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NNABA MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY ON LAW SCHOOL ACCREDITATION
STANDARD

On February 7, 2014, the Standards Review Committee (SRC) of the American Bar Association Council (Council) of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar agreed to recommend to the Council that the existing accreditation standard regarding bar passage rate remain unchanged.

The National Native American Bar Association (NNABA) praised the SRC for stepping away from a proposal that would require law schools to prove that every graduating class achieve an ultimate pass rate of 80 percent. Said proposal would have had a disparate impact on law schools that admit larger numbers of African American, Native American, Hispanic, and Asian students.

NNABA, along with the Congressional Black, Hispanic, Asian Pacific American, and Progressive Caucuses, the National Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, had opposed changes to the current standard.

Across the country, overall pass rates vary widely by jurisdiction and range in the low to middle 70's. The current accreditation standard of 75 percent has been in effect since 2008 and is accepted by the U.S. Department of Education. Currently, law schools must demonstrate that three out of five graduating classes meet the 75% mark or graduates from the school average 75%. The SRC has proposed that law schools must show that every graduating class achieved an ultimate pass rate of 75% without exception, regardless of the pass rates in the jurisdictions where the school's graduates sit for the exam.

View the National Native American Bar Association resolution at <http://www.nativeamericanbar.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/2013-07-01-final-NNABA-Accreditation-Resolution.pdf>.

Sincerely,

Mary Smith

Mary Smith
NNABA President, 2013-2015

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