



**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
STUDENT BODY
SPRING TERM
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO**



RESOLUTION NO. R.-205-011

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SUPPORTED BY: Faith Jackson

A RESOLUTION TO: REQUEST THE HIRE OF A DEDICATED BAR PREP COUNSELOR

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

WHEREAS, Harvard Law School students currently have to find bar preparation information from sources outside the law school like Barbri, Themis and Kaplan, receiving reliable notification of bar registration deadlines and other upcoming requirements almost exclusively from these bar prep companies; and

WHEREAS, students who are qualified to take the February bar have been given inadequate information and/or discouraged from taking the February bar, despite increased interest among HLS students in taking the February bar where it is offered; and

WHEREAS, for the majority of the final year for current third-year and LLM students preparing to take the bar, there was no bar prep advisor; and

WHEREAS, the law school has subsequently hired a staff member who has bar prep as only one of many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, some students have learned about the division of bar prep information between that staff member and the Office of Career Services (OCS) only through word of mouth; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to receive some bar prep information from OCS may be particularly confusing for students pursuing public-interest careers who may normally interface with the Office of Public Interest Advising (OPIA); and

WHEREAS, students would benefit from existing pages on bar prep being updated and shared with 3L students at the beginning of each year as many are unaware of bar resources at the law school; and

WHEREAS, the only bar prep sessions organized for students this year have involved outside providers and were organized by students, who received approval from the Dean of Students Office and then took on the task of coordinating the events with outside bar prep companies; and

WHEREAS, Student Governments expects the Dean of Students Office not to put the onus on students to coordinate these types of bar prep events in the future; and

WHEREAS, ideally, bar prep sessions will be discussed internally and planned by the Dean of Students Office before they are approached by students asking for resources during their final year; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Harvard Law School Student Government recognizes how difficult it is to find accurate information on bar prep and guidance on navigating the bar exam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Government calls on the Dean of Students Office to invest in and hire staff who are dedicated to counseling students on bar prep; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Government calls on the Dean of Students Office to proactively provide information sessions on bar prep and bar registration to students early in their final year, including information for states outside of New York, California and District of Columbia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Government asserts that Harvard Law School should renew its commitment to helping students navigate the complicated process of taking the bar, with the goal of ensuring HLS students can activate and wield their law degrees.

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: March 23, 2022

VOTE TOTALS:

 12 YES

 0 NO

 0 ABSTAIN