Title: Boise & Morriss: The Shameful Truth Is That Many Law Schools Have Admitted Students with Low LSAT Scores to Prop up Tuition Revenue and Now Seek to Avoid Accountability for the Ensuing Poor Bar Passage Results

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Link: <http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2016/12/boise-morrissthe-shameful-truth-is-that-many-law-schools-have-admitted-students-with-low-lsat-scores.html>

Date Published: December 19, 2016

Synopsis: Deans Boise and Morriss of Syracuse and Texas A&M write in response to Indiana University Dean Austen Parrish’s op-ed criticizing the new, higher bar passage standard approved by the ABA. They say that, contrary to Parrish’s beliefs, it is a law school’s duty to prepare students for a profession in law *and* the bar exam… not just a profession in law. They outline why they believe the bar standard should be raised and why Parrish’s criticisms are baseless.

Talking Points:

* Claims: “The ABA would be failing miserably in its duty as the accreditor of the nation's law schools if it adapted its standards to ensure their survival rather than the success of law students.”
* Dean Parrish argues that the bar exam is too esoteric and insufficiently practical. Boise and Morriss believe “this would come as a surprise to the majority of law school faculty, who often resist "teaching to the exam" because they see it as overly oriented toward practice and not sufficiently focused on legal theory.”
* Dean Parrish asserts that if law schools are held to a higher bar passage standard, they will admit fewer students of color with lower LSAT scores.
  + Boise and Morriss say that, first, this is at odds with Standard 206, which requires law schools to demonstrate by concrete action a commitment to having a student body that is diverse with respect to gender, race, and ethnicity.
  + Also, the argument suggests that the only students admitted with lower LSAT scores are students of color.
* Boise and Morriss claim: “many law schools have admitted students with ever-lower LSAT scores—of all races and ethnicities—to prop up tuition revenue. They now seek to avoid accountability for the resulting poor bar passage results.”