

## **Division 2. Accredited Law School Rules**

### **Proposed Amendments – 8/18/14 Draft**

#### Chapter 1. General Provisions

##### **Rule 4.100 Authority**

The Committee of Bar Examiners (“the Committee”) is authorized by law to accredit law schools in California (“accredited law schools”) and oversee and regulate those law schools. The Committee is the degree-granting authority for law schools subject to these rules.

*Rule 4.100 adopted effective January 1, 2009.*

##### **Rule 4.101 What these rules are**

- (A) The Accredited Law School Rules (“these rules”) apply to law schools seeking provisional accreditation by the Committee, provisionally accredited law schools, and law schools accredited by the Committee, excluding those law schools fully and provisionally approved by the American Bar Association.
- (B) The rules have been approved by the Committee and adopted by the Board of Governors as part of the Rules of the State Bar of California and may be amended in accordance with those rules.
- (C) These rules do not apply to law schools registered by the Committee, paralegal programs, undergraduate legal degree programs, or other legal studies programs that do not lead to a professional degree in law. The appropriate entity must approve such programs, even if they are offered by an accredited, approved, or registered law school or an institution of which it is a part.

*Rule 4.101 adopted effective.*

##### **Rule 4.102 Law schools approved by the American Bar Association**

A law school provisionally or fully approved by the American Bar Association is deemed accredited by the Committee and exempt from these rules, unless the American Bar Association withdraws its approval.

*Rule 4.102 adopted effective January 1, 2009.*

**ATTACHMENT D**

#### Rule 4.103 Interpreting and applying the rules

The Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules, as adopted by the Committee of Bar Examiners, govern the interpretation and application of these rules. The Committee has the authority to amend the guidelines, subject to a reasonable comment period and after consideration of any comments received.

*Rule 4.103 adopted effective January 1, 2009.*

#### Rule 4.104 Citation

These rules may be cited as Accredited Law School Rules.

*Rule 4.104 adopted effective January 1, 2009.*

#### Rule 4.105 Definitions

- (A) “Admissions Rules” are the rules contained in *Division 1. Admission to Practice Law in California*.
- (B) An “American Bar Association Approved Law School” is a law school fully or provisionally approved by the American Bar Association and deemed accredited by the Committee.
- (C) A “California accredited law school” is a law school that has been accredited by the Committee.
- (D) “Provisional accreditation” is the status of a provisionally accredited law school. The Committee grants provisional accreditation for a specific period.
- (E) A “provisionally accredited law school” is a law school that is pursuing accreditation and has been recognized by the Committee as being in substantial compliance with applicable law and these rules.
- (F) “The Committee” is the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California.
- (G) The “First-Year Law Students’ Examination” is the examination required by statute and by *Division 1. Admission to Practice Law in California Admission to Practice Law in California* rules.
- (H) The “guidelines” are the Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules adopted by the Committee of Bar Examiners.
- (I) “Inspection” means an on-site visit to a law school by an individual or a team appointed by the Committee in accordance with these rules.

- (J) A “major change” is one of the changes specified in rule 4.165, Major changes.
- (K) A “professional law degree” is the LL.B. (Bachelor of Laws or the J.D. (Juris Doctor). An LL.M. (Master of Laws), M.L.S. (Master of Legal Studies) or other post-graduate degree do not qualify a recipient to take the California Bar Examination but, with the acquiescence of the Committee, may be offered by an accredited or registered law school. The J.D. degree may be granted only upon completion of a law program that qualifies a student to take the California Bar Examination.
- (L) A “California registered law school” is a law school that has been registered by the Committee, but not accredited by the Committee.
- (M) “Senior Director” means “Senior Director, Admissions” or that person’s designee.
- (N) A “registered law school” is a California law school that has been registered by the Committee, but not accredited by the Committee.

*Rule 4.105 adopted effective.*

#### Rule 4.106 Lists of law schools

The Committee maintains lists of law schools operating in California: those accredited by the Committee, those registered by the Committee, and those approved by the American Bar Association. The lists are available on the State Bar Web site and upon request.

*Rule 4.106 adopted effective January 1, 2009.*

#### Rule 4.107 Student complaints

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### Chapter 2. Application for Provisional Accreditation

#### Rule 4.120 Application based on substantial compliance

A registered law school that meets the standards set forth in rule 4.160 may apply for provisional accreditation. If the Committee grants provisional accreditation, the provisionally accredited law school is subject to annual inspection and its students are subject to the First-Year Law Students’ Examination requirement. The Committee grants provisional accreditation for a specified period, typically for two years, although the period may be shorter or longer as may be determined by the Committee.

*Rule 4.120 adopted.*

Rule 4.121 Application procedure

A registered law school may apply for provisional accreditation in accordance with the requirements of the *Registered Law School Rules*.

*Rule 4.121 adopted effective.*