Envisioning a more collaborative educational model

Legal education finds itself at the proverbial crossroads. Over the past decade, the decreased number of law school enrollments, disillusioned students, less than inspiring job prospects, and persistent employer concerns about the preparedness of today’s law school graduates all combine to underscore an existential crisis facing our legal system: From where will the next generation of legal practitioners arise?

This timely forum, helmed by leading voices from the academic, corporate, and law firm sectors, offers an earnest examination of short- and long-term strategies for effecting sustainable educational reform. Concerned less about how we got to this point than where we go from here, The Future of Law Schools brings together the legal ecosystem’s primary players in order to underscore the profound need for change.

November 2, 2017
Georgetown University Hotel & Conference Center
3800 Reservoir Road NW
Washington, DC 20057
202-687-3200

Co-chairs

Allison Friend
Chief Human Resources Officer – Americas
Hogan Lovells US LLP

William D. Henderson
Professor of Law & Val Nolan Faculty Fellow
Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Keynote Speaker

James J. Sandman
President, Legal Services Corporation

PRICING

Nonstudent rate: $495 USD
Student rate: $25 USD

* Group rate available for $249/night plus taxes. Please call Georgetown University Hotel & Conference Center at 202-687-3200 and reference “Thomson Reuters, The Future of Law Schools.” Rooms are subject to availability.

For questions about this event, please call 1-800-308-1700. Visit LegalExecutiveInstitute.com/events for additional information.
The appeal of a legal education, so conventional wisdom holds, is a lifetime of stable employment, a generous salary, and the ability to "make a difference" in society. For years, this competing narrative attracted some of the most inquisitive minds around, allowing law schools to steadily raise tuition and maintain a successful business operating model built upon rankings and prestige. Yet recent history is any indication, pervasive student dissatisfaction, tepid job prospects, and a precipitous decline in law school applications—even at some of the nation’s most storied programs—underscores a sobering question facing employers and the legal system: From where will the next generation of lawyers arise? In this opening discussion, a diverse panel of distinguished professionals offers a pointed yet hopeful take on the current and future states of legal education.

MODERATOR:
Christina L. Martin, National Hiring Partner—Associate Recruiting and Chair, Chicago Intellectual Property Practice, DLA Piper

PANELISTS:
Mark C. Alexander, Arthur J. Kania Dean and Professor of Law, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law
Danielle R. Holley-Walker, Dean and Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law
Laura Rosenbury, Dean and Levin, Mabie & Levin Professor of Law, University of Florida Fredric C. Levin College of Law
The Honorable Deannell Reece Tacha, former Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean and Professor of Law, Pepperdine Law School

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Morning break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Training the 21st Century Lawyer: Envisioning a Public-Private Alliance
Although traditional academic curricula are intended to help law students identify problems in the surrounding world, the impinging forces of globalization, scientific advancement, and geopolitical tumult have underscored a profound disconnect between business needs in the current economy and the preparedness of today's law school graduates. Training to become a successful lawyer in the 21st century requires a far more diverse, less theoretical apprenticeship designed to accelerate and maintain a successful business operating model built upon rankings and prestige. Yet recent history is any indication, pervasive student dissatisfaction, tepid job prospects, and a precipitous decline in law school applications—underscores a sobering question facing employers and the legal system: From where will the next generation of lawyers arise? In this opening discussion, a diverse panel of distinguished professionals offers a pointed yet hopeful take on the current and future states of legal education.

MODERATOR:
Katie Walter, Director of Marketing, Government and Academic, Thomson Reuters Legal

PANELISTS:
Alice Armitage, Associate Professor and Director, Startup Legal Garage, Institute for Innovation Law, UC Hastings College of the Law
Dr. Heather Bock, Global Chief Learning Officer, Hogan Lovells; Executive Director, Center for the Study of the Legal Profession; and Visiting Professor, Georgetown University Law Center
William H. Byrnes, Executive Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Special Projects, Texas A&M University School of Law
Tim Henderson, Chief Recruitment and Professional Development Officer, Fitznegan, Henderson, Farbro, Garret & Dunner, LLP
Theodore Ruge, Dean & Bernard C.Segal Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Keynote luncheon
A Call to Action: The Role of Law Schools in Access to Justice
One of the legal profession's greatest tragedies is the ongoing inability of low-income people to seek legal representation or support. Indeed, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, 80% of low-income families fall victim to the so-called "justice gap," thus resulting in widespread financial and emotional losses felt in local communities and beyond. As shepherds of the next generation, law schools play a critical role in alleviating this alarming predicament. Please join us as James J. Sandman of Legal Services Corporation explains how to truly effect meaningful change.

PRESENTER:
James J. Sandman, President, Legal Services Corporation

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Brave New World: Advancing Educational Reform Around Legal Technology
Legal technology's transformative qualities cannot be understated. As many legal clients continue to think globally when it comes to running a successful business, customer expectations around more efficient, cost-effective legal service have yielded a veritable sea change in the legal marketplace, favoring lawyers with technological acumen. Expanding upon arguments in the preceding panel, this conversation offers a comprehensives take on where formal education around emergent technology fits within law school curricula. Our panel will ponder how to best prepare the next generation of lawyers for the myriad challenges ahead.

MODERATOR:
Gabriel H. Teninbaum, Daniel B. Rodriguez, William M. Treanor

PANELISTS:
David Curle, Director, Market Intelligence, Thomson Reuters Legal
Joseph Harroz, Jr., Dean of the College of Law; Director of the Law Center, Vice President of the University of Oklahoma, and Felson Boesche Chair of Law, Professor of Law, The University of Oklahoma College of Law
Daniel R. Rodriguez, Dean & Harold Washington Professor; Senior Distinguished Fellow, Santa Clara Center on Law, Regulation, and Economic Growth, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Gabriel H. Teninbaum, Professor of Legal Writing, Director of the Institute on Law Practice Technology & Innovation, and Director of the Law Practice Technology Concentration, Suffolk University Law School
William M. Treanor, Executive Vice President, Dean and Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

2:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Law schools can learn much from the hiring practices of corporate legal departments and law firms. Perceived university prestige when hiring recent law school graduates or experienced practitioners is but one of several important criteria prospective employers look for in an ideal candidate. What truly matters when hiring an (in)experienced lawyer? What is the market perception of graduates from regional, national, or foreign universities in an era of fierce competition?

MODERATOR:
William D. Henderson, Professor of Law and Val Nolan Faculty Fellow, Indiana University Maurer School of Law

PANELISTS:
Jeremy Bloom, Senior Vice President, The NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education
David Cambria, Global Director of Operations – Law, Compliance and Government Relations, Archer Daniels Midland Company
Ari A. Katz, Chief Recruiting Officer, Wormble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP
Kay Nash, Chief Talent Officer, Wiley Rein LLP
Natasha Zech, Director of Attorney Recruiting, Diversity and Development, Williams & Connolly LLP

4:00 p.m.
Closing remarks and reception