

## Just How Ignorant is Martha Saunders?

A recent report from the [ABA Journal](#) signals just how ignorant Martha Saunders is. First an excerpt from the ABA Journal:

Overall there are more than two law grads for every estimated job opening, according to data compiled by a lawyer who is a legal blogger. But it's much worse in some parts of the country.

At least one state has more than six law grads for each legal job opening, and several states have three or more grads per job, according to Matt Leichter, author of the blog [Law School Tuition Bubble](#). He ranked the states with the worst law grad gluts, giving Mississippi an ignominious No. 1 rank after finding it had 10.53 law grads for each projected legal job opening.

The very poor--in Mississippi, abysmal--job market for lawyers was well know when we published the following [report](#) more than a year ago:

### **4th Tier (Unranked) School Joins Forces With Another 4th Tier (Unranked) School Which Equals 4th Tier Thinking**

#### **Southern Miss and Mississippi College School of Law Recruit "High-Caliber Students" for a Joint Program**

The [Hattiesburg American](#) reported, "A unique partnership between the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi College School of Law will enable undergraduates to obtain their Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern Miss after one year of study in the MC Law program."

"The College of Arts and Letters is pleased to partner with Mississippi College's School of Law in this endeavor," said Dr. J. Mark Wrighton, associate dean, Undergraduate Programs and Assessment. "We anticipate that it will further the university's efforts to recruit and to retain high-caliber students and build even more interest in the college's programs."

Let's be quite frank. "High-caliber students" interested in law school will have the option and the intelligence to attend a nationally ranked law school, which MC School of Law is not. MC School of Law's tuition (approx. \$28,070) is better than twice the tuition of in- state [law school at Ol' Miss](#) (approx. \$10,275.), which is ranked #107 in the nation. MC School of Law should have a warning label focused on its danger to students' financial well-being: high cost, low employment prospects for it graduates. MC students might expect school loans to top \$100,000 for the joint USM/MC School of Law education. Let's next view the prospect for employment from an unranked law school...

Will USM and MC School of Law apply the full force of President Saunders' (Now, ex-president of USM but current provost at University of West Florida) expertise in public relations and advertising? Will USM and MC School of Law mislead students about job prospects upon completion of USM/MC School of Law program? Or will they provide complete information to students with regard to their job prospects? Since USM is acting as a feeder for MC School of Law, the prospects of honesty from President Saunders are slim and none. (See recent review of President Saunders "Strategic Plan." Or her misrepresentations with regard to the costs of the airplane she purchased/leased with state taxpayer and student money during a recession.)

### **A More Fundamental Problem for USM as an Education Institution**

The elephant in the room is the quality, or rather lack of quality, of the education at USM and MC School of Law. USM and MC School of Law should be working substantively, applying their full efforts and resources, to improve the academic quality of their schools, not simply combining their fourth tier institutions to produce a fourth rate joint project.

**And, is current USM President Bennett continuing Saunders' joint USM/MC School of Law education program urging students to go to MC School of Law when there are "10.53 law grads for each projected legal job opening"?**