

Robert Morse, Editor
US News and World Report
1050 Thomas Jefferson Street NW
Washington, DC 20007

Re: Recommendation to Include Diversity Factors in the Law School Rankings

Dear Mr. Morse:

I am writing on behalf of the _____ (bar association) _____
to express our support for the recommendations made by the State Bar of California
Council on Access & Fairness to include diversity factors in the overall US News and
World Report law school rankings.

Over the past years, the US News Law School rankings have caused law schools to
develop policies to better position themselves in the rankings. In many cases, these
policies have resulted in the decrease of minority admissions, as well as a lack of
support and resources for minority and other diverse students.

We agree with the State Bar Council on Access & Fairness that exposure to and an
understanding of diversity in law school better prepares law students to practice law
among an increasingly diverse workforce and society and to respond to the needs of the
global economy. The current separate Diversity Index negates the value of diversity for
a quality legal education and allows law schools to overlook these factors in their efforts
to rise in the rankings.

We urge US News and World Report to work closely with the State Bar of California and
others to develop appropriate metrics to measure law school commitment to and
support for diversity including consideration of metrics comparing law school and
population demographics, as well as “concrete actions” demonstrating active support for
diversity programs and policies. We also support including diversity as a factor in the
Peer Assessment and Reputation surveys. An increasing number of judges and
members of the profession recognize the importance of diversity, and their feedback on
law school performance in these areas sends an important message to law schools.

We thank you for your willingness to dialogue on these issues and look forward to the
addition of diversity factors in the overall law school rankings. Please feel free to
contact me at _____ should you
have questions or need additional information

Sincerely,