

# **COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM:** August 2018 – O-401

**DATE:** August 8, 2018

**TO:** The Committee of Bar Examiners

**FROM:** Natalie Leonard, Program Manager, Educational Standards

**SUBJECT:** **Kern County College of Law: a Branch Campus of Monterey College of Law – Major Change Request: Move to a New Facility**

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## **BACKGROUND**

Monterey College of Law (MCL) has submitted the attached Major Change Request seeking ratification of its move of the Kern County College of Law (KCCL) branch campus from the original location on Truxtun Avenue to a new, nearby location on Chester Avenue. (Attachments A).

## **DISCUSSION**

An accredited, registered law school must request and obtain the 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 4.164 and 4.165(B) of the Accredited Law School Rules and Guidelines.

The KCCL branch campus was originally co-located with the Kern County Bar Association. MCL moved the KCCL campus to its new location effective August 1, 2018. That timing ensured that the move could be completed before the Fall Term began.

The new location is larger and designed to accommodate the school’s projected needs for the five years covered by the proposed lease. The school is occupying a full floor in a newly renovated office building and students are parking in the city-owned deck nearby. This new space is about seven blocks away from the prior space.

The application includes photographs and a floor plan, and financial details are also available to the Committee upon request. MCL confirms that the move is complete and all systems are operational.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee grant this Request for Approval of a Major Change, pursuant to Rule 4.164, and as defined by Rule 4.165(B) of the Accredited Law School Rules, ratifying MCL's relocation of its KCCL branch campus as requested.

Monterey College of Law is scheduled for its next five year periodic inspection in September 2018, and this new campus will be inspected as part of that process.

## **PROPOSED MOTION**

Should the Committee of Bar Examiners agree with this recommendation, the following motion is suggested:

Move that the request submitted pursuant to Rule 4.164, and as defined by Rule 4.165(B) of the Accredited Law School Rules by Monterey College of Law (MCL) seeking approval of a major change that would allow the school's Kern County of Law branch campus to relocate from its present location at 1112 Truxtun Ave to a new location at 1731 Chester Ave, Bakersfield effective August 1, 2018 be granted and filed.



WWW.MONTEREYLAW.EDU



WWW.KERNCOUNTYLAW.ORG



WWW.SLOLAW.ORG

June 25, 2018

Natalie Leonard Manager for Educational Standards  
The State Bar of California 1  
80 Howard Street  
San Francisco, California 94105-1617

Re: Request for Approval of Major Change – Change of Branch Campus Location

Dear Ms. Leonard:

Pursuant to Rule 4.165 (B), Monterey College of Law is seeking approval to change the location of the Kern County College of Law branch campus.

The law school is currently located at 1112 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301 and is proposing a move to 1731 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

The new building is located on the second floor of a former bank building that has been converted on the first floor to law offices (Chain Cohn Stiles LLP). The location is a high profile corner of Chester Ave and 18<sup>th</sup> Street in the revitalized downtown region of Bakersfield. The building is served by a seven-story parking garage that provides free covered parking for students and faculty.

The law school will occupy the entire second floor of the building. It is a total of 7,622 square feet and is divided into administrative and faculty offices, library, classrooms, study areas, student lounge, and kitchen/break room. The entire facility is ADA compliant and is served by both elevator and stairs.

We request that the change take effect August 1, 2018.

I am attaching a map of the location, floor plan of the proposed space, photographs, and a copy of the five-year lease agreement.

Please let me know if there are any additional questions.

Sincerely

Mitchel L. Winick  
President and Dean

Wells Fargo Bank

22nd St

22nd St

22nd St

21st St

Buena Vista Museum  
of Natural History

21st St

Downtown  
Elementary School

20th St

East St

20th St

20th St

20th St

Bus Station

18th St

The Padre

19th St

19th St

Wall St

18th St

18th St

17th Pl

1731 Chester Avenue

17th St

17th St

17th St

Truxtun Ave

Kern County  
Superior Court

Truxtun Ave

Rabobank Arena, Theater  
and Convention Center

15th St

Chester Ave

17th St

# Google Maps Chester Ave



Image capture: Sep 2017 © 2018 Google

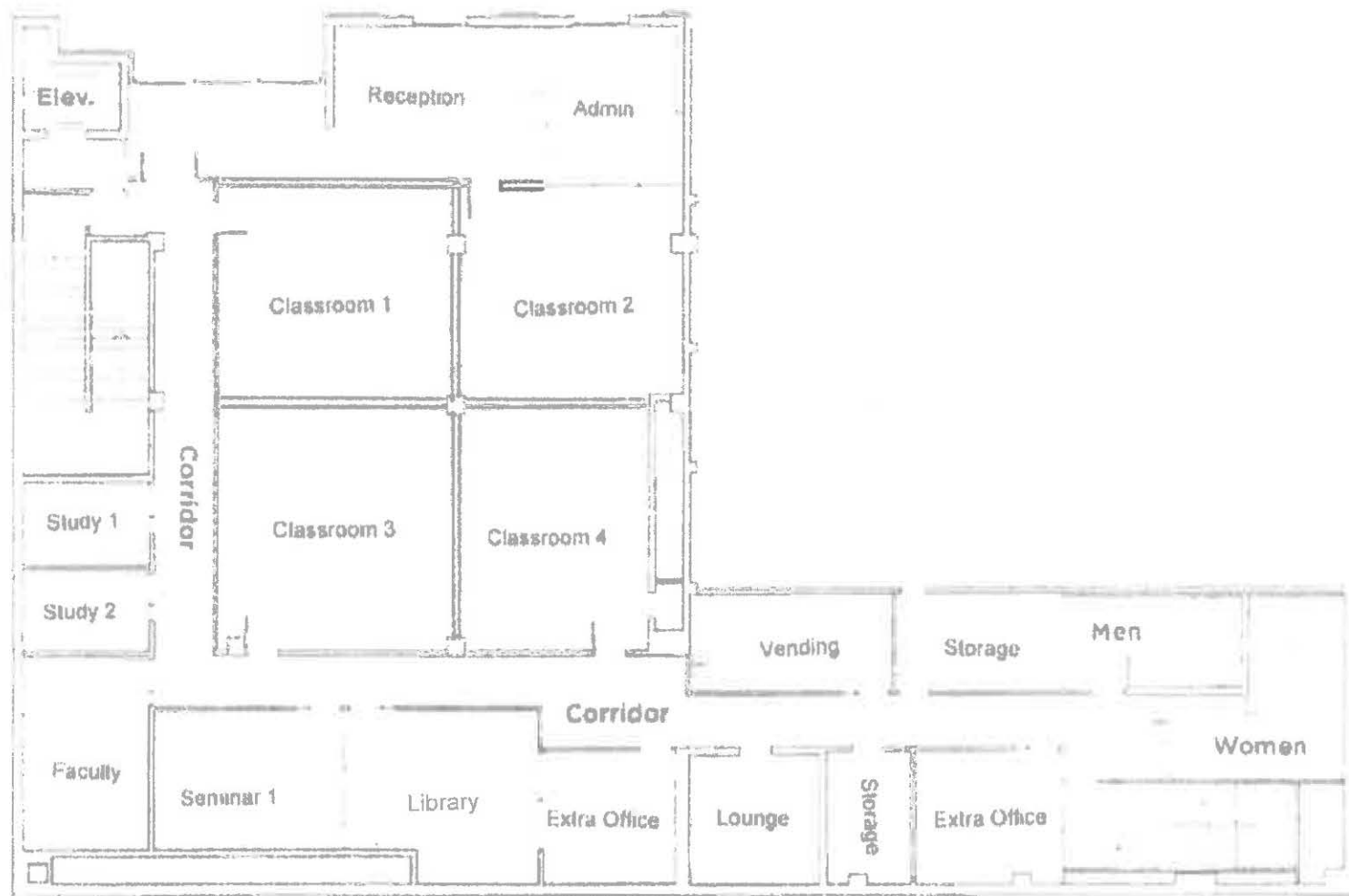
Bakersfield, California

 Google, Inc.

Street View - Sep 2017



# The Premises



# Lease Agreement on File