

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2015-34

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



Elaine A. Cider
Chairperson of the Board