



April 23, 2008

Dear Prospective Employer:

The faculty and administration at the William S. Boyd School of Law understand that the hiring process involves careful consideration of several factors, one of which may be the applicant's class rank. To better assist you in understanding our students' and graduates' class ranks, we wanted to inform you of a recent change to the grading system here at Boyd.

Specifically, like most law schools, the Boyd School of Law grades its students on a curve, which is based on a mandatory median and grade distribution for certain classes. However, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, the faculty voted to raise the required median grade from a 2.7 (B-) to a 3.0 (B) while retaining required distributions.

We made this change primarily for two reasons. First, as the reputation of the law school has grown, so has the strength of our student body. Second, raising our median makes our grading system more consistent with other regional law schools, thus making it easier for employers to compare our students with students from these other schools.

Because the new policy did not take effect until the Fall 2007 semester, those students who began their studies at Boyd prior to the 2007-08 school year will have received grades under the old, more restrictive, policy; and only those grades they received during the Fall 2007 semester and beyond will be based on the new policy. As a result, when evaluating these "transitional" students, it is important to note that there could be some marginal distortions in their class ranks given that, within their respective graduating class, some students may have taken a larger percentage of credits under the new, less restrictive, policy.

We hope this information is helpful to you as you continue to evaluate our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bret Birdsong', written over a white background.

Bret C. Birdsong  
Professor of Law  
Chair, Academic Standards Committee

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