

Dear Students,

I know that finals are around the corner, but I wanted to reach out to help dispel **four misconceptions** that have arisen relating to the ABA letter finding Florida Coastal out of compliance with three (out of 53) ABA Standards: Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a)&(b).

The **first major misconception** I have heard is that Florida Coastal must have engaged in highly questionable conduct because Florida Coastal is one of just four schools noted on the ABA website.

The facts are:

1. The ABA has only just started publicly posting this information. The short list of schools on the ABA website is an artifact of being one of the schools found out of compliance after the ABA started publicly posting this information. (I do not know why the ABA website does not also list Atlanta's John Marshall's non-compliance letter.)
2. There are approximately 23 other law schools listed on the Department of Education website that received an ABA letter relating to non-compliance since 2016 (the DOE website does not go back farther). Those schools are:
 - a. Schools listed as subject to "Heightened Monitoring or Focused Review"
 1. Ave Maria School of Law,
 2. Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Texas Southern University), and
 3. Valparaiso University School of Law.
 - b. Schools listed as subject to "Probation or Equivalent or More Severe Status: Show Cause"
 4. Appalachian School of Law,
 5. Arizona Summit School of Law,
 6. Florida Coastal,
 - a. Florida Coastal falls under the "show cause" designation
 7. John Marshall School of Law (Atlanta),
 8. Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and
 9. SUNY Buffalo Law School.
 - c. Schools Listed as "Removal of Show Cause Status."
 - i. Removal of Show Cause is defined as "Agency determines that an institution has satisfactorily addressed serious compliance issues for it to retain its accreditation status." In essence, these law schools received a letter like (a) or (b) above at some point and remediated sufficiently in the last year or so to have the show cause removed.
 10. Charleston School of Law,

11. George Mason University School of Law,
12. Gould School of Law (University of Southern California),
13. Hofstra University School of Law,
14. Loyola Law School (Loyola Marymount University),
15. Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico,
16. Santa Clara University School of Law,
17. University of Maine School of Law,
18. Washburn University School of Law,
19. University of California Hastings College of Law,
20. University of Dayton School of Law,
21. University of New Mexico School of Law,
22. University of North Carolina School of Law, and
23. University of Tulsa College of Law.

3. Thus, in the last two years, over 11%, 23 of the 204 ABA accredited, JD granting, Law Schools either received a letter similar (or worse) than the one Florida Coastal received and 14 of those law schools were found back in compliance after receiving a letter similar (or worse) than the one Florida Coastal received.

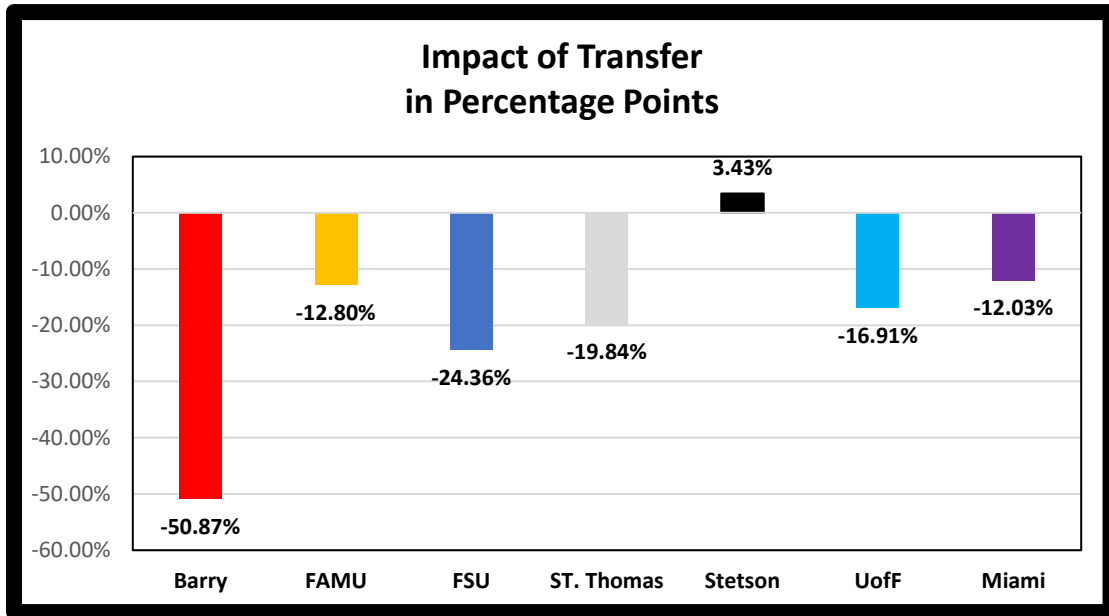
The **second major misconception** I have heard is that Florida Coastal is being “punished” because it does a poor job of educating its students.

The facts are:

1. When you compare outcomes of our students to those who transfer to other Florida Schools, our comparable students (by first year LGPA and LSAT), outperform those transfer students on the Florida Bar—even when you compare our students’ first-time bar pass rate, to their transfer student’s ultimate bar pass rate.

Transfer to School	Number of Transfers 2012-2015 AYs	LSAT Range	1L LGPA Range	Transferee Pass Rate	Comparable Florida Coastal Student Pass Rate
Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law	4	140-147	2.18-2.6	0.00%	50.87%
Florida A&M University College of Law	4	136-152	1.67-2.96	25.00%	37.80%
Florida State University College of Law	34	138-159	2.66-3.75	64.71%	89.06%
St. Thomas University School of Law	6	135-146	2.25-3.11	33.33%	53.18%

Stetson University College of Law	5	143-154	2.73-3.13	80.00%	76.57%
University of Florida Levin College of Law	31	139-158	2.8-4.0	74.19%	91.11%
University of Miami School of Law	7	140-160	2.75-3.7	71.43%	83.46%



2. So Florida Coastal does a good job of educating our students.

The **third major misconception** I have heard is that Florida Coastal currently accepts just about anyone who applies.

The facts are:

- A. Florida Coastal has increased its requirements for incoming credentials.
- B. Florida Coastal has raised our bottom quartile LSAT from 141 in 2016 to 145 in 2017, and we are enrolling a Spring 2018 class with a bottom quartile of 147.
- C. Using the most recently published U.S. News data (for 2016), a 145 bottom LSAT quartile is higher than 22 other law schools:
 - 1. Appalachian School of Law, Virginia
 - 2. Arizona Summit Law School, Arizona
 - 3. Ave Maria School of Law, Florida
 - 4. Capital University, Ohio
 - 5. Charleston School of Law, South Carolina
 - 6. Faulkner University, Alabama
 - 7. Florida A&M, Florida
 - 8. Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico
 - 9. Mississippi College, Mississippi

10. North Carolina Central University, North Carolina
11. Ohio Northern, Ohio
12. Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma
13. Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico
14. Southern University, Louisiana
15. St. Thomas, Florida
16. Texas Southern, Texas
17. Thomas Jefferson, California
18. Thomas M. Cooley, Michigan
19. University of La Verne, California
20. University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico
21. University of South Dakota, South Dakota
22. Whittier College, California

D. Using that same data, Florida Coastal's bottom quartile of 145 places Florida Coastal on a par with an additional 15 law schools:

23. Atlanta's John Marshall, Georgia
24. Concordia, Idaho
25. Dayton, Ohio
26. Elon University, North Carolina
27. John Marshall, Illinois
28. Mitchel/Hamline, Minnesota
29. Northern Illinois, Illinois
30. Northern Kentucky, Kentucky
31. Roger Williams University, Rhode Island
32. Southern Illinois – Carbondale, Illinois
33. University of District of Columbia, D.C.
34. Valparaiso, Indiana
35. Vermont Law School, Vermont
36. Western State, California
37. Widener University, Pennsylvania

E. Using that same data, moving to a 147 bottom LSAT quartile (as we are doing for Spring 2018) would place Florida Coastal above 14 additional schools:

38. Barry University, Florida
39. California Western, California
40. Golden Gate, California
41. Hofstra, New York
42. Lincoln Memorial, Tennessee
43. Loyola New Orleans, Louisiana
44. New England Law School, Massachusetts
45. Nova Southeastern, Florida
46. Suffolk, Massachusetts

47. Touro College, New York
48. University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Massachusetts
49. University of North Dakota, North Dakota
50. Western New England, Massachusetts
51. Widener University, Delaware

F. Using that same data, moving to a 147 bottom LSAT quartile would place Florida Coastal on a par with 4 more schools:

52. Detroit Mercy, Michigan
53. St. Mary's, Texas
54. University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas
55. University of Maine, Maine

G. Florida Coastal's Spring 2017 admission statistics place us above 51 other schools (using the 2016 US News data) and on par with another 4 schools.

The **fourth major misconception** I have heard is that Florida Coastal is closing its doors due to accreditation problems.

We trust the regulators will pay attention to these facts and given the comparison to the schools mentioned above, we do not believe that there is a reasoned basis for closing the school.

Finally, as all the changes we've made as a community begin to bear fruit (and we have clear quantitative evidence that those positive changes have already started), our students, faculty, and staff, will show the world Florida Coastal is a great institution!

Good luck on exams and if I do not see you before winter break, have a good and restful vacation.

Dean DeVito