



The State Bar of California

Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools meeting commenced in open session at 1:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 2:12 p.m.

Chair: Linda Keller

Committee Coordinator: Natalie Leonard

Members Present: Paul Kramer, George Leal, Linda Keller, Jessica Park, Karen Travis

Members Absent: Kevin Marshall

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

The Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools was called to order by Chair Keller. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Keller noted that one written public comment [from Todd Hill (dispute with People's College of Law)] had been received and distributed to all committee members. No members of the public signed up for public comment in advance. Chair Keller called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item, but no one requested verbal public comment.

I. CHAIR'S TIME

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 7, 2023, CSBARS MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the December 7, 2023, CSBARS meeting be approved.

The minutes were moved to be amended by Paul Kramer with the following adjustments:

- Include dates of future 2024 CSBARS meetings in Staff Reports section [March 12, 2024, April 16, 2024, June 18, 2024, August 13, 2024]
- Change the word registrar to register in Recent Developments section

- Include the publication date of Law School Report in Discussion Item D “Further Discussion on Law School Performance Report and Future Metrics and Indicators” [December 1, 2023]

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Leal

Aye – (5) Kramer, Leal, Park, Travis, Keller

No – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Marshall

Motion carries.

b. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Keller welcomed Bridget Gramme, Deputy Chief of Programs, to address CSBARS. The chair also noted there will be a discussion at 1:30 p.m. on Professional Competence by Managing Attorney Cathy Ongiri. The chair also reminded attendees and audience of CBE meeting on Friday, January 26th, where Education Standards items include the Profile of California Law Schools. Committee coordinator Natalie Leonard announced that the rules related to the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act have changed slightly for teleconferences as of January 1, 2024. Members of the public are now able to attend and give public comment at a physical location at the State Bar San Francisco office in addition to the remote options of logging on or calling using the Zoom links provided in the agenda.

II. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Report on Annual Audit of Posting of Business and Professions Code section 6061.7(a) Disclosures on Law School Websites: Natalie Leonard announced there will be an upcoming email to all schools to confirm that they have posted the updated January 2024 Business and Professions Code 6061.7 Disclosures properly on their website. The email will request schools to provide the link and path of the Disclosure, provide a copy, and note if there have been any changes since the law school first submitted the report to the State Bar in November.
- B. Report on July 2024 Bar Exam Administration and Testing Locations: Cody Hounanian reported on the decisions made by the Board of Trustees in its January 18, 2024, meeting related to the July 2024 bar exam, including deferral and credit options for those currently registered for the February 2024 exam who wish to defer taking the exam to the July administration. As a one-time courtesy, applicants from the Sacramento and San Diego metropolitan areas—which do not have exam sites for the February 2024 exam—can request to withdraw from the February 2024 bar exam and apply their paid fees as a credit to the July 2024 bar exam according to the instructions and deadlines specified on the applicant portal. The Office of Admissions is offering sites in, or close to, these two locations in July 2024.

- C. Update on Admissions Fee Increases Related to California Accredited Law Schools: Plan for Further Refinement: Donna Hershkowitz reported that after two rounds of public comment the Board of Trustees adopted fee increases in all areas proposed by State Bar Staff, with the exception of those related to California Accredited Schools (CALS). The State Bar is now refining its recommendation in response to 26 public comments received at its January 2024 meeting, including one signed by 11 CALS deans. The State Bar plans to meet with accredited law school deans to discuss their concerns. Ms. Hershkowitz also invited Paul Kramer, Education Standards Chair for the Committee of Bar Examiners and CSBARS member, to attend.
- D. Recent Developments:
- a. Natalie Leonard shared that The State Bar will be testing new formats for entering annual report data and seeks law school administrator volunteers to try out the software remotely during spring/summer 2024.
 - b. Natalie Leonard also reminded CSBARS members and the public that all CSBARS meetings are scheduled to take place on Tuesdays in 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. She further reminded the public that applications for deans of accredited and unaccredited law schools and an accreditation expert are being accepted for CSBARS for terms to start in fall 2024. The application link is on the State Bar website on the CSBARS committee page.
 - c. Cathy Ongiri from the State Bar’s Office of Professional Competence sought input from schools offering distance learning programs on best practices for effective online learning to help inform the Professional Competence Office’s development of a Train-the-Trainer program for those who wish to teach Attorney MCLE via interactive distance learning. She also advised Faculty and Administrators who are licensed to practice law to review the State Bar’s website to understand changes to the MCLE requirement starting for those reporting in 2025 and beyond, as well as to locate free MCLE resources offered by the State Bar of California. For law students, free counseling sessions and career counseling sessions, part of the Lawyer Assistance program, are also offered through the Office of Professional Competence.

III. Discussion

- A. Proposed Topics for Fall 2024 Law School Assembly (November 5, 2024) and Registrars’ Meeting (October 29, 2024): Chair Keller and Natalie Leonard led a discussion to brainstorm topics for the 2024 Law School Assembly and Registrars’ Meeting. Chair Keller proposed the future of the California Bar Examination, specifically a timeline to address student anxiety and concerns over upcoming changes, as a topic. George Leal proposed to discuss changes to the First Year Law Student Exam as a topic, including a report on the implementation of the new format and how the exam will be graded. Jessica Park underscored the importance of ensuring that deans have timely information

to counsel students when State Bar proposals and initiatives are discussed at public meetings, suggesting that a toolkit for deans on keeping on top of ongoing issues might be a useful topic. Other topics mentioned include AI and Profile of law schools. Currently, this information is communicated via recorded public meetings, Law School Deans' and Administrators' e-newsletters, E-blasts to students, copies of those E-Blasts to deans, website updates, Applicant Portal instructions, and social media. Members of the public, specifically law school deans, were invited to submit additional topics as well, whether general or specific.

MEETING ADJOURNED