

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: June 2018 – O-401

DATE: June 14, 2018

TO: Subcommittee on Educational Standards

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Program Manager, Educational Standards

SUBJECT: Major Change Request – Major Change Request: Relocation of the Law School

BACKGROUND

The Lady Justice Law School (LJLS) has submitted the attached Major Change Request to move its fixed facility law school from its current Bakersfield location to a new location, located ten minutes' drive away. The location will provide more room for the students at a lower cost. (See Attachments A-C).

DISCUSSION

LJLS is a fixed-facility, part-time law school currently located approximately ten minutes' drive from the downtown area of Bakersfield. The school's lease is up for this site on June 30, 2018, and the school wishes to move to a new site that will offer improved facilities in a more central location at a lower cost.

An unaccredited, registered law school must request and obtain Committee of Bar Examiners' (Committee) approval before it makes a major change. "[C]hanging the location of the law school's administrative office or the location of a branch," is considered a major change under Rules 4.245 and 4.246(B) of the Unaccredited Law School Rules and Guidelines.

LJLS therefore submitted the attached Request for Major Change, whose substance can be summarized as follows.

LJLS wishes to move at this particular time for three reasons. First, its lease is up on June 30, 2018. Given that the new location will lead to cost savings, the funds saved can be invested in the school's educational program. Second, the new space offers better location and facilities for students at a lower cost. The new location is more convenient for students because it is just six blocks from the Kern County Library and Courthouse and is in central Bakersfield which is a more convenient location for current and future students. Third, this is a convenient time of year to move because the students will be on school break during the month of July, and Registrar Molly Brown confirmed verbally in a call to staff member Natalie Leonard that the move can be completed prior to the start of the fall trimester that begins in August 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee grant this Request for Approval of a Major Change, pursuant to Rule 4.245, and as defined by Rule 4.246(B) of the Unaccredited Law School Rules.

It may also be appropriate to place some follow up conditions on the move. Lady Justice Law School just underwent its five year period inspection at its current location on May 30, and it would not normally be inspected again for five years. Therefore, though this move seems straightforward, it may be appropriate to confirm the completion of the move and to conduct a brief follow-up visit to confirm that all is in order in the new space.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

Move that the request submitted pursuant to Rule 4.245, and as defined by Rule 4.246(B) of the Unaccredited Law School Rules by Lady Justice Law School (LJLS) seeking approval of a major change that would allow Lady Justice Law School to relocate from its present location at 7640 District Boulevard, Suite C to a new location effective July 1, 2018 at 901 20th Street, Bakersfield be granted, and that the approval be conditional upon the school's agreement to provide a progress report as to the timing and completion of the move, and to agree to an informal inspection of the new location if the Committee should so request.



LADY JUSTICE LAW SCHOOL

7460 District Blvd., Ste. C

Bakersfield, CA 93313

(661) 735.8088

LadyJusticeLawSchool.com

Mail to: PO Box 9266, Bakersfield, CA 93389

May 27, 2018

Natalie Leonard
Manager for Educational Standards
The State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, California
94105-1617

Re: Request for Approval of Major Change

Dear Ms. Leonard:

Pursuant to Rule 4.245 and Rule 4.246 of the Unaccredited Law School Rules, Lady Justice Law School is requesting prior approval by the Committee of Bar Examiners of a major change. LJS requests approval to allow the school to move from 7460 District Blvd., Suite C, Bakersfield, CA to 901 20th Street, Bakersfield, CA.

The new building is a total of 3,400 square feet and is divided into several rooms: a lobby, three large classrooms, two offices, two handicapped-accessible bathrooms, two storage rooms, sixteen parking spaces, and unlimited parking on the street.

We ask this change take effect July 1, 2018.

Benefits from the relocation:

1. The proposed location is in central Bakersfield. If approved, the school would be easier to access by current students and future students.
2. Walking Distance to Courthouse. Our current location is a ten-minute drive to the Courthouse. Our new location would be six blocks to the Courthouse.
3. The Kern County Law Library (which is in the Courthouse) is closer and easier to access by the students.
4. The Proposed Location is 400 square feet larger. Our current location is 3,000 square feet. The proposed location is 3,400 square feet.

5. The rent of the proposed location is less than half the current rent. Our current three-year lease expires July 1, 2018. This move would reduce I-ILS's overhead expenses contributing to financial security of the school.
6. The timing of the change of locations perfectly coincides with the summer break for our students. Our school year ends mid-June, and the new academic year will resume mid-August. LJS students would not be burdened with a move during the school year or be disturbed with an interruption of classes.

Attached are photos and a floorplan of the proposed location. Please know that the photos show the space only as a functioning church, and not as Lady Justice Law School.

We respectfully ask that you consider this request and if any additional information is needed, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Molly Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Molly Brown

Owner and Registrar of Lady Justice Law School

mbrown@ladyjusticelawschool.com

661.735.8088

Photographs of proposed space for Lady Justice Law School, located at 901 20th Street, Bakersfield, CA.



LOBBY



FIRST CLASSROOM



SECOND CLASSROOM



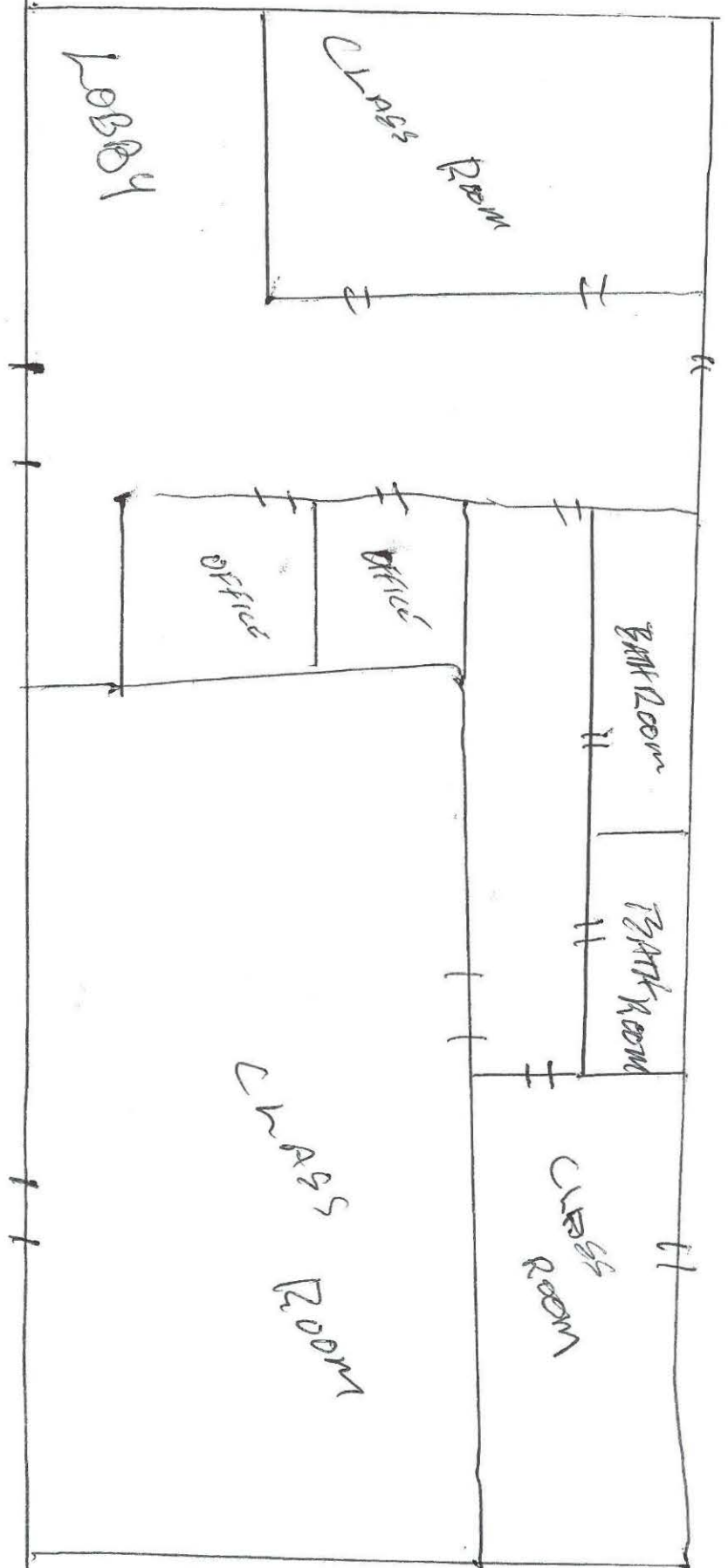
THIRD CLASSROOM



FIRST OFFICE



SECOND OFFICE



Parking LOT

20TH STREET