learning from or that they often rave about — and that’s who you’ll see in our videos. In other words, like always, we listened.

Bar prep created with you. For you.

SUCCESS IS A HABIT.

The AccessLex Center for Education and Financial Capability® offers on-campus and online financial education programming and resources to help students and graduates confidently manage their finances on their way to achieving personal and professional success.



MAX is offered at no cost to the 194 American Bar Association-approved nonprofit and state-affiliated law schools in the nation and their students. This academic year, over 30,000 students at 170 schools are participating in the program.

MAX Scholarships

This was the first year MAX by AccessLex® was offered to 1Ls, 2Ls and 3Ls. We awarded \$270,000 in scholarships across the three cohorts, but with the pandemic, we were unable to share the exciting news with the winners in person. Instead, we surprised all of them with unexpected Zoom calls, catching most of them completely off-guard, which is always fun! Here are some of our lucky MAX students.



"I'm very thankful to AccessLex for this generous scholarship and their commitment to helping law students navigate the world of financially impactful decision making."

FRANCES DANIELS '22
University of Minnesota Law School

We continued to provide the professional development opportunities for school administrators and enhanced resources for students you have come to expect despite the unprecedented obstacles placed before us by COVID-19. And in direct response to the disruption and uncertainty schools were forced to manage, we promptly developed new content and programming. This included a *COVID-19 Updates and Resources* web page that was created and continuously updated with the most current financial and other student information. We also expanded our free student webinar schedule, increasing the number of webinars while also developing new topics, including *Managing Your Money During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Our team of accredited financial counselors extended its one-on-one coaching availability, which resulted in a significant increase in student sessions. And to close a year in which we needed each other more than ever, we transitioned our signature annual events, the **Legal Education Research Symposium** and our Financial Capability and Student Success Conference for graduate and professional administrators – **LexCon** – to free, one-day online formats to seamlessly offer our first-class professional development content in a new way — and to bring us all together.



“I am beyond grateful to MAX by AccessLex® for not only this scholarship but also the tips for financial success that their program has equipped me with. Not only is MAX incredibly user friendly but it makes learning about financial planning straight forward and easy to understand. Thanks to this scholarship, a large financial burden will be lifted off me and my family for my third year of law school. I will make sure to continue to use the tools and strategies that I learned through the MAX program to ensure financial stability and good financial habits. Thank you, AccessLex!”

SABREIGHA DIXON '21
New York Law School

“AccessLex Institute’s financial education trainings helped ensure that when I arrived to law school, I hit the ground running. Their materials helped take away some of the anxiety surrounding the financial challenges of law school and I was able to focus on school, knowing that I was equipped to tackle these new financial challenges.”

IAN JONES '22
University of Virginia School of Law



OUR TOOLS AND RESOURCES

AccessConnex
by **AccessLex**SM

Financial questions?
We can help!

Analytix
by **AccessLex**[®]

Analyze, research and
compare law schools.

AccessLex[®]
**Resource
Collections** 

The leading research in
legal education today.

Helix
BAR REVIEW
by **AccessLex**[™]

Step up to the bar.

LexScholars
by **AccessLex**[™]

A pipeline initiative
to increase law
school diversity.



Make your voice heard
in Washington.



Maximize your
financial future.



Pre-prepare for
law school.



Crunch your numbers.
Know your options.



Find the right
law school for you.

ACCESSLEX IN THE NEWS

AccessLex showcased a deep cast of subject matter experts on a wide variety of topics throughout the year in a solid mix of national and trade publications. Here are just a few examples:



June 29, 2020

Is Another Stimulus Check Coming?

"I believe another stimulus package will be enacted this summer and, irrespective of its size, I expect direct payments to taxpayers will be a central component. ... They almost certainly will be included for two main reasons," he says. "No. 1, it is a presidential election year, and No. 2, it is a presidential election year."

Christopher P. Chapman
President and Chief Executive Officer
AccessLex Institute

ABA JOURNAL

June 16, 2020

As some law grads prepare for an online bar exam, academic support experts offer advice

"Applicants have to stay strong. Exam conditions may change, but the underlying skills of critical reading, thinking clearly, effective writing and understanding the rules in key subjects will remain the same," says Sara Berman, the director of programs for academic and bar success at the AccessLex Institute, which has offices in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

"The goal is to stay healthy and get licensed. I would put those two things on my fridge if I were studying for the bar exam."

Sara Berman
Director, Programs for Academic and Bar Success
AccessLex Institute



May 25, 2020

AccessLex Institute Awards \$270,000 in Scholarships Through its MAX by AccessLex® Personal Finance Program

"Now that you know where to tread carefully, take time today to inventory your current position, choose a route, and course correct when necessary. While you can't plan for everything, a well-built student loan strategy will get you past the most perilous pitfalls on your journey and give you the peace of mind and fortitude you need as you make your way toward higher elevations — life after law school."

Derek Brainard
Director - Financial Education, AccessLex Center for Education and Financial Capability®
AccessLex Institute



April 1, 2020

the National Jurist

February 3, 2020

AccessLex Seeks to Increase Diversity Under New Program

“The ‘ideal’ LexScholars participant has endured multilayered disadvantages. And despite potential for success and a clear, demonstrated commitment to attending law school, they remain unlikely to gain admission without targeted assistance. We think there is untapped talent in that group.”

Aaron Taylor
Executive Director, AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence®
AccessLex Institute



August 10, 2020

Here's how Trump's weekend executive actions will impact student loans

“We are heartened to see that the Trump administration has provided additional relief to some student loan borrowers by suspending student loan payments through December 31, however, more relief is needed,” says Nancy Conneely, director of policy at AccessLex Institute. “We also urge the administration to count suspended payments toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness and income-driven repayment, as the CARES Act does. Counting suspended payments toward PSLF recognizes the vital work being done by our public servants, such as nurses, doctors and other essential workers, which is needed now more than ever. These Americans should not lose progress toward forgiveness due to circumstances outside of their control.”

Nancy Conneely
Director of Policy
AccessLex Institute

Bloomberg Law

July 28, 2020

Thousands of Law Grads Will Take the Bar Exam in Person Despite Covid

Aaron Taylor, executive director of the AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit that works to improve access to law school, says “chaotic” might be the word best used to describe how bar exams are being administered this year. “But I’m looking at this maybe as favorable chaos,” he says, thinking that it might spur states to reconsider how, or even if, bar exams should be administered going forward.

Aaron Taylor
Executive Director, AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence®
AccessLex Institute



June 29, 2020

Is Another Stimulus Check Coming?

“Due to COVID-19, you may not be able to work at all,” she said. “Make sure to take care of those family obligations and financials before you apply to grad school — as it’s an expense.”

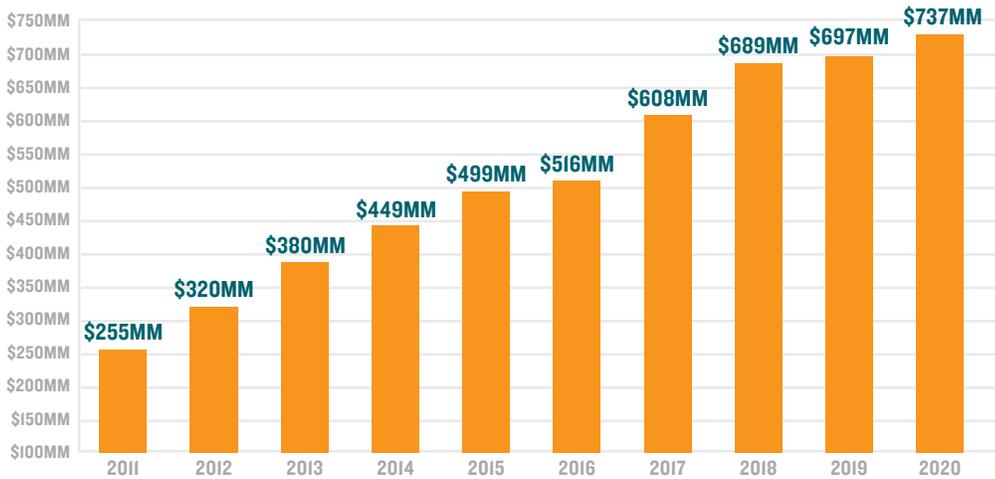
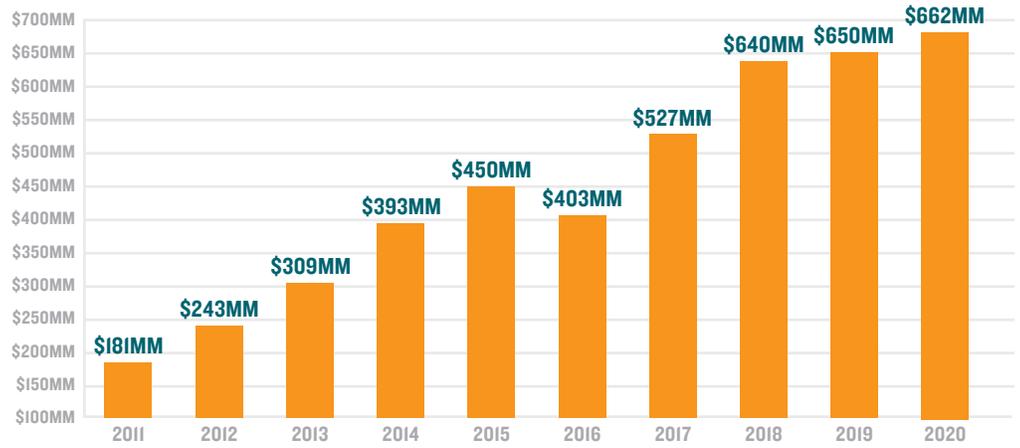
Teria Thornton
Manager, Education and Pre-Law Services
AccessLex Institute



BY THE NUMBERS

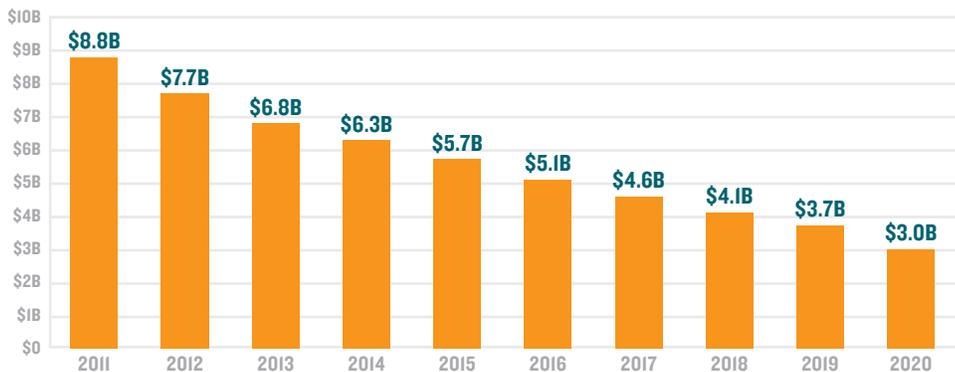
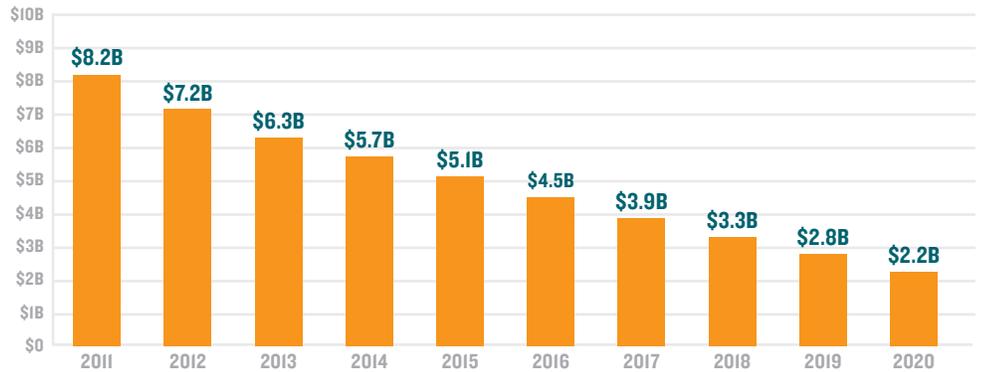
Prudent financial management is a core operating principle at AccessLex Institute, ensuring the continuous funding of our mission-based activities and the retention of resources for future strategic endeavors. In practice, this means that our assets are managed in a manner that increases available capital, provides sufficient liquidity and preserves the flexibility to adapt to current and future challenges. In this way, AccessLex can maximize the resources available to support our philanthropic activities.

Cash and Investments (Unrestricted)



Net Assets

Net Student Loans Outstanding



Total Assets

LEADERSHIP

Leadership Team

CHRISTOPHER P. CHAPMAN

President and
Chief Executive Officer

CYNTHIA CASSITY

Senior Vice President for Strategic Engagement
and Chief Marketing Officer

DEBRA C. SWARTZ

Senior Vice President
General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer

AARON N. TAYLOR

Executive Director
AccessLex Center for Legal Education
Excellence®

DAVID RAMAGE

Vice President
Investments and Corporate Development

JAMES CASSITY

Vice President
Corporate Operations

SAMUEL GREENHALGH, JR, CPA

Vice President
Controller



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University of Pittsburgh School of Law

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Dean and Professor of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law

CHRISTOPHER P. CHAPMAN

President and Chief Executive Officer
AccessLex Institute

DANIELLE M. CONWAY

Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law
Penn State Dickinson Law

MARK C. DAWKINS

Former Dean and Professor of Accounting
Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida

CHRIS GUTHRIE

Dean and John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law
Vanderbilt Law School

MAUREEN A. O'ROURKE

Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
Boston University

AUSTEN L. PARRISH

Dean and James H. Rudy Professor of Law
Maurer School of Law at Indiana University - Bloomington

RALPH D. SINSHEIMER

Co-founder and Managing Director of The Solaris Group LLC

WILLIAM K.S. WANG

Emeritus Honorable Raymond Sullivan Professor of Law
University of California, Hastings College of the Law

1983

➤ The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) establishes the **Law School Assured Access Program (LSAAP)** to provide financial resources to students admitted to ABA-approved law schools

1984

➤ To enable law students to fully finance the cost of their legal education, LSAAP creates a new, private loan to provide supplemental education funding — the **Law Access® Loan**

1988

➤ To help member school administrators meet the challenges related to law school financing and student borrowing, and to provide further professional development opportunities, the first annual **Financial Aid Conference** is held in St. Louis, MO

2008

➤ **Global financial crisis** dramatically changes the structure and operations of the federally guaranteed loan program

2010

➤ **The Higher Education Act (HEA)** is amended to eliminate the federally guaranteed loan program and mandates that all loans be made by the **Department of Education** through the **Direct Lending program** effective July 1, 2010

2011

➤ **Access Group suspends new lending**; focuses on maximizing the value of its loan portfolio to maintain financial viability and fully realize its evolving mission



2017

- Rebrands as **AccessLex Institute®** with a strengthened strategic direction to empower the next generation of lawyers and a continued commitment to access, affordability and the lasting value of a legal education
- Reestablishes the Center for Research and Policy Analysis as The **AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence®**
- Establishes the **AccessLex Center for Education and Financial Capability®** to provide member and partner schools, students, and graduates with free on-campus and online financial education programming

2017 (cont.)

- Launches **MAX by AccessLex®**, a free, interactive personal finance program created exclusively for law students
- Launches **Programs for Diversity** division
- Celebrates the **30th Annual Financial Education Conference** for graduate and professional school administrators in Clearwater, FL

2018

- Launches **Programs for Academic and Bar Success** division
- Launches **Pre-Law Services** division
- **Awards \$515,000 grant** to the **State Bar of California** to address issues with the bar exam pass line, content, format and other aspects of the exam

1993

> In response to LSAAP's growth, LSAC spins off the program as **Law Access, Inc.**, a nonprofit, membership organization. A new Wilmington, DE headquarters is established

1994

> Law Access, Inc. expands its law school base to other graduate and professional school programs and changes its name to **Access Group, Inc.** to reflect this broader reach

> Access Group introduces **Need Access®**, to streamline the awarding of financial aid

2004

> **Access Group achieves full, vertical integration**, in-sourcing all product design, marketing, originations, financing, servicing and collection activities

2014

> Establishes the **Center for Research and Policy Analysis®** in Washington, D.C. and accepts initial round of outcome-driven grant applications

> Launches **Access Assist**, now **AccessConnex**, a free student loan helpline

2015

> Releases first edition of the **Legal Education Data Deck** and the seminal research report, **A Framework for Thinking About Law School Affordability**

> Reaches **\$1 million in awarded grants**

> Hosts the inaugural **Access Group Legal Education Research Symposium** in Savannah, GA

2016

> Launches innovative **Student Loan Calculator** for law students

> Surpasses **\$4 million** in **Directed, Unsolicited, Research and Dissertation Fellows**, and **Diversity Pipeline grants** awarded since 2014

> Releases policy recommendations for the future of the HEA; **supports changes to the Bankruptcy Code** to protect student loan borrowers; and urges Congress to preserve the **Public Service Loan Forgiveness program**

2019

> Announces development of **Helix Bar Review by AccessLex®**, a **paradigm-shifting bar review program**

> Launches the **AccessLex Resources Collection (ARC)**, a digital repository of the leading research and resources in legal education today

> Launches **MAX Pre-Law by AccessLex®**, a free online suite of resources to help aspiring law students prepare for their law school journey

2019 (cont.)

> Launches **XploreJD by AccessLex®**, a free, online search tool offering aspiring law students a data-based approach to finding law schools that best meet their criteria

> Announces **LexScholars by AccessLex®**, a diversity pipeline initiative aimed at learning more about effective methods for increasing law school diversity

2020

> In response to global COVID-19 pandemic, creates **\$5 million Law Student Emergency Relief Program**

> **MAX by AccessLex® extends to more than 160 law schools and surpasses 25,000 student users**





EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS®

AccessLex Institute®, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved member law schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence® advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike, and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today. The AccessLex Center for Education and Financial Capability® offers on-campus and online financial education programming and resources to help students confidently manage their finances on their way to achieving personal and professional success. AccessLex Institute is headquartered in West Chester, PA, with a team of Accredited Financial Counselors (AFC®) based throughout the United States. We currently have more than \$650 million in total net assets.
