Title: UWT delays launch of new law school

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Synopsis: Leaders at University of Washington Tacoma have postponed a proposal to create a law school, citing strong competition from existing schools for the region’s available law students. The university will focus its immediate plans on building undergraduate pre-law programs

Talking Points:

* The move is the latest twist in a long-running debate over returning a law school to Tacoma, which has been without one since the University of Puget Sound sold its law school to Seattle University in 1993.
* The feasibility study was commissioned in early 2016 to gauge how UWT could succeed in building a law school that would be separately accredited from the one at the University of Washington’s Seattle campus. A civic campaign collected nearly $2.5 million in pledges toward starting a UWT law school.
* UWT Chancellor Mark Pagano cites a study showing: “There is demand in the future. We’re right now not to that point where it would be in the best interest of everybody to take that major step forward.”
* The feasibility study was commissioned in early 2016 to gauge how UWT could succeed in building a law school that would be separately accredited from the one at the University of Washington’s Seattle campus. It showed job availability for 69 new attorneys per year, and a civic campaign collected nearly $2.5 million in pledges toward starting a UWT law school.
* The university wants to establish a pipeline of law students before it seeks state lawmakers’ help.