



APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF LAW

March 23, 2014

Professor Paul L. Caron
Pepperdine University School of Law
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263
paul.caron@pepperdine.edu

Dear Professor Caron:

Thank you for taking an interest in Appalachian School of Law, its faculty, and its students. As the only law school located in Central Appalachia, a traditionally under-served region for legal services, we take our mission very seriously. And, we invite you to learn more about the school.

I want to take this opportunity to provide corrected numbers on the changes happening at the Appalachian School of Law that you recently discussed on your blog. I believe that your calculations relied on three numbers that are difficult to predict at this time: the number of total students at the school and in our incoming Fall 2014 class; the student faculty ratio; and the number of faculty members needed to provide a quality legal education to a smaller community of students.

As the attached press release notes, our recruiting extends later into the admissions cycle because our students tend to apply later in the year. Accordingly, we do not yet know the final count of incoming students for Fall 2014.

Next, you used in your calculation an expected student faculty ratio of 15 to 1, but the original press release indicated a target of 12 to 1.

And, the Board is not anticipating a faculty reduction anywhere near 63 percent of current faculty. Instead, our early estimates anticipate a reduction of about 30 percent.

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Unlike several schools faced with similar market realities, Appalachian School of Law did not move to a smaller faculty or ask for faculty salary reductions until this coming year. We continue to focus on the well-being of all the members of our small community, including faculty, staff, prospective students, students, and alumni. Our mission demands this conscientious regard for our community.

Please feel free to contact me for more information. We appreciate your help in getting accurate information to the media.

Very truly yours,

Jackie Pruitt
Director of Admissions

Enclosures