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April 3, 1998

Honorable Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court  
State of Louisiana  
301 Loyola Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70112

Re: Louisiana's Law Student Practice Rule

Dear Chief Justice Calogero:

The Association of American Law Schools (AALS) received a copy of the March 12, 1998, letter and supplemental comments from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), The Chamber- New Orleans and The River Region, and the New Orleans Area Business Council. The AALS stands by the views expressed in its original submission to the Court.

The business groups' response is disturbing because it focuses solely on the Tulane Clinic's representation of one client whose views were contrary to those of the business groups. The AALS urges the Court not to allow a review of the student practice rule to be used by some in the state to further their own economic or political purposes.

If law students or faculty have acted unethically or illegally, an investigation into their conduct should be conducted by the appropriate authorities. But the student practice rule should not be amended simply because some groups dislike the substantive legal work conducted by the Tulane Clinic. The AALS respectfully requests the Court to conclude its investigation and find that Rule XX appropriately facilitates student practice and clinical legal education, and need not be amended in any way. Rule XX in its present form is consistent with the ABA Model Student Practice Rule and the student practice rules in all other jurisdictions.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl C. Monk  
Executive Director

201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036-2605  
HOME: 202/296-8851  
AX: 202/296-8869  
INTERNET: aals@aals.org  
WEB SITE: www.aals.org

CCM:amh  
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