

## **Student Complaints Concerning the Program of Legal Education**

1. Widener University Commonwealth Law School wishes to hear student concerns about significant problems that directly implicate the school's program of legal education and its compliance with the ABA's Accreditation Standards. The ABA Standards for the Approval of Law Schools can be accessed on the American Bar Association's webpage, located at this link: [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/standards.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/standards.html)
2. Any student who alleges that a significant problem directly implicates the law school's program of legal education and compliance with the ABA's Accreditation Standards should file a signed, written complaint with the Office of Student Affairs. The complaint may be sent as an email, a letter delivered by U.S. mail, or as a facsimile. The complaint must identify the problem in sufficient detail to permit the Dean's designee to investigate the matter, including the specific Accreditation Standard(s) at issue. The complaint must include the student's contact information, including name, mailing address, preferred email address, and telephone number.
3. Within 20 business days of receiving a signed, written complaint, the Director of Student Affairs shall either meet with the complaining student or respond to the substance of the complaint in writing. The student shall be advised of any action the law school is taking to address the matter or any further investigation the law school is making into the matter.
4. The complaint should be filed with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs if the complaint involves the Office of Student Affairs, the Director of Student Affairs, or the Director of Student Organizations. Furthermore, in such a situation, the Associate Dean shall either meet with the complaining student or respond in writing instead of the Director of Student Affairs.
5. Within 10 business days of being advised of any action the law school is taking to address the matter, the student may appeal that decision to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Within 10 business days of being advised of the decision of the Associate Dean, the student may appeal that decision to the Dean of the Law School. The decision of the Dean is final.
6. The Law School shall maintain a complete written record of each complaint, how it was investigated, and its resolution. Written records shall be maintained in a confidential manner in the Office of Student Affairs.
7. Widener University and Widener University Commonwealth Law School have many policies and codes. Some student complaints may fall within the jurisdiction of these policies and codes, including Widener University's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy and Widener University Commonwealth Law School's Student Code of Conduct. Jurisdiction over any student complaint is not exclusive to any single university or law school policy or code.