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AND ADMINISTRATION

June 21, 2013

Hon. Randall T. Shepard
Chair
American Bar Association Task Force on the Future of Legal Education

Dear Chief Justice Shepard:

I commend the American Bar Association's Task Force on the Future of Legal Education for its efforts to study the key challenges facing our legal education system and the delivery of legal services to Americans. You have undertaken an important mission, and I look forward to reviewing the Task Force's recommendations when you have completed your work.

As the Task Force conducts its review, I recommend to you the March 8, 2013, report issued by the Illinois State Bar Association's Special Committee on the Impact of Law School Debt on the Delivery of Legal Services. This well-researched report assesses the troubling impact of law school debt on the quality and availability of legal services in Illinois, and it makes a number of insightful recommendations for reform. I believe the report will prove valuable in assisting the Task Force in its work. The report can be found online at http://www.isba.org/sites/default/files/committees/Law%20School%20Debt%20Report%20-%203-8-13.pdf.

Thank you for your service and for your commitment to improving our nation's legal system. Please feel free to contact my counsel, Dan Swanson, at 202-224-2152 or daniel_swanson@judiciary-dem.senate.gov if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Cc: Members of the American Bar Association Task Force on the Future of Legal Education

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