

Southern Illinois University School of Law Complaints

[Excerpted from the School of Law Rules for AY 2024-2025]

ARTICLE V - STUDENT AFFAIRS [amended 2/22/11; amended and renumbered 12/2/11]

...

4. Student Complaints Concerning the Program of Legal Education [added 12/2/11; amended 11/18/22]
 - (a) The School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association, which issues Standards for the Approval of Law Schools. Any student who wishes to allege a significant problem that directly implicates the School of Law's program of legal education and compliance with the ABA's Accreditation Standards should file a written complaint with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance.
 - (b) The written complaint filed pursuant to (a) must identify the behavior, program, process, or other matter that is the subject of the complaint and should explain how the matter implicates the School of Law's program of legal education and its compliance with a specific, identified ABA Standard(s) in sufficient detail to permit the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance to investigate the matter. The complaint must include the student's contact information, including name, home and email addresses, and phone number. [amended 11/18/22]
 - (c) Within three weeks after the written statement is received by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance shall advise the student in writing of any action the School of Law is taking to address the matter or any further investigation into the matter. [amended 11/18/22]
 - (d) Within ten days of being advised of any action the School of Law is taking to address the matter, the student may appeal that decision to the Dean. The decision of the Dean shall be final.
 - (e) A copy of the complaint and a summary of the process and resolution of the complaint shall be kept in the office of the Dean until the next ABA Sabbatical Site Evaluation.

5. General Grievance Procedure for Students [amended 12/2/11; amended 11/18/22]

Except for cases governed by specific grievance procedures, such as grade grievances under Rule III.3(g) and complaints regarding the program of education under Rule V.4, the School of Law Honor Code, the SIUC Student Conduct Code, and any other University policies generally applicable to law students, the following general grievance procedures shall be abided by:

- (a) Student Bar Association. Initially, students with any grievance relating to the School of Law of whatever nature may, at their option take such a grievance to the governing board of the Student Bar Association so that organization may attempt to effectuate an informal resolution of the grievance.
- (b) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance. Should such an informal resolution fail, or should the student elect not to consult the Student Bar Association, then the student shall present the grievance to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance for decision. [amended 11/18/22]
- (c) Dean/Committee. The student, as of right, may appeal the decision of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance, to the Dean, who may, at his or her option, appoint an ad hoc committee to advise him/her or refer the matter to a standing committee, as appropriate. [amended 11/18/22]
- (d) Faculty. The student may appeal the decision of the Dean to the full faculty who shall serve as the ultimate arbiters of the matter.
- (e) Formal Complaint. At no stage in this general grievance procedure will the student be required to file a formal complaint or petition unless such a complaint or petition is requested by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance, Dean, committee or full faculty. [amended 11/18/22]