



**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM II.A.
DECEMBER 2023
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

DATE: December 1, 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).

- American International School of Law, an unaccredited law school, closed on November 15, 2023, as scheduled and previously approved by the committee. The law school adjusted its website and communications to reflect the closure and to provide former students and graduates with information about how to request copies of their records from law school president Nitesh Patel, who will continue to serve as custodian of records.
- Empire College School of Law, an accredited law school teaching out its current students, advised that Nora Songster has been named registrar. She trained under registrar Tracy Chodora for several months prior to Ms. Chodora's retirement.
- Concord Law School rebranded as Purdue Global Law School effective November 8, 2023. The law school advised the committee of this planned change in August 2023. The law school has been a part of Purdue Global University since 2018. The State Bar's website has been updated to reflect this new name.
- Taft Law School has completed the relocation of its administrative headquarters, which will still be within the city of Santa Ana. State Bar staff will conduct a video inspection of the new facility on November 27, 2023, and summarize its findings after the inspection is complete. The law school reached out affirmatively to schedule this meeting, as requested by the committee. No disruption during the move has been reported.

The following additional updates are also provided regarding law school engagement:

- The State Bar of California's Annual California Law School Registrars' Meeting took place on October 19, 2023. A total of 87 individuals attended, representing 47 law schools. The agenda included a demonstration of the Applicant Portal, as well as responses to all questions submitted in advance and during the presentation.
- The State Bar of California's Law School Assembly took place on November 2, 2023. A total of 74 individuals attended, representing 43 California law schools. In addition to updates on State Bar programs, the Law School Assembly featured updates on two topics of interest identified by CSBARS and the Law School Council: Best Practices in Online Education and The Role of Artificial Intelligence for Legal Regulators and Administrators.

The following update is shared regarding the American Bar Association's Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar:

- The American Bar Association's Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar requested that amendments to Standard 105 and Chapter 7 be posted for public comment. When posted, the amendments will appear on the Council's [notice and comment page](#). These proposed amendments would allow ABA approved distance learning programs to operate with without a physical campus. See the ABA staff memorandum on the matter [here](#) as well as an article featuring comment from the Purdue Global Law School dean [here](#).

The following proposal has been posted by the Indiana Supreme Court for public comment:

- In response to a petition from Purdue Global Law School, the Indiana Supreme Court has posted a [proposed amendment to Admission and Discipline Rule 13](#) for public comment through December 15 at noon. The proposed amendment gives Indiana's Board of Law Examiners discretion to waive Rule 13's requirement that an applicant for the Indiana Bar Exam must have graduated from an ABA approved school in the following two instances: (1) If they graduated from a nonaccredited school but are eligible to sit for the bar in another jurisdiction (2) If they completed legal education outside the United States but received a graduate degree in American law from an ABA-approved school.