

Recently I was made aware of an incredibly well researched article by Jeffrey Kinsler.<sup>1</sup> The article predicted bar outcomes based on incoming credentials and listed the 15 schools that overperformed their incoming credentials the most and the fifteen schools that underperformed the most on the bar based on incoming credentials.

The article identified the 15 top overperforming schools as

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Top 15 Law Schools for Bar Passage<sup>2</sup></b>
1	BELMONT UNIVERSITY
2	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
3	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
4	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
5	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
6	DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
7	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
8	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
9	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
10	UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
11	REGENT UNIVERSITY
12	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
13	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
14	CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
15	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

And it identified the most underperforming schools as

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Bottom 15 Law Schools for Bar Passage<sup>3</sup></b>
173	TOURO COLLEGE
174	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
175	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
176	ATLANTA'S JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL
177	NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL
178	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-HASTINGS
179	EMORY UNIVERSITY
180	THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL
181	UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO-SUNY
182	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
183	HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
184	SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL
185	GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
186	UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
187	UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

<sup>1</sup> The Best Law Schools for Passing the Bar Exam by Jeffrey Kinsler

<sup>2</sup> Chart is found in the Kinsler article

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

The article suggests reasons for why these schools fall where they do but I thought it would be interesting based on my current research in this area to compare 1L attrition rates for these schools. I very quickly used two on-line sources for the comparison. I used <https://lawschooli.com/law-school-dropout-rates/> to ascertain 1L attrition rates for law schools and [https://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof\\_blog/2018/01/updated-analysis-of-attrition-data-2018.html](https://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2018/01/updated-analysis-of-attrition-data-2018.html) to ascertain the seven-year average national 1L attrition rates for schools in different LSAT ranges. The findings are laid out in the following tables that are modified from the article by Kinsler.

For the top 15 schools the data looks like this and it indicates the average 1L attrition rate for these schools is almost twice as high as the national average rate of 1L attrition for schools with similar LSAT entering credentials.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Top 15 Law Schools for Bar Passage</b>	<b>SCHOOL'S 1L ATTRITION RATE (%)</b>	<b>MEDIAN LSAT BAND</b>	<b>7 YEAR AVERAGE 1L ATTRITION FOR SCHOOLS IN SAME LSAT BAND (%)</b>
1	BELMONT UNIVERSITY	9.82	155-159	4.8
2	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	16.11	155-159	4.8
3	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	20.55	150-154	9
4	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY	11.8	150-154	9
5	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	9.42	155-159	4.8
6	DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY	10.81	155-159	4.8
7	LOUISIANA STATE	5.59	155-159	4.8
8	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY	11.05	155-159	4.8
9	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY	12.95	155-159	4.8
10	UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	8.11	155-159	4.8
11	REGENT UNIVERSITY	12.9	150-154	9
12	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA	4.65	155-159	4.8
13	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY	8.12	155-159	4.8
14	CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY	8.33	150-154	9
15	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA	2.52	155-159	4.8
<b>AVERAGE 1L ATTRITION % COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>		<b>10.18</b>		<b>5.92</b>

For the bottom 15 schools for bar passage the data is as follows:

Rank	Bottom 15 Law Schools for Bar Passage	SCHOOL'S 1L ATTRITION RATE (%)	MEDIAN LSAT BAND	7 YEAR AVERAGE 1L ATTRITION FOR SCHOOLS IN THE SAME LSAT BAND (%)
173	TOURO COLLEGE	14.69	<150	14.8
174	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	1.53	160 +	2
175	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	0	160 +	2
176	ATLANTA'S JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL	19.44	< 150	14.8
177	NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL	13.26	150-154	9
178	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-HASTINGS	3.99	155-159	4.8
179	EMORY UNIVERSITY	2.1	160 +	2
180	THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL	13.97	<150	14.8
181	UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO-SUNY	2.78	150-154	9
182	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	.72	155-159	4.8
183	HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY	6.8	150-154	9
184	SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL	17.27	150-154	9
185	GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY	15.05	150-154	9
186	UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	11.83	<150	14.8
187	UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO	23.78	150-154	9
AVERAGE 1L ATTRITION % COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE		<b>9.814</b>		<b>8.59</b>

For the lower performing schools identified by Kinsler the 1L average attrition rate was very similar to the national 1L average attrition rate. In fact, in 9 out of the 15 schools the 1L attrition rate was lower than the national average for schools in similar LSAT bands. Those schools are identified in yellow in the table above.

Just today, a colleague at another school agreed to help with a more detailed and accurate empirical study on these data and a large well-funded entity with a trove of statisticians today agreed to lend us a helping hand.

The aim will be to scour the actual ABA 509 forms rather than on-line sources and compare not just attrition rates to bar passage performance but to specifically compare academic attrition rates at these law schools to their relative over or under performance on bar passage performance.

As soon as the research is complete, we will share the data.