

SHARED PRINCIPLES FOR EDUCATING, LICENSING, AND DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

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These Principles recognize—and seek to articulate and align—the complementary responsibilities of law schools, regulatory authorities, and members of the bench and bar to develop the next generation of legal professionals equipped to serve client needs and support the rule of law. We are committed to fulfilling those responsibilities in accordance with the following Principles:

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Stewardship	We are guardians of the core values of our legal system and must work to defend liberty, pursue justice, and maintain the rule of law for future generations.
Inquiry	We promote critical inquiry and scholarship about law and legal institutions.
Access	We are committed to developing a legal system that provides affordable and effective legal assistance, guidance, and protection to all.
Inclusivity	We are committed to developing an inclusive profession that values diverse backgrounds, viewpoints, and roles.
Adaptability	We strive to ensure that our legal system adapts to rapidly evolving circumstances.

OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

One Size Need Not Fit All	Law schools should be able to follow missions aligned with their values, goals, students, and communities. Our system of licensing should be able to reflect the variation of roles which arise in the provision of legal services.
Value Focus	The costs of legal education and licensing should be designed to advance the quality and availability of legal services. We must address the cost of both becoming and hiring a legal professional.
21st Century Competencies	We must collaborate across and beyond the legal profession to identify the competencies needed in the rapidly evolving legal services landscape. Law schools and employers should work together to ensure those competencies are being developed. Licensing should certify entry-level proficiency.
Problem Solving Focus	Every legal problem is embedded within a larger context. Legal professionals must develop exceptional problem-solving, legal-reasoning, and leadership skills.
Leveraging Technology	Technology continues to drive change at an accelerating pace, affecting how—and even if—legal professionals are needed for tasks traditionally considered exclusive to lawyers. Legal professionals should be able to identify where technology can or potentially could improve service and access.
Valid Measures	Legal educators, licensing authorities, testing organizations, and employers should develop appropriate and valid measures to assess progression and competency in the 21 st century.
Well-Being	We must improve and support the well-being of current and aspiring legal professionals. Well-being promotes the strength of our legal system and the rule of law.