

Hinko, Dawn

From: Hinko, Dawn
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 10:57 AM
To: Hinko, Dawn
Subject: ALDA Member E-mail/Message from Dean David Van Zandt
Attachments: Statement to Task Force (ALDA) (1-5-07) (final 1-4-07).doc; Task Force Hearing (1-5-07).doc

To: ALDA Deans
From: David E. Van Zandt
Re: ABA Accreditation Task Force Hearing

It was good to see so many of you at our annual meeting on Friday morning, January 5, 2007. Thank you to those who participated. Your Board listened carefully to the concerns expressed at the meeting about the Board's actions with respect to the accreditation standards. On behalf of the Board, I did testify at the hearing of the ABA Task Force on Accreditation the next day and, following the sense of the membership, made clear that the statement was expressly endorsed by the individual members of the ALDA Board (other than Larry Kramer who did not attend our Thursday Board meeting) and not by the membership as a whole. I attach the statement, which was submitted to the Task Force and read verbatim at the hearing.

ABA Accreditation Task Force Hearing (January 5, 2007)

The following is a brief summary of what took place at the hearing:

The hearing was attended by approximately 50 people and all but two of the Task Force members were present (all the dean members were present: Karen Rothenberg, Steven Smith, Kent Syverud, Dick Morgan, and John Jeffries). Bill Rakes also attended. Representing the ALDA Board were Rick Matasar, Trish White, Kate Bartlett, and myself.

Pauline Schneider started the hearing by summarizing the questions raised in the Task Force's December 12 memorandum.

I went first and began, as promised, with a statement that I was representing my own views as well as the views of the members of the ALDA Board (except for Larry Kramer, who had not been present at our Thursday board meeting). I also stated that the statement did not reflect the views of all ALDA members, and in fact there were certainly some ALDA members who did not agree with parts or all of it. I then read the attached statement that had been approved on Thursday by the ALDA Board.

Paula Williams, the president of the Clinical Legal Education Association, spoke next and focused on Standard 405(c). She thought the Accreditation Committee's interpretation was incorrect in the St. Louis and Northwestern cases, and stated that CLEA would petition the Committee and the Council to reverse the interpretation.

A series of other speakers followed including three deans, Joe Harbaugh, Rick Matasar, and Leonard Strickman. My rough notes of what was said are attached. Throughout the hearing, the members of the panel were silent except for a question from Randy Hertz to Professor Tom Perez on what types of output measures other accrediting agencies have used and a question from Kent Syverud to Dean Leonard Strickman (that I do not remember and my notes do not reflect).

Overall, the Task Force gave little indication of its thinking.

At the hearing and in its written statement, the Board offered to assist the Task Force by collecting descriptions of and comments on issues that our member deans have encountered with the Standards and in the accreditation process. **If you have such an issue that you believe would assist the Task Force in making recommendations to improve the Standards and processes, the Board asks that you either e-mail it to me or send it directly to the Task Force.** I will collect the comments I receive and forward them all to the Task Force on behalf of the Board.

The Board also welcomes any feedback on the position we have taken.

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