

# Is it Time to Self-Regulate?

## Devising More Formal Standards and Guidelines in Post-Graduate Legal Education

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# **SURVEY RESULTS**

- 76% of survey respondents think there are sufficient or mostly sufficient standards or guidelines for admissions requirements related to academic credentials
- 68% of survey respondents think there is sufficient or mostly sufficient standards or guidelines for requirements around language proficiency
- 68% of survey respondents think there are sufficient or mostly sufficient standards or guidelines regarding degree equivalency
- 68% think there are sufficient or mostly sufficient standards or guidelines regarding years of practice/professional experience
- 44% of respondents think that there are sufficient standards or guidelines regarding conditional admission

# Who is providing standards and guidelines now?

- ABA
- Middle States
- New York State Education Department
- New York State Board of Law Examiners

# Conditional Admission or Alternative Pathways to Admission

- Language Proficiency
- Academic Performance
- Gap between when student earned first degree/last practiced law and when they are returning to school for the LL.M. degree

# Language Proficiency

- ESL Programs
- Two Year LL.M. Programs
- Alternatives to the TOEFL/IELTS Requirements
- Waiving Language Requirements

# English Language Institute

- Full-time, intensive English language program
- Low cost relative to Law School or University tuition
- Offered in Manhattan and Queens
- Not a law-related program/curriculum
- Close relationship between the Director of Legal English Programs at the Law School and the ELI leadership

# Two Year LL.M. Programs

- 4 courses each semester, beginning in August or January
- Students may complete the Legal English portion of the program in one or two semesters, depending on their Legal English proficiency when they matriculate
- Program is run by our Director of Legal English Programs who teaches some of the courses along with adjunct faculty members
- Applicants can apply directly to the two year program, or may be diverted to the program if they do not have the language proficiency to enroll directly in the one year program
- Students are admitted to both the Legal English and LL.M. programs at the same time, so there is no further review of their application to continue into the LL.M.



# Language Assessments

- TOEFL
- IELTS
- In-House Language Assessments
  - Video Interview
  - Reading Comprehension Assessment
  - Listening Comprehension Assessment
  - Spoken English Assessment
  - Timed Writing Assessment

# Ramp On for Students Returning to Legal Education After a Significant Gap in Legal Education or Legal Practice

- For students who have not studied or practiced law in a significant number of years
- Typically turns a program that could be completed in two semesters into a program that is completed in three semesters
- First semester student is enrolled in fewer credits, usually three classes—Legal Writing I, Introduction to US Law and Lawyering, and an elective course.
- Enables Students to spend more time reacclimating to law school and adjusting to the rigors of an LL.M. program

# Questions?