



June 2, 2014

Michael D. Amiridis  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Dr. Richard C. Sutton, Executive Director  
South Carolina Commission of Higher Education  
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Dr. Sutton,

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Commission on Higher Education will meet to consider InfiLaw's application for license to operate as the new owners of the Charleston School of Law.

As this application has proceeded through the commission's regulatory process, it appears there may be some confusion over the University of South Carolina's position or involvement in this process. On behalf of the University of South Carolina and our School of Law, our State's only public school of law, I am writing to you to clear up any misconceptions, should they exist.

The University of South Carolina has taken no position on the merits of whether CHE should or should not approve InfiLaw's application. The criteria and metrics for such approvals are defined by state law and have been appropriately applied by the Commission over the years. Furthermore, InfiLaw's purchase of the Charleston School of Law is in our opinion a financial transaction conducted between two private business parties. Therefore, we believe it would be inappropriate for the University of South Carolina to attempt to prevent such a transaction through an academic regulatory process and we do not oppose the Infilaw application.

Since 1867, the South Carolina School of Law has had a rich and prestigious history, producing generations of distinguished graduates who have made significant contributions to our State's economy, government and public service. This year, a new and exciting chapter toward the future will be turned with the groundbreaking of a new modern \$80 million dollar Law School facility on our campus, made possible by a combination of private contributions and state support. With this new investment, the State has reaffirmed its support for its public law school. In turn, we pledge that the impact of the legal education efforts of the University of South Carolina on business, industry and our social and economic prosperity will continue to be very significant.

We understand that there is continuous speculation over the creation of a second public law school, as an alternative to the InfiLaw application, be it stand alone or absorbed by a public college or university. For the obvious reasons stated above, I further feel obliged to clarify that the University of South Carolina is strongly opposed to the creation and funding of a second public law school in the state.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Amiridis  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

MDA/ba

c: The Honorable John L. Finan, Chair, SC Commission on Higher Education  
Harris Pastides, President, University of South Carolina