

Ex Ante

“*Deadwood*” is only nominally pejorative. The fact that some members of a faculty are deadwood does not mean that they are bad people or bad citizens of their law school. It just means that they are not performing as advertised. They might well be doing worthy things with their time, but applicants deserve to know that whatever such people might be working on, it is not the work with which the term “faculty” is commonly and reasonably associated.

We would be grateful for your comments. We are trying to do some good here, and we are eager to do as much of it as we can. If you have suggestions for improving the concept or execution of the *Deadwood Report*, please write to us at editors@greenbag.org.

We do not expect the *Deadwood Report* to replace the *U.S. News* rankings. We do hope that it will help law school applicants make better decisions about where to study or work. And we hope that we will so irritate the AALS and the ABA that they will swing into action. If they manage to destroy the *Deadwood Report* by producing better rankings of their own, we will have succeeded.

- *Dropping the U.S. News Fig Leaf*, 9 GREEN BAG 2D 8 (2005).

... AND AN INVITATION TO 1LS, 2LS & 3LS

We would like to illustrate the *Deadwood Report*. Perhaps with pictures of law school commencement ceremonies. After all, one way to get a sense of how seriously your professors take their teaching responsibilities and their students’ accomplishments is by monitoring their willingness to spend one weekend afternoon each year honoring their graduating students. To that end we encourage you to attend your school’s spring 2008 graduation and take a high-resolution, in-focus photograph of the faculty in attendance. (They will probably be on the stage or in the first few rows of the audience, and they will definitely be wearing robes.) Please send us the image, along with a caption identifying everyone sitting on stage or in the faculty section. If we use your photo – and perhaps even if we don’t – we will send you an entertaining *Green Bag* knickknack. Of course, we will not identify a photographer by name in the *Deadwood Report* unless we have permission from the photographer.