

## Proposal to set up proctored LSAT exams for Columbia students

### **Background:**

The LSAT exams are required for all students who wish to pursue a graduate degree in law school. These exams are offered four times annually (in June, October, December and February). To take proctored practice exams in the status quo, the only viable options are services offered by private tutoring institutions which are often quite expensive.

### **Argument:**

While there are various course options available for students who wish to prepare themselves well for the LSAT exams, they must be purchased at a steep price. Two examples include:

- Kaplan: Offers courses with prices ranging from \$1299(the “Classroom Course”) to \$7999 (the LSAT summer intensive program).<sup>1</sup>
- Princeton Review: Offers courses with prices ranging from \$1099 (LSAT Accelerated) to \$1349 (LSAT Hyperlearning)<sup>2</sup>

For students who are exploring their options, students who may only have a potential interest in law, or students who simply cannot afford such courses, this financial barrier becomes a major deterrent. Proctored practice exams are a simple solution to help such students have a more equitable opportunity to perform.

### **Proposal:**

We aim to offer a series of proctored LSAT exams, to be administered under proper conditions, to Columbia students. This is a collaborative effort with the Pre-professional office and the Columbia Pre-law society. Students who are interested will only be responsible for the price of exams, at less than \$8 each, which will be purchased by the Pre-professional office in bulk. <sup>3</sup> CCSC will forward funds for tests until test day when students purchase the test booklets. The details of the proposed mock exams are as follows:

- Offered 4-8 weeks before each official LSAT exam
- For approximately 20-30 students
- Will be administered under test-like conditions
- A member of CCSC or a Class Council will serve as proctors.

We are looking to launch the first exam on the morning the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2007, seven weeks before the official test date of the 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2007.<sup>4</sup> This administration of the test will be a start which will eventually expand to a regular institution providing 1-2 exams before every national administration. Furthermore, it will serve as a model to expand this service to MCAT and GRE examinations.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kaptest.com/Kaplan/4/Law/LSAT/Kaplan-Programs?ProductId>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.stanford.edu/group/SPLS/lsatprep.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://os.lsac.org/Release/Shop/Shop\\_Books.aspx?po=Y](https://os.lsac.org/Release/Shop/Shop_Books.aspx?po=Y)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lsac.org/pdfs/2006-2007/TESTDATE.pdf>

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