Brigadier General John L. Finan, USAF, Retired
Chairman
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
220 Holiday Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Re: Charleston School of Law

Dear General Finan:

In response to the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing’s notice of May 1, 2014, the undersigned current faculty at the Charleston School of Law write to you today to voice our strong opposition to the proposed sale of the school to InfiLaw.

To date, most of the school’s faculty have remained silent on the pending transaction. We have come to learn, however, that our silence has been misinterpreted as faculty approval of the sale. To remedy this misconception, we feel compelled to come forward, even though many believe we are risking our positions as faculty members—positions that we cherish at a school we love—to do so.

What led us to join the faculty of the Charleston School of Law was the sense of community that has been created among its students, faculty, staff, and administration, as well as with the local and state bench and bar. Up until July 2013, the Charleston School of Law was known for its nurturing educational environment with close student-faculty relationships and a burgeoning reputation in the greater legal community.

With regret, we feel that the sense of community has since been replaced by a culture of intimidation and fear—fear of reprisal for speaking out against the transaction or even voicing concerns. But given events of late, we can no longer sit by and remain silent. Simply put, we do not wish to see the Charleston School of Law mirror the admissions practices, attrition rates, transfer rates, or educational programs at the InfiLaw consortium schools. We believe, therefore, that InfiLaw’s application for a license to operate the Charleston School of Law should be denied.
Respectfully submitted,

Sheila B. Scheuerman
Professor of Law

Randall L. Bridwell
Professor of Law

Gerald M. Finkel
Professor of Law

Stephen A. Spitz
Professor of Law

Nancy L. Zisk
Professor of Law

Alysson Haynes Stuart
Professor of Law

Aleatra P. Williams
Professor of Law

William L. Want
Professor of Law

Miller W. Shealy, Jr.
Professor of Law

Constance Anastopoulos
Professor of Law

William M. Janassen
Professor of Law

Cc: Members of the Commission on Higher Education