



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

**DATE:** March 15, 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).

1. Irvine College of Law, an unaccredited distance learning law school, remains scheduled to close on July 31, 2024 and provided part of the information requested by the committee in its order accepting the school's voluntary request to close, including: a list of the students who remain at the law school and who plan to transfer; confirmation of the law school's ability to provide services to enrolled students through the closing date; and confirmation that the law school will remain at its current administrative headquarters through and including the closure date. The law school is still working on identifying a custodian of records to allow students and graduates to request copies of their records, including transcripts, and will provide an update as soon as one is available.
2. The Indiana Supreme Court [amendment to Rule 13](#)

The Indiana Supreme Court amended [Rule 13](#) regarding qualifications to take the Indiana Bar exam to allow students who graduated from law schools that were not approved by the ABA to take the Indiana Bar exam if they graduated from a law school that would allow them to take the bar exam of another state. Specifically, the amendment advises that:

*The Board may in its discretion waive the requirement in Section 1(a) [graduation with a JD from an ABA approved school] for an applicant who (1) has graduated from a law school located in 3 the United States that is not approved by the ABA, was eligible upon graduation from that law school to take the bar examination of another state, and the Board finds is qualified by reason of education or experience to take the Indiana bar examination.*

*The Board should grant a waiver when doing so would be in the public interest after balancing all relevant factors including the applicant's educational history and achievement, work history and achievement, bar exam results from other jurisdictions, desire to practice law in Indiana, and familiarity with the American legal system. The Board's decision is subject to final approval by the Court.*

The rule takes effect on July 1, 2024, which allows those who successfully petition for a waiver to take the Indiana Bar Exam beginning in February 2025. Indiana uses the Uniform Bar exam. Its July 2024 bar exam pass rate was [70 percent](#), with 408 applicants taking the exam.

Purdue Global Law School, a California Accredited Law School whose parent is located in Indiana, issued a [press release](#) regarding this new amendment, noting that the law school enrolls 24 Indiana residents and 20 additional Indiana residents have graduated from Purdue Global Law School.

## **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).

1. Stanford Law School announced that Paul Brest will serve as interim dean of the law school. He previously served as dean from 1987 to 1989.
2. Golden Gate Law School's [teach out plan](#) was approved by the American Bar Association. The law school will cease offering credit-bearing classes and admitting students after the summer 2024 term, but will retain the ability to confer degrees through July 1, 2027 "for the limited purpose of allowing the Law School to receive credits from currently enrolled students earned as transient students at other ABA-approved law schools and to issue the Law School's J.D. degree to such students who meet the Law School's graduation requirements."

### 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.

1. At its February 2024 meeting, the [ABA determined that law schools must continue to seek a variance to use the JD Next](#) evaluation tool in place of, or in addition to, the LSAT or GRE exams. Fifty-one of the 197 ABA-approved law schools have received variances to use the JD Next in the admissions process, including four schools in California.<sup>1</sup> The ABA consultant's report regarding the JD-Next evaluation tool is located [here](#). Aspen Publishing, owner of the JD Next product, describes it as a self-paced online course that introduces students to fundamental reading and analysis skills followed by an examination consisting of 80 questions and an ungraded essay, at a current cost of \$299, compared to a cost of \$222 for the LSAT examination.
2. Through March 25, 2024, the following [proposed revisions to ABA accreditation standards](#) are posted for public comment, with comments received posted on that same page. After the Council reviews the public comment, it will further consider the proposals and report, and whether, if approved, to recommend them to the ABA's House of Delegates for adoption.

The proposed changes relate to the following ABA accreditation standards:

- Standard 102: Revised to allow a fully online law school to seek ABA-approval, starting with provisional approval.
- Standard 306: Changes to the language in subsection (d) to differentiate between a law school that was initially approved as a fully online law school and one that was not for purposes of acquiescence in a substantive change to exceed the current limits related to Distance Education. In the same subsection, language was revised to match previously made changes to Standard 105 regarding the current limits related to Distance Education. A new subsection, (e), was also added to propose that a fully online law school could seek ABA approval.

### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> California Western School of Law; University of California, UC Davis School of Law; University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law; University of San Diego School of Law.