Alabama Commission on Higher Education

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM

A. General Information

1. Institution: The University of Alabama

2. Date of Proposal Submission: August 14, 2012

3. Institutional Contact Person: Professor Bryan K. Fair, Dir. International Programs
   Telephone: 205-348-7494
   Fax: 205-348-7850
   E-mail: bfair@law.ua.edu

4. Program Identification—
   Title: Doctor of Jurisprudence
   Degree: J.S.D.
   CIP Code: 22.0203

5. Proposed Program Implementation Date: Fall, 2013

6. Program Administration
   College or School: UA School of Law
   Dean: Kenneth C. Randall
   Department:
   Chairperson: Professor Bryan K. Fair

B. Program Objectives and Content

1. To facilitate review of the proposal, please classify the degree program (e.g. Post Baccalaureate Masters, Research Doctorate (Ph.D.), Applied/Professional Doctorate (DPT, Ed.D., or DBA), …). If desired, please elaborate in a short paragraph. Professional Doctor Degree.

   The Law School currently offers a highly selective LL.M for lawyers trained around the world. The J.S.D. degree is designed for the very best of those students who have earned the Masters Degree and who seek to earn the terminal degree, usually in preparation for an academic career in law teaching. The Law School has enrolled many students who have wanted to continue their studies at Alabama, but the Law School has had no higher degree program to offer such students. Such students have had to go to other law schools to continue their studies. Our law school competes directly with many of these other law schools for students. Our Law School is at a competitive disadvantage without the additional degree. The J.S.D. degree will fill this
void, allowing the Law School to join over 40 other law schools, including many of the most prestigious law schools in the U.S. currently offering the J.S.D. or its equivalent. For reviewers who are less familiar with law schools, I am including a list of schools which currently offer the J.S.D. or its equivalent.

The following ABA-Approved Law Schools with J.S.D. or S.J.D. Programs:

American University
The University of California- Berkeley
The University of California- Los Angeles
The University of Chicago
Chicago-Kent College of Law
Columbia University
The University of Connecticut
Cornell University
Duke University
Emory University
The University of Florida
Fordham University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Golden Gate University
Harvard University
The University of Illinois
Indiana University- Bloomington
Indiana University- Indianapolis
The University of Kansas
Loyola University- Chicago
The University of Michigan
Northwestern University
The University of Notre Dame
Pace University
The University of the Pacific-McGeorge
The University of Pennsylvania
The University of Pittsburgh
St. Thomas University
Samford University
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Suffolk University
Temple University
Thomas Jefferson School of Law
Tulane University
Vanderbilt University
The University of Virginia

Form Date: 12/11/02
6. List new courses that will be added to your curriculum specifically for this program. Indicate number, title and credit hour value for each course.

In most JSD degree programs, students participate in supervised independent study classes and directed research classes, under the supervision of the Director of the JSD degree program and a faculty expert in the student’s field of research. Because students will undertake research and write in a broad range of fields, the courses will be more generic descriptions of activities rather than subject concentrations. The Law School will create new independent study courses, directed research classes for the program, and a dissertation research course, once this proposal has been approved at all levels of review.

The Law Faculty has recommended approval of the program. It has also been reviewed by the ABA, which has concluded that the Law School has the resources to well support the JSD and it will have no detrimental effect on the JD program. Once the Law School has approval from ACHE, the Law School Curriculum Committee will undertake its usual role in approving the description and content of new courses, and recommend the same for final approval by the full faculty.

7. Please list any existing undergraduate programs at the institution which are directly or indirectly related to the proposed graduate program. If this is a doctoral proposal, also list related master’s programs at your institution.

The most related existing program at the Law School is the international LL.M degree program. As described above, some of the very best applicants to LL.M programs choose to attend law schools which also offer the JSD degree. The Law School seeks to join the list of such schools.

8. Program Completion Requirements—

The Law School expects most JSD degree candidates to be enrolled at the Law School for 2 to 3 years beyond the LL.M degree to complete the 48-hour JSD degree program. The time will vary based on prior work and the pace of each candidate’s research and writing progress. The Director of International Programs, in consultation with the International Program Committee and any supervising faculty, will set the credit hour requirements for major courses, supporting courses, and dissertation preparation individually for each applicant. The minimum time in the JSD degree program will be two academic years, or the completion of 48 hours, after earning the LL.M. After the completion of 1 year, candidates for the JSD will defend their dissertation/research proposal before a committee, including the supervising faculty, the Director of International Programs, and at least two members of the International Program Committee.
Appendix A:
Sample Curriculum

JSD curricula vary widely. This proposal is modeled on the leading JSD programs. Each study plan will be tailored to the academic interests of each candidate. Each candidate will enroll in designated courses at the Law School until completion of the degree. It is expected that all students will complete the JSD degree within 3 years, but no later than 5 years from first enrolling in the JSD program.

First Year-

Fall Semester: Complete 12 hours of Independent Study/Directed Research in major field.

LAW 900 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 901 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 902 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 903 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law

Spring Semester: Complete 12 hours of Independent Study/Directed Research in related courses.

LAW 904 3 credit hours on Legal Philosophy
LAW 905 3 credit hours on Legal Research
LAW 906 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law
LAW 907 3 credit hours on Advanced substantive law

End of year 1: Defend dissertation proposal before the Committee.

Second Year-

Fall Semester: Revise dissertation proposal.

LAW 908 Dissertation Research—complete 12 hours of directed research under faculty supervision.

Spring Semester: Write dissertation and complete

LAW 909 Dissertation Writing—complete 12 hours of dissertation drafting under faculty supervision. Defend dissertation before the Committee.

Third Year (if necessary)

Revise/complete dissertation.