



Distance Education: Nirvana or
Apocalypse Now?

A Little Background

Art Gaudio, Dean & Professor of Law

Western New England College

School of Law



Distance Education Background

- Distance education is “relatively” new to legal education
- Curriculum diversity
- Alternative place & method of delivery
- ABA adopted “Temporary Guidelines for Distance Education” in 1997
- ABA adopted Standard 306 five years later



Standard 306

- Approval of content, delivery & evaluation
- What is distance education?
 - Instructor & student separated in time or place
 - Technological transmission
 - Audio or computer conferencing
 - Video cassettes or discs
 - Correspondence
 - Synchronous & asynchronous



Standard 306

- Credit permissible (as classroom course) if:
 - Interaction between student & student
 - Monitoring of efforts & accomplishments
- How much distance education?
 - Maximum of 4 credit hours per semester
 - Maximum of 12 credit hours for JD
- No distance education in first year



Standard 306

- If 2/3 of course is traditional classroom, 1/3 distance education doesn't change
- School must have technological capacity
- If more than “incidental” amount of distance education used, need written plan
- Limits don't apply to non-JD program such as LLM