

# Indiana University McKinney School of Law

## 2011-2012 PRAC Annual Report on Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

### Accreditation

Indiana University McKinney School of Law (McKinney School of Law), while a part of the IUPUI campus and thus included in the campus requirements for accreditation under the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission (NCA HLC), is also subject to accreditation by the American Bar Association (ABA). The ABA conducts a full sabbatical site evaluation every seven (7) years. Additionally, every law school is required to complete a comprehensive Annual Questionnaire to ensure continued compliance with accrediting Standards. McKinney's last site visit by the ABA was in October 2009. Notification of full reaccreditation was received on 11 May 2011. (For additional information about the ABA accreditation process, please visit [http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal\\_education/2010\\_a\\_ba\\_accreditation\\_brochure.authcheckdam.pdf](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal_education/2010_a_ba_accreditation_brochure.authcheckdam.pdf).)

### Student Learning Outcomes

At this time, the ABA Standards do not include student learning outcomes (SLOs) as assessment has been input-based rather than outcome-based, but this is changing. SLOs have been contemplated for inclusion for several years and are expected to become part of the Standards once final drafting and adaptation has occurred.

While the ABA Standards do not require SLOs, the NCA HLC is placing an increasing emphasis on them. To that end, McKinney School of Law, along with each credential granting program at IUPUI, defined explicit SLOs in 2011. McKinney School of Law offers three professional degrees: the J.D., LL.M., and S.J.D. degrees; SLOs were developed for each:

#### **Students who graduate with a J.D. degree will:**

1. Identify and apply fundamental principles of Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Torts and Constitutional Law.
2. Communicate effectively with clients, decision-makers, and a range of other stakeholders in the legal system.
3. Apply strategies for identifying, analyzing, researching and solving legal problems.
4. Analyze a self-selected topic of interest in the law and write a substantial research paper on said topic.
5. Recognize and resolve ethical issues in light of the history, traditions and responsibilities of the American legal profession and its members.
6. Demonstrate mastery of at least one (1) professional skill generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.

**Students who graduate with an LL.M. degree will:**

1. Identify and apply fundamental principles of their selected specialty track of study.
2. Apply strategies for identifying, analyzing, researching and solving legal problems.
3. Analyze a topic in the law related to their selected specialty track of study and write a substantial research paper of publishable quality on said topic (if required by the track of study).

**Students who graduation with an S.J.D. degree will:**

1. Compose and defend a dissertation of publishable quality that constitutes an original and substantial scholarly contribution of the areas of law in which it is written.

As things progress on the ABA SLO front, McKinney administration expects that the aforementioned SLOs will likely change to meet ABA reaccreditation standards. As of fall 2012, the ABA reaccreditation standards have not yet changed; however, the McKinney School of Law administration has begun preliminary discussions regarding the anticipated changes.

**Student Learning Outcome Measurement**

At present, the SLOs for the J.D. degree are measured in two cumulative ways: Indiana bar passage rates and employment statistics.

***McKinney School of Law bar passage rates (most recent data available)\****

Date	McKinney Candidates	McKinney # Passing	McKinney Pass Rate
July 2012	230	172	75%
February 2012	79	45	57%

*\* These figures subject to change following the review of failing applicants' appeals.*

While the February pass rate appears low, these results are historically lower than the July scores. IU-I's bar passage rates continue to meet or exceed ABA accreditation standards for bar passage rates.

The 2012 pass rates are lower than the 2011 pass rates (80% for July and 68% for February). McKinney School of Law administration is looking into possible reasons for the decline in pass rates, including, but not limited to addressing the following questions:

1. How many of the students who did not pass the bar exam took a bar review course;
2. How many of the students who did not pass worked full-time or part-time jobs while studying for the bar;
3. In what quartile of the graduating class did the failing students fall.

What course of action is taken to improve our bar passage rate will depend on the answers to the aforementioned questions.

For past McKinney School of Law bar exam statistics through February 2006, please visit <http://www.indylaw.indiana.edu/students/barresults.htm>.

***Indiana state-wide bar passage rates (most recent data available)\****

Date	Candidates	Pass Rate
July 2012	572	74%
Feb. 2012	294	67%

For past state-wide bar exam statistics, please visit <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/ble/2360.htm>.

It is important to note that the bar exam results are a single part of the licensing process adopted by the Indiana Supreme Court, which also requires an applicant to pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) and graduate from law school.

***Employment statistics***

Our SLOs can also be measured by our employment statistics. Employment status (within 9 months of graduation) for the 243 of the 252 graduates from the class of 2011 (December 2010, May and August 2011 degree certifications) who reported their status are as follows:

- 87.24% employed
- .82% enrolled in a full-time degree program
- 9.88% seeking work; and
- 2.06% NOT seeking work at this time.

Additional employment information can be found at <http://indylaw.indiana.edu/career/empstatus11.htm>.

**Improvement of Processes Supporting Student Learning**

In January 2010, McKinney School of Law added the new position of associate director for student affairs to its ranks. The staff person in this position is responsible for providing academic advising to our J.D. students, providing academic success workshops to all students, and providing workshops designed to help students pass the

bar exam. Prior to the addition of this position, the law school did not have a designated administrative staff person to provide these types of services to our students. This staff person is currently working on pulling together the aforementioned relevant data regarding our 2012 bar passage rates and will be working with the administration and faculty to improve our passage rates.