EXPLORING PRE-LAW RESEARCH PRIORITIES
CURRENT RESOURCES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Presented by:
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Managing Director, Research

AccessLex Summer Webinar Series
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INTRODUCTIONS

Tiffane Cochran
AccessLex Institute
Managing Director, Research
THE EVOLUTION OF OUR PRE-LAW RESEARCH
INITIALLY, OUR REPORTS FOCUSED ON FILLING LAW SCHOOL SEATS AMID DECLINING APPLICATIONS
HIGHLIGHTS

• First report shows fewer degrees being awarded in top law feeder majors

• Second report describes concentration of law interest among top feeder colleges

• Schools with higher concentration tend to be more racially diverse
A key factor distinguishing law-interested seniors from those with other aspirations is their interest in civic, social and political engagement.

A majority of college seniors develop an interest in law during college, not before.

Students who lose interest in law by senior year rate their writing and public speaking skills lower in their senior vs. freshman year.
Before the JD: Undergraduate Views on Law School

HIGHLIGHTS

• Provides a demographic profile of potential law students

• Describes when potential law students first consider law school and how they obtain information and advice about advanced degrees

• Discusses drivers and barriers of law school interest and differences by demographics and LSAT score
HAVE YOU READ THESE OR OTHER RESEARCH REPORTS?

WERE THEY FOCUSED ON LAW INTEREST?
WE HAVE SINCE SHIFTED FOCUS TO IMPROVING ADMISSION OUTCOMES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS.
OUR LATEST REPORT: ANALYZING PATHWAYS TO THE J.D.
“Conceptually, the law school admission process is depicted as a single, linear and uniform path for all students; in reality, it is a series of paths that can lead to disparate outcomes depending on the student and the route taken.”
OUTCOMES USED FOR LAW SCHOOL GROUPINGS

**Positive score**

- First-time bar passage rate differential
- % Students receiving at least half-tuition scholarships
- % Graduates employed in FT law jobs within ten months

**Negative score**

- % Conditional scholarships eliminated
- First-year (1L) academic attrition rate
OUR METHODOLOGY GROUPS
LAW SCHOOLS ON A CURVE

Average

Below Average

Just Below Average

Just Above Average

Above Average
BASED ON OUR METHODOLOGY, MOST LAW SCHOOLS FALL ABOVE THE AVERAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Just Below Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Just Above Average</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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THESE GROUPINGS DO NOT CAPTURE THE QUALITY OR RIGOR OF THE LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

- Our grouping methodology only reflects the five measures of student outcomes
- These groupings and metrics do not reflect academic quality or student experiences at the institution

Below average grouping ≠ Below average educational experience
MOST UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS ATTEND LAW SCHOOLS WITH BELOW AVERAGE OUTCOMES

Overall 36.0%

- Nat. Haw./Pac. Isl.: 76.3%
- Am. Indian/Alaska Nat.: 53.5%
- Black: 50.6%
- Hispanic: 47.0%
- Multiracial: 40.0%
- Asian: 38.9%
- White: 32.7%
- International: 21.6%

N = 98,283
COMMUNITY COLLEGE STARTERS ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN SCHOOLS WITH BELOW AVERAGE OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Started in a community college</th>
<th>Did not start in a community college</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Below Average</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Above Average</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Average</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 90,749
FOR HBCU GRADS, ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOLS WITH BELOW AVERAGE OUTCOMES IS EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Earned a Bachelor’s from an HBCU</th>
<th>Earned a Bachelor’s from a non-HBCU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Below Average</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Above Average</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Average</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 86,595
HSI grads are also overrepresented in schools with below average outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Earned a Bachelor's from an HSI</th>
<th>Earned a Bachelor's from an non-HSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Below Average</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Above Average</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Average</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 86,595
FIELDS OF STUDY ALSO SHOW DISPARATE OUTCOMES. GRADS OF “LAW-RELATED” MAJORS MORE OFTEN ENROLL AT SCHOOLS WITH BELOW AVERAGE OUTCOMES

Overall 36%

Criminology/Crim. Just. 59.3%
Pre-Law 49.4%
Psychology 38.1%
Comm./Journ. 38.1%
Business 37.5%
Soc. Sci. 34.9%
Biology 32.9%
English 32.5%

N = 71,844
THOSE MAJORING IN LAW-ADJACENT FIELDS ALSO TEND TO HAVE LOWER MEDIAN LSAT SCORES

WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT THIS DATA?

HOW MIGHT IT INFORM PRE-LAW ADVISING APPROACHES?
CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRE-LAW ADVISORS AND LAW SCHOOLS

- What types of curricular or wraparound support do law-adjacent majors need to improve their admission outcomes?
- How can advisors, pipeline programs, law schools, and the legal profession drive more equitable outcomes for HBCU and HSI grads?
- What supports do law schools with below average outcomes need to improve their students’ outcomes?
- To what extent can law schools with above average outcomes contribute to more equitable legal education attainment?
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS USING THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW

- Click the “+” sign in the top left corner to create a sticky note
- Click and drag your sticky note to the appropriate question column
- Type the question number and your response
- Change the color of the sticky note to match the question column by selecting your note then clicking the palette icon in the top left
LOOKING AHEAD
RESEARCH ON DISPARITIES IS PREVALENT. MOVING FORWARD OUR AGENDA IS FOCUSED ON SOLUTIONS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inequities in law school admission persist, despite significant efforts to level the playing field</td>
<td>Our recent reports have contributed to an extensive body of research illustrating disparities</td>
<td>How can we leverage data and research to advance progress in diversifying legal education?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AccessLex/LSSSE Bar Success Initiative</td>
<td>Does undergraduate GPA improvement correlate to academic and bar success?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LexScholars</td>
<td>What pipeline interventions are most effective at increasing admission rates and scholarship offers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need/Merit Aid Survey</td>
<td>What is the current landscape of need, merit and hybrid institutional scholarship aid?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER THOUGHTS?
WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?
PRE-LAW DATA AND TOOLS
PRE-LAW DATA SOURCES

ABA Required Disclosures
- 509 reports
- Bar passage
- Employment

LSAC Official Guide

NALP Directory of Law Schools
U.S. News & World Report
Wilson-Stern Book of Law School Lists
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE-LAW DATA TOOLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XploreJD by AccessLex®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSAC UGPA and LSAT Score Search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School Transparency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MyRank by Spivey Consulting Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytix by AccessLex®</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HAVE YOU USED THESE OR OTHER RESOURCES?

IS THERE MORE DATA YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE TO INFORM YOUR PRE-LAW STUDENTS?
THANK YOU!

Contact us at Research@AccessLex.org