



Association of American Law Schools

**AGENDA
ITEM**

December 16, 2011

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MEMORANDUM 11-19

TO: Deans of Member Law Schools and
Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Susan Westerberg Prager, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: School Recommended for Admission to Membership in the
Association: **Texas Wesleyan University School of Law**

The Executive Committee has found that **Texas Wesleyan University School of Law** has met, and is capable of continuing to fulfill, the obligations of membership in the Association as stated in the Bylaws and Executive Committee Regulations. The Executive Committee therefore recommends to the House of Representatives the admission of Texas Wesleyan University School of Law to membership in the Association.

This recommendation has been placed on the agenda of the First Meeting of the House of Representatives, which will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2012, beginning at 5:15 pm during the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

When considering the membership application of the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, the Executive Committee reviewed the report of the 2011 site team, composed of Dean Emeritus Richard Morgan, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Chair; Dean Douglas Blaze, University of Tennessee College of Law; Professor Linda Jellum, Mercer University School of Law; Professor Cassandra Jones-Havard, University of Baltimore School of Law; Professor James Leonard, University of Alabama School of Law; and Professor Pedro Malavet of the University of Florida College. It also considered the affirmative recommendation of the Membership Review Committee and the correspondence and statements before it of Dean Frederic White, Associate Dean Michael Green, and the former Dean who is now President of the University, Frederick G. Slabach.

Texas Wesleyan University was founded in 1890 and is a United Methodist institution with five schools. The total student enrollment is approximately

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3,300 and the majority of students are from Texas. The law school began as The Dallas/Fort Worth School of Law in 1989. In 1992, it affiliated with Texas Wesleyan University. The law school, which has been approved by the ABA since 1999, has 37 full time faculty, 30 of whom are tenure-track faculty. There are approximately 730 students and 270 of those students are enrolled in the part-time program.

The law school's mission includes access and diversity, with a special emphasis on first generation college students. It is evident that a belief in the importance of this mission is clearly shared by the university's leadership and the faculty. The school has managed its finances well and takes pride that its tuition levels help support its commitment to access.

The Executive Committee notes that the School of Law is a strong and viable institution. This strength comes in part from the President and the university as a whole, as well as from the Fort Worth community. The law school's strength also has grown from the commitment of the faculty and the leadership of key faculty members who have effectively encouraged the development of scholarship, while simultaneously remaining focused on students and the importance of teaching. This dual focus is impressive and should serve the school well. The Committee appreciates the university's commitment to the law school, the progress that the law school has made thus far, the overall quality of the school, and the school's willingness and desire to continue to improve and thrive. It believes strongly that the Texas Wesleyan School of Law will contribute in significant ways to the work of this Association.

cc: AALS Executive Committee
Membership Review Committee
Deans of Non-Member Fee Paid Law Schools