

March 4, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter in support of the Monterey College of Law proposal to establish the Santa Cruz College of Law as set forth in the Santa Cruz College of Law Implementation Summary, inclusive of appendices thereto.

I am a civil litigation attorney, professor of law (civil procedure) at Monterey College of Law and current President of the Santa Cruz County Bar Association. As a resident of Santa Cruz since 1993, I've witnessed the rather rapid transformation of Santa Cruz from a geographically isolated town (on the ocean, surrounded by mountains) to a proper city, also known as "Silicon Beach".

This transformation brings with it numerous benefits (employment opportunities, tech-savvy residents) and detriments (traffic/transportation, tremendous housing/cost of living increases). By way of example, the median home price in Santa Cruz is in excess of \$850,000, two-bedroom rental prices regularly exceed \$3,000/month and the 36 mile evening commute from Santa Cruz to the Monterey College of Law campus (Seaside) takes an average of ninety-five (95) minutes in the off-season, two (2) hours in the summer.

Given the increased cost of living and other general considerations, a number of my students work part or full-time, leaving only the evenings to pursue their legal education. Frankly, I am honored to work with such a motivated group of students. Problematically, a Santa Cruz resident student working a "9 to 5" job cannot reasonably expect to timely arrive at the Monterey College of Law campus by the commencement of class (i.e., 6:30 p.m.) which, in turn, creates impediments to education and betterment.

Based on numerous discussions over the past two years, the commute/inability to timely arrive on campus also serves as the primary reason Santa Cruz attorneys and judges have, and continue, to decline teaching opportunities at Monterey College of Law resulting in a tremendous loss of intellectual capital and related opportunity cost.

With respect to distance education (DEAC), given the above-described tech-savvy population, I cannot imagine a better demographic, inclusive of faculty and students, to expand the use of Populi Learning Management and usher in the age of blended traditional and digital distance education.

In summary, I thank you for your consideration of this letter in support of the proposed Santa Cruz College of Law, the formation of which would alleviate the access to education concerns, above, while facilitating access to instruction from the approximate 500 attorneys and judges who call Santa Cruz County home.

Kind regards,



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