



**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM O-403
JANUARY 2023
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

DATE: January 27, 2023

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

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

SUBJECT: Administrative Updates from Accredited and Unaccredited Law Schools

The following changes were announced at accredited and unaccredited law schools:

- Lincoln Law School of San Jose, a law school that transitioned from accredited to unaccredited fixed-facility status effective January 2023, has named a new dean, Artur Jue. Because Dr. Jue does not hold a law degree, the leadership team will include Professor Michele Pacheco, now promoted to the role of Associate Dean of Academics, and Dean Emeritus Laura Palazzolo, a graduate of Lincoln Law School of San Jose, as administrator.
- St. Francis Law School, an accredited law school, has named Professor Karen Travis as interim dean. She served in this role previously before the recently departed dean was named.
- Western Sierra Law School, a fixed-facility unaccredited law school, has updated its mailing address to a commercial virtual mailbox in Carlsbad, while its physical administrative headquarters remains the same in Oceanside. Mail is scanned and forwarded to the law school when it is received.

The following updates have also taken place in response to Committee motions:

- American Heritage University School of Law closed on January 20, 2023. The law school completed its fall classes, issued grades, and provided a student list to assist the State Bar in responding to student questions.
- Irvine College of Law, an unaccredited law school, has provided staff with all administrative materials requested related to its transition from the fixed-facility

category to the distance learning category. The distance learning category program launched as scheduled in fall 2023.

- Lincoln Law School of San Jose has completed its transition from accredited status to unaccredited fixed-facility status. It will admit its first class to that program starting in fall 2023.
- Pacific West College of Law has not returned its annual report or fee. Staff is following up with this school and will provide a further report to the Committee. All other schools have returned their Annual Report materials.
- Peoples College of Law filed its first probation progress report on time, and it is being reviewed by staff and the Educational Standards Chair. This report and future reports will be shared with the Committee at future meetings.