



**OPEN SESSION**  
**AGENDA ITEM O-400**  
**JANUARY 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

**DATE:** January 28, 2022

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

**FROM:** Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst, Office of Admissions

**SUBJECT:** Action on Major Change – Irvine University College of Law – Change Name to Irvine College of Law

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Irvine University College of Law (IUCOL) has filed the attached major change request for the required advance approval from the Committee of Bar Examiners' (Committee) to change its name to Irvine College of Law effective February 1, 2022. (Attachment A.)

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**BACKGROUND**

IUCOL is an unaccredited, fixed-facility law school located in Cerritos, California that will be transitioning to the distance learning category effective summer 2022 as approved by the Committee in December 2021. The law school was last inspected in 2018 and found to be compliant.

According to its 2021 Annual Report, the law school enrolls 58 students in its JD program. The law school's most recent pass rates on the First-Year Law Students' Examination were 5.9 percent in October 2020, 16.7 percent in June 2021, and 12.5 percent in October 2021. Its most recent cumulative five-year bar pass rate according to its 2022 disclosure, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code 6061.7(a), is 39 percent. This cumulative pass rate reported by unaccredited law schools is similar to the Minimum, Cumulative Five-Year Bar Examination Pass Rate that accredited law schools post, though unaccredited law schools are not required to maintain a specific minimum pass rate.

Under rule for unaccredited law schools 4.245 “[a] registered law school contemplating a major change must notify the Committee and obtain its prior approval before making the change. The notice must explain in detail any effect the change might have on the law school’s compliance with the rules.” This includes a change to the name of the law school. (Rule 4.246(G).)

## **DISCUSSION**

Irvine University College of Law (IUCOL) seeks the Committee’s approval required to change its name and “doing business as”/dba name to Irvine College of Law, effective February 1, 2022. The law school believes this change will better reflect its status as a standalone law school and reduce confusion with a nearby school, University of California, Irvine School of Law.

Until 2012, the law school and an undergraduate program were operated under the Irvine University name. Then, in 2012, the corporation that owned the school transferred the undergraduate programs to a separate corporate entity that operates as Westcliff University. Since 2019, Westcliff University also operates Western State College of Law at Westcliff University, an American Bar Association approved law school.

Since 2012, Irvine University College of Law has operated as a standalone law school. Since the two corporations retain the same owner, the law school still has access to some of the administrative services at Westcliff University. For example, the instructional designers at Westcliff University are assisting in the creation of IUCOL’s new distance learning JD program.

IUCOL law school believes that this name change will more clearly describe its status as an independent law school. The law school also notes that prospective applicants sometimes confuse the law school with University of California, Irvine School of Law, also called UCI Law. The law school hopes that removing the word university from its name will reduce confusion.

## **FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT**

None

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee of Bar Examiners receives and files Irvine University College of Law’s Request for Major Change to change its name and dba to Irvine College of Law and grants the request effective February 1, 2022.

It is further recommended that the law school provide the State Bar with updated copies of its registration with the Secretary of State and business license within 10 days of completion.

## **PROPOSED MOTION**

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

**MOVED**, that the Committee of Bar Examiners receives and files Irvine University College of Law's Request for Major Change to change its name and dba to Irvine College of Law and grants the request effective February 1, 2022.

**FURTHER MOVED**, that the law school must provide the State Bar with updated copies of its registration with the Secretary of State and business license within 10 days of completion.

## **ATTACHMENT LIST**

- A.** Major Change Request for the Prior Approval of the Committee of Bar Examiners to Change the Name of the Irvine University College of Law



*Via Email and U.S.P.S.*

October 28, 2021

Natalie Leonard, Esq.  
Principal Program Analyst  
Office of Admissions, Educational Standards  
State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: ***Major Change Request for the Prior Approval of the Committee of Bar Examiners to Change the Name of the Irvine University College of Law.***

Dear Ms. Leonard:

Pursuant to Rules 4.245 and 4.246(G) of the *Unaccredited Law School Rules*, Irvine University College of Law (IUCOL) respectfully seeks the prior approval of the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE) of the following major change: To change the name and “dba” of IUCOL to that of “Irvine College of Law.” In support, IUCOL submits the enclosed basis and explanation.

Since 1973, IUCOL has operated under its current name as a “dba” of a registered California for-profit corporate entity, Irvine University Education, Inc. For most of its existence, the law school was part of an actual university (Irvine University) that offered undergraduate degrees in its colleges of business and education. However, since June of 2012, when each of these schools and their undergraduate degree programs were merged with a new entity, Westcliff University, IUOL has operated as a separate educational entity, one that retained “university” in its name.

In hope of eliminating any continuing confusion among the public and prospective applicants, and to comply more fully with its obligation to operate in an honest and forthright manner, IUCOL now seeks Committee approval to operate under a new name and dba.

On behalf of IUCOL’s ownership and management, thanks in advance for your assistance to have this major change approved at the Committee’s earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,  
George C. Leal, Dean  
Irvine University College of Law

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