

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2014\_\_\_\_\_**

**SUBJECT: Remitted Tuition Funding for the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §38-1201.06(2),(C), it is the duty and responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia to operate a public law school component in a manner that shall maintain accreditation necessary to qualify the graduates of the School of Law to take the bar examinations of the District of Columbia and several states; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Bar Association standards require that the “present and anticipated financial resources of a law school shall be adequate to sustain a sound program of legal education and accomplish its mission;” and

**WHEREAS**, The American Bar Association will conduct an accreditation site visit during academic year 2015-2016 and will review the manner in which the School of Law is funded and in which it is accomplishing its missions; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law’s mission requires that it recruit and enroll students from racial, ethnic and other backgrounds traditionally under represented at the bar, with the understanding that such students typically come from low-income families which cannot afford high tuition rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law’s mission also requires that it educate public interest, public service and public policy lawyers who earn much lower than average lawyer salaries and thus cannot sustain significant student debt repayment obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law’s tuition will increase by 2.5 percent during academic year 2014-2015 at a time when other law schools are lowering or freezing tuition rates as a strategy to recruit and retain more students; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally the applicant pool for law schools dropped 34% since 2011 and is down another 7% in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, law student transfer rates are increasing significantly nationally as top ranked schools offer generous financial aid packages to recruit both competitive and less competitive students as a means to enhance tuition revenue streams and the School of Law’s transfer rate increased each year since 2011 in keeping with the national trend; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees approved UDC Resolution No. 2006-30 authorizing the University to remit law school tuition in the amount of \$700,000 during FY 2006, FY 2007, and

FY 2008 and UDC Resolution No. 2008-05 also authorizing the University to remit Law School tuition in the amount of \$700,000 during FY 2009, FY 2010 and FY 2011, and UDC Resolution No. 2012- authorizing the University to remit tuition in the amount of \$700,000 during FY 2012, FY 2013 and FY 2014, in all cases to further the mission to and meet financial aid requirements of the School of Law; and

**WHEREAS**, these funds are needed to meet the financial aid commitments to new and continuing law students in FY 2015, 2016, and 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, tuition remission is used to attract and retain mission-driven students who have options to attend much higher ranked and more prestigious law schools, and those who, because of family and other obligations cannot otherwise afford to go to law school; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of tuition remission afforded the School of Law since 2006 has remained constant at \$700,000 per year supporting enrollment and retention of a student body ranging from about 234 students to a high of 366 students in 2012 and in 2014 about 300 students.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the University to remit law school tuition in the amount of \$700,000 during each of FY 2015, 2016 and 2017 to further the mission and to meet the financial aid requirements of the School of Law.

Submitted by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee

November 6, 2014

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

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Date

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Elaine A. Crider  
Chairperson of the Board

Donald L. Rickford  
Chief Financial Officer

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**TO:** The Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Donald L. Rickford, Chief Financial Officer  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer (UDC) *Donald L. Rickford/dl*

**DATE:** September 2, 2014

**SUBJECT:** UDC David A. Clarke School of Law Tuition Remission for FY2015-2016

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**Conclusion**

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the University of the District of Columbia supports the remission of tuition proposal of the David A. Clarke School of Law for FY2015 and 2016. This support is contingent on an agreement that a cost-benefit analysis will be performed in conjunction with the Provost's Office and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to research the direct and indirect cost impact of this proposal including the impact on the university's ability to leverage tuition remission to increase enrollment in undergraduate and graduate programs.

**Background**

The proposed resolution is to continue the tuition remission of \$700K per year for FY2015 and FY2016 at UDC David A. Clark School of Law. Tuition remission for the law school was first approved by the UDC Board of Trustees in 2006. It is used to attract and retain talented students with options at other higher ranked and more prestigious schools and attract students who could not otherwise afford to go to law school. In academic year 2012-13, the \$700K tuition remission was given to approximately 192 students (55% of the total Law School) with varying degrees of tuition scholarship support.

**Financial Impact**

The direct financial impact from this proposed resolution is the loss of net tuition revenue of \$700,000 each year for FY2015-FY2016 and the opportunity cost that is incurred by the unavailability of these funds to support other critical needs of the university.

Office of Katherine S. Broderick, Dean

TO: Board of Trustees Academic & Student Affairs Committee  
FROM: Shelley Broderick  
RE: Proposed Resolution No. 2014 \_\_\_\_  
DATE: October 27, 2014

This memorandum will provide some background and context for the School of Law's request for approval of Resolution No. 2014 \_\_\_\_\_. Since 2006, the UDC Board of Trustees has approved a series of resolutions permitting the use of \$700,000 annually in tuition remission. Tuition remission, which is a mechanism by which the School of Law is permitted to collect a reduced amount of tuition from students, including those who are highly competitive likely bar passers, have offers of admission from more prestigious schools, have received offers to transfer to other schools and who demonstrate significant financial need due to high levels of student debt from college, family responsibilities and other reasons. The average scholarship award is \$5,480, or about one half of a D.C. resident's tuition or one quarter of an out-of-state student's tuition. The scholarship award average, as reported by the American Bar Association, is very similar to that of peer schools charging similar tuition rates:

Howard	\$13,099.00
Florida A&M	\$ 5,434.00
North Carolina Central	\$ 6,387.00
UDC	\$ 5,480.00
CUNY	\$ 5,106.00
Texas Southern	\$ 4,487.00
Southern	\$ 3,983.00

It is important to note that these scholarship recipients attend the School of Law as a direct result of the scholarship awards. The University receives the remaining one half or three quarters tuition payment it would not otherwise receive. A reduction in the tuition remission awarded will result in a reduction in tuition revenue for the University.

Law school applications nationally have dropped by more than 40 percent since 2011. Law schools are competing for qualified candidates by freezing, and in some cases, lowering tuition while at the same time sharply increasing scholarship funding as both recruiting and retention strategies.

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In addition, transfer rates have surged nationally over the last three years. Competitive schools are recruiting students they rejected a year before but who have proven their ability to succeed at another law school. Schools do not have to report LSAT scores for transfer students so they do not risk falling in the rankings by admitting transfer students while they benefit from increased tuition revenue. Locally, last year American University Law School admitted 68, George Washington 93 and Georgetown 122 transfer students. It is imperative that UDC's School of law be in a position to provide some scholarship assistance to retain talented students who are likely bar passers, and are sought after by other law schools.

Finally, the School of Law faces an American Bar Association accreditation visit next year, during 2015-16. The ABA will be reviewing the adequacy of funding to provide a sound program of legal education and meet its mission. The School of Law must demonstrate that it has the tools necessary to attract and retain mission-driven students including those from racial, ethnic and other backgrounds traditionally underrepresented at the bar and those who want to pursue meaningful careers in public interest, public service and public policy law. Consistent support through tuition remission is critical to these efforts.