October 9, 2013

Dr. Neal J. Smatresk  
President  
University of Nevada-Las Vegas  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway  
Box 1001  
Las Vegas, NV 89154

Dean Daniel W. Hamilton  
University of Nevada-Las Vegas  
William S. Boyd School of Law  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway  
Box 451003  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1003

Dear President Smatresk and Dean Hamilton:

Attached please find the decision of the Accreditation Committee at its meeting on September 19-21, 2013, with respect to the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law.

The Committee's Findings and Conclusions do not reflect a comprehensive checklist evaluation of each Standard and each facet of the institution. Indeed, this letter focuses, by the very nature of the process, essentially on concerns or possible aspects of non-compliance identified in the site evaluation report of the School or arising out of submissions or questionnaire answers by the School. Because the general impressions of different site teams are inherently noncomparable, the Accreditation Committee does not attempt to summarize all the information that could be gleaned from a site evaluation report, and recipients of this letter are encouraged, therefore, to consult the full site evaluation report for collegial advice and general impressions of the team. The site evaluation team does not make the official findings or conclusions for the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association. These are made by the Accreditation Committee and the Council of the Section.

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education regulations applicable to recognized accrediting agencies, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is required to conduct interim monitoring of each ABA-approved law school to determine whether each school remains in compliance with the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools. This monitoring and review is in addition to the regular site evaluation process and is being conducted on an annual basis. The School may receive in any year a request for information as a result of the interim monitoring.
A law school that is approved by the American Bar Association continues in that status pending final action by the Accreditation Committee and Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

Please feel free to call me, Deputy Consultant Scott Norberg, or Executive Assistant Cathy A. Schrage if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Barry A. Currier
Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education

BAC/cs
Attachment
DECISION OF THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
September 2013

The Accreditation Committee (the “Committee”), at its September 19-21, 2013 meeting, considered the status of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law (the “Law School”) in connection with a letter and supporting documentation dated July 25, 2013, from President Neal J. Smatresk and Interim Dean Nancy B. Rapoport, submitted in response to the Committee’s April 2013 Decision Letter. The Committee also had before it the history of decisions made with respect to the Law School since its last regular site evaluation; the history is attached to this document as an appendix.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

(1) At its April 2013 meeting, the Committee considered the status of the Law School in connection with its regular site evaluation conducted October 14-17, 2012. The Committee concluded, in accordance with Rule 13(a), that the Law School had failed to demonstrate that it is in compliance with the Standards in the following respects:

(a) Standard 305(e)(2)-(5) and (7), with regard to whether Law School administrators can confirm in writing that compliance as described in the Self Study have actually been met in practice.

(b) Standard 504(a), with respect to the requirement that a law school shall advise each applicant that there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar and encourages the applicant, prior to matriculation, to determine what those requirements are in the state(s) in which the applicant intends to practice.

(2) In addition, the Committee concluded that it had insufficient information to make a determination as to the Law School’s compliance with Standard 301(b) and Interpretation 301-4, with regard to whether students in the part-time division have reasonably comparable opportunities to benefit from regular interaction with full-time faculty.

Issue of Compliance with Standard 305(e)(2)-(5) and (7)

(3) A new program director assumed the supervision of the extern program several years ago. Record keeping prior to her taking over made it difficult to determine whether the Law School was in compliance with the Standards. Supervision of the externship program has improved. The Law School reports that externship guidelines provide that a faculty supervisor may supervise up to 35 students. Upon suggestion by the director, the School will reduce this ratio to 1:20 or 1:25.

(4) The syllabus has been revised to make the objectives and course requirements more explicit, a self-assessment tool for students to use for goal
setting and evaluating their own progress has been developed, mid-summer evaluation meetings are held and the Field Supervisor evaluations have been given a new priority. For the spring 2013 semester, 27 of 56 placements have turned in their evaluations and a reminder has been sent to those who have not yet submitted evaluations. The new program director has established open lines of communications with field placement supervisors and continues efforts to meet individually with each one. The director has also developed a series of regular correspondence with field supervisors. A site visit is made to each field placement.

(5) Law students’ weekly journal entries are now reviewed and commented on. Regular seminar meetings-weekly for the first part of the semester and every other week for the second half of the semester have been implemented. The new director meets mid-semester with each individual.

**Issue of Compliance with Standard 504(a)**

(6) The Law School, on its website, provides information to prospective students pertaining to character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar and encourages the applicant, prior to matriculation, to determine what those requirements are in the state(s) in which the applicant intends to practice. The Law School discusses character and fitness issues at orientation for each entering class, and sends each admitted student an email with information about character and fitness.

**Request for Additional Information to Determine Compliance with Standard 301(b) and Interpretation 301-4**

(7) Full-time faculty members have consistently taught both full-time and part-time students at comparable percentages. Part-time students also have access to full-time faculty outside of the classroom. They regularly serve on moot court teams coached by full-time faculty.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

(1) Based upon the information provided by the Law School, the Committee concludes that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law has demonstrated that it is compliance with Standards 305(e)(2)-(5) and (7) and Standard 504(a). Accordingly, the Rule 13(a) proceeding previously issued with respect to these matters is terminated. [See Findings of Fact (3)-(6).]

(2) Based upon the information provided by the Law School, the Committee concludes that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law has demonstrated that it is compliance with Standard 301(b) and Interpretation 301-4. [See Finding of Fact (7).]
The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law remains on the list of law schools approved by the American Bar Association.