



**OPEN SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEM II.A**

**APRIL 2024**

**COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

**DATE:** April 19, 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. Lincoln Law School of San Jose, an unaccredited fixed-facility law school, has hired Joanne Ohlson as part of its administration. In August 2022, after a two-year period of probation, the law school's accreditation was terminated effective December 31, 2022, because, since 2020, the law school had been out of compliance with the minimum, cumulative bar exam pass rate required of accredited law schools.
2. Trinity Law School, an accredited law school offering online and in-person JD degrees, is a part of Trinity International University. The University is closing down all undergraduate and graduate programs except for Trinity Law School and Trinity's Divinity School. (See Attachment A).

**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.

1. Stanford Law School announced George Triantis as dean of the law school. He will officially assume the position on June 17, 2024.
2. The University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, has named Franita Tolson as

its dean. She was previously the interim dean.

### **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.

1. Western State College of Law was determined by the ABA to be out of compliance with [Standard 316](#), which requires each graduating class at an ABA approved laws school to demonstrate a cumulative bar exam pass rate of 75 percent or more within two years of graduation, while this school reported 68.4 percent. Only those graduates choosing to take the bar exam are included in this calculation. While five additional law schools were also determined to be out of compliance, they were not located in California. These law schools will have a period of time to improve their pass rates and provide an update to the ABA.
2. Golden Gate University School of Law's [teach out plan](#) was approved by the ABA. The law school will cease teaching classes for credit as of June 2024, but can confer degrees to those students transferring to other schools to complete their degrees through July 2027.

### **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.



March 13, 2024

Natalie Leonard  
The State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Natalie:

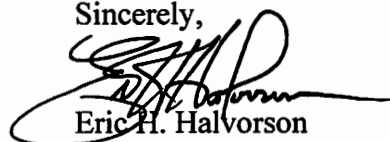
Following up on your email of March 8 regarding changes at Trinity International University (TIU) and the continued operation of Trinity Law School.

I can confirm that the operations of Trinity Law School are not affected by the decisions of the TIU Board of Regents to discontinue/curtail certain of their programs. The new President-elect of TIU has assured me of that fact on a phone call and is flying out to visit the law school later this month to provide that reassurance in person. The provisional plan for site and program closure, which will be submitted next week for approval by the Higher Learning Commission, states the following: "This announcement [referring to the March 5, 2024 announcement] does not affect programs offered by either Trinity Law School (TLS) or Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS). The measures taken by the Board of Regents are intended to strengthen the financial stability of TLS and TEDS. .... Trinity International University does not foresee the closure of any programs offered by TLS or TEDS."

I can also confirm that our Higher Learning Commission accreditation remains intact and is unaffected by recent developments at TIU. Trinity Law School remains within TIU's current envelope of institutional accreditation (copy of the Program Participation Agreement is attached).

At this point we do not plan to pursue accreditation with another institutional accreditor. This may change at some point.

Sincerely,



Eric H. Halvorson  
Dean