



University of the District of Columbia

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University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law Found in Full Compliance with ABA Accreditation Standards

Washington, D.C. — Washington, D.C. mayor Anthony A. Williams today announced that the American Bar Association (ABA) Council of the Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar accepted the positive recommendation of the Accreditation Committee and voted on Friday, June 17, 2005, to award full accreditation to the School of Law. This achievement was noted concurrently with the word that the University of the District of Columbia was awarded reaffirmed accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Law School Dean Shelley Broderick, joined by University President William L. Pollard and David A. Clarke School of Law Foundation Chair Michael Rauh made the successful two-hour presentation to the Council in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Council's decision is on the agenda for the ABA House of Delegate's approval at its annual meeting in Chicago on August 8-9, 2005. John Sebert, the ABA's Consultant on Legal Education, after expressing his congratulations to Dean Broderick on the "magnificent presentation made by the

team," stated that the formal letter announcing the decision by the Council on Legal Education will be sent within two weeks.

The grant of full American Bar Association accreditation will come at a time of dramatic progress at the School of Law and continued resurgence at the University of the District of Columbia.

Accreditation of the School of Law is the most recent milestone that demonstrates the vitality of the District's public law school. Other indicators include:

- A robust applicant pool, which has risen from 330 in 2000 to 1,360 this year.
- A highly-qualified student population, who enter the Law School with academic credentials that have improved annually since 2000 with the LSAT 75th percentile jumping by 12 points (120 points on the old 200-800 scale) and the 25th percentile by 10 points (100 on the old scale). The entering grade point averages of incoming students have also risen.
- A diverse student population which boasts 53% minority membership, the 6th highest percentage in the nation, and the 5th highest percentage of African American student of any American law school).
- A service-oriented student body and faculty which provided 70,000 hours of legal services last year on behalf of some of the District of Columbia's most vulnerable residents through the School of Law's unique first-year Community Service and Summer Public Interest Fellowship Programs and the Clinical Program in which all students provide 700 hours of legal services as a graduation requirement.
- Graduates who earn salaries at or near the national average with 35% in public interest (national average 3%) or public service (national average 11%) jobs. Fifty percent of graduates work in firms, 10% in business and 5% in judicial clerkships.
- An award-winning faculty whose members continue to win honors and accolades including the Servant of Justice Awards in 2005 and 2004 from the Legal Aid Society; the Annice Wagner "Pioneer" Award from the Bar Association of the District of Columbia; a Carnegie Teaching Fellowship, the Jerrold Scoutt Award for Public Interest Law from the D.C. Bar, the "Star of the Bar" Award from the Women's Bar Association, and the Medal of Excellence from the D.C. Superior Court, all since 2000.
- An innovative program committed to the University's land-grant mission by providing new clinics and projects in the areas of Low-Income Tax Payer Law, Small Business and Immigration. The School of Law is also planning to open a Domestic Violence Clinic during the coming year.
- A state-of-the art, newly renovated and expanded Charles N. and Hilda H.M. Mason Law Library which was dedicated this year with four hundred members of the community on hand including D.C.'s member of Congress; the D.C. Council Chair and most past and present Council member; both chief judges and many other members of the bench; the immediate past, present and president-elect of the D.C. Bar, as well as several past and present presidents of voluntary bars; law firm partners; public interest and civil rights lawyers; and alumni and friends.

The Mayor and the D.C. Council have approved a 9.5% increase to the University's base budget and \$9.7 million capital budget for 2006. Campus-wide facilities enhancements are complete or underway including installation of "smart" classrooms and replacement of all elevators, escalators, restrooms and exterior doors. A campus master plan is expected to be approved by the Board of Trustees next month which includes a new student center and law school building as well as residential and commercial sites.

The accreditation of the University's School of Law comes as the latest in a string of recent accreditation successes for the only public university in the nation's capital. Last summer, the University's program in nursing received accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC). Another health-care related discipline at the University, the Didactic Program in Dietetics (part of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and the University's School of Arts and Sciences), also received notification of certification by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association.

Within days of these notifications, the University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences received notification that Bachelor of Science degree programs in civil engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering have been fully reaccredited, with Associate degree programs in Electronics Engineering and Architectural Engineering Technology also receiving accreditation.

March of 2005 marked other significant accomplishments, as the University's Department of Education received notification that the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) had approved nine University programs for accreditation, the first such national endorsement in the history of the University. The same week, the University's Child Development Center was also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The University of the District of Columbia is the sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University

activities, contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and University Spokesman at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at www.udc.edu.