

July 7, 2016

Elizabeth R. Parker  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Parker:

We understand that in a May 10<sup>th</sup> memo to the Admissions and Education Committee of the bar, you have proposed that the bar seek public comment on a revised set of bar admissions requirements (the Phased and Scaled Recommendation implementation (PSRI) plan for the pre and post-admissions requirements that emerged from the Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform (TFARR)).

We write to strongly endorse your proposal to seek public comment on the PSRI. As legal educators, we have a keen interest in the TFARR proposals and their implementation, and we have an especially strong interest in any pre-admission requirements that would need to be satisfied when students are in law school.

Public comment will allow further factual development and deliberation on important matters associated with new requirements. Our sense is that many California law school deans do not currently even know of the existence of the PSRI plan. We believe that without an opportunity for public comment and discussion, California legal educators will be deprived of the opportunity to share their views, and the Bar will have missed an important opportunity to take those views under advisement in its own decision-making process.

Based on a reading of the May 10<sup>th</sup> memo, it is our understanding that the PSRI tracks some of the elements of TFARR, but also proposes a pre-admission requirement on experiential learning that, unlike the TFARR, would track the new, national ABA standard on experiential learning for all ABA-accredited law schools. While we would very much welcome the chance for further substantive comment, we will note here that we see significant merit to this revised approach.

In the spirit of continued deliberation, we know deans of law schools would also welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues in person. The upcoming ABA meeting in San Francisco in August might be a good occasion to facilitate such dialogue. It is likely that many deans of law schools will be present at that meeting and, if the State Bar of California could host a meeting to discuss the PSRI and other issues of mutual interest, we believe many deans would welcome the opportunity for further dialogue with the leadership of the State Bar of California. Another alternative, depending on the Bar's planned timing, might be the AALS annual meeting, which will also be held in San Francisco in January 2017.

Sincerely,

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