

4-1-2015

Top UB Students Offered LSAT-Free Admission for 2015

UB Law Forum

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Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (2015) "Top UB Students Offered LSAT-Free Admission for 2015," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 29 : No. 2 , Article 6.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol29/iss2/6

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we are in any given year fundamentally the same institution we were the year before. I can't imagine how anyone could trust a system that shuffles schools around to that degree.

How could philanthropy affect our rankings?

Philanthropic decisions shouldn't be driven by a desire to improve rankings; that plays directly into the intrinsic weakness of the rankings as an indicator of institutional quality. Instead, the purpose of philanthropy should be to support and improve the institution, its students and its programs. If doing so happens to improve our ranking, then so much the better. That said, one way to contribute that could have a positive effect on rankings is to provide support for student scholarships that will allow us to compete with other schools for the very best students.

Please describe your scholarly work.

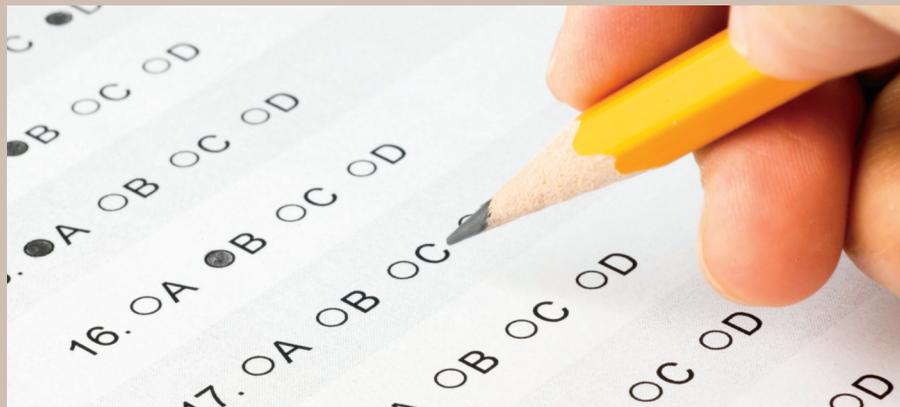
My work falls into two areas. First, I work in the area of law and democracy, examining how law structures and regulates democratic processes, and the consequences of legal design and regulation for the quality of democratic politics. Second, I work in the area of comparative federalism. Lately, I've been working on a project examining how subnational units in federal states exert influence on national policy-making, and the effect of constitutional design on the national-subnational balance of power.

Will you maintain your teaching responsibilities?

Not during the first year. It's a bit too much to teach while trying to learn the job. I hope to resume teaching during the spring semester of 2016.

When future historians look back on your time as interim dean, what do you hope they will be able to say?

That he left it better than he found it.



Top UB students offered LSAT-free admission for 2015

With two initiatives newly announced by SUNY Buffalo Law School, high-performing UB undergraduates will have a simpler route to beginning their legal education.

One initiative targets students in the University Honors College, which offers enriched courses of study for academically gifted students. The other is aimed more broadly at UB undergraduates who are excelling in their studies. Each offers admission to SUNY Buffalo Law School – the State University of New York's only law school – without the usual requirement of the rigorous half-day test, the Law School Admission Test.

"We want to create another pathway into the Law School," says Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and student life. "These programs offer direct admission for UB undergraduates, as well as graduate students who fit these criteria."

The American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar regulates the standards that accredited law schools must meet. That body ruled last year that law schools may admit up to 10 percent of their incoming class without requiring the LSAT. Besides the \$170 test fee and the cost in time spent studying for and taking the test, the LSAT is offered only four times per year,

which can be a challenge for students trying to meet application deadlines.

Those eligible for the broader program are UB students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above through six semesters of academic work and have scored at the 85th percentile on a standardized test. Besides the SAT and ACT, eligible tests include the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Qualified students will be given priority consideration for admission to the Law School.

The other initiative not only waives the LSAT requirement for University Honors College students who meet the same criteria, and guarantees them admission to the Law School, it also establishes special programming for those students, enabling them to consider career choices in law and build a relationship with the Law School while still an undergraduate. Interested students are encouraged to sign onto the program in their freshman year.

"The goal is to enhance their experience in the Honors College," Wiley-Upshaw says. That will include such elements as visits to the Law School's home in John Lord O'Brien Hall, opportunities to meet and talk with law professors and current law students, attend workshops, help with professors' research, and enroll in undergraduate seminars on legal topics taught by Law School faculty members.

The direct admission initiatives will take effect with the entering class of 2015.

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– Lillie Wiley-Upshaw,
vice dean for admissions and student life