

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: June 2018 – O-404

DATE: June 7, 2018

TO: Subcommittee on Educational Standards

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Program Manager, Educational Standards

SUBJECT: Lincoln Law School of San Jose - Major Change Request:
Acquiescence to M.L.S, Joint M.L.S/J.D. and LL.M Degrees

BACKGROUND

Attachment A is a Request for Major Change and supporting materials submitted by Lincoln Law School of San Jose (LLSSJ) seeking the Committee of Bar Examiners' (Committee) acquiescence to offer three new non-J.D. degrees: Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S); Joint M.L.S/Juris Doctor (J.D.); and Master of Laws (LL.M). The request is made pursuant to Rules 4.105(K), 4.164 and 4.165(E) and Guideline 13 of the Accredited Law School Rules and Guidelines for Accredited Law Schools.

When a school wishes to offer a professional degree in addition to the Juris Doctor Degree, it "must apply for Committee acquiescence of a professional law degree program . . . and provide the Committee any other information it requests to assist it in evaluating the proposal for a professional law degree program" under Guideline 13.2(A). LLSSJ has submitted a proper application and the appropriate fee.

In order to be approved, the request "must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that its proposal complies with the curriculum and other substantive program requirements adopted by the Committee," and that "receiving acquiescence to grant a professional law degree in addition to the Juris Doctor will not detract from the law school's ability to maintain its Juris Doctor Degree program in compliance with the Rules and . . . Guidelines [for California Accredited Law Schools]. The school must also agree to the required disclosures and compliance terms enumerated in Guideline 13.2, 13.3, and 13.4, which LLSSJ has done.

Ultimately, the Committee's "acquiescence in a law school's professional law degree programs other than for the Juris Doctor degree is not, and law schools must not represent it to be, approval of the quality of any such program." Rather, it evidences an awareness of the program and establishes that the Committee has concluded that sufficient evidence has been provided to establish that the new professional degree program will not have any negative effects on the school's J.D. programs.

DISCUSSION

LLSSJ is a California accredited, fixed-facility law school (CALS) located in San Jose, California. The law school was last inspected in March, 2013 and found to be in compliance and its accreditation was continued. The next inspection will take place in October 2018.

Brief summaries of the three degrees proposed are provided here, as described by the school's Dean, Laura Palazzolo. The admissions standards would be similar to those used for the J.D. program, and the cost per tuition credit would be the same as what is charged for the school's J.D. program.

The proposed M.L.S degree program would be a two year program designed to provide a foundational understanding of American law and jurisprudence and developing skills useful for a broad range of endeavors. This program will serve individuals who would like a legal education but who do not desire to become lawyers. The program's curriculum will consist of 42 units including the complete curriculum required of first-year law students seeking a J.D. degree and a sufficient number of elective courses to allow a student to establish expertise in a particular area of the law. The M.L.S. degree program would be designed to be completed in two years, but may be extended to as much as four years in order to accommodate particular students' schedules and allow sufficient time to complete the work required. The students entering the M.L.S. degree program would need a Bachelor's Degree, but would not be required to take the LSAT or other graduate admissions test. Students could graduate with a cumulative percentage score of 70 on a 100 point scale, which is slightly more relaxed than the score of 74 required to earn the J.D. degree.

As described by Dean Palazzolo, the proposed Joint M.L.S/J.D. degree program will allow students the opportunity to simultaneously pursue both a Juris Doctor degree and a Master of Legal Studies degree. Students may also start in either program and apply to add the other program at a later date. Upon successful completion of the M.L.S. degree program, students who have successfully enrolled in the Joint Program will get credit for 42 units of legal education and thus will need to successfully complete only another 42 units of legal education under the J.D. program to achieve the 84 total units required for the J.D. program. A student must meet all qualifications for entering the J.D. Program in order to be eligible to enroll in the Joint M.L.S./J.D. Program. This includes the submission of a current and satisfactory score on the LSAT examination. Graduation from the combined J.D. and M.L.S. degree program requires that all required courses are passed at the same standards as required under the Law School's J.D. Degree Program. This is a cumulative percentage score for all courses of 74 or higher on a 100 point scale

The proposed Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree program would be a flexible graduate program designed to assist foreign-educated lawyers, recipients of a first degree of law from foreign law schools, and/or foreign law school students in their efforts to learn the fundamentals of the American/California legal system, acquire legal research and writing skills, strengthen employment opportunities and qualify them to sit for the California Bar Examination. Applicants would require a Bachelor's Degree from an

accredited foreign educational institution; certification from a CBE approved credentialed evaluation services that the first year degree in law is substantially equivalent to a Juris Doctor degree award by a law school approved by the American Bar Association or approved by the Committee; and transcripts from all colleges, graduate schools and law schools attended, foreign or domestic. The program would consist of a minimum of 24 units of legal education. Students who intend to sit for the California Bar Examination will also need to include a minimum of 12 units of legal education in at least four subjects tested on the California Bar Examination, and one of those subjects must be Professional Responsibility. Like the M.L.S. Program, a cumulative average of 70 out of 100 would be required to pass.

LLSSJ appears to have sufficient resources to operate these programs without negatively impacting its J.D. program. The school expects approximately five to seven additional students per year to enroll in these programs. All of these programs will utilize the existing curriculum, and the class schedule will not need to be altered. Class facilities are large enough to accommodate the additional students, and faculty can accommodate these students without negative effects on the remaining students. Though the grading standards are somewhat relaxed relative to the J.D. program, it appears that they are sufficiently high so as not to degrade the quality of class discussion.

Finally, LLSSJ agrees to comply with all required procedures and disclosures enumerated in Guidelines 13.2(E), 13.3, 13.4 and 13.5. This includes “operating the degree programs in compliance with any terms, conditions and restrictions set by the Committee...” and “including a specific statement, without alteration, in its course catalog and on the principal page of its website” regarding the fact that these programs do not qualify a student to take any Bar Examination, and addressing all prospective students to these materials containing such disclosures.

DISCUSSION

Given the, academic and financial resources that LLSSJ is prepared to commit to develop and teach the proposed new programs relative to the size of the classes expected, it appears that these three new degree programs will not negatively impact LLSSJ's J.D. curriculum, or impair its ability to maintain the law school's compliant academic standards, practices and policies. LLSSJ also agrees to conduct the program in accordance with the Committee's conditions and required disclosures.

Thus, it appears that LLSSJ has made the requisite showing “to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee” that the proposed Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S), a Joint M.L.S/Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Laws (LL.M) degrees will not “detract from the law school's ability to maintain its Juris doctor degree program in compliance with the *Rules* and these guidelines.”

RECOMMENDATION

As a result, it is recommended that the Committee approve the three Major Change requests and provide its acquiescence to allow the law school to offer and start teaching the proposed Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S), a Joint M.L.S/Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Laws (LL.M) Degrees, effective with Fall semester 2018

PROPOSED MOTION

Should the Subcommittee on agree with the above recommendation, the following motion would be appropriate:

Move that the requests received from Lincoln Law School of San Jose (LLSSJ) for Major Change Requests seeking acquiescence of the Committee to offer the following three degrees effective Fall 2018 be received, filed and granted: Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S); Joint M.L.S/Juris Doctor (J.D.); and a Master of Laws (LL.M).



June 1, 2018

Via Electronic and First-Class Mail

Ms. Amy Nunez
Interim Director, Admissions
The State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639
Amy.Nunez@calbar.ca.gov

Re: Notification and Application for Committee Approval of Major Changes and Acquiescence in New Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.), Joint M.L.S./ J.D. and a Master of Laws (LL.M) Degree Programs

Dear Ms. Nunez:

Pursuant to Rules 4.105(K), 4.164 and 4.165 of the *Accredited Law School Rules* ("Rule(s)"), and Division 13 of the Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules ("Guideline(s)"), this letter and its enclosures serve as the formal notification and application of Lincoln Law School of San Jose ("Lincoln") for the Committee's acquiescence and approval of three major changes which would allow Lincoln to establish and award degrees under the following professional law degree programs, in addition to its existing Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program:

- (1) A Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) degree program (a major change under *Rule* 4.165(E));
- (2) A Joint M.L.S./Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program (a major change under *Rule* 4.165(C)); and
- (3) A Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree program for foreign law students and lawyers (a major change under *Rule* 4.165(E)).

This application is based on this letter, together with the enclosed: "Major Change Proposals to the Committee of Bar Examiners", Lincoln's Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 2017; and a check in the amount of \$750.00 (\$250.00 per major change request), representing the processing fee for these applications.

Lincoln and its fellow CALS schools exist to provide educational alternatives for working adults. Over the past two years, Lincoln has been working closely with its community partners to create additional pathways for professional success. The M.L.S. and combined M.L.S./J.D. degrees are designed not to detract from Lincoln's existing J.D. program, but rather to add additional value to it for our current and future students.

ATTACHMENT A

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As noted in the attached Proposals, the M.L.S. degree is a useful tool for students who wish to acquire legal knowledge for career advancement, but do not desire to become attorneys. It also has another purpose – and that is to provide value to students who showed promise during the application process, but for whom the rigors of law school, in combination with their other life commitments, have proven difficult. Providing these students with the option of adjusting to a shorter time commitment, and still receiving a degree, provides a reasonable value based on their commitment and the knowledge they acquired through their studies.

In the past year, I have also been approached by several students with foreign degrees asking whether Lincoln offers an LL.M. program. The frequency of these inquiries has increased to the point that formalizing a program makes sense. Lincoln has always offered these students the opportunity to take the units necessary to sit for the Bar Exam. Adding a formal degree upon completion of those units acknowledges and adds value to the accomplishment.

For these reasons, and for the reasons set forth below, Lincoln respectfully requests the Committee acquiesce to Lincoln's conferral of the professional degrees described herein.

A. Demonstration of Compliance with Guideline 13.

1. Ability to Maintain Juris Doctor Degree Program - Guideline 13.2(B)

Under *Guideline 13.2(B)*, in an application for Committee acquiescence of a professional law degree program, a law school “must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that receiving acquiescence to grant a professional law degree in addition to the Juris Doctor will not detract from the law school's ability to maintain its Juris Doctor Degree program in compliance with the *Rules* and these *Guidelines*.”

We respectfully submit that the Committee's acquiescence in Lincoln's granting of the contemplated M.L.S., Joint M.L.S./J.D. and LL.M. degrees will in no respect detract from our ability to maintain our J.D. program in compliance with the *Rules* and *Guidelines*.

Lincoln is a fixed-facility law school located in San Jose, California. Lincoln was originally established in 1919, and its San Jose location has been separately accredited by the CBE since 1993. Joseph Moless, its dean from 1999 to 2015, was a traditionalist. As a result, Lincoln stayed true to its original mandate – to provide evening classes for working adults resulting in the conferral of a Juris Doctor degree and the ability to sit for the California Bar Examination. Lincoln remains committed to the J.D. program as the heart of the institution. But times are changing, and recent college graduates are looking for the means to advance their careers with Masters Degree programs. An understanding of the law at an advanced level is important for entrepreneurs, managers and many other business professionals who have no desire to practice law as a profession. The degree programs Lincoln is proposing herein will help serve that community by providing them with the opportunity to take J.D. program curriculum courses and obtain masters level degrees for their efforts.

As evidenced by the enclosed Financial Audit Report for fiscal year ending 2017, Lincoln's financial position is strong. The CBE last inspected Lincoln in 2013 and determined that Lincoln



was in compliance with the *Rules and Guidelines*. Lincoln's next inspection is scheduled for October 2018.

Lincoln offers the bulk of its core curriculum to its J.D. program students through classes held on campus in the evenings from 6:40 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Lincoln does not intend to establish or create any new courses for the M.L.S., Joint or LL.M. programs. Rather, Lincoln intends for current or prospective students who enroll in the M.L.S., Joint or LL.M. programs to take the same evening classes with the J.D. students and without any substantive change in material, course description, coursework, syllabi, or examinations. Lincoln intends to charge its M.L.S., Joint and LL.M. students the same tuition (currently \$856 per unit, plus approximately \$550 in fees per year) as it charges to its J.D. students.

Currently, average enrollment in the courses Lincoln would be requiring most students in the M.L.S. and LL.M. programs to take, ranges from 15 to 20 students. Historically, Lincoln has supported enrollment of more than twice the number students in these same courses. The ability to absorb additional student count was evidenced by Lincoln's agreement to allow students from Peninsula School of Law to complete their degrees at Lincoln a decade or so ago.

At present, based on our review of annual reports of CALS accredited institutions who have instituted similar M.L.S., Joint and LL.M. programs and based on inquiries we have received from prospective students, we anticipate that these programs combined will add no more than 5 to 7 students per year, which Lincoln can readily absorb into the J.D. student population and across its administrative and teaching staff due to the tuition Lincoln will receive from these students. Lincoln has 45 committed and dedicated professors, many of whom have been with the school for twenty years or more. Their dedication to student success does not wax and wane with the number of students in the class.

If student enrollment increases dramatically as a result of the addition of these programs, which we do not presently anticipate, the payment by new enrollees of tuition and fees will be more than sufficient to maintain or attract faculty as necessary to continue a sound program of legal education, to ensure timely response to, and evaluation of, each student, and to ensure the prompt evaluation of assignments. Apart from the implementation of a few new policies, forms, notices and registration materials to support these programs, no substantive programmatic, academic, administrative or financial changes will be required to implement the M.L.S., Joint or LL.M. programs.

2. *Compliance with CBE Curriculum and Substantive Program Requirements - Guideline 13.2(C)*

Under *Guideline 13.2(C)*, in an application for Committee acquiescence of a professional law degree program, a law school "must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that its proposal complies with the curriculum and other substantive program requirements adopted by the Committee for professional law degree programs in addition to the J.D. Program."



The Major Change Proposals attached hereto demonstrate that the proposed M.L.S., Joint and LL.M. degree programs comply with the curriculum and program requirements established by the CBE.

The proposed M.L.S. program is a post-graduate program designed to give students an in-depth knowledge of the law to prepare them for careers in non-legal professions which require extensive knowledge of the law. It may also serve as a stepping stone for incoming students to transfer into the J.D. program, assuming all eligibility requirements are met. Likewise, it may serve to allow students pursuing a J.D. a less rigorous academic option. The proposed M.L.S. program will consist of 42 units, which will include the complete 22 unit curriculum required of first year J.D. students, and thereafter, a choice of other existing required courses or existing electives/independent study. Students in the M.L.S. program will be permitted to maintain slightly lower individual course grades and cumulative course grades than students in the J.D. Program. For the Joint M.L.S./J.D. program, students will be required to meet all the higher standards of the J.D. program.

The proposed LL.M. program is a graduate program designed to teach foreign educated lawyers, recipients of a first degree of law from foreign law schools, and/or foreign law students fundamentals of American law and subject matters tested on the California Bar Examination, whether or not the student desires to sit for the exam. For students who have an approved first degree in law from a law school in a foreign state or country, this program offers the core education required under *Rule 4.30* and the *Guidelines* for the student to sit for the California Bar Examination. The core LL.M. program for students who wish to sit for the Bar will consist of 24 units, including a minimum of one course on each of 4 separate mandatory subjects tested on the Bar, including Professional Responsibility. For students not wishing to sit for the Bar, the LL.M. is designed to provide them with flexibility to choose from the more than 45 different masters and doctoral courses offered by Lincoln to its J.D. students. All courses will be graded based on the same standards and criteria as the proposed M.L.S. program.

3. *Compliance with Guideline 13.3.*

If the M.L.S., Joint and LL.M. degree programs are approved, Lincoln will include the disclosure for professional law degree programs required by *Guideline 13.3*, in its course catalog and on the principal page of its website for its M.L.S., Joint M.L.S./J.D., and LL.M. programs.

4. *Compliance with Guideline 13.4*

If the M.L.S., Joint and LL.M. degree programs are approved, Lincoln will refer all prospective students to its course catalog and website in written correspondence or electronic communications set by the law school in response to inquiries about admission to the M.L.S., Joint M.L.S./J.D., and/or LL.M. programs as required by *Guideline 13.4*.



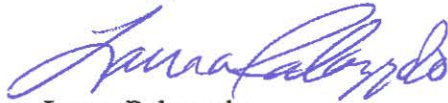
Ms. Amy Nunez

June 1, 2018

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Finally, in accordance with *Rule 4.164* and *Guideline 13.2(A)*, please let me know if the Committee would like any additional information or an inspection to assist it in evaluating the proposals contained herein.

Sincerely,



Laura Palazzolo

Dean



LINCOLN LAW SCHOOL OF SAN JOSE

Major Change Proposals to the Committee of Bar Examiners

(1) To Offer a Master of Legal Studies Degree Program

(2) To Institute a Joint Master of Legal Studies/Juris Doctor Degree Program

(3) To Offer a Master of Laws Degree Program for Foreign Educated Students

Pursuant to Rules 4.105(K), 4.164 and 4.165 of the *Accredited Law School Rules* ("Rule(s)"), and Division 13 of the Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules ("Guideline(s)"), Lincoln Law School of San Jose ("Lincoln") is notifying the Committee and requests its acquiescence and approval of three major changes which would allow Lincoln to establish and award degrees under the following new professional law degree programs, in addition to its existing Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program:

- (1) A Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) degree program (a major change under *Rule* 4.165(E));
- (2) A Joint M.L.S./Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program (a major change under *Rule* 4.165(C)); and
- (3) A Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree program for foreign law students and lawyers (a major change under *Rule* 4.165(E)).

I.

OUTLINE OF [PROPOSED] MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (M.L.S.) PROGRAM

Purposes and Objectives of the M.L.S. Program

The Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) degree program is a graduate program designed to equip students to pursue a wide variety of career choices by providing a foundational understanding of American law and jurisprudence and developing legal skills useful to a broad range of endeavors including social work, law enforcement, government, education, politics, real estate, technology, intellectual property and patents. This program serves individuals who would like a legal education but who do not desire to become lawyers.

Description of the M.L.S. Program

The M.L.S. degree program requires completion of a curriculum of forty-two (42) units including the complete curriculum required of first year students seeking a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree, certain other courses required by the J.D. program, and a sufficient number of elective courses to allow students to either establish expertise in a particular area of the law or obtain a broad background

that will allow them flexibility in the areas in which they wish to proceed with their careers upon graduation.

The M.L.S. degree program is designed to be completed in two (2) years, but may be extended to as much as four (4) years in order to accommodate particular students' schedules and allow sufficient time to complete the work required.

Qualifications for Entry into the M.L.S. Degree Program

Qualifications to enter the M.L.S. degree program include:

1. A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or verification of an equivalent foreign education, subject to evaluation of foreign transcripts by approved evaluation providers.
2. Transcripts from all colleges attended.
3. A resume.
4. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the honesty, integrity, ability, and professionalism of the applicant.
5. A letter describing why the applicant wishes to enter the Program and what they expect to achieve through it.
6. Completion of the M.L.S. Degree Program application.

Please note that students entering the M.L.S. degree program must have a Bachelor's Degree, but are not required to take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), GRE, GMAT or other graduate admissions test.

Curriculum

More complete course descriptions are contained in the online Lincoln course catalog as well as class syllabi which are available for review.

First Year includes the twenty-two (22) units (1L curriculum):

Preparing to Enter the Bar	(Required, no units)
Introduction to Law	(Required, 1 unit)
Basics of Legal Writing	(Required, no units)
Contract Law	(Required, 6 units)
Criminal Law	(Required, 6 units)
Tort Law	(Required, 6 units)
Legal Research and Writing	(Required 3 units)

Second Year includes:

Constitutional Law (Required 6 units)

Advanced Legal Research and Writing* (Required 4 units)

Minimum of one Core Class to be chosen from the following**

Business Organizations (4 units)

Real Property (6 units)

Professional Responsibility (3 units)

Evidence (6 units)

Community Property (3 units)

Civil Procedure (4 units)

Elective or Core Courses as necessary to fill out a minimum of 42 units.

Elective Independent Studies. This program may consist of no more than three (3) units in the aggregate and must be approved by the Dean or the Dean's designee as being appropriate toward advancing the student's legal and practical knowledge in the areas in which they intend to promote their future or existing careers.

Required Legal Essay. Students must conduct research on an approved topic centering on either a contemporary legal issue or how modern law may be applied to resolve challenges in society or business and complete an essay between 5,000 and 10,000 words expressing a thoughtful analysis of their approved topic.

*Advanced Legal Research and Writing, for students wishing to receive an M.L.S. degree on either a stand-alone basis or combined with a J.D., this program will include the two (2) unit course required of all J.D. students plus another two (2) units to be taken in the student's last semester as a Legal Research and Writing course specifically tailored to include guidance in writing a graduate level paper on the student's approved topic.

** Students wishing to receive their M.L.S. degree with a Certificate in Intellectual Property will not be required to take one of the six Core Classes listed under the choices in Second Year, but must comply with the curriculum requirements for the particular Intellectual Property program for which they are eligible and decide to undertake. Students wishing to qualify to take the Patent Bar must meet all requirements promulgated by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for underlying education in a technical, science, or engineering program.

Grading Scale and Criteria for Advancement.

Graduation from the M.L.S. degree program requires that all required courses are passed with an individual percentage score of 66 or higher on a 100 point scale for each course and a cumulative percentage score for all courses of 70 or higher on a 100 point scale. Students who do not achieve a 70 or higher grade average during their first year of the M.L.S. degree program may be advanced to their next year of study on academic probation only upon petition to the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), so long as their cumulative percentage score for their completed courses is at

least 68, and upon a finding by the ASC, in its reasonable but sole discretion, that the student has a reasonable likelihood of improving the cumulative percentage score to 70 or above for the first and second years combined. The ASC, at its option, may approve a student to retake any course upon a finding by the ASC that the student has demonstrated that they are reasonably likely to perform satisfactorily upon such a retaking. A student who is unable to meet the requirement of a cumulative percentage score of 70 or above at the end of their second year after being advanced to that year on academic probation will not be allowed to continue in the M.L.S. degree program.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees for the M.L.S. degree program are the same per unit as for the School's J.D. degree program, including the same registration and other fees, except that students who graduate in the M.L.S. degree program alone must pay their \$500 graduation fee with their Fall Semester registration fee for the year in which they graduate.

The School's current tuition is \$856.00 per unit. Registration fees, assuming completion of the program in two years, will total approximately \$1,800.00, including the graduation fee. Total tuition and fees will be approximately \$37,752.00 for the M.L.S. Degree Program if completed in two years.

Required Disclosure for Professional Law Degree Programs Other Than a J.D

Lincoln acknowledges that the following disclosure will be required to be included on its website and other materials describing its M.L.S. Program: "Except as provided in rule 4.30 of the *Admissions Rules* (Legal Education in a foreign state or country), completion of a professional law degree program at this law school other than for a Juris Doctor degree does not qualify a student to take the California Bar Examination or satisfy the requirements for admission to practice law in California. It may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or to satisfy requirements for admission to the practice of law in any other jurisdiction. A student intending to seek admission to practice law should contact the admitting authority in the jurisdictions where the student intends to qualify to sit for the bar examination or to be admitted to practice for information regarding their legal education requirements."

II.

OUTLINE OF [PROPOSED] JOINT MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (M.L.S.) AND JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.) PROGRAM

Purposes and Objectives of the Joint M.L.S./J.D. Program

To allow students flexibility in pursuing either a Juris Doctor degree or a Master of Legal Studies degree, or both. Students may start in the M.L.S. program and apply to change to the Joint or J.D. program. Students may start in the J.D. program and apply to change to the Joint or M.L.S. program. Students may start in the Joint program and apply to change to the J.D. or M.L.S. program. Applications to move will be permitted no more than once a year at times designated in advance by Lincoln. Lincoln may grant or deny applications at its sole discretion. Any degree program change to the J.D. program or Joint M.L.S./J.D. program will require the student to submit a current satisfactory LSAT examination score.

Description of the Joint M.L.S./J.D. Program

The M.L.S. degree program requires successful completion of the 42 units of required and elective courses from the J.D. curriculum, plus the writing course and written essay. Upon successful completion of the M.L.S. degree program, students who have successfully enrolled in the Joint Program will get credit for their 42 units of legal education and thus will need to successfully complete only another 42 units of legal education under the J.D. program to achieve the 84 total units required for the J.D. program, in addition to the other J.D. program requirements.

Students who are enrolled in the J.D. program may elect to enroll concurrently in the M.L.S./J.D. program. Upon successful completion of the M.L.S. program requirements, the student will be awarded an M.L.S. degree, without regard to whether the student chooses to continue to complete the J.D. program.

Qualifications for Entry into the Joint J.D./ M.L.S. Degree Program

A student must meet all Qualifications for entering the J.D. Program to enroll in the Joint M.L.S./J.D. Program. This includes the submission of a current and satisfactory score on the LSAT examination.

Curriculum.

A combined Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) degree may be conferred upon students who select this option and satisfactorily complete the J.D. degree program (84 units, and all other J.D. program requirements), plus the writing course and graduate level paper required for completion of the M.L.S. degree program.

Students who elect to pursue their studies through satisfactory completion of the J.D. Degree Program but do not complete the research and write the paper required for the M.L.S. Degree

Program may still be awarded a J.D. Degree, subject to their satisfactory completion in good standing of all requirements than in effect for granting of the J.D. Degree.

Grading Scale.

Graduation from the combined J.D. and M.L.S. degree program requires that all required courses are passed at the same standards as required under the Law School's J.D. Degree Program. This is a cumulative percentage score for all courses of 74 or higher on a 100 point scale. Students who do not achieve a 74 or higher grade average during their first year of the combined J.D. and M.L.S. degree program may be advanced to their next year of study on academic probation only upon petition to the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), so long as their cumulative percentage score for their completed courses is at least 70, and upon a finding by the ASC, in its reasonable but sole discretion, that they have a reasonable likelihood of improving their cumulative percentage score to 74 or above for the first and second years combined. The ASC, at its option, may approve a student to retake any course upon a finding by the ASC that the student has demonstrated that they are reasonably likely to perform satisfactorily upon such a retaking. A student who is unable to meet the requirement of a cumulative percentage score of 74 or above at the end of their second year after being advanced to that year on academic probation will not be allowed to continue in the combined J.D. and M.L.S. degree program.

III.

OUTLINE OF [PROPOSED] MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.) PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED STUDENTS

Purposes and Objectives of the LL.M. Program

The Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree program is a flexible graduate program designed to assist foreign-educated lawyers, recipients of a first degree of law from foreign law schools, and/or foreign law school students in their efforts to:

1. learn the fundamentals of the American/California legal system;
2. acquire legal research and writing skills;
3. earn an advanced degree that may broaden employment opportunities;
4. obtain knowledge unique to American and California law; and/or
5. qualify them to sit for the California Bar Examination.

Description of the LL.M. Program

This is a flexible program tailored to teach the foreign educated lawyer, first degree of law attaine and/or foreign law student fundamentals of American law and subject matters tested on the California Bar Examination, whether or not the student desires to sit for the exam. For students who have an approved first degree in law from a law school in a foreign state or country, this program offers the core education required under *Rule 4.30* and the *Guidelines* for a student to sit for the California Bar Examination,

Qualifications for Entry into the LL.M Degree Program

Qualifications to enter the LL.M. degree program include:

1. Proof of the equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited foreign educational institution, subject to evaluation of foreign transcripts by a credentialed evaluation service.
2. For students with a first degree in law from a foreign institution, a certificate from a CBE approved credentialed evaluation service that the first degree in law is substantially equivalent to a Juris Doctor degree award by a law school approved by the American Bar Association or approved by the Committee and that the student's first degree in law meets the educational requirements for admission to practice law in the foreign state or country in which it was obtained.
3. For foreign-admitted lawyers, proof of admission in a legally recognized jurisdiction.
4. Transcripts from all colleges, graduate schools and law schools attended, foreign or domestic.
5. A resume.
6. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the honesty, integrity, ability, and professionalism of the applicant.
7. A letter describing why the applicant wishes to enter the Program and what they expect to achieve through it.
8. Completion of the LL.M. degree program application.

Curriculum

The program consists of a minimum of 24 units of legal education. For students who desire to sit for the California bar, the units must include a minimum of 12 units of legal education in at least four subjects tested on the California Bar Examination (one subject must be Professional Responsibility). Although the program is intended to be flexible to allow foreign educated individuals the opportunity to choose in which areas of law they wish to focus, the following courses are required for any student who wishes to sit for the California Bar:

Intro to Law	(Required, 1 unit)
Contract Law	(Required, 6 units)
Criminal Law or Constitutional Law	(Required, 6 units)
Tort Law	(Required, 6 units)
Professional Responsibility	(Required, 3 units)
Electives	(Required, 2 units)

Other students are free to choose from the list of master or doctoral level courses contained in the Lincoln course catalog to fulfill the 24 unit curriculum. Lincoln presently offers over 45 different masters and doctoral courses. Faculty members and advisors are available to assist with students' educational planning needs.

Grading Scale and Criteria for Advancement.

All grading and advancement criteria will be in conformance with the grading scale and rules applicable to the M.L.S. degree program.

Tuition and Fees

Per unit tuition and semester fees for legal education courses taken under LL.M. degree program are the same as for those units taken under the J.D. Program, except that students who graduate in the LL.M. degree program must pay the \$500 graduation fee with their Fall Semester registration fee for the year in which they graduate. The School's current tuition is \$856.00 per unit. Fees are currently approximately \$550 per year.

Required Disclosure for Professional Law Degree Programs Other Than a J.D

Lincoln acknowledges that the following disclosure will be required to be included on its website and other materials describing its LL.M. Program: "Except as provided in rule 4.30 of the *Admissions Rules* (Legal Education in a foreign state or country), completion of a professional law degree program at this law school other than for a Juris Doctor degree does not qualify a student to take the California Bar Examination or satisfy the requirements for admission to practice law in California. It may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or to satisfy requirements for admission to the practice of law in any other jurisdiction. A student intending to seek admission to practice law should contact the admitting authority in the jurisdictions

where the student intends to qualify to sit for the bar examination or to be admitted to practice for information regarding their legal education requirements.”