

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: February 2018 - O-400

DATE: January 26, 2018

TO: Subcommittee on Educational Standards

FROM: George Leal, Program Manager for Educational Standards

SUBJECT: **Summaries of the 2017 Annual Compliance Reports Submitted by California Accredited Law Schools**

BACKGROUND

Rule 4.161 of the *Accredited Law School Rules* (Rules) requires that all California-accredited law schools (CALS) submit an Annual Compliance Report to the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) on or before each November 15th. Each of the CALS filed their Reports; Attachment A contains brief summaries of each Report received.

DISCUSSION

Each summary provides a brief synopsis of several key metrics relating to each of the CALS, including their most recent admissions and current enrollment figures, faculty (including new hires) and the tuition being charged to earn a Juris Doctor degree. Each summary also discussed whether, over the past year, a CALS sought and received Committee approval for a major change under Rule 4.164, or requested a waiver of any requirement under the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules* (Guidelines).

Each summary also provides the most-recently calculated cumulative pass rate (MPR) statistics for the graduates of each CALS on the California Bar Examination (CBX). The rates provided, however, are now out-of-date since they cover a reporting period that ended in July, 2014. Due to the Committee's past restriction in providing any name-specific CBX pass/fail data to any law school, including each CALS, over the past two years, none have been able to calculate and report their MPR rates under Guideline 12.1 of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law Schools Rules* since July of 2015.

However, with last year's change in law that removed the Committee's restriction in providing CBX pass/fail data to each law school it regulates or accredits, each CALS was recently sent its respective CBX pass/fail data for all CBX administrations given in 2016 and 2017. As a result, at its December 2017 meeting, the Committee lifted its suspension of Guidelines 12.1 and 12.2 and, as a result, that each CALS will again have all data needed to calculate and report its MPR for the reporting period that ended July 31, 2016. Each will therefore be expected to do so no later than this upcoming July 1st.

For your information, Attachment B contains charts and graphs that provide a school-by-school and three-year comparison of the selected data from each of the Reports.

For a perspective of the current status of each of the CALS collectively, below are year-to-year comparisons for a few key metrics.

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| 1) Total CALS Enrollment | 2017: 1,721 students; (3.0% below 2016) 2016: 1,775 students; 2015: 1,935 |
| 2) Average student enrollment per law school: | 2017: 115; (10.58% higher than 2016) 2016: 104; 2015: 114 |
| 3) Average tuition to earn a J.D. degree: | 2017: \$65,709 (3.48% higher than 2016) 2016: \$63,498; 2015: \$61,048 |
| 4) Enrollment by gender: | 2017: 54.3% Female, 45.7% Male 2016: 53.6% Female, 46.4% Male 2015: 52.8% Female, 47.2% Male |

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the full Committee that it receive and file the 2017 Annual Compliance Report Summaries.

PROPOSED MOTION

Should the Subcommittee agree with this recommendation, the following motion is suggested:

Move that the summaries of the 2017 Annual Compliance Reports filed by each California-accredited law school be received and filed.