

# CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Interim Steering  
Committee

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Dear Colleague:

We write to invite you to join us in creating a new organization of clinical teachers. This new organization is intended: (1) to improve the quality of legal education by working to improve and expand clinical education; (2) to serve as a voice for clinical teachers and to represent their interests both inside and outside the academy; (3) to foster the professional development of new and experienced clinical teachers through, *inter alia*, supporting and/or conducting affordable educational conferences in a time, place and manner which facilitate the unique needs of clinical teachers; (4) to promote and disseminate clinical scholarship and research; (5) to foster the integration of clinical teachers into law schools; (6) to gather and distribute to clinical teachers information about issues which affect clinical teachers, such as new and existing sources of funding; and (7) to bring together in one organization all those involved in clinical education.

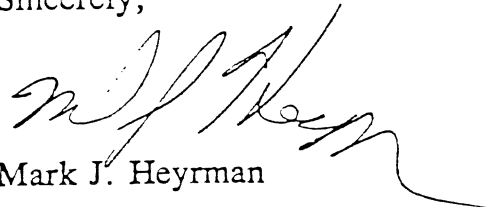
A new organization is needed because no organization currently exists which can perform these functions. For example, while the Association of American Law Schools Section on Clinical Education has and will continue to serve many needs of clinicians, it is prohibited by AALS rule from speaking as a section outside the law school world. For these reasons and encouraged by the favorable response from over one hundred clinicians to our initial solicitation of interest in the creation of a new organization, in May, 1991, the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) was formed in Washington, D.C. The clinical teachers named above were chosen to guide the organization until elections could be held to a governing Board.

Since then, CLEA has been incorporated as a not-for-profit entity in Colorado. The initial dues for the organization have been set at \$ 15.00. Bylaws are being drafted and will be presented for discussion and approval at the next meeting to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Sunday, May 10, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Clinical Education Workshop to be held at that time. A governing board and officers will also be chosen in Albuquerque.

CLEA has appointed a committee chaired by Nina Tarr to create a journal of clinical education. Negotiations are being conducted with a law school to house this journal. The interim steering committee has voted to offer subscriptions to this journal to all CLEA members. If sufficient other funding for the journal is not forthcoming, CLEA may increase its dues to cover this additional cost.

If you are interested in participating in the creation of the organization outlined above, please complete the attached form and return it with your check for \$ 15.00. We would like to create an organization which also includes persons who may not be considered by their law school to be clinical teachers, such as field supervisors and adjuncts who may be involved in skills training. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you would circulate this letter and the response form to other persons who fit this broad description. We look forward to working with you and to the exciting challenges ahead.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Heyrman

MJH:cp  
Enclosure