

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2016-45**

**SUBJECT: Institutional Aid Funding for the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §38-1202.06(2)(C), it is the duty and responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia to operate a public law school component in a manner that maintains accreditation necessary to qualify the graduates of the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law (the “School of Law”) to take the bar examinations of the District of Columbia and several states; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Bar Association standards require that the “present and anticipated financial resources of a law school shall be adequate to sustain a sound program of legal education and accomplish its mission”; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law’s mission requires that it recruit and enroll students from racial, ethnic and other backgrounds traditionally underrepresented at the bar, with the understanding that such students frequently come from low-income families who cannot afford high tuition rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law’s mission also requires that it educate public interest, public service and public policy lawyers who earn much lower than average lawyer salaries and thus cannot sustain significant student debt repayment obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law’s tuition will increase by 2.6% during academic year 2017-2018 even as other law schools are lowering or freezing tuition rates as a strategy to recruit and retain more students; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally the applicant pool for law schools has dropped 40% since 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, law student transfer rates are increasing significantly as top-ranked law schools offer generous multi-year financial aid packages to recruit both competitive and less competitive students as a means to enhance tuition revenue streams, and the School of Law’s transfer rate has increased each year since 2011 in keeping with the national trend; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated the implementation of multi-year financial aid awards and targeted enrollment strategies may result in increased tuition revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, multi-year financial aid awards will be conditioned upon continued strong academic performance; and

**WHEREAS**, institutional aid will support the School of Law’s retention strategies, including the Dean’s Fellows Program (for students earning a 3.0 and above GPA) and Need-Based Aid; and

**WHEREAS**, to further the mission and meet the financial aid requirements of the School of Law, the Board of Trustees approved UDC Resolution No. 2006-30 authorizing the University to remit law school tuition annually in the amount of \$700,000 during each of FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008; UDC Resolution No. 2008-05 authorizing the University to remit Law School tuition annually in the amount of \$700,000 during each of FY 2009, FY 2010 and FY 2011; UDC Resolution No. 2012-12 authorizing the University to remit tuition annually in the amount of \$700,000 during each of FY 2012, FY 2013 and FY 2014; UDC Resolution 2014-38 authorizing the University to remit tuition annually in the amount of \$700,000 in each of FY 2015 and FY 2016; and UDC Resolution 2015-38 authorizing the University to remit tuition annually in the amount of \$700,000 in each of FY 2017 and FY 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law needs institutional aid to compete with law schools nationally that are offering three- and four-year scholarship packages to attract and retain full-time and part-time students; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law uses institutional aid to attract and retain mission-driven students who have options to attend much higher ranked and more prestigious law schools, and those who, because of family and other obligations, cannot otherwise afford to go to law school; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of institutional aid afforded the School of Law since 2006 has remained constant at \$700,000 per year, and has supported enrollment and retention of a student body ranging from approximately 234 students to a high of 366 students in 2012, and, in 2015, a student body of approximately 305 students; and


**WHEREAS**, the School of Law will continue to track entering LSAT, GPA, UGPA, UDC GPA, retention and bar passage for scholarship recipients and will continue to provide an annual report to the President of the University to demonstrate the effectiveness of the institutional aid provided.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the University to offer institutional aid for the School of Law in the amount of \$700,000 annually during each of FY 2019, 2020 and 2021 to further the mission and to meet the financial aid requirements of the School of Law.

Submitted by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee:                      October 24, 2016

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

November 22, 2016

  
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Elaine A. Crider  
Chairperson of the Board