

February 14, 2017

Pennsylvania Board of Examiners
601 Commonwealth Ave. Suite 3600
P.O. Box 62535
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2535

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Deans of four of Pennsylvania's law schools, we write to express our views on the issue of whether candidates for admission to the Pennsylvania Bar who are lawfully present under the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) policy should be automatically excluded from consideration for bar admission because of their immigration status. We write in the case of Parthiv Patel, a 2016 graduate of Drexel School of Law, because we understand this issue arises in his application, but we have no knowledge and express no opinion on his substantive qualifications.

The Presidents of our universities have joined hundreds of college and university presidents from across the country to express their support for DACA and the many positive contributions that DACA students and other beneficiaries have made to our universities and in the communities we serve. In their statement of support the presidents note that "DACA beneficiaries on our campuses have been exemplary student scholars and student leaders, working across campus and in the community. With DACA, our students and alumni have been able to pursue opportunities in business, education, high tech, and the non-profit sector; they have gone to medical school, law school and graduate schools in numerous disciplines. They are actively contributing to their local communities and economies."

Following our Presidents' sentiments, our law schools are committed to providing the opportunity for all students to pursue their educational and professional goals. We value excellence and diversity and seek to attract and enroll the best students without regard to national or ethnic origin. We believe these values and admission practices best serve our educational missions and also best serve the legal profession and communities that lawyers serve.

We understand that your decision may depend on application and interpretation of federal law as well as the authority of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the Board of Law Examiners. It is not our intention to express an opinion on those or other legal issues. However, for the reasons above we believe that, as a matter of policy, individual law graduates who are lawfully present in the United States under the DACA program should be considered for Bar admission on their merits and should not be disqualified because of their immigration status.


Thank you for your consideration of our views.



William M. Carter, Jr.
Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Law



Gary S. Gildin
Dean, Dickinson Law



James W. Houck
Interim Dean, Penn State Law



Gregory N. Mandel
Interim Dean, Temple Law School