Heads Out of the Sand: Embracing the New Normal

Beginning with the economic crisis of 2008, the national narrative about legal education changed from a self-contained and fairly positive one to a widespread view of schools with their heads in the sand. The predominant narrative shared by the public, Congress, students, practicing attorneys, and many others was one of law schools in denial about many things—the terrible job situation for students; the challenge students have in paying debts given the realistic income prospects they face; and the need for law schools to change and adjust to this new normal.
In the midst of these challenges, Washington University School of Law is working hard to address the current reality and rise above the “head in the sand” narrative. In offering new tools to help graduates compete in a challenging legal market, in bringing an ever-sharper focus on professional skills development, and in deploying new technologies to reach new audiences, the law school is tackling tough issues while setting a brisk pace into the future.