

April 22, 2010

To the Members of the Louisiana State Senate

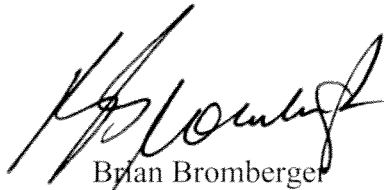
From Dean Brian Bromberger, Loyola Law School; Interim Dean Stephen M. Griffin, Tulane Law School

As leaders of private law schools in Louisiana we express our deep concern regarding the restrictions that would be placed upon legal clinics with the passage of Senate Bill 549. The bill purports to regulate legal clinics but would in fact cripple them and deal a serious blow to legal education in our state. While perhaps aimed at one clinic, the bill sweeps much further and would put nearly all the law clinics in the state out of business, whether they are funded through public money or private tuition dollars.


Law clinics have been an essential part of legal education for five decades. They train students in the practice of law and represent clients with few resources. They provide an essential bulwark of support for those in our state with low incomes. Because they engage in the practice of law, they are regulated closely by the Louisiana Supreme Court and operate under some of the strictest limitations in the nation. They have no agenda other than access to justice.

By prohibiting clinics from filing actions against government agencies and banning state constitutional challenges in state or federal court, this bill would eliminate most clinics at Loyola and Tulane. It would deal a grave blow to our ability to offer a sound curriculum to our students. This is a serious threat to legal education at our schools.

We urge you to allow the Louisiana Supreme Court to continue in its supervisory role without the additional restrictions of Senate Bill 549. We are ready to meet with any member who wishes more information about the benefits law clinics provide to Louisiana. We appreciate your consideration and support.



Brian Bromberger
Dean, Loyola Law School



Stephen M. Griffin
Interim Dean, Tulane Law School