



Cleveland State University

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Steven H. Steinglass, Dean

TO: Dr. Rosemary Sutton
Director of Assessment

FROM: Steven H. Steinglass *JMS*
Dean

RE: College of Law–Outcomes Assessment Status--Report

DATE: June 1, 2004

This memorandum is a status report on the outcomes assessment activities at the College of Law and supplements the report submitted on January 28, 2003. The items described below come from the earlier Report, and I have included new developments in bold.

Associate Dean Jack Guttenberg has been working on this project, and he benefited greatly from the suggestions made by Ev Cataldo and Marie Zeglen as we work to develop a strategy that will enhance the College of Law's ability to assess the quality of our educational program.

Currently, the College of Law continues to rely primarily on the Ohio Bar Exam and the National Association of Law Placement ("NALP") annual reports on the employment of our graduates. In addition, as noted below, in the Spring 2004 Semester we administered the Law School Survey of Student Engagement to our students. We expect to receive the results of this survey sometime this summer.

Because the College of Law does not have any capstone courses, we have been unable to implement one of the suggestions made by Ev Cataldo and Marie Zeglen. However, the approach being taken should provide the data necessary to assess our educational program and make changes, where appropriate.

1. **Ohio Bar Exam.** The College of Law recently completed an analysis of the steps that we have taken to improve performance on the Ohio Bar Exam. Rather than rely solely on the passing rates for bar exam sittings, we have begin to track the bar performance by entering class. Thus, we will be able to better understand how various curricular and other programmatic changes are impacting bar performance.

June 1, 2004 Report

During the most recent academic year, the College of Law added to the data that we collect concerning the performance of law school graduates on the Ohio Bar Exam. The Bar Exam Plan, which was approved by the law school faculty and the University administration and was presented to the Board of Trustees,

contains the roadmap for the curricular and other changes that the law school is making in the educational program. That Plan, which was developed with faculty, staff, and student input, is comprehensive and will be reported on annually, per the instructions of the Board of Trustees.

2. **NALP Statistics.** Each spring we survey the employment status of our recent graduates, and this information helps us better understand the employment patterns among recent graduates. These statistics identify the type of employment, the geographic location, the size of the law firm, and the starting salary. They also represent a market-driven means of assessing how employers view the College of Law and our graduates, and the use of this data will permit the College of Law to make comparisons over time as well as comparisons with other law schools.

June 1, 2004 Report

The College of Law continues to collect employment data from law school graduates.

3. **Law School Survey of Student Engagement.** The College of Law has recently agreed to be a site for the Law School Survey of Student Engagement. This project, which is being supported by the Pew Charitable Trust and the Carnegie Foundation, is a law school version of the National Survey of Student Engagement. The project will be administered by researchers from the University of Indiana, and it should give us considerable information about the quality of the law student experience at our College of Law as well as useful comparative information. It is our hope that the multi-year use of the survey will reveal strengths and weaknesses in our educational program.

June 1, 2004 Report

Although the College of Law was not selected in the initial round of this survey, we did participate in the second round, which took place during the Spring 2004 Semester. A copy of the prospectus for this Survey is attached. We anticipate receiving the results of this Survey sometime this summer.

4. **Other Surveys.** The College of Law is seeking information about law student surveys used in other law schools and administered to graduates. When we have more information about these alumni surveys, we will report such information to you.

June 1, 2004 Report

We have not identified any surveys that are as likely to be as useful as the Law School Survey of Student Engagement. Therefore we plan to analyze the data provided by the Law School Survey of Student Engagement Survey, to establish a baseline, and to re-survey our students biennially.

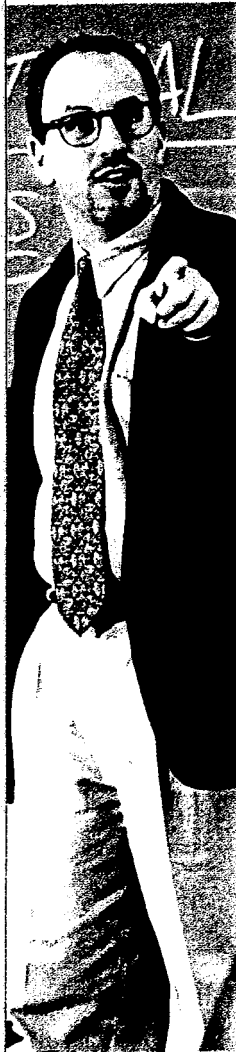
Please advise me if you have any questions about this report.

Attachment

The Law School Survey
of Student Engagement

Invitation to

*Cosponsored by
the Association of
American Law
Schools and
The Carnegie
Foundation for
the Advancement
of Teaching*



What is LSSSE?

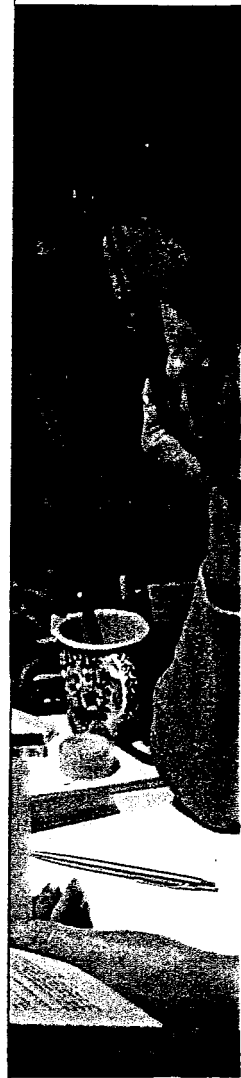
The LSSSE survey adapts research on student learning to fit the law school mission and learning goals. Last spring, more than 4,300 students at 11 law schools participated in a pilot administration of the survey. Schools find LSSSE survey results to be an enlivening tool for self-reflection and self-improvement.

The LSSSE is cosponsored by the Association of American Law Schools and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and benefits from the counsel of an advisory board that includes:

- Alison Anderson, Associate Dean and Professor of Law at the University of California Los Angeles School of Law
- Thomas Ehrlich, Senior Scholar at The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
- Bryant Garth, Director of the American Bar Foundation
- Carl Monk, Executive Vice President and Executive Director of the Association of American Law Schools
- Judith Wegner, Professor of Law at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law

LSSSE is:

- An alternative view of law school quality that focuses on teaching and learning.
- A versatile, research-based tool that provides usable information for institutional improvement.
- Reliable, credible information about the quality of the law student experience that can be used by accreditors, prospective students, and others.
- A depiction of how law schools are performing on effective teaching and learning activities.



Getting Your Results

LSSSE schools receive a detailed report that includes:

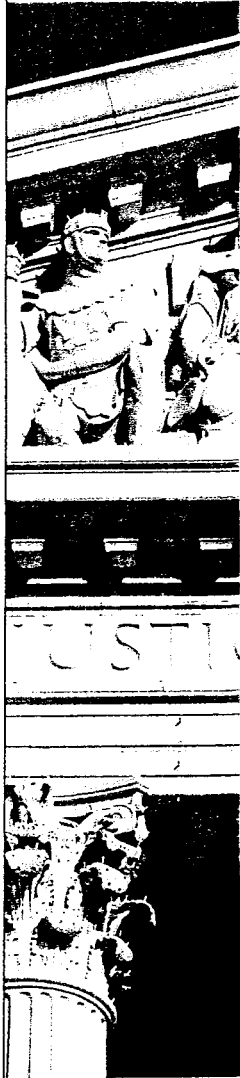
- **Data file**
Individual student responses that can be linked with other law school data.
- **Law school profile**
Customized reports of institutional averages and percentages, grouped by class level, of how students respond to all survey items.
- **Aggregated comparative results**
Statistical comparisons against the national norms of all participating schools.
- **PowerPoint presentation**
A customizable presentation template to use in reporting LSSSE results.

Using LSSSE Data

LSSSE provides campuses with information that they can use almost immediately to improve various aspects of their performance and help students get the most out of their law school experience.

Schools can use their LSSSE survey results in many ways, including:

- Assessment and improvement
- Accreditation
- Benchmarking
- Self-studies
- Curricular reform
- Grant writing
- Accountability
- Institutional research
- Student retention
- Faculty development
- Scholarship of teaching and learning



Costs

Institutional Participation Fee\$300 (*non-refundable*)

Sampling Fee

J.D. Student Enrollment	Fee
Less than 500.....	\$2,700
500 to 1,000	\$3,700
More than 1,000	\$4,700

Registration

- Register online for LSSSE 2004 at:
www.iub.edu/~nsse/lssse
- Register early as space is limited.
- To register you need to:
 - ⌘ Provide information about your law school contact (name, address, e-mail, phone, fax).
 - ⌘ Provide information about your law school (IPEDS number, total enrollment, class size, spring academic schedule).
 - ⌘ Select your sample size.
 - ⌘ Electronically sign the LSSSE 2004 Institutional Participant Agreement.

The priority registration deadline is December 12, 2003.

