

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION
2020-2021 HOUSE OF DELEGATES**



April 15, 2020

Resolution 2019-2020-6: Tuition Affordability and COVID-19

RESOLVED: The Student Bar Association of the Georgetown University Law Center renews its 2019 call for a tuition freeze in order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives and legal education of all Georgetown Law students.

WHEREAS, the Georgetown University Law Center (GULC) prides itself on its role in preparing the next generation of leaders. In this time of crisis, Georgetown has demonstrated support for its students and listened to their concerns. Over the last month, the school has transitioned all courses to virtual learning, adopted dramatic changes to long-standing grading policies after serious consideration, and navigated the rapidly changing world in keeping with Georgetown values. Georgetown has the opportunity to be a leader amongst our peer institutions by prioritizing the financial needs of our students.

WHEREAS, full-time J.D. tuition for the 2019-2020 school year is \$64,548 and the estimated cost of attendance is \$94,500 per annum. Full-time L.L.M. tuition is \$66,650 and the estimated cost of attendance is \$96,402.

WHEREAS, full-time J.D. tuition is set to increase by a rate of 3.6 percent for the 2020-2021 school year. Full-time J.D. tuition will increase to \$66,872 and the estimated cost of attendance will be \$97,500. Full-time L.L.M. tuition will increase to \$69,050 and the estimated cost of attendance will be \$99,478. Improving transparency and communication about these increases and other financial decisions is essential to building a better Georgetown community.

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the Law Center transitioned to online classes due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This has disrupted the student experience of all class years in a variety of ways and caused last-minute changes to the school's grading policies and exams which were not well communicated to the student body.

WHEREAS, the online class experience is also significantly different from taking classes in-person and it is not the experience that most students expected or factored into their financial decision-making. The Law Center must also prepare for the possibility that social distancing policies will force a continuation of online-only classes into the fall, which would mean that students would be asked to pay an increased tuition for a less than ideal and substantially different experience.

WHEREAS, the economic downturn that has resulted from the pandemic is likely to last for months, if not years, and to have unforeseeable impacts on every student currently enrolled. Many students are experiencing unanticipated financial hardship already and many more will face such hardship in the coming months and years. Evening students in particular rely on

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income from jobs which may now be unstable. The economic downturn is also likely to disproportionately impact financially disadvantaged people from diverse backgrounds who were already struggling with the cost of school and may have to make the painful decision to put their legal career on hold.

WHEREAS, GULC will cost more than \$300,000 to attend for the class matriculating in 2020 if tuition and fees continue to increase at a similar rate every year. Requiring this financial burden prevents GULC from achieving its central mission of educating the future leaders of our profession and upholding that “law is but the means, justice is the end.” The price of a GULC education is already out of reach for so many prospective students. The cost of a legal education is an admissions problem, a student debt issue, a legal diversity hurdle, a public service dilemma, and a moral issue central to the future of the legal profession and to the price of Justice. In light of the current crisis, it has become exceedingly urgent to address.

WHEREAS, in October 2019 the Student Bar Association of the Georgetown University Law Center, in solidarity with the Georgetown University Main Campus Students, endorsed the call for a University-wide tuition and fee freeze. The SBA also charged its representatives on the GULC Finance Committee with advocating for affordability and transparency.

WHEREAS, it is more important now than ever to freeze tuition for current students and thus provide a measure of financial certainty for all students impacted by this emergency. A tuition freeze is the only compassionate, equitable, and just response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Student Bar Association of the Georgetown University Law Center renews its call for a tuition freeze in order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives and legal education of all Georgetown Law students.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)

