

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: **December 2018 – O-404**

DATE: November 26, 2018

TO: The Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Analyst, Educational Standards

SUBJECT: **John F Kennedy University School of Law Certification of
Compliance for San Jose Branch Campus**

BACKGROUND

In May 2018, John F Kennedy University School of Law (JFKUCOL) received permission from the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) to open a branch campus in San Jose in February 2019.

As part of that approval, JFKUCOL was directed to file the attached, timely-submitted update confirming that the San Jose branch will be in substantial compliance with each of the relevant Accredited Law School Rules and the Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules upon its opening in February 2019.

The school has now fulfilled the last administrative step required before enrolling students and beginning to offer classes.

DISCUSSION

JFKUCOL Dean Dean Barbieri has certified that the JFKUCOL's branch campus will be substantially compliant with all relevant Accredited Law School Rules and the Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules upon its opening in February 2019.

As part of the certification, JFKUCOL provided one major update, which confirmed that it has purchased the required library volumes for the San Jose branch campus and plans to shelve the books prior to the start of classes.

By filing the report and completing the library, the school has fulfilled all requirements to open the San Jose branch campus. The branch will be located in space currently owned and operated by JFK University.

The Committee does not need to take any further steps at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that JFKUCOL's certification that its San Jose branch campus will be substantially compliant with all rules and guidelines be received and filed, noting that the school has fulfilled all administrative obligations to the Committee regarding the branch campus.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

Move that the Certification of Substantial Compliance for the JFKUCOL San Jose Branch campus be received and filed; and that it be noted that the school has now fulfilled all administrative obligations to the Committee required before opening the branch campus.



JOHN F. KENNEDY UNIVERSITY
An Affiliate of the National University System

COLLEGE OF LAW

October 25, 2018

Committee of Bar Examiners
The State Bar of California
Attn: Natalie Leonard, Program Manager III
180 Howard Street, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: John F. Kennedy University College of Law-San Jose Branch Campus
Guideline 15.2 (C) Certification

Dear Members of The Committee of Bar Examiners:

Pursuant to Guideline 15.2 of the Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules, the John F. Kennedy University College of Law must submit a report, certified by the Dean, that confirms the substantial compliance of a new branch campus within 90 days of the first day of classes at a new branch campus. Please accept this letter as that report and certification. As provided in the Petition for the Major Change Request submitted to the Committee of Bar Examiners, the following are the pertinent facts relating to that San Jose, California branch campus.

Type, Name, Location and Proposed Opening Date.

- a. Type of new campus: Branch Campus
- b. Name: The proposed name is John F. Kennedy University College of Law, San Jose Branch
- c. Location: 3031 Tisch Way, San Jose, CA 95128 where JFK University already maintains a branch campus. That branch campus presently is comprised of separate classrooms, a library/student resource center, computer lab, student lounge, faculty offices, restrooms, and reception area. Additionally, there is significant parking at the location that can accommodate all of the students attending classes at the branch campus.
- d. Proposed Opening Date: Classes would first be offered for the Spring 2019 Semester which will commence on February 4, 2019.

Proposed Resources to be Allocated to the New Campus. Guideline 15.2 (A) (c) asks about the proposed resources that will be allocated to the new campus. The following are some of those resources:

- a. Dean and Campus Administrator. The existing Dean of the JFK College of Law, Dean E. Barbieri, will continue to be the Dean of the Pleasant Hill main and San Jose Branch

campuses. Dean Barbieri is qualified to serve as the Dean as he is a 1980 graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law, and has been a member of The State Bar of California in good standing continually since December 1980. The existing Associate Dean of the JFK College of Law, Lisa S. Hutton, will continue to be the Associate Dean of the Pleasant Hill main and San Jose Branch Campuses. Associate Dean and Professor of Law Hutton is a 1999 graduate of the John F. Kennedy University College of Law, and has been admitted to practice law in California since 1999.

Dean Barbieri and Associate Dean Hutton, as part of their oversight and operation of the San Jose branch campus will each be on the San Jose campus site at least once per week throughout the school year, during regular school times.

Matthew Taxman will serve as the San Jose Branch campus administrator. Depending on the number of students enrolled at the branch campus; Mr. Taxman will serve as either a part-time or full time administrator, consistent with The State Bar of California Accreditation Rules and Guidelines. Mr. Taxman is currently a full time employee of the JFK College of Law and is the Assistant Director College of Law for Admissions, Advising and Records. He is a 2014 graduate of the JFK College of Law, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and received a Master's of Fine Arts in Acting from The Theatre School, DePaul University. Mr. Taxman has been employed by the JFK University since 2012 in both Law Library and College of Law admissions, advising and records coordination capacities.

- b. Registrar, Financial Aid, Academic Support, Library and Student Services. As the JFK University is currently operating a successful branch campus at the proposed College of Law San Jose branch campus site, the activities of the Registrar, Financial Aid advisors, Academic Support advisors, full time librarian, student government, IT Support and other student services, are already in place. Representatives from the Registrar, Financial Aid, Student Services and other JFK University offices have a regular and periodic presence at the existing San Jose branch campus enabling the San Jose students to gain access to necessary information and services.

The hard copy volumes of the library offerings at the San Jose Branch campus are in the process of becoming compliant with the Accredited Law School Rules and Guidelines, and will be complete by the time the first day of classes are offered. While the Committee of Bar Examiners has been considering eliminating the need of some of the hard copy volumes for a compliant library, and instead requiring only electronic access, the JFK University College of Law has delayed the purchasing some of the very expensive hard copy volumes if ultimately they were not to be required. As it now appears that a final determination on the library requirements will not be made by The Committee of Bar Examiners or Board of Trustees before the first day of classes at the San Jose Branch, the College of Law will complete acquiring the required hard copy volumes to become compliant. It is not anticipated that the San Jose Branch campus of the JFK College of Law will need to request a waiver of any of the library requirements.

Additionally, all of the students at the San Jose Branch campus will have full and complete access to the electronic library resources provided to the current Pleasant Hill main campus students, which include access to both Westlaw and Lexis/Nexus.

Dean Certification.

Pursuant to Guideline 15.2 (C) I, Dean E. Barbieri, Dean of the College of Law of the John F. Kennedy University, hereby certify that upon the opening of the San Jose Branch of the John F. Kennedy University College of Law, each campus of the John F. Kennedy University College of Law will be in substantial compliance with all relevant academic and operational requirements as set forth in the Accredited Law School Rules and the Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules.

Please contact me should you need any further information in support of this major change request, or should you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Dean E. Barbieri
Dean of the College of Law
John F. Kennedy University