



OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM II.B.
OCTOBER 2023
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: October 13, 2023

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

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

SUBJECT: Report on Administrative Updates Regarding Law Schools

The following administrative updates were provided by accredited and unaccredited law schools since the last meeting of the Committee of Bar Examiners (committee).

- Lincoln Law School of San Jose, an unaccredited, fixed-facility law school, named its prior assistant dean and director of admissions, Jason Amezcua, as interim dean, and soon thereafter confirmed him as permanent dean after the prior dean resigned in August 2023. Dean Amezcua holds a JD degree from an ABA approved law school, but he is not admitted to practice in any jurisdiction. Lincoln Law School of San Jose's accreditation was terminated effective January 1, 2023 after it failed to raise its minimum, cumulative five-year bar passage rate to at least 40 percent as required by all accredited law schools during a two-year probationary period.
- Peoples College of Law, an unaccredited fixed-facility law school, has advised that its Dean Edith Pomposo is on a voluntary leave of absence, and the law school has appointed Interim Dean Ana Maria Lobos, a graduate of Peoples College of Law. Dean Lobos became licensed to practice law in California in December 2022.
- San Francisco Law School's entire student body of five students transferred from the law school after the law school's accredited status was terminated at the committee's August 2023 meeting. The law school plans to begin enrolling a JD class in its unaccredited, distance learning law school program effective January 2024.
- Western Sierra Law School (WSLS), an unaccredited fixed-facility law school, underwent a video walkthrough, as a condition of the committee's August 2023 approval of its

amended change of administrative headquarters to Oceanside, California. The move was previously approved in 2020, but the space was not used for teaching due to the pandemic and appeared to be used for other purposes. Subsequently, at an inspection, the consultant observed that law practice and storage were being conducted in the space. Therefore, the committee required an amended motion confirming that the space was compliant for teaching fixed-facility classes and approved that motion pending a video walkthrough to confirm the information shared. Staff conducted the video walkthrough on September 21, 2023, and found the space to be consistent with the law school's description in its amended motion. The space consists of two suites on two floors in a 12-suite building. The second-floor suite hosts the library and the classroom with seating for up to 15 students. Although the school has 18 total students enrolled, the class schedule is constructed so that 1Ls and upper division students take classes on different days. In addition to this classroom, the law school indicated it can lease a Mira Costa Community College facility hourly for an additional classroom if more space is needed.