

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

April 10, 2014

Richard Sander
UCLA School of Law
PO Box 951476
Los Angeles, CA 90095
sander@law.ucla.edu

Re: FOIA 14-174

Dear Mr. Sander:

I am responding to your request dated March 27, 2014 under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act in which you request:

“I am seeking data, in either printed or electronic form--electronic data would be preferred--on the background and demographic characteristics of applicants to your law school for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 admissions cycles. I am generally interested in the objective data your school systematically collects for use in admissions decisions. These include, if you collect this information:

LSAT Score

Undergraduate GPA

Undergraduate college

Race

Ethnicity or Hispanic origin

Gender

Parent's income

Parent's occupation

Highest level of education achieved by a parent, or father's educational attainment and mother's educational attainment

Whether the student lives in a single parent household

State residency status

Whether the student has parents who are alumni/ae of your school

Any numerical admissions index used in making admissions decisions

Was the applicant accepted?

Did the applicant enroll?

In addition to the specific data, I would like copies of admissions policies or background materials on how this information is used in admissions decisions.”

Information responsive to your request for “...copies of admissions policies or background materials on how this information is used in admissions decisions...” is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 22 pages. Also, please see the below URLs for information on admissions policies:

<http://www.law.illinois.edu/prospective-students/apply-jd>

<https://officialguide.lsac.org/Release/SchoolsABADData/SchoolPage/SchoolPage.aspx?sid=67>

Your request for background and demographic data is being denied at this time pursuant to sections 7(1)(a) and (c) of the Act. Section 140/7(1)(a) of the Act exempts from disclosure “Information specifically prohibited

Office for University Relations

Urbana • 108 Henry Administration Building • MC 370 • 506 South Wright Street • Urbana, IL 61801 • (217) 333-6400 • Fax (217) 333-5733
Chicago • 414 Administrative Office Building • MC 971 • 1737 West Polk Street • Chicago, IL 60612-7228 • (312) 996-3772 • Fax (312) 996-1836

from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing adopted under federal or State law." The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. §1232g) protects the privacy of student education records and prohibits the release of any information from a student's education record without the consent of the eligible student. In this case, the data you seek is comparatively small in numbers and release of the same could result in the identification of a student or applicant (i.e., if only one student of a certain race or from a certain undergraduate college was enrolled).

Section 7(1)(c) exempts from disclosure "Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information." As stated above, release of the requested information could result in the identification of a student's or applicant's academic information. Public release of the same would be objectionable to a reasonable person and outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information.

You may resubmit your request for background and demographic data by requesting fewer specific characteristics or accepting aggregate data.

You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Attorney General. The PAC may be reached by phone at 217-782-1396, by email to publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, or by postal mail at the Public Access Bureau, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. You also have the right to seek judicial review under section 11 of this Act.

If you have questions for our office, please contact 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy
Executive Director
and Chief Records Officer