

# Before the JD

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LEGAL EDUCATION IN CRISIS? RESEARCH GROUP ROUNDTABLE

[Jeff Allum](#) | Project Director, Before the JD

Association of American Law Schools

MARCH 4, 2017



# Research Questions

1. What factors contribute most to the intention/decision to pursue an advanced degree or not?
2. What factors contribute to, and with what rank and/or weight, the intention/decision to pursue a JD or not?
3. What are the sources of information, by rank and/or weight, for making these decisions?



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Professor  
University of St. Thomas School of Law



# Research Firm Selection

Issued RFP  
(Fall 2016)



Reviewed proposals from 5 firms  
(Fall/winter 2016/17)



**GALLUP**<sup>®</sup>  
(February 2017)



# Approaching the Research

- Fluidity of the legal ecosystem
- Affordability, debt, & ROI are predominant topics
- Maybe there are other (perhaps latent) explanations



# Timeline

- Kickoff *(February 2017)*
- Survey design *(Spring 2017)*
- Survey testing *(Summer 2017)*
- Survey fielded *(Fall 2017)*
- Analysis *(Fall/Winter 2017/18)*
- Post-survey focus groups *(Spring 2018)*
- Results *(Late Spring/Summer 2018)*

