



The State Bar *of California*

Law School Profile Report

Committee of Bar Examiners, January 26, 2024



The State Bar *of California*

Purpose

Committee of Bar Examiners, January 26, 2024

State Bar Strategic Plan 2022-2027

- Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to, and Inclusion in, the Legal System
 - Collaborate with stakeholders and law schools to improve the law school accreditation process



Committee of Bar Examiners Workplan

- Pursue mandatory accreditation and/or initiatives to improve outcomes for unaccredited law schools
- Evaluate unaccredited rules and metrics as needed
- Strategic Plan Goals



2023 Accredited and Unaccredited Law School Performance Report

Annual Metrics and Measurements

- Annual snapshot of performance
- Accredited and Unaccredited Law Schools
- CSBARS discussed addition of metrics (Oct./Dec.)
 - No additional metrics suggested
- Evaluate metrics for completeness and effectiveness
- Read the report at:

<https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Portals/0/documents/reports/2023-Law-School-Performance-Report.pdf>



Review of all Law School Types in California

- Provide overall view of legal landscape
- Includes all law school types in California
 - ABA-approved
 - Accredited
 - Unaccredited
- First comprehensive report including all three of California's law school types
- Read the report at:
<https://publications.calbar.ca.gov/law-school-profile/>



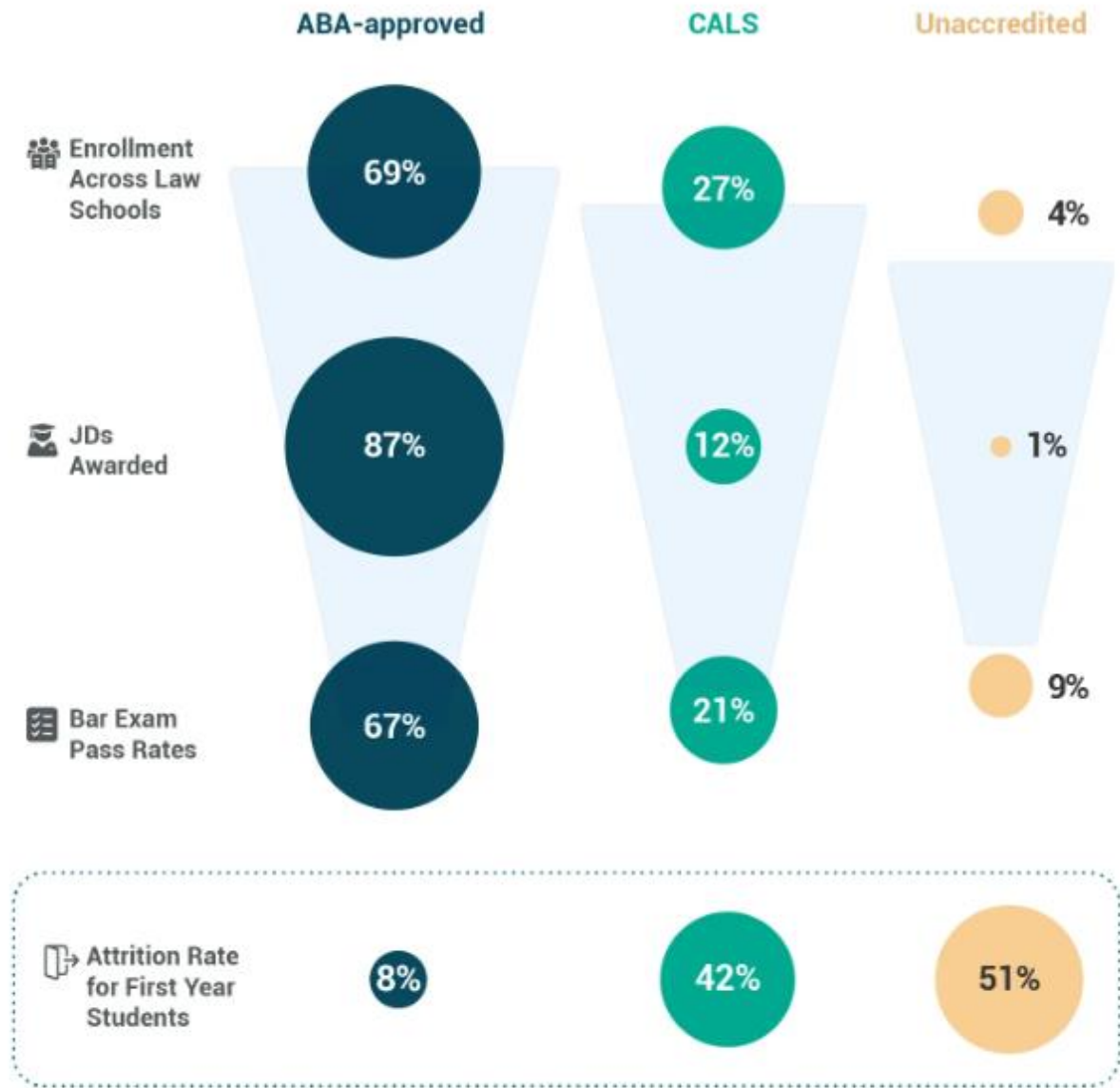


The State Bar *of California*

Data-Driven Actions for Discussion

January 26, 2024

Accreditation and 2022 Outcomes





The State Bar *of California*

Measuring Outcomes

Accredited Law School Requirements

- Accredited Law Schools – Unique Requirements
 - Mandatory Minimum Cumulative Five-Year Bar Exam Pass Rate
 - Objective outcomes tracked
 - Increased Availability of Practical Skills Training (15 hours versus 6 hours)
 - Improve Writing and Overall Legal Analysis
 - Diversity Plan
 - Written plan with clear metrics evaluated annually for action
 - Plan Encouraging Licensure and Professionalism
 - Specific plan encouraging ethical practice and success on State Bar exams



Impact of MPR for Accredited Law Schools

MPR Reported Continuously since 2018

- Aligned with goal of licensure
- Incorporates Provisional Licensure Program Outcomes
- Schools created bar prep academic support for students and alumni
- Prospective students easily access this key metric
 - Leads to more informed enrollment decisions
- MPR results continue to improve at most schools
- Four schools transitioned into registered unaccredited category after non-performance based on transparent results



Cumulative Metrics Suggested for Unaccredited Law Schools

- Minimum, Cumulative First-Year Exam Pass Rate
 - Three-Year Cumulative Rate
- Minimum, Cumulative Bar Exam Pass Rate
 - Five-Year Cumulative Rate



Cumulative Metrics Suggested for Unaccredited Law Schools

- Sets clear targets
- Provides clear information to the public
- Brings focus to the goal to decrease 1L rates in unaccredited law schools
- Prepares unaccredited schools to advance toward accreditation



Encourage Improvement at Each Step



Admission



FYLSX



**Progression
and
Attrition**



Graduation



Licensure





The State Bar *of California*

Creating a Mandatory Pathway to Accreditation

Distance Learning Now Widely Available



Unaccredited Schools:

- Fixed-Facility
- **Distance**



Accredited Schools:

- Fixed-Facility Only
- **Distance**
- **Hybrid**



ABA Approved Schools:

- Fixed-Facility
- **Hybrid Fixed/Distance 50%**
- **Distance 100% w Variance**



Part-Time Distance Now Widely Available



Unaccredited Schools:
Part-Time Programs
Only



Accredited Schools:
**Most Offer Part-Time
Hybrid and Distance
Programs**



ABA Approved Schools:
More Part-Time Programs



Number of Unaccredited Schools Decreasing



2014:
23 schools



2019:
18 schools



2024:
10 schools



Assess Elements of Path to Mandatory Accreditation

- Create a plan and seek feedback from stakeholders
 - How many students affected?
 - 627 as of 2022
 - Interest in accreditation
 - 8/10 schools express some interest
 - Preparation for accreditation
 - Assess metrics
 - Include in inspection process
 - Cost impacts and savings
 - Rule and Statutory Changes



Options for Future Investigation and Discussion

- Continue status quo
- Consider minimum pass rates for unaccredited law schools
- Consider adopting other requirements currently applied to accredited schools
- Update proposal on mandatory accreditation



Proposed Motion

- MOVE, that the Committee of Bar Examiners receive and file the Law School Profile Report.

