Title: Arizona Summit’s Epic Challenger

Author: Mike Stetz

Link: <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cypress/nationaljurist_2017winter/?utm_medium=email&sslid=MzQ0MDE2tjA0MTU2BAA&sseid=MzE0MLKwNDQ1BQA&jobid=ac85b720-4b14-48e3-8f14-a6d113d3ab42#/12>

Date Published: January 12, 2017

Synopsis: Arizona Summit Law is one of the most diverse law schools in the nation, but it has one of the worst bar exam passage rates. While this school claims it is committed to diversification and is suffering because of it, others claim they are financially motivated and exploitative.

Talking Points:

* Less than 25% of the Class of 2016 passed. Its decline has been dramatic, as eight years ago, it had a passage rate of 96.7%, and by 2013, it had a passage rate of 67.7%.
* It is part of the Infilaw System, which also houses the troubled Charlotte School of Law. These schools have been taking more at-risk students, with Arizona Summit’s median falling from 151 in 2009 to 144 in 2014.
* Of the four schools with lower median LSAT scores, two are historically Black colleges
* Arizona Summit claims that its college is facing similar obstacles to those facing other HBCU’s, but according to the National Jurist, Arizona Summit’s passage rate should have been 58% in 2016, instead of 25%
* Only 12% of African-Americans receive an LSAT score of 153, which is the median for white testers.
* “If not for schools like Arizona Summit,” the school’s president claims, “people of color would be shut out of law school. If fulfilling our mission of diversifying the legal profession in Arizona and elsewhere requires an extra semester of support for some students -- at no additional tuition or fees and with significant support and investment from Arizona Summit -- then so be it.”
* Kyle Mcentee, founder of the watchdog group Law School Transparency, says “they do not diversify the profession when they enroll students who do not pass the bar exam.” Mcentee notes that Arizona Summit’s tuition is $45,354 -- about $20,000 more than the law schools at Arizona State and the University of Arizona
* 75 to 80 percent of Arizona Summit’s students do eventually pass the bar exam, and the default rate is 1.2, meaning students are paying off their debts.
* 15 % of Arizona Summit’s students - often top of their classes - transfer to the higher ranking Arizona State University