



The State Bar *of California*

**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM
DECEMBER, 2019
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS ITEM O-401**

DATE: December 6, 2019

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst

SUBJECT: Lady Justice Law School – Voluntary Request for Termination of Registration

BACKGROUND

Lady Justice Law School (LJS) has filed a request to voluntarily terminate its registration as an unaccredited law school effective immediately. (Attachment A) Staff recommends that the request be accepted and immediate payment be demanded as to any outstanding fees. It is also suggested that the school be asked to provide a final 2019 Annual Report for statistical purposes. Staff further recommend that the 2019 Annual Fee be waived for multiple reasons: it is a prospective payment for funding regulation in the upcoming year; the school ceased classes after the 2019 spring semester; and, the school will now close.

Under Rule 4.268 of the Rules for Unaccredited Law Schools, “[t]he Committee will terminate a law school’s registration on a specific date, at which time it will also terminate its degree-granting authority.”

LJS is a limited liability company registered as an unaccredited fixed-facility law school since 2016. In August 2019, the school suspended classes before the start of the fall semester, and classes did not resume.

DISCUSSION

LJS has filed a proper letter requesting voluntary termination of registration and identified a permanent custodian of records, owner Molly Brown.

The school’s former students are already pursuing transfer options and were not billed for fall semester. Students scheduled to start their law study were unable to do so, but may begin their study elsewhere. Students who had not yet passed the First Year Law Students’ Examination

were on study leave and remain eligible to take that examination and earn credit for their first year of study. At least one student has passed the First Year Law Students' Examination and has transferred to another school.

Annual Reports are normally filed in November. It is suggested that the Committee request that the school submit a 2019 Annual Report as a courtesy to the State Bar, but waive the prospective annual fee that would normally accompany the Annual Report if the school had not previously submitted its request to end its registration. Having this Annual Report will assist the State Bar in maintaining complete statistical records.

Though the school's registration as an unaccredited law school will terminate, any outstanding balance due to the State Bar of California should be requested to be remitted immediately with the State Bar reserving the right to pursue payment if needed.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Lady Justice School of Law's written request to voluntarily surrender its registration be received, filed and granted effective December 6, 2019 pursuant to Rule 4.268 of the Unaccredited Law School Rules, subject to the requirements related to passage of the First Year Law Students' Examination; and that the law school's name be removed from the list of registered, unaccredited law schools as maintained by the State Bar of California; that administrator Molly Brown, one of the school's owners, be designated as the permanent custodian of the law school's records and student transcripts; and that the school be asked to submit a final 2019 Annual Report. The school should be further required to immediately remit any outstanding fees due to the State Bar to effectuate a closure in good standing, and the State Bar should reserve the right to pursue payment if needed. The requirement related to the passage of the First Year Law Students' Examination will continue to apply to students as usual when determining whether a student can claim credit for law study; the closure of the school does not waive this requirement. Students are not precluded from continuing to take the examination if they so choose.

PROPOSED MOTION

If the Committee agrees with this recommendation, the following motion is suggested:

Move that pursuant to Rule 4.268 of the Unaccredited Law School Rules the written request of Lady Justice School of Law to terminate the school's registration as an unaccredited law school be received; that the request be granted; that the law school's name be removed from the list of registered, unaccredited law schools as maintained by the State Bar of California; that students enrolled in the law school's program receive credit for their study at the law school through December 6, 2019, subject to the requirements related to passage of the First Year Law Students' Examination; that Molly Brown be designated the permanent custodian of the law school's records and student transcripts and be required to provide such records and transcripts upon the

future request of any former student or graduate of the law school; and that the law school be required to immediately remit outstanding fees due to the State Bar and to provide a final November 2019 Annual Report, with the Annual Fee waived, to fully effectuate a closure in good standing.

Attachment A: Letter of October 31, 2019 Lady Justice Law School – Voluntary Request for Termination of Registration

ATTACHMENT



LADY JUSTICE LAW SCHOOL

901 20th Street

Bakersfield, CA 93301

(661) 735.8088

LadyJusticeLawSchool.com

Mail to: PO Box 9266, Bakersfield, CA 93389

October 31, 2019

Re: Statement on the Voluntary Surrender of Registration

To the Committee of Bar Examiners,

We have decided, as the owners of Lady Justice Law School, to voluntarily surrender our registration with the State Bar of California.

We will furnish each of our existing students with copies of their transcripts no later than November 15, 2019, unless requested earlier. Several of our students have already received transcripts.

We will designate our current Registrar, Molly Brown, as the custodian of records for all Lady Justice Law School records. Contact information for Molly Brown is the following:

Phone number: (661) 444.5197

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9266, Bakersfield, CA, 93389

Email: mollycport@aol.com

Thank you very much to the State Bar of California Committee of Bar Examiners for the opportunity afforded us to teach law for the past three years. We are grateful to have had the opportunity and will look back at our brief time working alongside the Committee with fondness and gratitude.

Most sincerely,

Molly Brown

Owner & Registrar

Lady Justice Law School

661.444.5197