

STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESENTATION AUG
27/2013
LAW STUDENTS' CONCERNS

OVERVIEW

- **General issues facing Law students across the Country**
- **Enrolment/Tuition/Job Prospects**
- **Student Concerns/Other**
- **Where to now?**



DEFINITIONS

Common Law Degree (J.D. or L.L.B)- The accredited degree which allows individuals to practice law in jurisdictions with a common law legal system

Civil Law Degree (B.C.L.)- The accredited degree which allows individuals to practice law in jurisdictions with a civil law legal system

Articling- In Canada, before someone can be accredited, they have to complete a 'training year' or a 'paid internship'. Once this year is complete, they can take their bar exam to become a member of a provinces law society



GENERAL ISSUES FACING LAW STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Snapshot of the Canadian Legal Job Market

Year*	Canadian Citizens per Lawyer
2000	449
2005	419
2010	396

**** In 2010, the current ratio in the United States was 1 lawyer for every 256 citizens**

*CBA Legal Futures Initiative- Demographic Trends citing Federation of Law Societies of Canada. *2000 Law Societies Statistics; 2005 Law Societies Statistics; 2010 Statistical Report*, online: Federation of Law Societies of Canada. <<http://www.flsc.ca>>. [FLSC 2000, 2005, 2010].; Statistics Canada. *Population, urban and rural, by province and territory (Canada)*, online: Statistics Canada <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca>>.

**CBA Legal Futures Initiative- Demographic Trends citing American Bar Association. *Total Licensed Lawyers 2010*, online: American Bar Association <<http://www.americanbar.org>>; United States Census Bureau. *Population Change for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2000 to 2010*, online: United States Census Bureau <<http://www.census.gov>>.

“Some disgruntled lawyers are suing their alma maters for exaggerating employment prospects. That seems fitting for a litigious lot with buyers’ remorse over a \$120,000 (U.S.) education.”

Jobless grads are suing U.S. law schools*

“[I]n an interesting twist, thousands of lawyers now find themselves drowning in the unemployment line as the legal sector is being badly saturated with attorneys.”

No more room at the bench**

“Less than 65 percent of law school graduates hold positions requiring a legal degree, down from nearly 75 percent four years ago”

Unemployed lawyers sue schools over promises of jobs**

* 2012 The Globe and Mail March 18 by Reynolds Holding

** 2010 LA Times Jan 08 by Mark Greenbaum

*** 2012 The Washington Times June 17 by Ben Wolfgang

ARTICLING CRISIS IN ONTARIO

In 2008, 5.8% of students in Ontario were without articling placements*

In 2012, 12.1% of students in Ontario were without articling placements

In 2013, 15.5% of students in Ontario were without articling placements

“Part of the problem is that enrollment at Ontario’s six law schools rose by a combined total of 15.5 per cent between 2001 and 2011, but the number of articling positions at law firms has remained largely static.” **

“New alternative to traditional articling requirement approved

November 22, 2012

Convocation approved a three-year pilot project on November 22, 2012, that will allow lawyer licensing candidates to either article or complete a Law Practice Program (LPP), starting in the 2014-15 licensing year.

...

Under the pilot project, candidates may either complete the traditional 10-month articling term with enhanced documentation, or an approximately four-month long LPP, which will also include an additional four-month co-operative work placement.” **

*National (Canadian Bar Association’s Magazine)
Students 2012 Carol Neshevich [CBA Article] citing Law
Society of Upper Canada Articling Task Force

** CBA Article *Ibid.*

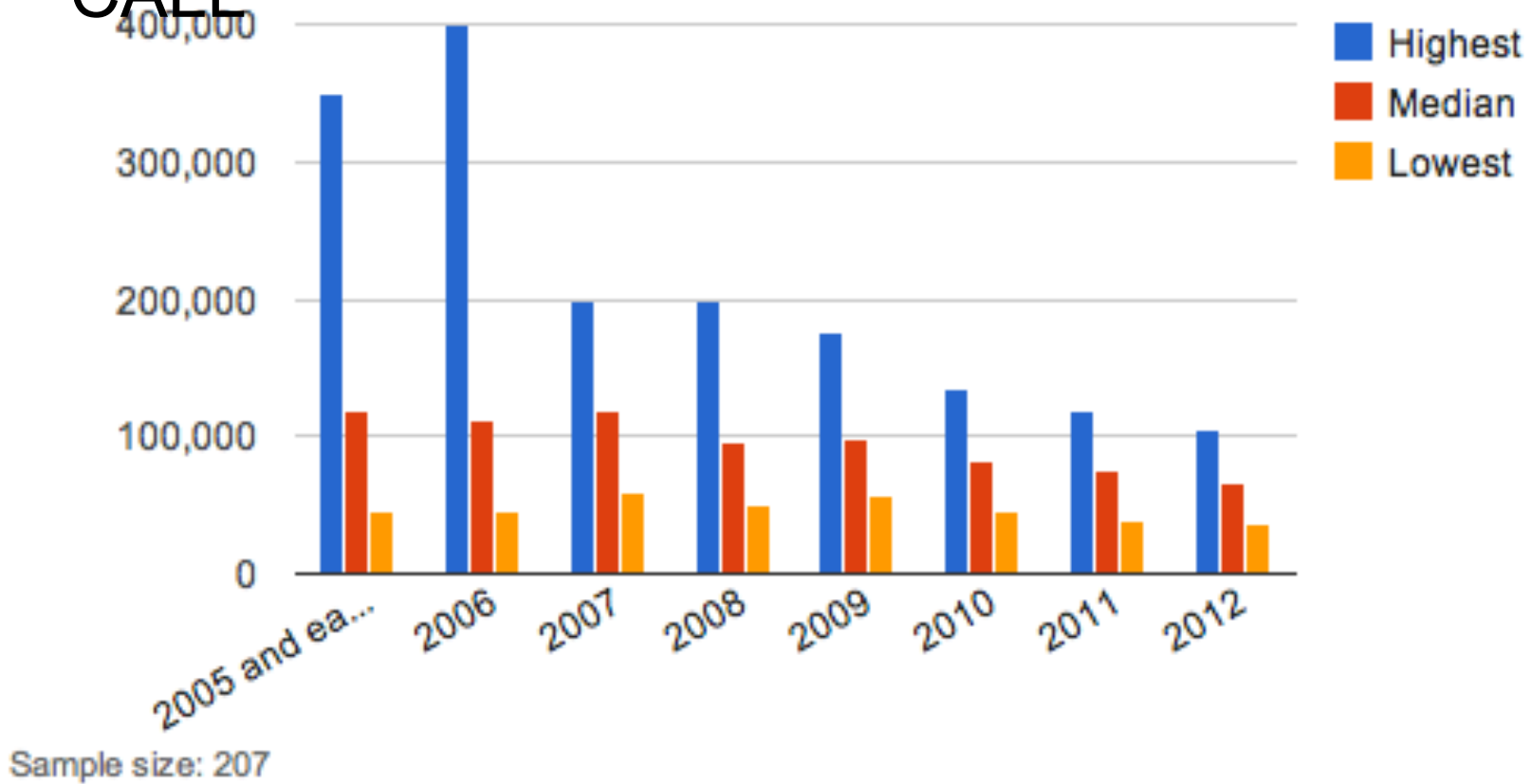
*** Law Society of Upper Canada

NATIONAL MOBILITY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION*

- In 2002 the Federation of Law Societies of Canada approved a National Mobility agreement between the 10 provincial jurisdictions making it easier than ever for lawyers to practice in other provinces both temporarily and permanently
- In 2010 the National Mobility agreement was extended to include the Barreau du Québec
- In 2011 this National Mobility agreement was extended to include the three territories
- In 2012 the National Mobility agreement was extended to include the Chambre des notaires du Québec
- Full National mobility is very much a reality now

*Federation of Law Societies of Canada <www.flsc.ca>

COMPENSATION BASED ON YEAR OF CALL*



*Canadian Lawyer's 2013 Compensation Survey

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LAW STUDENTS

Current Student Placement Rates*

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of graduating students	167	171	168
Number of students for whom we have placement information	166	160	164
% of students that we know have jobs or are pursuing graduate studies	95%	94%	92%
% of students for whom we have information who have jobs or are pursuing graduate studies	95%	97%	94%

*Faculty of Law Career Services

ENROLMENT/TUITION/JOB PROSPECTS

Three things you need to know:

- 1. This inquiry into the potential of a tuition increase is not entirely a response to the budget cuts**
- 2. This is currently a student driven fact-finding exercise**
- 3. This is not an endorsement of an increase in other students' tuition rates**



SPECIFIC COSTS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LAW STUDENTS

Type of Fees	Price
Law Faculty Fee	\$50.00
Tuition Undergraduate	\$2,634.60
Law(LLB) Program Diff Fee	\$2,250.30



SPECIFIC COSTS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LAW STUDENTS

Total Cost of First year Law	\$11,548.40
Total Cost of Second and Third year Law	\$11,226.15

First Year Tuition

Total Cost of Courses	\$5620.48
Differential Fee Cost	\$4500.60
Total Tuition Cost	\$10,121.08

Second and Third Year Tuition

Total Cost of Courses	\$5269.20
Differential Fee Cost	\$4500.60
Total Tuition Cost	\$9,769.80



STUDENT CONCERNS/OTHER

- **Increased class sizes**
 - **Increase in enrolment leads to diminished availability of professors**
 - **Increase in enrolment leads to further strain on already strained career services**
- **Reduction in professors**
- **Reduction in course offerings**
- **John A. Weir Memorial Law Library closed throughout the summer months**
- **Reduction in Scholarships**



HOW HAVE WE ENGAGED OUR STUDENT BODY/EXAMINED THESE BUDGETARY CONCERNS

- March 21st–22nd, 326/538 (60.6%) of law students voted for the current executive team**
- Organized a town hall for our student body April 11th, 2013**
 - Invited members of the Students' Union to attend this townhall**
 - Colten, Petros, and other members of the Students' Union were kind enough to join us**
- Reached out numerous stakeholders in the legal community**
- Engaged in substantive talks with Faculty administration**



**Where to
now?**



DIFFERENTIAL TUITION

Financing formula for differential tuition is:

-60% of the revenue goes to the Faculty for operating expenses;

-20% of the revenue goes to student support/scholarships/bursaries; and

-20% goes towards central administration



POST-SECONDARY LEARNING ACT*

7. An Association shall not advocate on issues in contradiction to Students' Union political policy, unless they have first presented to and received approval from Students' Council. **

XXI. TUITION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will not support the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta increasing tuition. ***

*Post-Secondary Learning Act, RSA 2003, c P-19.5

** Bylaw 8100- A Bylaw Respecting Faculty Associations and Campus Associations

*** Students' Union Political Policies

POST-SECONDARY LEARNING ACT

- **Post-Secondary Learning Act**
 - **Corresponding regulation, *Alberta Public Post-Secondary Institutions' Fees Regulation****
 - **An increase in a program's tuition has to first be approved by the Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education**

• Alta Reg 273/2006

POST-SECONDARY LEARNING ACT

Market modification for tuition fees for specific programs

- 5.1 (2) In addition to any increase in average tuition fees in accordance with section 5(2), a board of an institution may request in writing in a form and at times determined by the Minister that the Minister approve an increase in tuition fees in respect of a specific program of study for the purpose of establishing a market modification in respect of that program of study.
- (3) For the purpose of achieving the market modification referred to in subsection (2), the Minister may by order
- (a) approve an increase in tuition fees for that specified program of study in the amount and for the period of time that the Minister considers appropriate,
 - (b) specify to which students the increase in tuition fees applies, and
 - (c) specify any other terms and conditions applicable to the increase in tuition fees that the Minister considers appropriate.



BYLAW 8400-A BYLAW RESPECTING THE STUDENTS' UNION FACULTY MEMBERSHIP FEES*

Short Title

1.This Bylaw may be referred to as the "Faculty Membership Fees" Bylaw.

Purpose

2.The purpose of a “Faculty Student Fund” is to provide financial support for the improvement of teaching and learning in a Faculty. Student contributions are collected and used to fund projects which enhance the quality of undergraduate education in the Faculty.



MITIGATION OF CUTS



WHICH OPTION DO WE CHOOSE

- Continue to engage relevant stakeholders from the legal community
- Formally meet with Kevin Stenner, President of the University of Calgary's Society of Law Students
- Another possible town hall
- Get a formal proposal from the Faculty about how the money will be spent
(If we decide to go with a tuition increase)
- Possibly have a plebiscite to get a better understanding of what our student body wants us to do

