



# The State Bar of California

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## **OPEN SESSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM O-405**

**APRIL 2021**

### **COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

**DATE:** April 23, 2021

**TO:** Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

**FROM:** Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Report on 2020-2021 Educational Standards Goals

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Below the list of goals for Educational Standards for 2020-2021.

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1. Maintain law school engagement by conducting meetings with the Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS) and the Law School Council (LSC), publishing the Law School Deans' eNewsletter, and hosting annual Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meetings.

**The Law School Council met on April 21 and began a discussion of topics for the September Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meeting. CSBARS last met on April 21 to provide feedback on several issues related to the accredited rules, guidelines and MPR adjustments under consideration by the Committee. The Law School Assembly and Registrars' Meeting will next take place via Zoom on September 28 and 29, respectively. The most recent quarterly Law School Deans' e-Newsletter was distributed in January 2021 and the next issue will be distributed in May 2021.**

2. Recommend a proposal to revise the Accredited Law School Rules to: 1) create a modified "jointly accredited" status for law schools that earn accreditation from a regional accreditor and also meet specified State Bar responsibilities and disclosures; 2) ensure rules embody best practices in accreditation; 3) address requests from the Committee.

**The Board of Trustees posted the Committee's recommended Accredited Law School Rules for public comment through February 15, 2021. Those comments along with**

several technical amendments were reviewed, and the item is set for action today. CSBARS is providing feedback regarding potential guidelines that may be helpful when implementing the new rule set. ([Board of Trustees' Directive, January 2019, Item 702, p.5](#))

3. Review petitions for registration and accreditation, as well as existing registered and accredited schools' petitions for changes.

**Ongoing as received.**

4. Regulate law schools by monitoring compliance through inspections, reporting, and other actions as directed by the Committee, addressing noncompliance as needed.

**Three law schools were inspected pursuant to Notices of Noncompliance with Rule 4.160(N), the Minimum, Cumulative Five-Year Bar Exam Passage Rate.**

**Two inspection reports are being presented to the Committee today. Four schools have inspections in progress: Abraham Lincoln University School of Law, and Trinity Law School, University of La Verne College of Law, and University of West Los Angeles.**

5. Support the State Bar's strategic initiatives related to law school diversity, retention, and performance on the Bar examination.

**Data analysis has begun as to this initiative. The data gathered from these new templates more readily compares with data at schools approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association. (Goals 4g and 4h)**

6. Continue to pursue mandatory accreditation for unaccredited law schools in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Board of Trustees. Review the existing rules and guidelines to update them as necessary.

**TBD.**

## **FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT**

None

## **AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF THE STATE BAR**

None

## **AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL**

None

## **STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Goal: None - core business operations

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee of Bar Examiners approve the 2020 – 2021 Educational Standards goals set forth above.

## **PROPOSED MOTION**

Should the Committee of Bar Examiners agree with the staff recommendations, the following motion should be made:

**MOVE**, that the 2020 – 2021 Educational Standards goals be approved.