THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

REMOVING STIGMA FROM MANDATORY ACADEMIC SUPPORT COUNSELING AND COURSES
INTRODUCTIONS

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EXERCISE #1
HISTORY OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT
THE EVOLUTION OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- **1960s**
  - 1st admission programs for minorities (non-minority students asserted minorities admitted on less demanding standards)
  - Harvard University Law School launches summer law program (HBCUs)
  - ABA spearheads development of CLEO
  - Inception of affirmative action programs

- **1970s**
  - *University of California v. Bakke*, Supreme Court (race admission factor)

- **1980s**
  - Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) develops Access 2000 (emergence of academic support conferences)
  - LSAC Committee on Minority Affairs promoted and helped developed ASP programs across the country
THE EVOLUTION OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- **1990s**
  - LSAC hosted a five-day *Academic Assistance Training Workshop* at the University of Colorado School of Law in Boulder, CO
  - CLEO loses all federal funding for summer institutes and student stipends
  - AALS creates a section on academic support
  - *Hopwood v. Texas* (first successful legal challenge to affirmative action)
  - Congress passes Higher Education Amendment Act (HEAA), included funding for CLEO
  - CLEO rebranded Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program

- **2000s-Present**
  - *Grutter v. Bollinger* (diversity is a legal rationale for affirmative action)
  - *Fisher v. Texas* (race-conscious admissions lawful under the equal protection clause)
  - Legal profession experiencing seismic declines in bar passage rates across the U.S.
  - Law schools placing heightened focus on ASP programming
ACADEMIC SUPPORT TODAY

- Likely educated during height of No Child Left Behind era
- Undergraduate experience likely consisted of lectures without engagement
- May equate academic preparedness with rote memorization
- May lack wide-ranging analytical skills and/or problem solving experience
- May have heightened engagement and learning with technology
- Suggested programming for today’s ASP student should address all or some of the following:
  - legal application practice
  - structure of exam-writing
  - multiple-choice
INDICATORS OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

**Academic**
- LSAT
- UGPA/College Major

**Non-academic**
- Persistence
- Self-efficacy/Mindset
PROPOSED PRACTICES FOR REMOVING STIGMA
REMOVING STIGMA

- Educate and inform
- Understand and be a part of the culture
- Be aware of your attitudes and behavior
- Positive messaging
- Include everyone

- OctoBAR/pedagogy workshops
- Committee work
- Own and correct missteps
- Town hall meetings/student outreach
- Alumni bar mentoring
REBRANDING ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Foster a sense of community.
- Develop a supportive environment for students.
- Provide faculty with planning support and resources to foster academic and bar exam success.
- Support every students’ academic achievement from matriculation through graduation and beyond.
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

IDEAL PERIODS FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT
IDEAL PERIODS FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- **Before law school**
  - Pipeline programs
  - Pre-orientation
  - Orientation

- **During law school**
  - Academic skills and bar advising
  - Academic skills workshops/foundations course(s)
  - Bar skills classes 2L and 3L year

- **After law school**
  - Supplemental bar prep workshops
  - Bar advising (first time and repeat takers)
  - Alumni bar mentoring
What are we missing?  

How do we measure?
THANK YOU!

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