

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2015\_\_\_\_\_**

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

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §38-1201.06(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 shall maintain accreditation necessary to qualify the graduates of 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 American Bar Association will conduct an accreditation site visit during academic year 2015-2016 and will review the manner in which the School of Law is funded and in which it is accomplishing its missions; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Law’s mission requires that it recruit and enroll students from racial, ethnic and other backgrounds traditionally under represented at the bar, with the understanding that such students typically come from low-income families which 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 percent during academic year 2016-2017 at a time when 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 dropped 40% since 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, law student transfer rates are increasing significantly nationally as top ranked 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 increased each year since 2011 in keeping with the national trend; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees approved UDC Resolution No. 2006-30 authorizing the University to remit law school tuition in the amount of \$700,000 during FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008 and UDC Resolution No. 2008-05 also authorizing the University to remit Law School tuition in the amount of \$700,000 during FY 2009, FY 2010 and FY 2011, UDC Resolution No.

2012-12 authorizing the University to remit tuition in the amount of \$700,000 during FY 2012, FY 2013 and FY 2014, and UDC Resolution No. 2014-38 authorizing the University to remit tuition in the amount of \$700,000 in FY2015 and FY2016 in all cases to further the mission and to meet financial aid requirements of the School of Law; and

**WHEREAS**, these funds are needed 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**, institutional aid is used 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 supporting enrollment and retention of a student body ranging from about 234 students to a high of 366 students in 2012 and in 2015 about 311 students; and

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

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the University to remit law school institutional aid in the amount of \$700,000 during each of FY 2017 and 2018 to further the mission and to meet the financial aid requirements of the School of Law.

Submitted by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and  
the Audit, Budget and Finance Committee:

November 5, 2015

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

December 8, 2015

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Elaine A. Cider  
Chairperson of the



Office of the Chief Financial Officer

## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**TO:** The Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Donald L. Rickford, Chief Financial Officer  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer (UDC) *DLR*

**DATE:** October 28, 2015

**SUBJECT:** UDC David A. Clarke School of Law Tuition Remission for FY2017- FY2019

### Conclusion

It is concluded that the fiscal impact associated with the University of the District of Columbia's (UDC) remission of tuition proposal of the David A. Clarke School of Law's for FY 2017 through FY2019, will be \$500,000. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer approves this request.

### Background

The proposed resolution is to continue the tuition remission for FY2017 through FY2019 at UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Tuition remission for the law school was first approved by the UDC Board of Trustees in 2006. In academic year 2015-16, the tuition remission was given to approximately 119 students with varying degrees of tuition scholarship support.

### Financial Impact

The direct financial impact from this proposed resolution is the loss of net tuition revenue of \$500,000 each year for FY2017-FY2019 and the opportunity cost that is incurred by the unavailability of these funds to support other critical needs of the university.

Office of Katherine S. Broderick, Dean

TO: Board of Trustees Finance Committee

FROM: Shelley Broderick

RE: Proposed Resolution No. 2015 -

DATE: October 29, 2015

This memorandum will provide some background and context for the School of Law's request for approval of Resolution No. 2015 \_\_\_. Since 2006, the UDC Board of Trustees has approved a series of resolutions permitting the use of \$700,000 annually in tuition remission (institutional aid). Institutional aid allows the School of Law to collect a reduced amount of tuition from students, including those who are highly competitive likely bar passers, have offers of admission from more prestigious schools, have received offers to transfer to other schools and who demonstrate significant financial need due to high levels of student debt from college, family responsibilities and other reasons.

The average scholarship award is \$5,581, or about one half of a D.C. resident's tuition and one quarter of an out-of-state student's tuition. The scholarship award average, as reported by the American Bar Association, is very similar to that of peer schools charging similar tuition rates:

Name of School	Average Scholarship Award	Tuition - In State	Tuition - Out of State
Howard	\$11,700	\$31,148	\$31,148
Florida A&M	\$ 5,630	\$14,000	\$34,034
North Carolina Central	\$ 7,440	\$11,708	\$25,636
UDC	\$ 5,581	\$11,383	\$22,136
Texas Southern	\$ 5,648	\$18,443	\$23,393
Southern	\$ 4,615	\$12,014	\$21,614

It is important to note that these scholarship recipients attend the School of Law as a direct result of the scholarship awards. The University receives the remaining one half or three quarters tuition payment it would not otherwise receive in many cases. A reduction in the institutional aid provided will result in a reduction in tuition revenue for the University.

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Law school applications nationally have dropped by more than 40 percent since 2011. Law schools are competing for qualified candidates by freezing, and in some cases, lowering tuition while at the same time sharply increasing scholarship funding as both recruiting and retention strategies. Law schools are now routinely offering scholarship packages for all or a portion of tuition for three and four years depending on full-time or part-time enrollment.

In addition, transfer rates have surged nationally over the last three years. Competitive schools are recruiting students they rejected a year before but who have proven their ability to succeed at another law school. Schools do not have to report LSAT scores for transfer students so they do not risk falling in the rankings by admitting transfer students while they benefit from increased tuition revenue. Locally, last year American University Law School admitted 44, George Washington 97 and Georgetown 113 transfer students. It is imperative that UDC's School of law be in a position to provide competitive scholarship assistance to retain talented students who are likely bar passers, and are sought after by other law schools.

Finally, the School of Law faces an American Bar Association accreditation visit next year, during 2015-16. The ABA will be reviewing the adequacy of funding to provide a sound program of legal education and meet its mission. The School of Law must demonstrate that it has the tools necessary to attract and retain mission-driven students including those from racial, ethnic and other backgrounds traditionally underrepresented at the bar and those who want to pursue meaningful careers in public interest, public service and public policy law. Consistent support through institutional aid is critical to these efforts.