



OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM O-403
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 Name – Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law (SBVCL) requests the Committee of Bar Examiners' (Committee) approval to change its name to the Colleges of Law, a name it has been using informally along with its official name. (Attachment A) Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND

Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law (SBVCL) is an accredited law school with two fixed-facility campuses located in Santa Barbara and Ventura. SBVCL also offers a hybrid JD program with online classes and occasional weekend residencies; this program draws students from a wide range of locations.

SBVCL requests the Committee of Bar Examiners' (Committee) advance approval to change its name to the Colleges of Law, a name it has been using informally along with its official name.

An accredited law school changing its name must notify the Committee within 30 days of making the change. (Rule 4.165(B)). The law school has requested prior approval before making the required changes to secure its service marks and change its public facing materials.

DISCUSSION

SBVCL has long operated fixed-facility classes at its Santa Barbara campus as well as its Ventura campus. Since the law school began offering a hybrid JD program, it has been serving students from outside the Santa Barbara/Venture area. As a result, the law school would like to change

its name to remove the locations in which its buildings are based to better reflect its wider service area.

Though the name is more general, the law school does not expect confusion for a number of reasons. It has been using this name informally as a subheading for a number of years, so it will not be unfamiliar to the public. It also accurately reflects the law school's commitment to serve the wider area.

The law school has taken steps, and will take additional steps, to register its marks, create a clear logo, and revise its communications to use the new name exclusively.

This type of change only requires notice under the new accredited law school rules, but approving it will provide the law school with the assurance it needs to invest in these changes.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Committee approve Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law's change of name to The Colleges of Law, effective immediately.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

Move that the Committee of Bar Examiners accept and file Santa Barbara and Ventura College of Law's Major Change Request to Change its name to The Colleges of Law and grant the change immediately. The law school is directed to document the change of service marks, materials and communications in its 2022 Annual Report.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law Major Change Request – Change of Name