



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

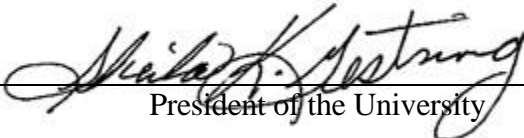
**Institutional Program Review  
Report to the Board of Regents**

Use this form to submit a program review report to the system Chief Academic Officer. Complete this form for all units/programs undergoing an accreditation review, nationally recognized review process, or institutional program review. The report is due 30 days following receipt of the external and internal review reports.

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	USD
<b>DEPARTMENT OR SCHOOL:</b>	<b>Knudson School of Law</b>
<b>PROGRAM REVIEWED:</b>	<b>Law</b>
<b>DATE OF REVIEW:</b>	<b>11/5/2019</b>
<b>TYPE OF REVIEW:</b>	National Program Review

**University Approval**

*To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this report, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the University

\_\_\_\_\_  
2/8/2021  
Date

**1. Identify the program reviewers and any external accrediting body:**

The review was conducted by the American Bar Association, the designated accrediting body for law schools within the United States. The program reviewers included Professor Penelope Andrews (Chair), Professor Joseph Custer, Stephanie Giggetts, Professor Morgan Holcomb, Professor Harriet Katz, Professor Geoffrey Rapp, Provost Patricia Salkin.

**2. Items A & B should address the following issues: mission centrality, program quality, cost, program productivity, plans for the future, and assessment of progress.**

**2(A). Describe the strengths and weaknesses identified by the reviewers**

Strengths identified included:

- 1) Connection to the South Dakota bench, bar, and business communities
- 2) Creative programs for practical educational experiences for students
- 3) Collegiality and commitment of faculty, staff, and students

Weakness identified included:

- 1) Poor bar passage numbers from 2014 to 2017
- 2) Lack of diversity among faculty and students
- 3) Lack of full participation in faculty governance by lecturers

**2(B). Briefly summarize the review recommendations**

As a result of the site visit, the ABA Council on Legal Education made three findings about the School of Law.

- 1) It was not clear that an adequate strategic planning process was in place for the McKusick Law Library.
- 2) It was not clear what the tenure and faculty status of the Dean was.
- 3) The School of Law was out of compliance on bar passage rates for the Class of 2017.

**2(C). Indicate the present and continuous actions to be taken by the college or department to address the issues raised by the review. What outcomes are anticipated as a result of these actions?**

The School of Law has addressed each of these findings.

- 1) Additional information was provided about the McKusick Law Library's strategic planning process. Additionally, the library added additional avenues for feedback from faculty, students, and external users to incorporate into that process. That issue was deemed resolved.
- 2) The Provost provided additional information to law faculty about the tenure process and expectations for the Dean. Law faculty made a unanimous recommendation that the Dean be granted tenure and faculty status. That application is now forwarded to the Provost and President for consideration.
- 3) Bar passage rates for the Classes of 2018, 2019, and 2020 meet the threshold set by the ABA. The School of Law has incorporated additional programs to identify students at risk on bar passage earlier and direct resources to them.
- 4) While not an ultimate finding of the Council, the Dean appointed a faculty work group on faculty governance. Based on their work, the law faculty has voted to give full participation rights to lecturers other than on promotion and tenure.
- 5) While also not a specific finding of the Council, the law school has begun work with the State Bar and other interested parties to target outreach to potential students from diverse backgrounds based on race, gender, first generation and socioeconomic status, geographic diversity within South Dakota (particularly rural and legally underserved communities) and to provide additional support and programming for diversity and inclusion. In faculty recruiting, the School of Law is working to identify targeted outreach to increase the diversity in all faculty hiring pools.