The Thomas Jefferson School of Law was notified on June 10, 2019 of the determination by the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar to remove the Law School from the list of ABA-approved schools.

The Council concluded the Law School remains out of compliance regarding financial resources including sufficient resources for adequate faculty and staff, the program of legal education, and admissions policies. The Law School is disappointed by this capricious decision and strongly disagrees with the Council’s findings.

The Law School has taken concrete and significant steps in response to the Council’s concerns, and has fundamentally changed, transforming into a smaller, stronger school:

- changing its financial situation to eliminate debt and drastically reduce expenses, while preserving critical faculty and staff functions that benefit students including:
  1. Eliminating $42 million in debt
  2. Moving – in a very short period of time – to a more favorable and affordable downtown location, with our own attractive and very functional campus
  3. Being relieved of a $3.1 million letter of credit by the Department of Education because of our improved financial situation
  4. Ensuring a smaller faculty and staff can provide an excellent legal education and student services to a smaller student body by carefully managing our finances

- improving its admissions practices and recruiting strategies with positive results, even while on probation, including:
  1. Improving the LSAT profile of our entering students dramatically from Fall 2016 to Fall 2018, raising our 25th and 50th LSAT by 4 points and our 75th LSAT by 2 points & continuing to recruit an even stronger class for Fall 2019 while continuing to attract a diverse student body
  2. Decreasing academic attrition and improving projections of bar pass

- enriching its rigorous program of legal education, academic support, and bar preparation including:
  1. Revising our curriculum, following best practices to provide more effective academic support and bar preparation to students from day one
  2. Entering into an integrated agreement with the leading bar-preparation company.

The Law School plans to appeal the Council’s decision. During the time of the appeals process, which is anticipated to extend through the fall it is important to note the Law School will remain on the list of ABA-accredited law schools. Thomas Jefferson School of Law will continue to make every effort to ensure an excellent legal education for its students.

According to the ABA, a student who starts at an ABA-accredited law school will be deemed to graduate from an ABA-accredited law school.