



**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM O-406
APRIL 2022
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

DATE: April 22, 2022

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

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

SUBJECT: Action on Periodic Inspection of University of San Joaquin College of Law

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agenda item presents the attached report of the periodic inspection of San Joaquin College of Law (San Joaquin) conducted on October 26-28, 2021, as well as the law school's acceptance of the report and its findings, and recommends that the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) continue the law school's accreditation and set its next inspection for fall 2026. (Attachments A, B).

BACKGROUND

Accredited law schools are inspected for compliance with the Rules for Accredited Law Schools (rules) and Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules (guidelines) approximately every five years. (Rule 4.162). This inspection was conducted under the accredited law school rules in effect until December 31, 2021, and rule references will refer to those rules.

San Joaquin College of Law is an accredited law school located in Clovis, California. According to the law school's 2021 Annual Report, it enrolled 161 students in its JD program. The law school's most recent five year Minimum, Cumulative Bar Exam Passage Rate (MPR) was 77.7 percent.

The law school is led by Dean Jan Pearson, who has been at the law school since 1981 and has been dean since 1985. She graduated from Berkeley Law. The faculty includes eight full-time

and 24 part-time instructors. All graduated from ABA approved or California-accredited law schools and are licensed to practice law or serve as judicial officers.

The law school teaches a fixed-facility program in-person and it was one of the first fixed-facility law schools to return to teaching fully in-person as public health circumstances allowed.

JD students must complete 86 semester units. Total program tuition is \$83,850.

DISCUSSION

The law school submitted a detailed Self-study well in advance of the inspection and was very prepared for all questions asked.

The inspection was conducted by the team of Heather Georgakis, educational consultant to the State Bar, along with Committee member Dr. James Bolton.

As part of the inspection, the team reviewed the curriculum, learning platform, admissions, scholastic standards, legal research resources, facilities, records, Dean, administrators, and faculty. The inspection team recommends that the Committee receive and file this Periodic Inspection Report, adopt the report's recommendations listed below, and continue the California accreditation of San Joaquin College of Law.

The team made two recommendations as follows:

Recommended, Mandatory Actions

1. Guidelines 2.7(A)(3) and 7.8: The law school must revise the course repetition policy to address all effects of both required and permitted course repetition.
2. Guideline 2.3 and 6.6: The law school must revise its publications to clearly state its policies related to the award of academic credit for non-classroom activities pursuant to Guideline 6.6.

Subsequent to the inspection, the law school submitted a letter accepting the recommendations and committing to address them in the next version of the catalog, which will issue before the start of the summer 2022 summer semester.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee receive and file the Periodic Inspection Report of San Joaquin College of Law, adopt its findings, and accept the law school's formal response. It is further recommended that the law school document completion of the recommendations in its 2022 Annual Report. Finally, it is recommended that the law school's accreditation be continued and its next inspection be set for fall 2026 unless the Committee determines that an earlier inspection is needed.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

MOVE, that the Committee of Bar Examiners receives and files the 2021 Periodic Inspection Report of San Joaquin College of Law, and the response from the law school accepting the report.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the report's recommendations be approved; that the law school be directed to document completion of the recommendations as part of the law school's 2022 Annual Report;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the accreditation of San Joaquin College of Law be continued; and that the law school's next periodic inspection be scheduled for fall 2026, unless the Committee determines that an inspection is needed sooner.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A.** 2021 Periodic Inspection Report for San Joaquin College of Law
- B.** Formal Response from San Joaquin College of Law of Law Accepting the Inspection Report

