



OPEN SESSION

**AGENDA ITEM O-402 Action on Request for Major Change-Change of
Administrative Headquarters- John F. Kennedy School of Law at Northcentral
University**

APRIL 2022

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: April 22, 2022

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst

SUBJECT: Action on Request for Major Change – Change of Administrative Headquarters
– John F. Kennedy School of Law at Northcentral University

BACKGROUND

John F. Kennedy School of Law at Northcentral University (UWLA) requests the Committee's approval and ratification of its change of administrative headquarters from La Jolla to San Diego within California. (Attachment A) Both the prior and current locations are owned by the National University system, which consolidated operations between the two locations at the San Diego location. Staff recommends approval of this move.

An accredited law school must request and obtain the approval of the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) in order to make a major change, such as "changing the . . . location of a branch campus or satellite campus." Rule 4.165(A).(A) A[n] . . . accredited law school contemplating a major change requiring advance approval must notify the Committee and obtain that approval at least 180 days before making the change. The notice must explain in detail any effect the change might have on the law school's compliance with these rules and be submitted with the fee specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines." (Rule 4.165). One of the changes that requires approval is "changing the location of the law school, or the location of a branch campus or satellite campus, to a different location more than five (5) miles from the existing location." (Rule 4.165(A)(1)). Further, "[a] law school must maintain its primary administrative office and all law school campus locations in California." (Rule 4.160(A)(1)).

DISCUSSION

In 2021, the prior John F. Kennedy University School of Law was acquired by Northcentral University. The proposal indicated that the law school's administrative office and headquarters would be located at 11355 N. Torrey Pines Rd in La Jolla. This location was already part of the National University system with which both schools were already affiliated and leadership was already working from that headquarters.

The National University system is currently consolidating its space holdings and plans to close the La Jolla site, consolidating resources at its facility located at 9388 Lightwave Avenue in San Diego effective January 1, 2022.

The law school filed the petition prior to its move and supplemented it at staff's request to further describe the facility.

The move has not disrupted or otherwise affected legal education at the law school.

While the La Jolla address was originally envisioned as a location in which law school leadership could work alongside Northcentral University's leadership, the pandemic changed these plans. The law school staff has been working fully remotely with success since the merger at the start of 2021. Recently, the law school dean has been going to the main office one day per week, but this may be, in part, due to her interim provost duties, and she indicated that she hopes to be able to discontinue this travel in the future, and to continue the successful remote staffing plan.

The proposed new location is nearly at 9388 Lightwave Avenue in San Diego, a longtime location of the National University system. While law school staff will not be present at this location either, administrative staff will be present to receive student visits and provide student records. Because the law school's program is fully online, no law student is required to visit the law school's administrative office at any time

Northcentral University is also accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and WASC approved this change on February 16, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Committee grant permission and ratify this move, as it offers similar facilities in a similar location as those already provided.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

Move that the Committee of Bar Examiners accept and file John F. Kennedy University School of Law at Northcentral University's Request for Major Change; and that the school's request to move its administrative offices from the prior La

Jolla location to 9388 Lightwave Avenue, San Diego, be granted and ratified effective immediately.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: John F. Kennedy University School of Law Request for Major Change