



**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM II.A.
JANUARY 2024
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

DATE: January 26, 2024

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

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

SUBJECT: Report of Administrative Updates Regarding Law Schools

I. UPDATES REGARDING ACCREDITED AND UNACCREDITED 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).

- Irvine College of Law, an unaccredited distance learning law school, plans to voluntarily close and terminate its registration in 2024. The law school will provide the required motion to the committee shortly with full details seeking permission as to its temporary administrative headquarters after its lease ends in March 2024, as well as the conclusion of its teach-out period at the end of its current term.
- Peoples College of Law is a registered, unaccredited, fixed-facility law school whose registration and degree-granting authority was withdrawn at the committee's December 2023 meeting, effective May 31, 2024. The law school plans to teach classes through May 31, 2024, and will work with students as needed to transfer for study after that date.
- San Francisco Law School, an unaccredited distance learning law school, appointed Scott Zimmer as dean and Rebecca Nieboer as registrar, effective January 11, 2024. The prior dean concluded their service in October 2023 and a faculty member served as interim dean until the current appointment. The prior registrar concluded their service approximately one year ago, and an interim registrar had served in the post. The committee withdrew the law school's prior accreditation in August 2023 after the school was not able to meet the terms of its probation regarding the minimum bar exam pass rate required of unaccredited law schools. At that time, the law school advised that it

would teach its current students to graduation (all fourth-year students) and begin enrolling new students in January 2024 in the unaccredited JD program. Subsequently, the students enrolled as of August 2023 transferred before beginning that term, and the law school will begin teaching its unaccredited JD program in fall 2024. The law school will be providing additional details shortly.

- Taft Law School, a registered, unaccredited correspondence law school, underwent a successful video call confirmation of its move conducted by State Bar staff on November 27, 2023. This review was requested by the committee in its October 13, 2023, meeting ([October 13, 2023 committee minutes](#)). The law school relocated within the city of Santa Ana. Its new address is: 3000 W MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 300, Santa Ana, California, 92704. While the new location is smaller than its previous space, there is still sufficient room, since the prior extra space was used to store physical files that are now digitized. Staff did not observe any disruption to student education. Because the law school teaches via correspondence, students are not required to visit the site, but may do so on weekdays during standard business hours.

II. UPDATES REGARDING ABA-APPROVED LAW SCHOOLS

The following administrative update(s) were provided by ABA-approved law schools since the last meeting of the Committee of Bar Examiners (committee).

- Golden Gate University School of Law, an ABA-approved law school located in San Francisco, will submit a proposed teach-out plan to the ABA by January 12, 2024 for its consideration at a future date, after the law school's initial plan was [rejected by the ABA](#) in November 2023.
- Stanford Law School has named Paul Brest as interim dean of the law school. He previously served as dean from 1987 to 1999 and has taught at the school since then.

III. UPDATES REGARDING THE ABA'S SECTION ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR

The following updates related to the activities of the American Bar Association's Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (ABA) are provided as a courtesy to the Committee of Bar Examiners.

In November 2023, the ABA posted the following [proposed revisions to its standards](#) for public comment through January 8, 2024, with comments received posted on that same page. After the Council reviews the public comment, it will further consider the proposals and whether, if approved, to recommend that to the ABA's House of Delegates.

The proposed changes related to the following ABA accreditation standards:

- Standard 304: Expand the rules for experiential field placement to allow for a wider

range of experiences and to underscore the need for supervision in the field and through the law school's advisors.

- Standard 405: Changes proposed with the “goal of improving employment security and participation in law school governance for non-tenured or non-tenure-track faculty.”
- Standard 701/702: “Standards 701 and 702 have been revised to allow law schools to make changes to their physical plants due to increased use of distance education offerings and remote work arrangements.”

The ABA also noted that a separate notice and comment period will be posted for “proposed Standards and Rules changes that could potentially allow for a fully online law school to apply for, and potentially earn, provisional and full ABA-approval.”

Currently, ABA-approved law schools can offer up to 50 percent of their coursework online and may apply for a variance to allow the school to offer additional online coursework, up to 100 percent.

PROPOSED MOTION

If the committee accepts the report provided above, the following motion should be made:

MOVE, that the Committee of Bar Examiners receive and file the Report of Administrative Updates Regarding Law Schools.