

**2012-13**

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## **The ABA Solicits Views on Legal Education**

The American Bar Association has been concerned with the impact on law schools of persistent weaknesses in the economy, rapid and substantial changes in the legal profession, and shortcomings in the delivery of legal education.

To address these issues, the leadership of the ABA has commissioned a Task Force on the Future of Legal Education. This nineteen-member body, which includes practitioners, judges, and working academics, is charged with making recommendations to the American Bar Association on how law schools, the ABA, and other groups and organizations can take concrete steps to address compelling issues concerning the economics of legal education and its delivery.

The Task Force is working through two subcommittees. One subcommittee is examining the potential for innovation and improvement in how law schools deliver education. The other subcommittee is examining the economics of legal education and its impact on individual graduates and the profession. The specific questions addressed by these subcommittees can be found on the Task Force web site,

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional\\_responsibility/taskforceonthefuturelegaleducation.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/taskforceonthefuturelegaleducation.html).

Recognizing the gravity of the issues and compelling need for action, the Task Force has accelerated the timetable for completing its work. It aims to produce a report for the ABA to consider in mid- to late fall of 2013 (rather than in spring 2014 as original contemplated).

The Task Force will focus primarily on concrete proposals, rather than on a review of the current situation, since there already exists an abundance of useful analysis that can inform the search for solutions.

The Task Force invites persons and groups interested in its work to submit written comments and suggestions to:

Art Garwin  
Deputy Director  
Center for Professional Responsibility  
American Bar Association  
[art.garwin@americanbar.org](mailto:art.garwin@americanbar.org)

Comments will be posted on the Task Force web site.

The Task Force will also hold hearings and informational sessions. The times and places can also be found on the Task Force web site.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Task Force on the Future of Legal Education and the important issues it is addressing.

Randall T. Shepard  
Chair, Task Force on the  
Future of Legal Education  
and Chief Justice of Indiana (Ret.)