

REPORT ON CANADIAN COMMON LAW ADMISSIONS INFORMATION AND STATISTICS: 2012, 2013 and HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE 1985-2013

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INTRODUCTION

This report is divided into two parts. The first section, entitled **Admissions Information - 2012 and 2013**, summarizes and analyzes Canadian Common Law Schools' Admissions Information for the last two entering classes, September of 2012 and 2013, respectively. [No Report was prepared in relation to the 2012 entering classes, so this is a 'two year' Report.] This report is supplemented with preliminary information on Applications for, and the anticipated number of places in, First Year Law at the Common Law Schools in September 2014.

This portion of the Report examines Admissions information collected by Canada's Common Law Schools, and identifies a few recent trends in Canadian Common Law Admissions.

The second part of this Report, entitled **Analysis of Historical Trends in Canadian Common Law School Admissions**, uses information collected by Canada's Common Law Schools under the auspices of Canadian Law Admissions Statistics, Services and Innovations (CLASSI). CLASSI began collecting and sharing law schools' admissions information in 1984. This survey instrument was modified and supplemented over the years, but most of the core information that was begun to be collected in the mid-1980s has continued without modification, making historical comparisons possible.

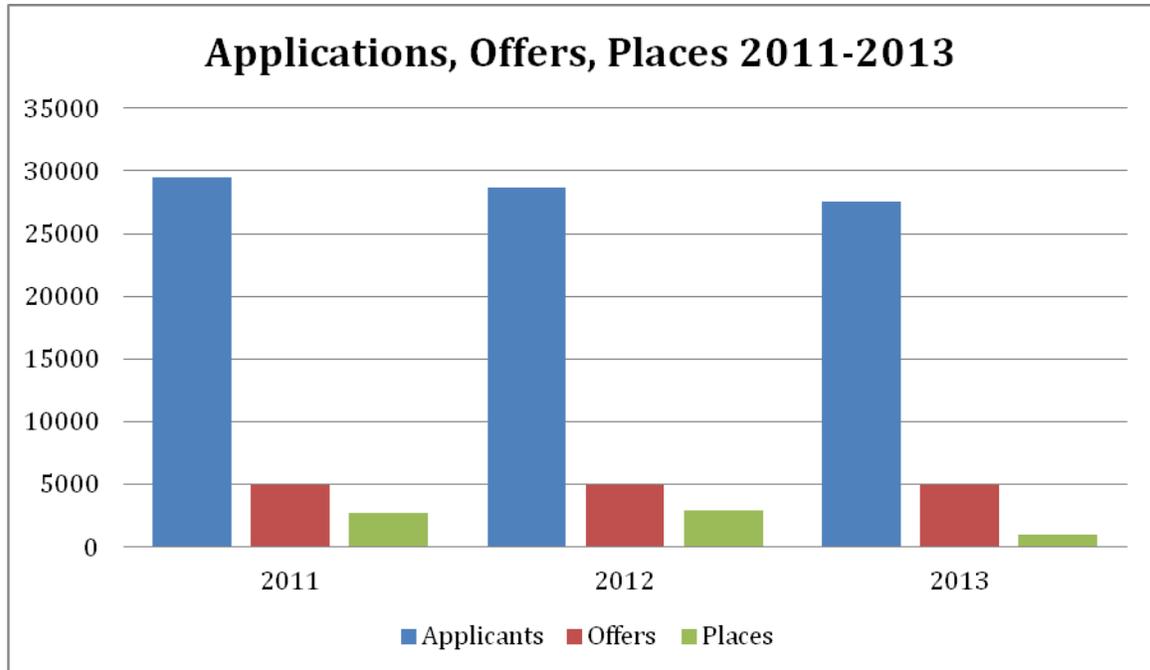
I. ADMISSIONS INFORMATION¹, – 2012 AND 2013

A. APPLICATIONS², OFFERS AND REGISTERED STUDENTS

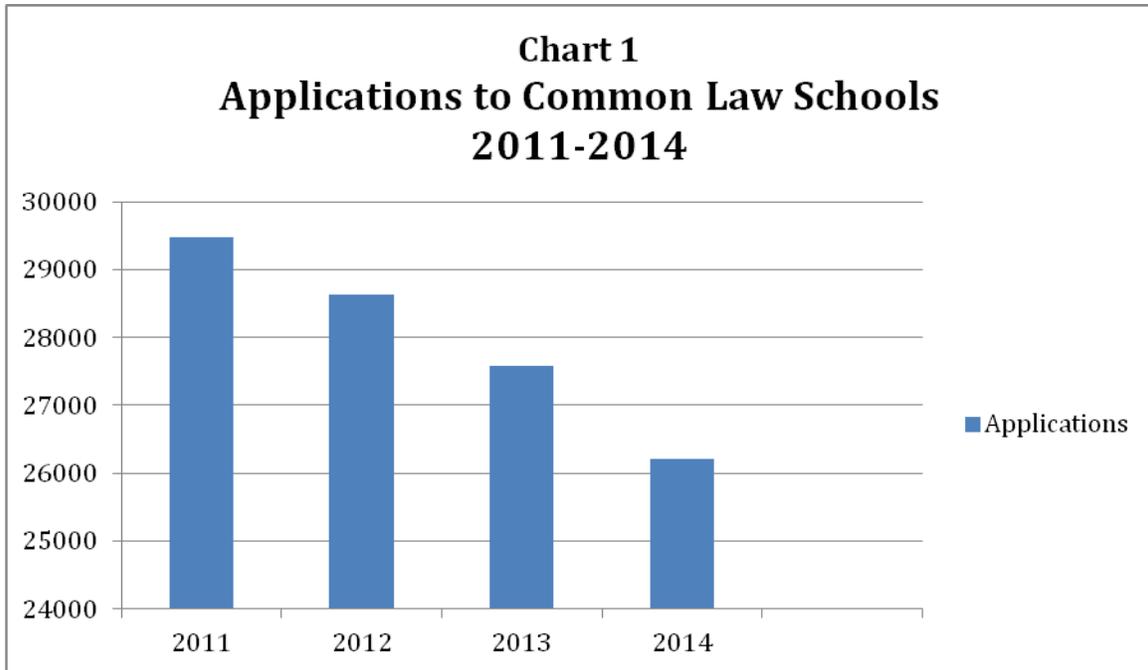
¹ The admissions information provided does not include data from recently created law schools at Lakehead and Thompson River.

² It is important to note that these numbers do not represent the number of actual applicants to Canada's Common Law Schools. Most applicants make multiple applications, and CLASSI does not have a way of identifying 'applicants' as opposed to

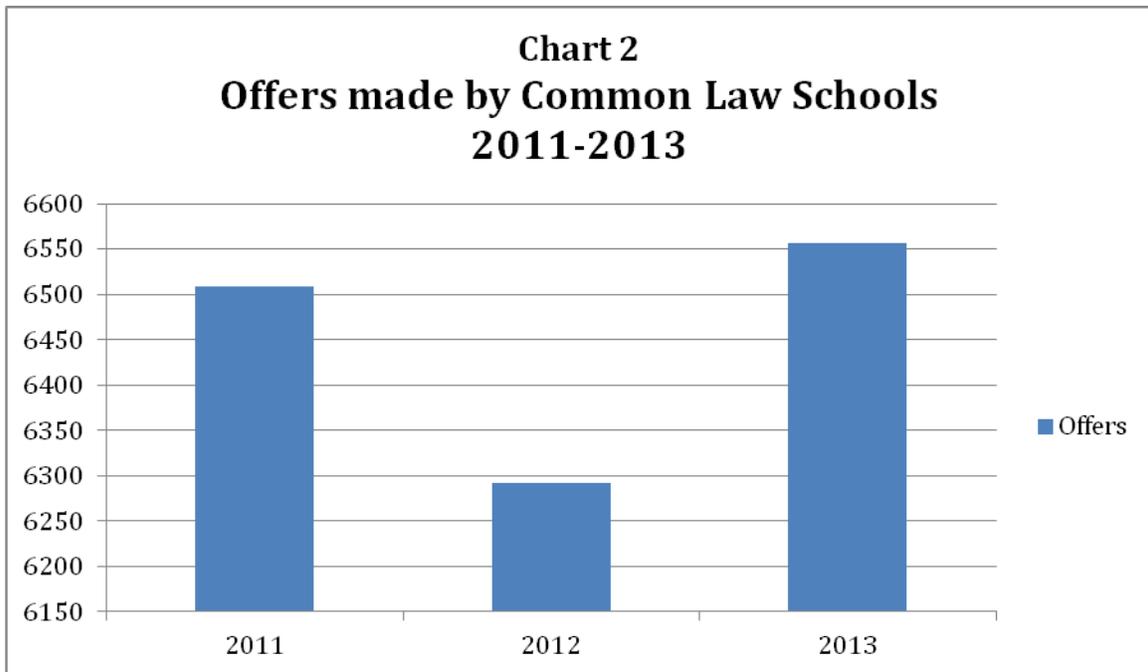
In the last two years there has been a modest decline in applications to Canada's Common Law Schools. This is a decline from near record high levels of applicants (29475) in 2011. The total number of applications declined 2.9% to 28,633 in 2012 and a further 3.9% to 27583 in 2013. Based on recently compiled information for the 2014 Admissions Year, applications appear to have declined this year by another 4.9% to 26,218. This will represent a three year decline of 11.1%.



'applications'. The best proxy for the actual number of applicants in the system in any one year is the number of people who wrote the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) in Canada in any one applicant year. Although some LSAT test takers elect not to apply to law school that year, or ever, and some candidates take the LSAT multiple times, it is a closer approximation of the Canadian applicant pool than any other available statistic. This number is between 9,000 and 10,000 LSAT test-takers in Canada in recent years.

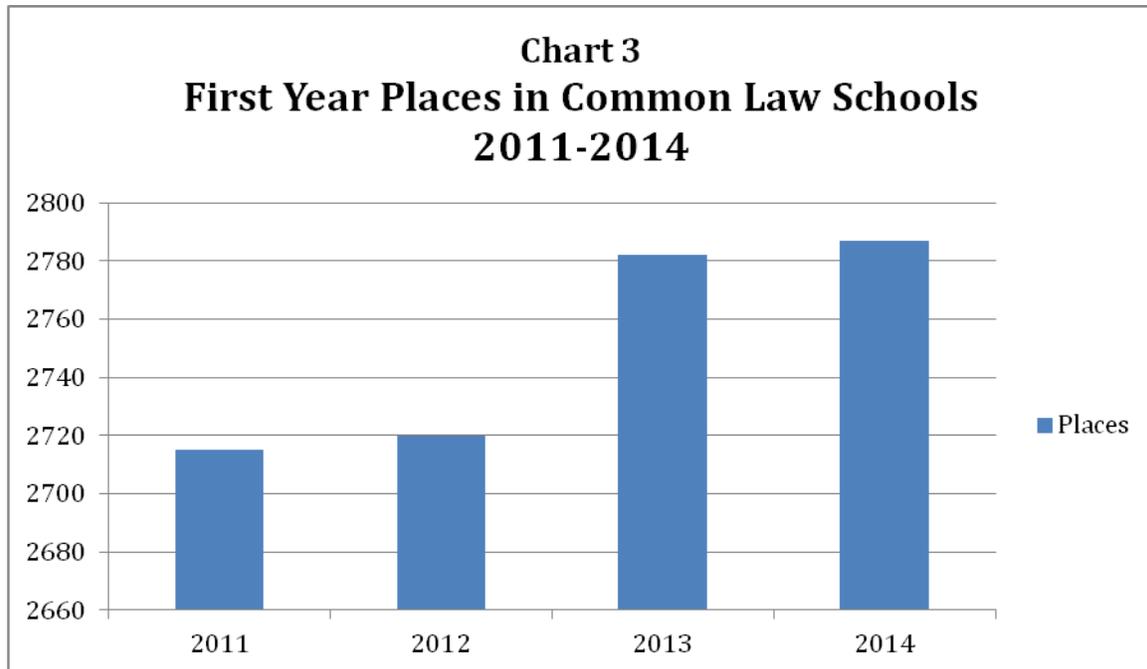


To fill first year law classes, law schools made 6508 offers to candidates in 2011, 6292 in 2012 and 6557 in 2013. This represents a slight increase in offers over these two years, primarily explained by the modest growth in the number of law school places available in the last two years.



The actual number of students enrolled in first year of law school grew slightly from 2011 to 2012 (an increase from 2715 to 2720, or 0.2%) and to 2782 students in 2013 (an increase of 2.3%). The number of places in

Canada's Common Law Schools in 2014 is anticipated to be approximately 2787, almost identical to the number of places taken up by entering law students in 2013.



On average, the 'yield rate (the ratio between the number of offers a law school makes and the places in its first year class) has remained relatively steady at 2.51:1 for 2013. Law schools with a 'yield rate' above the norm must make more offers to applicants in order to fill their first year law classes. Law schools that have a 'yield rate' below the norm are able to make fewer offers to fill their first year classes.

B. COMPARISON WITH ADMISSIONS AT ABA APPROVED LAW SCHOOLS

By comparison, ABA Approved law schools have experienced precipitous declines in applications, applicants and first year registrants in recent years. The Law School Admission Council reports that the number of applicants to ABA Approved Law Schools declined from 78,800 in 2011 to 59,400 in 2013, a drop of 24.5% and the number of students registering in first year law declined from 48,700 in 2011 to 39,700, a drop of 18.5%.³ This is the lowest level of applicants and registrants in decades in the US, and it has been suggested that both the number of applicants to ABA Approved law schools

³ Law School Admissions Council Reports, 2013, End of Year Summary 2003–Present (ABA applicants, applications, admissions, matriculants, enrollment, tests, CAS)

and the number of law school places are now at their lowest point since the mid-1970s⁴.

C. SUB-CATEGORIES OF APPLICANTS, OFFEREES AND ENTERING STUDENTS

CLASSI gathers information on applicants on the basis of gender, on the basis of whether an applicant is a 'mature' or 'other' applicant, and on the basis of whether an applicant is of self-declared Aboriginal ancestry. CLASSI also gathers information on the age of its entering classes. This latter information is not analyzed in this Report.

1. GENDER⁵

With respect to gender, there have been noticeable changes in the patterns of applicants and entrants into the first year of law school over the period that CLASSI has been conducting its surveys. In recent years, the number of applications from males continues to be lower than applications from females. Despite this, the number of first year places taken up by males has been greater than their proportion in the total applicant pool. Nevertheless, since 1996, the number of women entering Canada's Common Law Schools have exceeded the number of men in every year. However, in 2012, for the first time in nearly 20 years, the number of men entering Canada's Common Law Schools exceeded the number of women. In 2013 the number of women entering Common Law Schools exceeded the number of men.

⁴ Wall Street Journal, Blog, Jan. 2, 2014, Law 2014: Paring Back at U.S. Law Schools Continues.

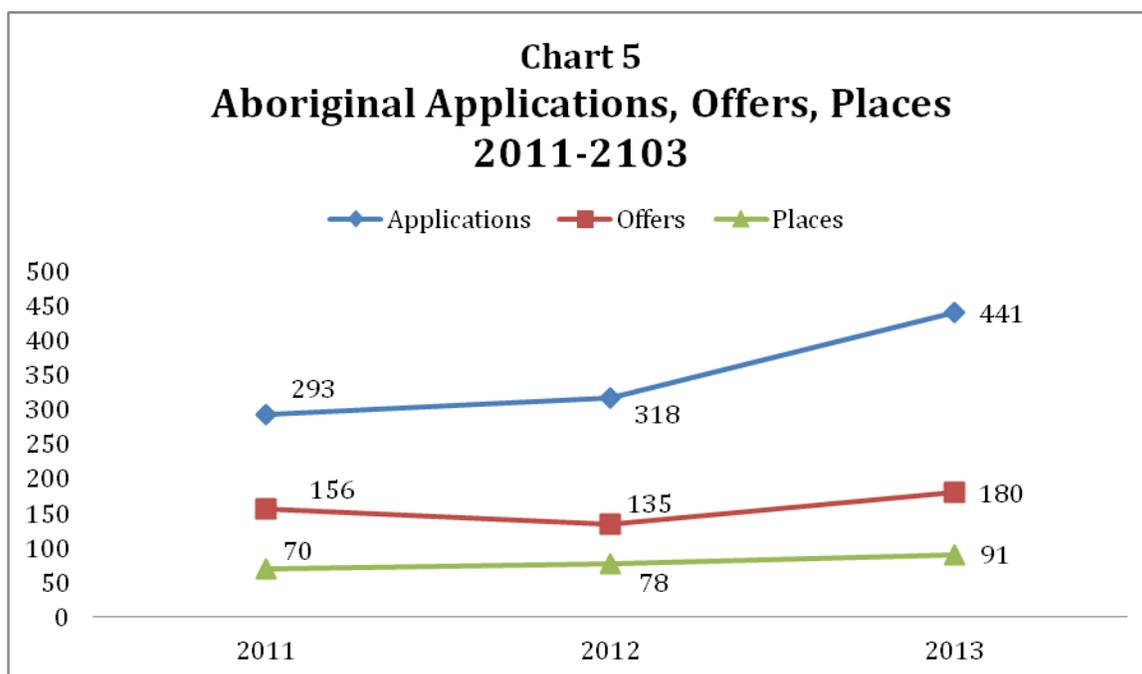
⁵ Some law schools do not consistently report on the gender breakdown of their applicant or 'offer' pools, so these categories are not perfectly accurate. All law schools report the gender breakdown of their entering classes, so the gender percentages of first year law classes are highly reliable.

Chart 4
Male and Female Applications, Offers, Registered
2011-2013

Year	Application %		Offer %		Registered %	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2011	46.5	53.5	46.5	53.5	47.5	52.5
2012	46.9	53.1	49.0	51.0	50.1	49.9
2013	46.9	53.1	49.0	51.0	49.4	50.7

2. ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY

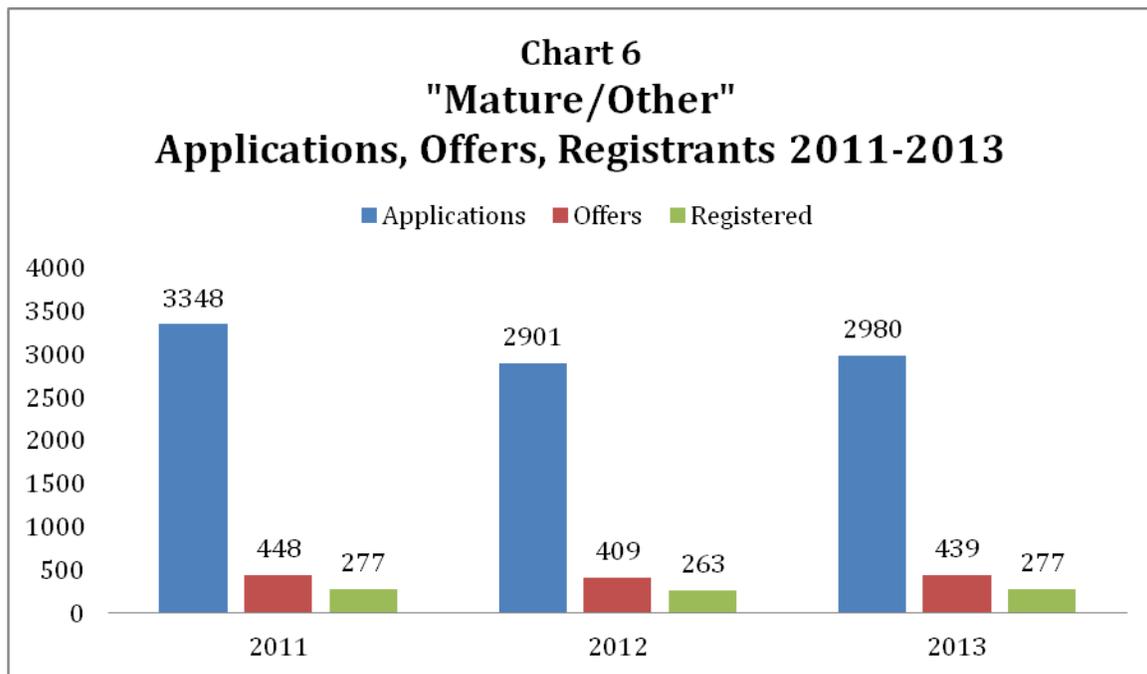
After many years during which the number of Aboriginal applicants and law school entrants had been static, there was a noticeable change in 2013.



The number of applications from Aboriginal Applicants in 2013 increased to 441, the highest number of applications to Canada’s Common Law Schools in history, and the number of entering first year law students of Aboriginal ancestry in 2013 (91) is the third highest ever. Applications information for 2014 (418) suggests that the number of applications from people of Aboriginal ancestry has approached 2013 levels.

3. MATURE/OTHER APPLICANTS⁶

A pattern throughout the last decade is that the percentage of Common Law School entering classes composed of 'mature' and 'other' applicants, the main components of what is often described as the category of 'discretionary admissions', has declined. In 2011 the 'Mature/Other' categories of applicants constituted 11.3% of the applicant pool, declining to 10.2% in 2012 and increasing slightly to 10.8% in 2013. 'Mature/Other' students made up 10.2%, 9.7% and 10.0% of the entering classes in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

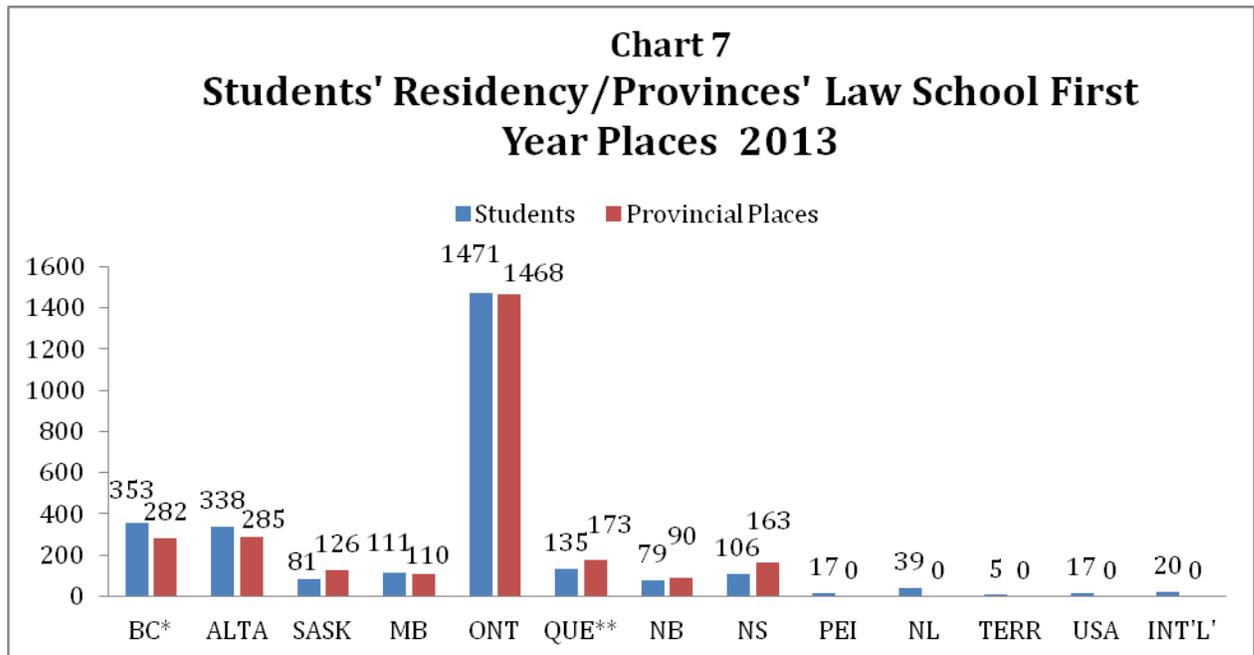


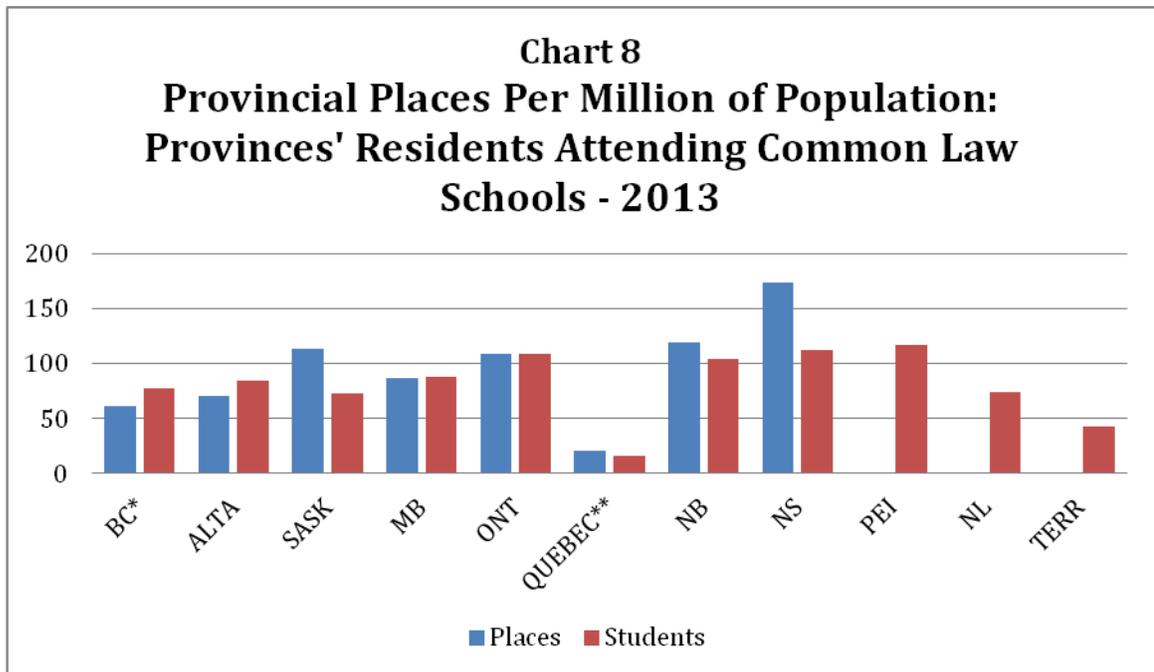
When combined with the numbers of Aboriginal applicants and Aboriginal first year students, (often referred to collectively as 'discretionary' admissions categories), they represented 12.3% of applicants in 2013 and 11.3% and 12.3% in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Discretionary admissions into Canada's Common Law Schools represented 12.8%, 12.6% and 13.3% of entering classes in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. This continues the pattern in which discretionary admissions to law school continue at percentages in the low teens, and below historical levels.

⁶ Each law school has its own definition of 'mature' and 'other' categories of applicants to their respective law schools, and one law school does not categorize applicants in this way at all. These categorizations are relatively consistent over time, but are not perfectly comparable, school by school, or globally.

D. FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENTS – RESIDENCE

Until recently, CLASSI did not ask law schools to compile information on the province or territory of permanent residence of the students in its entering first year law classes. Initial efforts at the compilation of this information were inconsistent, and the first year in which this information was fully and accurately compiled and reported was 2013. This information identifies the degree of national mobility and 'national reach' of Canadian common law education.





II. ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL TRENDS IN CANADIAN COMMON LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS⁷

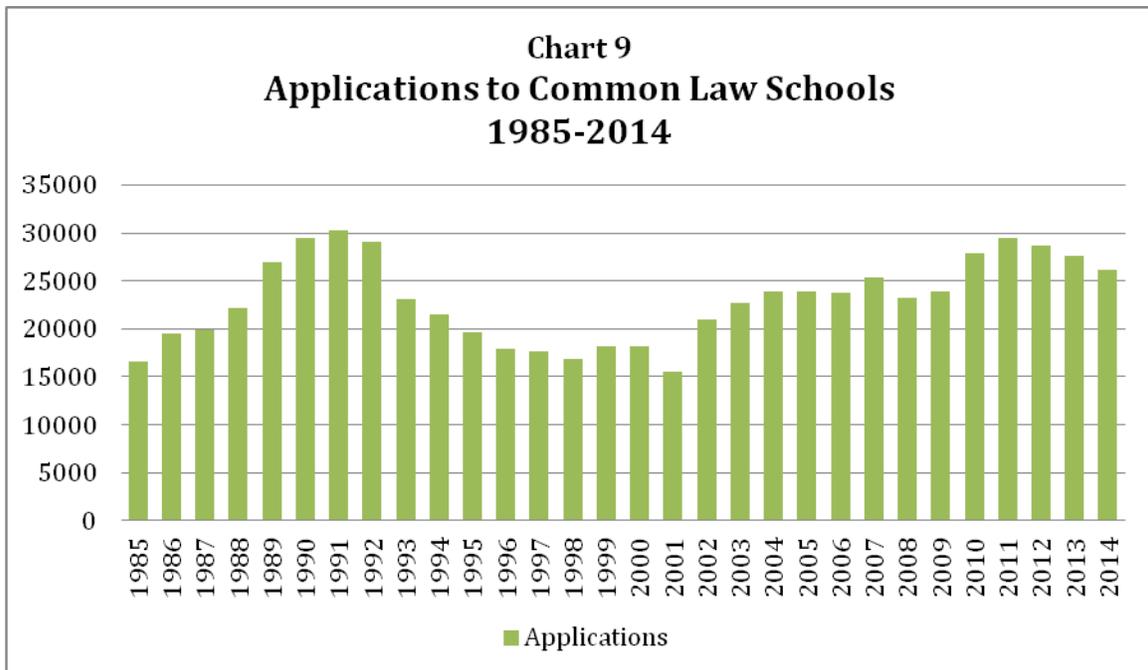
Much of the information in this section is presented in the form of Charts. It provides an historical perspective with respect to the more contemporary Admissions information discussed in the previous section of this Report.

A. APPLICATIONS, OFFERS, REGISTERED STUDENTS

Although not entirely quantifiable, the numbers of applications to Canada's Common Law Schools has significantly exceeded the number of available places in entering classes since the early 1970s, and up to the years when CLASSI began recording Admissions information on a more comprehensive basis. As can be seen in the following graphs, application numbers:

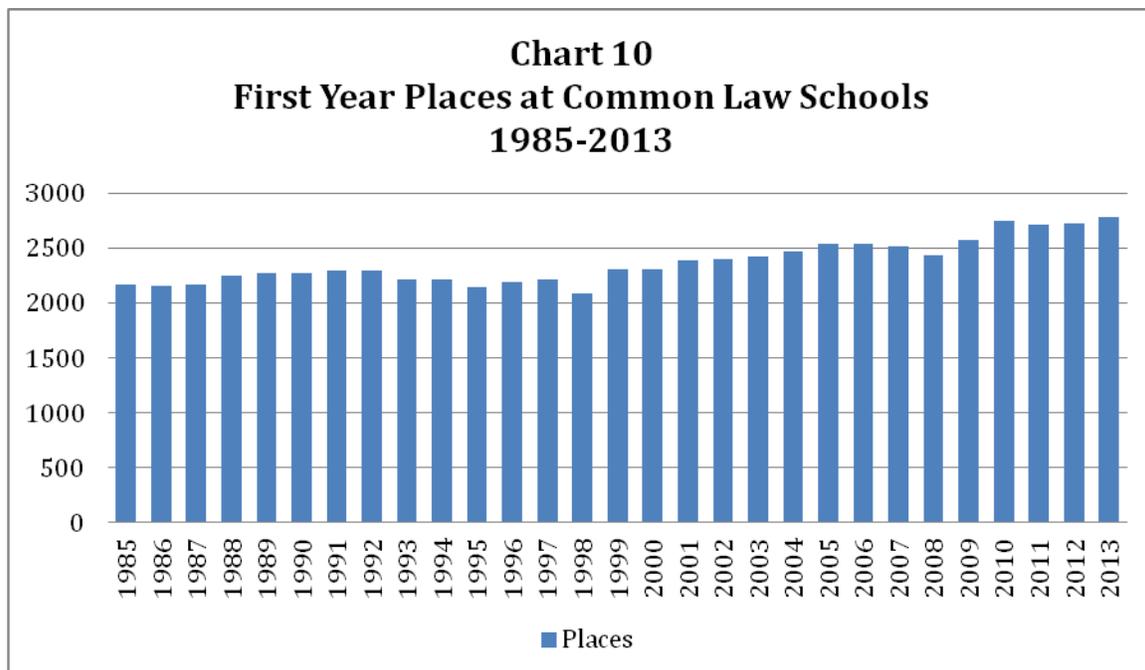
- continued to increase through the 1980s and early 1990s to an historic peak in 1992;
- dropped significantly through the mid to late 1990s and early 2000s;
- began to increase again in the late 2000s, up to 2011 to levels approaching historical highs; and
- have moderated slightly in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

⁷ Most of the information presented here is drawn from CLASSI Statistics compiled since 1985. CLASSI began collecting this information in 1984, but the information collected in that year is quite incomplete.



With respect to the number of first year places at Canada's Common Law Schools, the pattern is different. Two different periods are clearly identifiable:

- Through most of the period from 1985 to the early 2000s, the Common Law Schools made available approximately the same number of places in their first year classes. From 1985 to 2000, there was an increase of 156 places, or 7.2%, less than .5% per year.
- This relative static pattern began to change after 2000 with increasing numbers of places available. From 2000 to 2013, there was an increase of 479 places, 20.8%, or 1.6% per year.



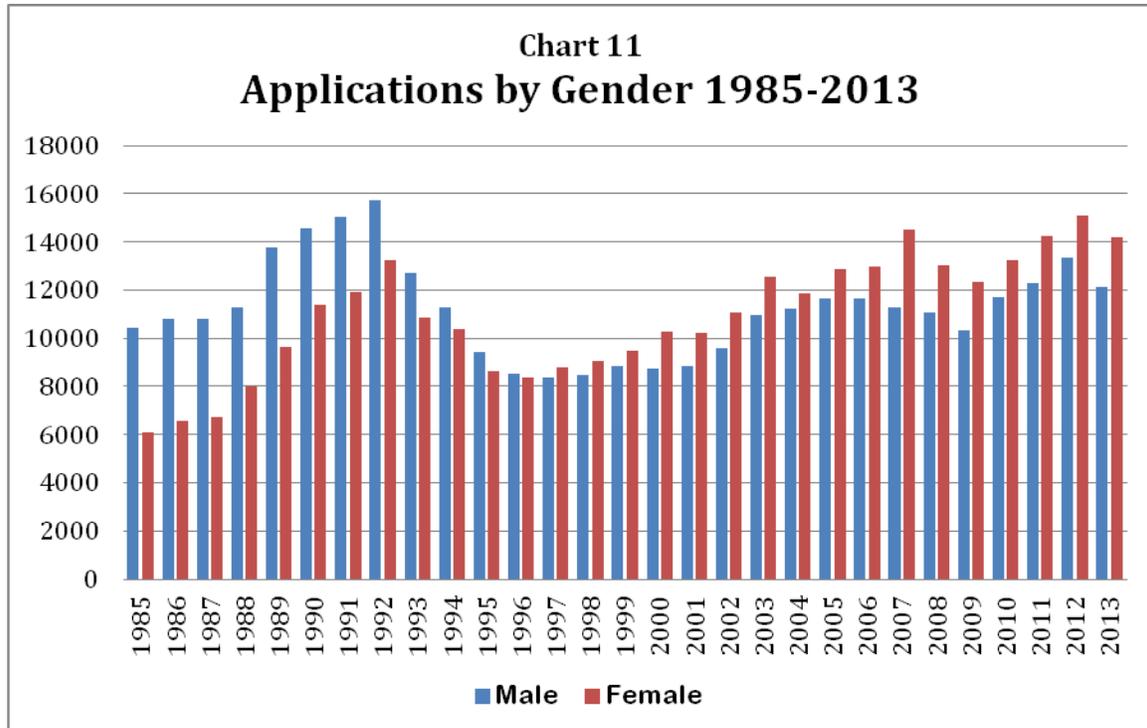
SUB-CATEGORIES OF APPLICANTS, OFFEREES, REGISTERED STUDENTS

1. GENDER

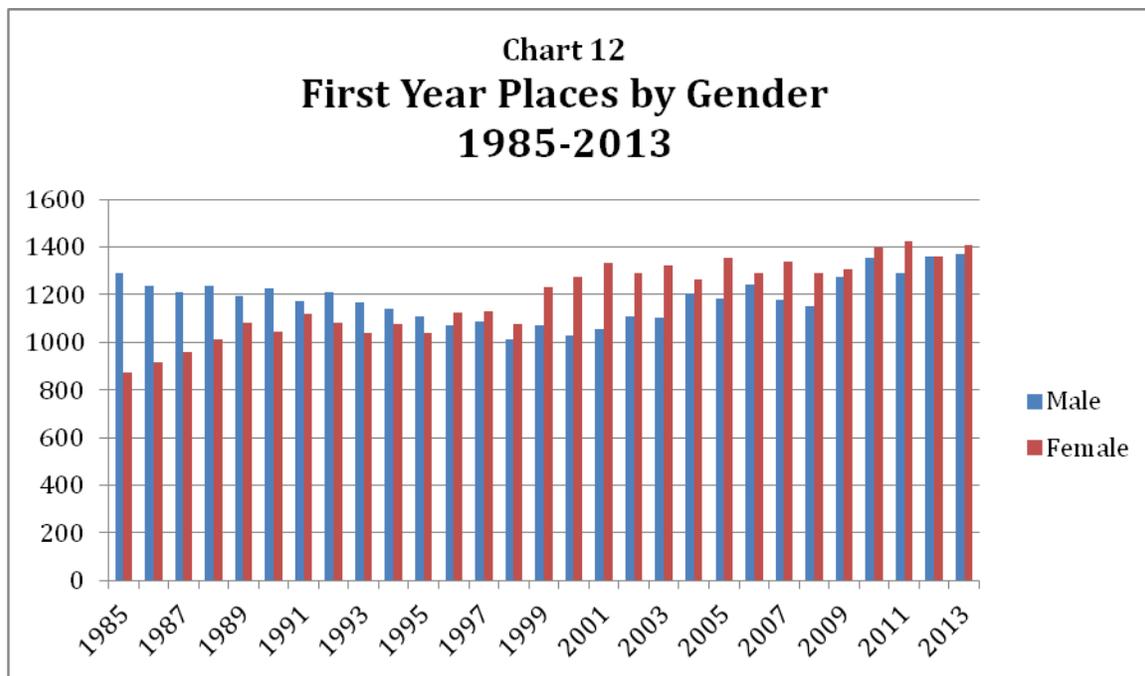
Historically, legal education has been the province of men. As the composite photos of graduating law classes at every Canadian Common Law School bear out, until the early 1970s women graduates were a rarity, and even modest numbers of women law students and law graduates did not make their appearance until the mid to late 1970s.

More recently, however, one of the most observable trends in Canadian Law School Admissions, and in the composition of law school student communities, has been the increase in the numbers of women applying to and attending law school. Law School Admissions information bears this out. In 1985, when reasonably comprehensive information began to be collected, the composition of the applicant pool and the composition of first year classes were significantly male. This changed steadily until the mid-1990s when women began to make up an approximately equal proportion of the applicant pool and an equal proportion of entering classes at Common Law Schools.

As the Chart below shows, the number of women applicants steadily increased from 1985 to 1997, when the number of female applicants began to exceed the number of male applicants. This pattern continues to the present day.



Similarly, as Chart 12 highlights, while the gender composition of the first year classes at individual law schools may have varied over the years, the first year in which women collectively made up a greater proportion of entering classes than men in Canada’s Common Law Schools was 1996. For the succeeding 16 years, the number of women entering Common Law Schools exceeded the number of men, and, as noted earlier, it was only in 2012 that this trend was interrupted.

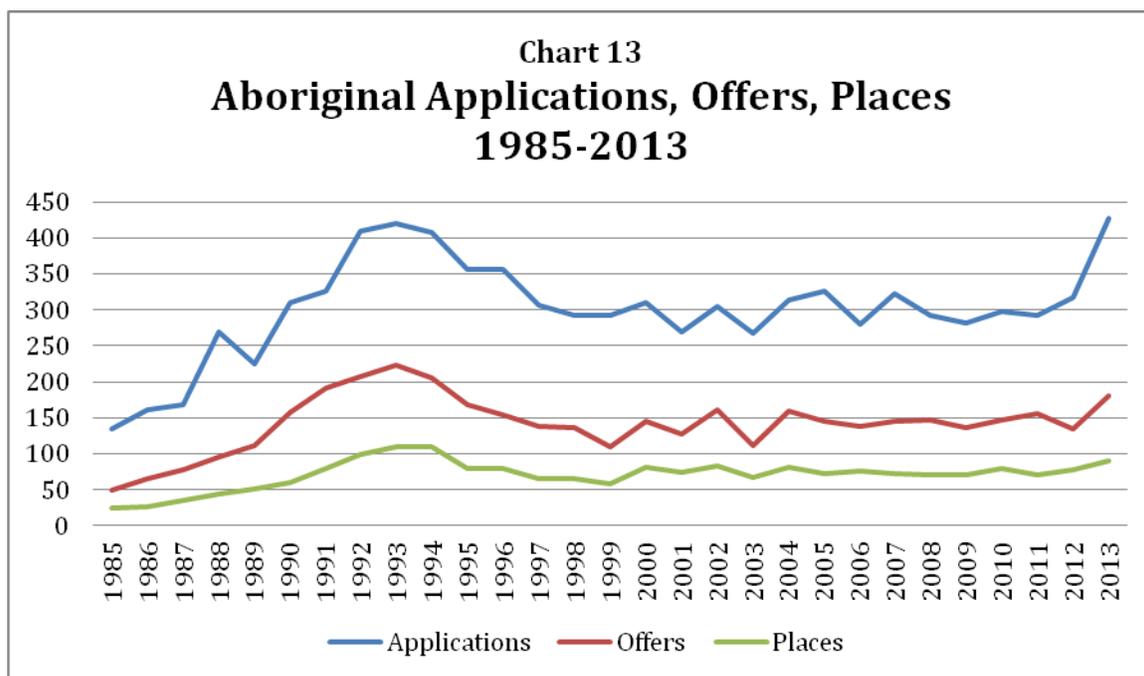


One of the patterns that is also discernible in the CLASSI information is that for the period 1985 through to 2003, in every single year higher proportions of women entered law school than their proportion in the applicant pool (in most years by approximately 5%). Since 2003, with the exception of only one year (2005), the proportion of men who entered law school has exceeded their proportion in the applicant pool (in most years by 2-3%).

2. ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY

As Chart 13 shows, the number of applications from Aboriginal applicants, Aboriginal offerees and Aboriginal students registered in Canada's Common Law Schools increased noticeably from 1985 to 1993. The increases in Aboriginal Applications (from 134 to 410, or 213.4%), Offers (from 49 to 223, or 355.1% and Registrants (from 24 to 109, or 354.2%) during this period was impressive. This trend ended in 1994, and actually reversed itself. Applications from 1994 to 2012 declined by approximately 25%, and the number of Aboriginal students registered in our first year classes dropped to an average of 77 over these years, a decline of approximately 29%. It is heartening to see that in 2013 there was a dramatic increase in the number of applications from people of Aboriginal ancestry to a record high level (441), a significant increase in offers to Aboriginal applicants and an increase in Aboriginal first year law students to near record levels (91). Preliminary information for 2014 (429 applicants) suggests that the pattern

of increases in applications to Canada’s Common Law Schools from persons of Aboriginal ancestry is continuing.



3. MATURE/OTHER APPLICANTS

Over the period that CLASSI has compiled Admissions Information, Mature/Other Students have made up, variously, 10 to 20% of entering classes. Charts 14 and 15 below track the variations in the share of the applicant pool and the proportion of entering law schools classes composed of Mature/Other candidates. As well, the Charts set out the percentage of the applicant pool and the proportion of entering law schools composed of “Discretionary Admissions”, a combination of the Aboriginal and ‘Mature/Other’ categories of applicants.

As can be seen there has been an appreciable decline in the proportion of Mature/Other applications since 1996 (when Mature/Other applications made up 19.0% of the application pool, compared with 10.8% in 2013) and a similar decline in the proportion of Mature/Other and Discretionary Admissions since 1993 (when Mature/Other registrants made up 21.3% of entering classes and Discretionary Admissions in total made up 23.1% of entering classes compared with 10% and 13.3%, respectively, in 2013).

Chart 14
"Mature/Special/Other" Applications
1985-2013

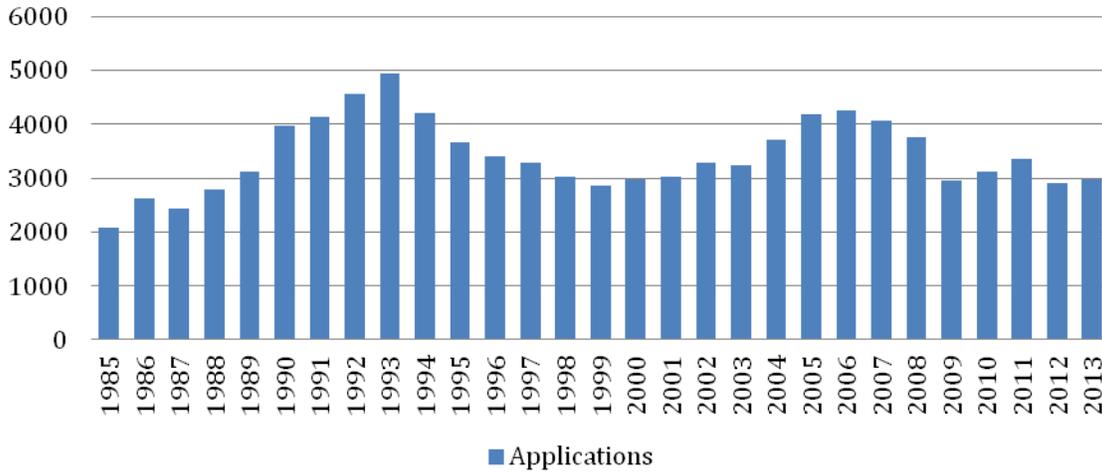


Chart 15
"Mature/Special/Other" Offers, Places
1985-2013

