



County of Santa Cruz

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March 5, 2018

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Leah Wilson, Executive Director, State Bar of California
Amy Nunez, Acting Director, Admissions and Accreditation
c/o 180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Monterey College of Law's (MCL) application to the State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners to expand their satellite campus in Santa Cruz to a full branch campus.

Monterey College of Law has been serving the California Central Coast region with distinction for more than 45 years and has been the only law school providing a local, high quality, reasonable cost, opportunity law school educational program for the Santa Cruz community throughout that entire period of time.

The law school has deep ties to the local legal community. The former presiding Judge of the Santa Cruz Superior Court (Judge Denine Guy) is an MCL graduate as are two of her judicial colleagues (Judge Kim Baskett and Judge John Salazar). The current President of the Santa Cruz Bar Association, Burleigh Cooper, is a member of our faculty, as is the President-elect of the Santa Cruz Women Lawyers Association, Siobhan Kelley. I had the honor of serving as MCL's founding Associate Dean when the satellite campus opened in 2010.

When the Santa Cruz law school satellite location opened in 2010, the average commute from the campus in Santa Cruz to the MCL main campus in Seaside, California was 45 to 60 minutes. At the time, this was seen as an acceptable commute for full-time working students transitioning from their worksite to the MCL campus in time for classes starting at 6:30 p.m.

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Unfortunately, traffic on Highway 1 between Santa Cruz and Seaside has become notably worse over the past seven years. Students and faculty have reported frequent difficulty in leaving work at 5:00 p.m. in Santa Cruz and being able to dependably arrive safely at the main campus in time for the 6:30 p.m. start of classes.

For this reason, the students and faculty from Santa Cruz have requested that MCL expand the current Santa Cruz program from a one-year satellite campus to a four-year branch campus.

MCL has determined that the Santa Cruz market will support expanding the existing satellite campus to a branch campus and has proposed that the State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners grant approval to the request effective Spring Semester 2019.

Having a branch campus in Santa Cruz will benefit students and the community, and I urge you to give this application every consideration.

Sincerely,



RYAN COONERTY, Supervisor
Third District

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