

Barry University School of Law granted full ABA accreditation

ORLANDO, Florida— Barry University's Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law has been granted full accreditation by the American Bar Association's Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, it was announced this afternoon.

Just seven years since being acquired in central Florida, BU's School of Law achieved this distinction following the recommendation by the ABA's Accreditation Committee this past October. The Council's formal announcement came at their meeting in Naples, Florida, earlier today.

"This is truly a historic and proud moment for all of Barry University and, particularly, our School of Law," said BU President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD. "I am thrilled that we have achieved this accreditation, and I am very grateful to Dean Joseph Richard Hurt, our outstanding faculty, loyal students and alumni.

"Courageous efforts and hard work have characterized the development of this law school, starting with the vision of [Chancellor and former BU President] Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, OP, PhD and leadership of [former Executive Vice President] Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD. We are proud to join the nation's other outstanding law schools, especially those within Catholic higher education."

O'Laughlin led Barry University's purchase of the University of Orlando in 1999. Just three years later, BU's School of Law was given ABA provisional approval.

Since 2003, Barry's School of Law has almost doubled its enrollment (from 311 to 575 students), increased its full-time faculty (to 29 this year), and captured numerous national honors and competitions, including:

- 2004 national champions, National Tax Law Moot Court Competition (Florida Bar);
- 2006 "Best Brief," National Tax Law Moot Court Competition;
- 2006 Best Oral Advocates and first runner-up overall, Southeast Regional, National Trademark Law Moot Court Competition (Lefkowitz)

- 2005 and 2006, runner up, "Best Brief," National Sports Law Moot Court Competition (Tulane);
- 2004, runner up, "Best Oral Advocate," National Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition (Pepperdine);
- 2005 Southeastern Regional champion and national final-four finish, American Trial Lawyers Association National Competition;

- 2005, "Best Advocate," St. Johns University Civil Rights Competition.

BU law students are also taught by a diverse and distinguished full-time faculty that is 45 percent minority—more than twice the national average.

"This is a day of great joy for the students, alumni, faculty, staff and administration of the law school and the Barry University community," Hurt stated. "We celebrate this decision and look forward to a very bright future. With full accreditation, we can continue moving forward as a strong educational leader in legal education throughout the Southeast region and nationally in such areas as social justice, eco-jurisprudence and children's advocacy."

For more information on Barry University's School of Law, visit www.barry.edu/law, or phone the law school's Eric DuBois, associate dean for administration, at (407) 702-3035.