

ILLINOIS LATINO LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ILLSA)

First Annual Illinois Latino Law Forum February 7, 2004 Report

ILLSA Member Organizations:

Chicago-Kent Hispanic-Latino Law Student Association
DePaul Latino Law Student Association
John Marshall Hispanic Law Student Association
Loyola Latino-American Law Student Association
NIU Latina/o Law Student Association
Northwestern Latino Law Student Association
SIU Hispanic American Law Students Association
University of Chicago Latino/a Law Student Association
UIUC Latina/o Law Students Association

First Annual Illinois Latino Law Forum Sponsors:

Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois
Chicago-Kent College of Law
DePaul University College of Law
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Northern Illinois University College of Law
Southern Illinois College of Law

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear 2004 Illinois Latino Law Forum financial sponsors:

It is with great pride that the Illinois Latino Law Students Association (ILLSA) presents you with our report on the First Annual Illinois Latino Law Forum. We are proud to report that 225 participants attended including 84 high school and college students as well as law student, attorney and judicial volunteers. This report provides a brief summary of the 2004 Illinois Latino Law Forum evaluations.

We hope that this report establishes the need to support this type of programming as an essential part of law school admissions recruitment. The First Annual Illinois Latino Law Forum was a tremendous success. It was the first event of its kind to incorporate all facets of the legal community in Illinois of interest to prospective students ranging from law school admissions representatives, law students, lawyers and judges. All of our participants demonstrated a strong commitment to encouraging young Latinas/os to consider attending law school.

As stated in our initial proposal for the forum, with the advent of the newly formed Illinois Latino Law Student Association, it is imperative that we keenly focus on the need to increase the number of Latina/o law students at our respective law schools in Illinois. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently dedicated an issue to the increasing numbers of Latinas/os entering higher education. ILLSA would like to continue to encourage more Latinas/os to consider the field of law as a professional career choice with events such as the Illinois Latino Law Forum.

Finally, the volunteer reception held after the forum offered the opportunity for our law student volunteers and legal professional panelists to socialize and network with other Latina/o law students and professionals from all over Illinois.

We appreciate your financial and human capital support of this year's forum and look forward to working with you on next year's forum planning.

Respectfully yours,

2003-04 Board Members
Illinois Latino Law Student Association

B. Statistical Data

Attachment A provides a duplicate of the forum survey which was distributed to attendees and participants. The survey provides a list of the questions and responses selected for each of the sections reviewed below. Below please find in the following pages a listing and charts of the response averages for the forum evaluation (Attachment A) questions including non-responses.

A total of 77 evaluations were received.

46 college students responded: 12 from DePaul, 8 from Loyola, 7 from UIC, 4 from University of Chicago, 1 each from Northeastern IL, Purdue, Prairie State College, UIUC and University of Phoenix. Ten students did not list their home college. College students standings: 15 Freshmen, 13 sophomores, 11 juniors and 6 seniors. One student did not report their standing.

3 graduate students responded: 2 in MBA candidates and 1 MSW candidate- schools not disclosed.

15 high school students responded: 4 from Eisenhower, 2 from Elmwood Park and 1 each from Cristo Rey, Elgin, Whitney Young, De La Salle, Shirley Sierra and Loyola Academy. Three students did not report their home high schools. High school student standings: 3 Freshmen, 2 Sophomores, 5 Juniors and 5 Seniors.

Professional Respondents (1 each): Paralegal, Engineer, Pre-law Advisor, H.S. College Counselor, Public Relations, Mechanical Engineer, Legal Secretary, Hospital Registrar, Writer, H.S. Teacher-Chemistry & Physics

Other Respondents: 1 forum panelist and 1 UIC alum.

Participants were asked to select among the following options: Very Good (1), Good (2) and Poor (3). The numbers listed reflect the average out of this 3-point scale.

Question 3: Please tell us about your experiences in these forum segments (if attended)

Registration **1.36**

Breakfast **1.57**

Admission to Law School Panel **1.28**

Length of Law School Admission Panel **1.57**

Law School Admission Panelists **1.39**

Law School Class **1.25**

Length of Law School Class **1.41**

Law School Class Topic **1.32**

Law School Class Professor **1.17**

Current Law Student Panel **1.39**

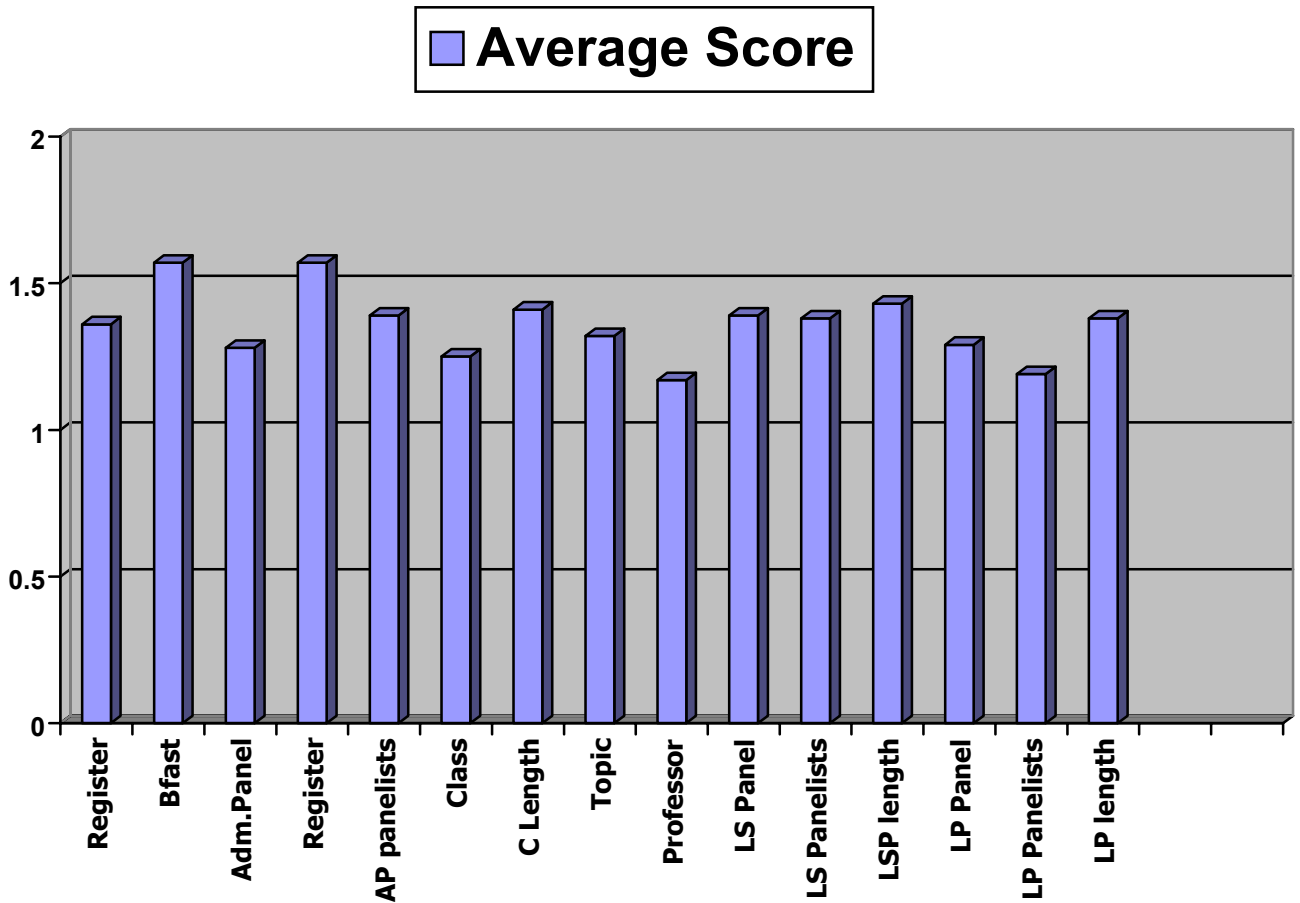
Current Law Student Panelists **1.38**

Current Law Student Panel Length **1.43**

Legal Professionals Panel **1.29**

Legal Professional Panelists **1.19**

Legal Profession Panel Length **1.38**



Participants were asked to select among the following options: Very Good (1), Good (2) and Poor (3). The numbers listed reflect the average out of this 3-point scale.

Question 6: Please tell us about your experience in the **Law Schools Fair room.**

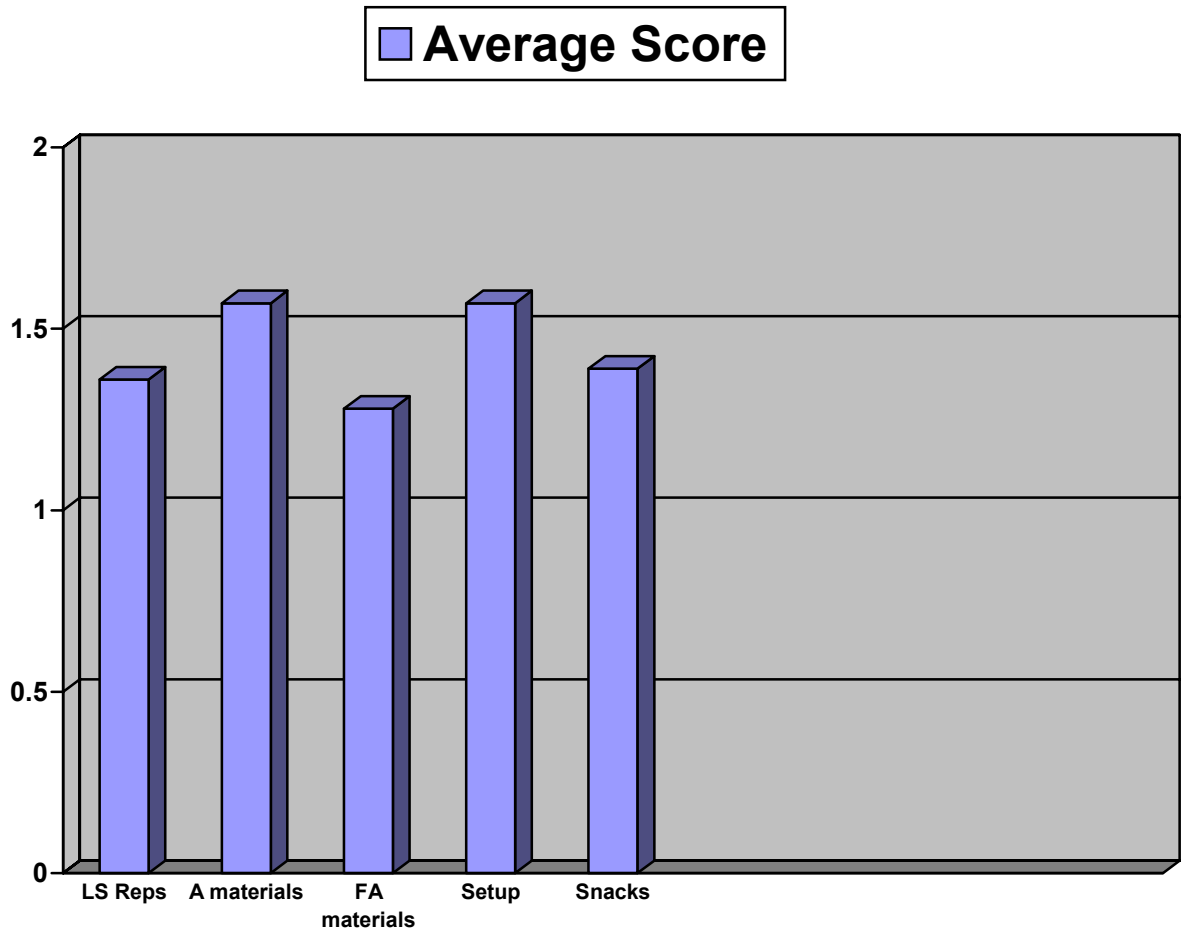
Law School Admission Representatives **1.35**

Admission Materials Available **1.39**

Financial Aid Materials Available **1.57**

Admissions Room Setup **1.67**

Snacks **1.52**



Participants were asked to select among the following options: Very Good (1), Good (2) and Poor (3). The numbers listed reflect the average out of this 3-point scale.

Question 7: Please rate the following **overall** and circle only one option

Timing of Forum (February and Saturday) **1.49**

Length of Forum **1.47**

Overall Quality of Forum **1.19**

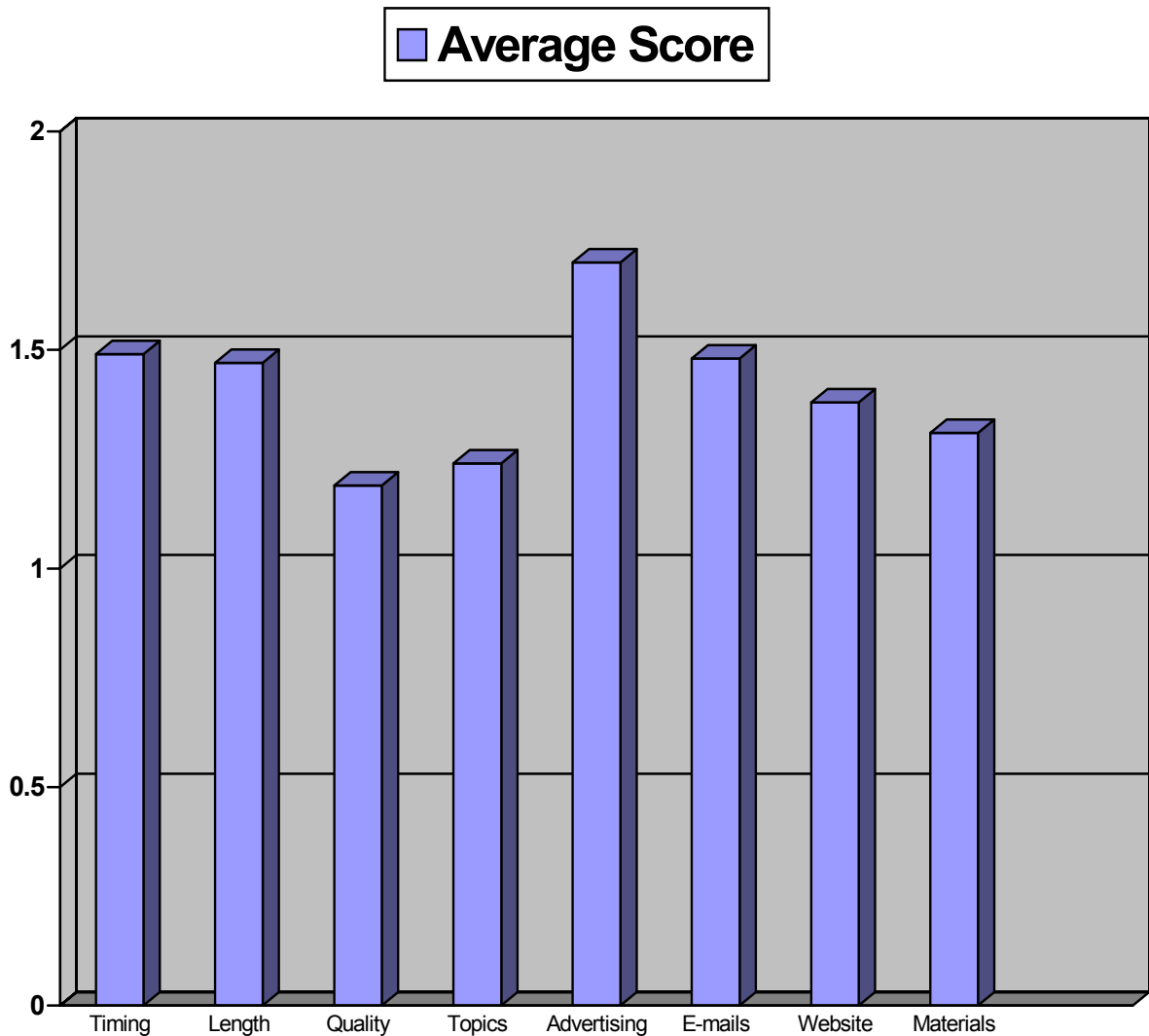
Forum Session Topics **1.24**

Forum Advertising **1.70**

Forum E-mail Updates from ILLSA **1.48**

ILLSA registration website (www.illsa.org) **1.38**

Forum Resources and Materials **1.31**



Question 10: If you are an attendee, after the forum, do you feel like you received enough information to help you with your **decision** to apply to law school?

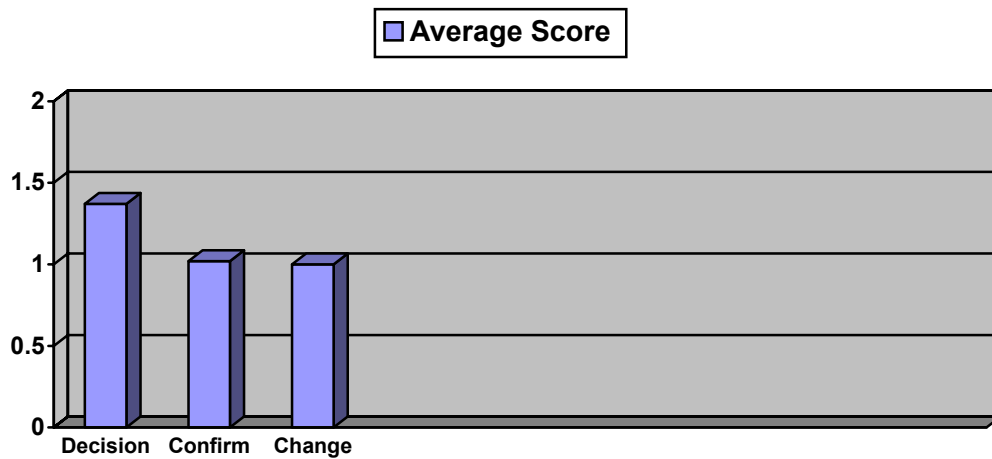
Definitely Yes (1), Somewhat (2), Not really (3) and Not at all (4).

Result: 1.37

Question 11: If you are an attendee, did the forum confirm or change your plans to attend law school?

Confirm: Yes, I would like to attend law school (1) and No, I do not want to attend law school (2) **Result: 1.02**

Change: Yes, I would like to attend law school (1) and No, I would not like to attend law school (2) **Result: 1.00**



C. Written Evaluation Comments

Question 4

Tell us what you liked best about the forum sessions:

- Panelists were so open to answering our questions and the fact that they encouraged us to go on with our pursuits and interest in law school.
- Very informative.
- The current law students and legal professionals panels were the best- most informative.
- That there were individuals from various types of law.
- I really enjoyed the forum it was great. The ILLSA members provided a nice calm comfortable environment.
- Great class topic, great professor, **Ismail and Monica** were great speakers, Great legal professional panelists.
- I enjoyed the Professors that spoke as well as the legal professional panel were great also. I really enjoyed what they had to say!
- Law school class- awesome idea! More of that is great giving us an insight to law school classes.
- I liked that there were panelists from different services that were willing to share their experiences and answer questions.
- It really helped me to find a clear view on law school.
- It had a little of everything. The law students tried talking about school as much as they could.
- The current law student panel was excellent and very informative, it was helpful to hear their experience in law school. **Honorable Judge David Delgado** really motivated me in the 5-minute speech he gave, and I'm sure it impacted the others present.
- They were very informative. It was extremely helpful to have people with first, up front, hands-on experience to tell us about their view on the entire process of entering law. For it being the first forum it was very well organized.
- The different backgrounds of the speakers. There were people from all walks of life and with different experiences to speak to.
- I loved seeing people on the other side of the table who have made it. Thank you so much for doing this- this really was motivational for all of us!!
- Meeting Hispanics who are in the legal field.
- The sessions give students interested in law a place to start and obtain information especially since a lot of us don't know where to start.
- Overall the forum was very informative and I couldn't just pinpoint one particular section rather I was rating it in its total.
- I enjoyed listening to the first-hand experiences of law students and professionals. I found all of the financial aid information very useful. I just learned a lot today and have been motivated even more towards law.
- I really enjoyed the interactive forums with the students and the professionals.
- All sections were good.
- I enjoyed the input of the current law school students.
- The legal professional panel was informative. However I liked **Professor Howlett's** presentation, it was all-encompassing and focused on class and procedures.

- That we were able to ask questions and get an idea of law school from many perspectives. I think the people that were chosen for the panels were excellent.
- I really appreciate the time and dedication by the **ILLSA**. Also, thanks to all the **judges and lawyers** who attended.
- I liked two sessions: the mock class and the law student forum. I was able to experience what a class would be like and was able to hear diverse experiences from current law students.
- The information offered and the answers.
- The **current law students** were really knowledgeable. They share their experiences and that is really good, it sort of breaks the fear of going to law school.
- **Professor Howlett** had good interaction with the audience.
- Current law student panel**: excellent presentation, specific answers, good reasoning for all issues 😊
- I liked everything about these sessions. They all gave us some very good information on law school.
- Practical advice, but I would like to see more individuals encourage prospective students to utilize their college pre-law advisers.
- The **legal professions panelists**. They have been through it all. They are very knowledgeable people.
- The best part were the current law student panelists and the legal profession panelists.
- I enjoyed everything and primarily the direct approach of **current law students**. I felt at ease when I was approached casually and that is essential to greater understanding.
- The **admissions panelists** were really helpful and descriptive. The professor was great! I liked that the **current law students** touched on the hispanic theme. The **legal professional panelists** were awesome, really focused on what I came here for, the fact that I am a minority and want to go to law school. I really liked the presenters, it seems to me like you took time to get them.
- I liked all the forums and learned more than what I was ready for. It inspired me to expand my education and knowledge for my future.
- The law school class was great. It was not boring as I expected. It was very informational and interesting. Everything was good.
- I enjoyed the **Legal Professional Panel** because they tried to paint the picture that is possible. It was nice to see that many Latino lawyers as role models.
- I enjoyed the simulated law school class. The question and answer session was very informative. Panels and speakers.
- The forum was very well-organized and the panelists that were very honest about their experiences.
- What I liked the best was hearing about the experiences from **current law school students**. I also found it very helpful to hear from the **legal professional panel** because I was not aware of all the different specializations that one could approach upon completion of law school.
- Well, I really liked everything. All the sessions were very helpful and informative, but if I have to choose something that I liked the best would be the law school class professor **Michael J. Howlett**. He was very fun and interesting.
- The **current law student panel** was especially interesting to me. Their different insights- down to earth comments- made the session the most appealing.

- Very informative, evaluative, the forum session that I particularly enjoyed was seeing **Professor Michael Howlett**. He really showed me the true “deal” with life in Law and how to succeed in this career.
- Admission process and student panel. Very informative!
- As a whole every panel was very informative, each event went into great detail about their experiences.
- The class was very interesting.
- The professional panel.
- Sessions were candid and still informative. Good timing for each.
- I enjoyed learning deadline for LSAT test taking. I also enjoyed learning what to expect from the law school experience.
- The panels and the panelists were very fun and helpful. Everything was great. Thank you.
- Law school class and the instructor. Financial aid was very helpful as well.
- I liked that we got to get involved in the conversation.
- Professionals giving their experience. The students explaining the first year of law school.
- The information was very useful. They gave very good tips. The panelists were all very wonderful!
- The information was very helpfu.
- Mock class. Seeing other Latinos studying law and within the profession.
- What I liked best about the forum session was the information that was given to me and the classes that were given by the professors.
- What I liked best about the forum was the law school class session with **Prof. Howlett and the student panelists**.
- **Prof. Howlett’s** presentation was outstanding and motivational.
- I liked how the panelists spoke clearly and went over all of the subjects.
- I learned a lot and got an understanding of what law school would be like.
- The information from a Latina/o standpoint and participating in this forum.
- Informative.
- **Professor Cavise** conducted a really great law school class!

Question 5

Tell us what you did not like about the forum sessions:

- The amount of questions that were accepted.
- Nothing (3).
- There was really nothing that I did not like. Great Job 😊 Even though you had people from various fields of law a lot of other types of law were not touch.
- The students of the law school needed to be stronger in their speeches. However, they were okay and made a great task in bringing themselves and talking.
- Staying in just one room. Needed to kinda get some air aside from restroom breaks- otherwise good.
- There should be a few minute breaks in between sessions.
- I really couldn’t see some of the speakers. I like to see who is speaking.
- They could have had more different types of attorneys practicing law.

- I enjoyed everything, it was informative. It would be great if there were more time for questions.
- There weren't really any disliked instances.
- There was not a big enough focus on how to find funding for law schools. Finding funding is the #1 concern students have. Maybe next time have a more detail list of scholarship and/or applications instead of just web URLs that I can get myself by doing a google search.
- I wish the law student panelists would have spoken more about the challenges they each faced to get to law school, their personal experiences of the LSAT, applying to law school, financial aid (grants, fellowships), more examples of their perspective experiences.
- It should definitely be advertised more. I would have never heard of this forum if it weren't for a friend of a friend.
- I thought the whole program setup and length was well done. Maybe more variety breakfast sort(?) to speak, but overall great program.
- I think that we needed a little more time in the sessions.
- They were short.
- I thought the time was pretty good, but it seemed to drag out.
- Short amount of time to process information and to ask questions.
- If we had more time to ask questions and have the panel speak more about themselves.
- Wish length of law school class was longer.
- I felt that the legal professionals were too quiet. I wish they would have talked more about what to do once in the field.
- I liked everything, it is great to see that Latinos and women especially have put the conference together. Thanks.
- Too early.
- The length of the presentations.
- Law student panel- I was concerned to hear advice like "you can do any thing with a law degree" or that the reason to go to law school was to "gain respect". Since law students will accrue \$60,000 in debt this is "high risk" advice for students who may not be sure of their career path or who may be applying to law school by default.
- Some of the sessions lasted too long.
- The length of the law school class.
- The legal professionals panel could have been longer.
- Time seemed to be very tight. Also, maybe the theme of the Latino Law Forum could have been focused more on the fact that we are Latinos and that means we have or feel like we have a strike
- I can't say I did not like any thing about this forum since I enjoyed everything.
- More female lawyers would be nice to have.
- I think combining it into one whole session instead of two different rooms.
- I have nothing to comment on this question because I liked everything. Thanks and Good Job!
- Honestly, I really enjoyed every piece of this forum, there was nothing that I even think of being bad or distasteful. I really liked and enjoyed myself profoundly.
- Great session!
- The only complaint I would make is the early start time.

- Same the students (?)
- Group setting was a little cluttered.
- I think the forum should have included a mock LSAT exam!
- Admissions was too vague.
- Panelists should use the microphone, some of them were soft spoken.
- There wasn't anything that I disliked about the forum sessions. Everyone made me feel welcome.
- Everything was very well set up and I did not dislike anything, but I thought the financial session went on a little too long even though it is imperative information.
- Nothing, I was very impressed.
- This being the first forum everything went well although I would rename the title Nativa/o Law Forum in the future.
- Did not focus enough on needs of nontraditional prospective students.

Question 8

If there was one thing you would change about the forum it would be:

- Nothing (5)
- E-mail reminders
- The advertisement
- More time for law school class and panels
- A little longer
- Possibly extending some sessions.
- I would try to make it later in the day.
- The length of the forum seemed short.
- Only more advertising, especially to Latino communities.
- To include the contact information from the panelists who showed up and are willing to share their knowledge. How about setting up a mentor/protégé with the law professors, judges, students and other law professionals? I personally would love to have a law student or professional as a mentor.
- Bigger room
- Maybe if the program was offered more than once a year.
- Make it longer.
- Extend.
- I would have more attendees.
- Bring in Immigration Law/Issues- it's a huge concern in the Latino community.
- I would definitely try to bring more senate leaders.
- The time it starts
- More time.
- The length.
- I was on the 4th floor and no food/drink permitted in my room, but it was ok for the 5th floor.
- Just shorten the length of the sessions.
- The fact that my university did not advertise this in our own school. When in fact there were people from our school who were in the panel.
- Nothing everything was perfect.

- The weather.
- More attorneys, judges and law professors.
- Scholarship opportunities for law students.
- The length of time that each legal professional spoke.
- Wouldn't change anything! It was good!
- More question time.
- Day/Time
- Time (not so early)
- More information about student aid.
- Allow people to register in groups, so they can go to the sessions together.
- Set up of classroom.
- The timing (too early)
- Maybe more time in popular sessions and more interaction time with the panelists.
- I do not know.
- More info for high school students (2).
- Nativ/o law legal forum.
- Need to focus more on mid-career prospective students.

Question 9

If there was one thing you would not change about the forum it would be:

- The day to have the forum
- The panelists especially the presence of **Judge Reyes**.
- The mock class sessions.
- I would not change the panel sessions.
- Not a thing (3).
- Law school student panel and Law Professionals (Attorneys/Judge) especially **Honorable Judge David Delgado**.
- The set of panelists.
- Speakers and info given
- I would leave everything the same, besides the breakfast which needs more variety. But awesome program.
- That it's free.
- The legal professionals.
- I want to come next year.
- The participation by outside organizations.
- Everything was perfect.
- The leaders and current law students.
- The flow of the sessions.
- The topics.
- Sticking with the schedule and the handouts with bullet point were very good.
- Having legal professionals share their knowledge.
- The people who were in the panel.
- All the information. Thanx 😊
- Everything.
- Panel members.

- The speakers and topics.
- The law class session.
- The “great” presentations.
- Student panel.
- The panel discussions.
- The presence of judges.
- Panel setting
- The fact that we are involved in the conversation.
- The staff and panelists.
- The variety of panelists.
- **Prof. Howlett’s** presentation.
- The people that spoke to us.
- The panel.
- The drive and direction towards recruiting Aztlan.
- Grassroots feel.

Additional Comments and Suggestions

- Very informative.
- It was a great experience! Thank you so much for a great presentation.
- Strengthening my desire to go on and work towards the area of law- I think I’m really going to law school 😊
- The law school fair should be in a larger room.
- Excellent forum! I felt very encouraged.
- Maybe advertise this event more openly. I had to find about it through a friend and that friend got it from another student at another school.
- More research on specific scholarships and/or fellowships offered to potential law students.
- For being the 1st Illinois Latino Law Forum it was very well organized! Great Job!! I had attended another law forum at the Hyatt in Chicago, but that forum did not compare at all to this forum because it was pertaining to us directly, to Latinos!
- It provided the opportunity to meet people in the field prior to pursuing law school. Outstanding program.
- Very helpful forum, informative for first-generation Latinos who don’t know where to go or where to start researching the many aspects of law school (financial aid, admission, etc.)
- Overall great program and I’m glad such a program is now available. Very useful information.
- Diversity.
- This for forum is a great foundation for the years to come. Our latino students need the guidance and support- great job!
- I wish that the mock class were longer and that the professionals talked more.
- It is great to listen to Latino leaders talking about the opportunities and the need for representation.
- Very informational.

- Thank you so much for this opportunity- it takes a day to make a difference and y'all just did that.
- I love the forum. Thanks for everything!
- Congrats on the success of the forum!
- I think it's a great opportunity for young Latinos to learn about such great opportunities in Law and to meet individuals who have actually succeeded and are giving back to the community. I greatly benefited from this event.
- I'm very happy that you were able to put this together because it was very helpful to all of us.
- I really enjoyed all the great effort and energy set for this forum. I really enjoyed myself and enjoyed the company of all these great people. Thank you.
- As a high school student I am still unclear on if I will attend law school, but this forum has made me more interested in law school.
- Thank you. Please continue these programs.
- This law forum provided me with lots of information.
- I really enjoyed coming, and it gave me a good idea about law school.
- That I believe we need more of the law school class topics because that was really informative and fun! It kind of gives you a sense of what you have to think about and the different perspectives.
- I have always wanted to be a lawyer and this was very exciting and motivational.
- Good luck with our future policy making.

ATTACHMENT A

Illinois Latino Law Student Association (ILLSA)
First Annual Illinois Latino Law Forum
Saturday, February 7, 2004
Evaluation Form

Dear Attendees, Panelists, Law School Admission Representatives and Volunteers:

We appreciate your participation in the First Annual Illinois Latino Law Forum. In order to help us plan next year's forum please complete the following evaluation. Thank you!

1) Please check your role with the forum:

- Attendee Volunteer
 Panelist Other (please list): _____

2) Current educational status and school name:

- High school student: _____
Circle one: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

- College student: _____
Circle one: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

- Graduate student- please list degree (MA, MBA, PhD or other):

Current program of study: _____

- Not attending school. If so please list your current occupation below:

3) Please tell us about your experiences in these **forum segments** (if attended).
Please circle only one option to the right:

Registration	Very Good	Good	Poor
Breakfast	Very Good	Good	Poor
Admission to Law School Panel	Very Good	Good	Poor

Length of Law School Admission Panel	Very Good	Good	Poor
Law School Admission Panelists	Very Good	Good	Poor
Law School Class	Very Good	Good	Poor
Length of Law School Class	Very Good	Good	Poor
Law School Class Topic	Very Good	Good	Poor
Law School Class Professor	Very Good	Good	Poor
Current Law Student Panel	Very Good	Good	Poor
Current Law Student Panelists	Very Good	Good	Poor
Current Law Student Panel Length	Very Good	Good	Poor
Legal Professions Panel	Very Good	Good	Poor
Legal Professions Panelists	Very Good	Good	Poor

Legal Profession Panel Length	Very Good	Good	Poor
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4) In the section below please tell us what you **liked best** about the **forum sessions**:

5) In the section below please tell us what you **did not like** about the **forum sessions**:

6) Please tell us about your experience in the **Law Schools Fair room**.
Please circle only one option to the right:

Law School Admission Representatives	Very Good	Good	Poor
Admission Materials Available	Very Good	Good	Poor
Financial Aid Materials Available	Very Good	Good	Poor
Admissions Room Setup	Very Good	Good	Poor
Snacks	Very Good	Good	Poor

7) Please rate the following overall and circle only one option to the right::

Timing of Forum (February and Saturday)	Very Good	Good	Poor
Length of Forum	Very Good	Good	Poor
Overall Quality of Forum	Very Good	Good	Poor
Forum Session Topics	Very Good	Good	Poor
Forum Advertising	Very Good	Good	Poor
Forum E-mail updates from ILLSA	Very Good	Good	Poor
ILLSA registration website- www.illsa.org	Very Good	Good	Poor
Forum Resources and Materials	Very Good	Good	Poor

8) If there was one thing you **would change** about the forum it would be:

9) If there was one thing you **would not** change about the forum it would be:

10) If you are an **attendee**, after the forum, do you feel like you received enough information to help you with your decision to apply to law school? Please check one.

- Definitely Yes Somewhat Not really Not at all

11) If you are an **attendee**, did the forum **confirm** or **change** your plans to attend law school? Please check only one of the boxes below.

Confirm:

- Yes, I want to attend law school
 No, I do not want to attend law school

Change:

- Yes, I would like to attend law school
 No, I would not like to attend law school

12) Additional comments and suggestions:
