The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the curricular component of the Academic Support Program available in the new semester (spring, 2007) offered in conjunction with the Legal Writing Program.

As in the fall semester, all first-year students are assigned to sections for all of their courses. Most students will continue in all of their assigned sections, including Legal Writing. For the new semester, however, students will be offered the opportunity to request reassignment to one of two new Legal Writing sections. The new Legal Writing sections will follow the same curriculum as the other Legal Writing sections, but the new sections may have slightly fewer students enrolled, and will include materials designed to help students improve their analytical and writing skills through short in-class exercises, skills-workshops, and one-to-one feedback. As is true for all Legal Writing sections, each of these new sections will be taught by an adjunct Lecturer in Law under the supervision of Professor Jean Rosenbluth.

The idea behind the creation of these two new Legal Writing sections comes from the approach of our overall Academic Support Program: we are committed to providing academic assistance to all students; and we believe that all students have the ability to perform well in law school, and to improve their performance if they wish to do so. To achieve those broad goals we offer a variety of resources to assist students as they learn how to study law, and to support students seeking to improve their academic performance. As you know from the current semester, we offer periodic co-curricular workshops designed to assist students in learning methods of studying law, including practical skills and approaches designed to help students achieve success in their classes. We also offer a variety of online and written resources recommended for students seeking assistance in their legal studies.

Now that you are completing your first semester of law school, you are eligible to request that we consider reassigning you to one of the new Legal Writing Sections. This opportunity, offered in conjunction with the Legal Writing Program, builds on work we have done with first-year students in prior years. For the last two years, I have taught a separate section of the required first-year course, Legal Profession. My course was similar to the other Legal Profession sections, but students in my section were required to write a series of short essays in response to substantive questions from the doctrinal
material being covered in the course. In the past two years, students were given the opportunity to request reassignment to my section of Legal Profession. This year, you have the opportunity to request reassignment to one of the new sections of Legal Writing instead.

Prior to the beginning of the spring semester, I will contact some students to urge them to consider requesting reassignment. If you would like to request being reassigned to one of the new sections, I urge you to contact me. I will make final decisions regarding which students are reassigned to a new Legal Writing section prior to the beginning of the new semester in January.

If you have questions about the Academic Support Program, whether you should consider taking advantage of this particular opportunity, or if you think you may be interested in enrolling in one of the new Legal Writing sections, please contact me. You may reach me on email at rsaltzma@law.usc.edu, by phone at (213) 740-6314, or by making an appointment to see me in Room 100. If you send me email or leave voicemail, please provide both email and telephone numbers where I may reach you during the winter break.

I look forward to speaking to you.