Dear Sir or Madam:

Florida Coastal School of Law requires rigorous grading curves for all of its courses, especially first-year required courses. The curves require the following means with an acceptable deviation of no more than .10: first-semester required courses, 2.5 and non-first-semester courses, 2.7. The mean in Legal Methods courses must fall between 2.3 and 2.7. The mean in Lawyering Process – Legal Research & Objective Writing courses must fall between 2.6 and 2.8. Skills courses and advanced writing courses do not have a required mean but follow a prescribed grade distribution.

As a result of this grading policy, the grade averages for Coastal Law students may appear low when compared with those of students from other law schools. For this reason, we strongly encourage employers to pay close attention to a student’s class rank, which will indicate how well the student performed relative to other students in his/her class.

The Law School runs rankings on its students after the fall and spring semesters. During this ranking process, students are grouped into cohorts based upon the number of credits they have earned. The goal in ranking these cohorts together is to allow employers to compare all students who, based upon credits completed, can be expected to graduate in the same academic year. Rankings provide a snapshot of how students compare to one another at a specific point in time; therefore, each time a ranking is performed, students’ ranks may change based upon their applicable cohorts and the credits they have taken in the semester just completed. More information about the process used by Coastal Law to rank students may be found at http://www.fcsl.edu/registrar/class-ranking-policy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with more information about the Law School’s grading or ranking policies.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Irvin
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