



## THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

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180 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105

**Date:** December 7, 2010

**TO:** Members Board Committee on Stakeholder Relations

**FROM** Craig Holden, Chair, Council on Access & Fairness,  
Teri Cannon, Vice Chair, Council on Access & Fairness,  
Patricia Lee, Special Assistant for Diversity and Bar Relations

**RE:** Pre Law Advisors Focus Group Comments and Discussion

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The State Bar Council on Access & Fairness (COAF) is charged with reporting on the status of diversity in the legal profession and providing recommendations to address barriers directly relating to access opportunities into and within the profession for individuals from diverse backgrounds.

With the creation of the COAF, the Board of Governors institutionalized the diversity pipeline, expanding the focus for the State Bar's diversity efforts. The diversity pipeline covers issues in early education through college, law school, the bar exam, the legal profession and the judiciary. The COAF evaluates issues and challenges along the diversity pipeline and develops strategies for addressing those challenges.

In reviewing the flow of diverse students into law school, the COAF became aware that the lack of resources in the college and university setting for pre-law advisors presented a gap in the diversity pipeline. To learn more about the services provided to students, the needs of pre law advisors and how the COAF can support their efforts, the COAF convened a number of pre law advisors and admissions professionals to gather their feedback.

The attached summary and discussion provided insight into the issues facing pre law advisors and provided the COAF with information upon which to develop strategies to bridge this portion of the diversity pipeline. As a result of this discussion, the COAF is in the process of creating a Pre Law Tool Kit, which will consist of online resources for Pre-Law Advisors and students. A survey is in progress seeking input from pre law advisors and student pre law clubs re the resources and programs that would be most helpful. The feedback will be incorporated in the Tool Kit, which will be completed and posted on the State Bar Website.