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Committee of Bar Examiners
State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
lawschoolregulation@calbar.ca.gov

December 22, 2024
Via Email

Dear Committee of Bar Examiners and State Bar Staff:

Please accept this letter as notice that Western Sierra Law School (the “Law School”) intends to voluntarily withdraw its registration as a registered unaccredited law school effective at the end of Spring quarter 2025 (May 23, 2025).

The Law School has communicated this decision to staff and all students at Western Sierra Law School, including a plan to wind down affairs by the Spring 2025 quarter. Specifically, we have communicated to all students an intent to teach out to the end of each student’s academic year; i.e. all students will complete the required 270 hours of their current academic year prior to the law school closing. Upon completion of the academic year, each student is expected to transfer to another law school. Western Sierra Law School intends to contact a number of law school deans to discuss the potential for our students to transfer; such efforts to identify opportunities for student transfers will begin in January following the new year. Upon identifying options for transfer, the Law School will communicate such to our students. Some students are already contacting other law schools to identify and secure transfer opportunities. The Law School has communicated availability to assist students with transfer inquiries and processing of records.

The Law School has not yet identified an ongoing custodian of academic records but expects to update state bar staff and the Committee with a plan in due time.

In effort to provide color as to the number and extent of students who are impacted by this decision, the following information is presented. The Law School currently has 19 enrolled students. The status of these students is summarized below (incl. # students in each year of law study, FYLSE status, end of academic year):

	# students	exempt or passed FYLSE	academic year ends winter	academic year ends spring
4L	2	2 passed	0	2
3L	3	3 passed	2	1
2L	8	1 exempt, 2 passed	0	8
1L	6	not applicable	3	3
Total	19	8	5	14

Therefore, of 19 students at Western Sierra Law School, 5 are set to finish their academic year in Winter 2025 (i.e. February 28, 2025) and 14 are set to finish their academic year in Spring 2025 (i.e., May 23, 2025). Two (2) students will complete the Juris Doctor degree and graduate from the Law School at the end of Spring quarter 2025. Three (3) students are expected to transfer as 4L's requiring only one more year of study; eight (8) students are expected to transfer as 3L's requiring two more years of study; and three (3) students are expected to transfer as 2L's requiring three more years of study. No student who completes the teach out plan will be left with a partial year of credit after May 23, 2025.

In this time of winding down operations, no new students will be enrolled or begin study at the Law School.

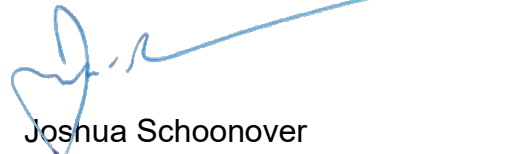
All of our current students will have passed, be exempt from, or will be qualified to sit for the First Year Law Students Examination (FYLSE) in June 2025.

The Law School has offered to hold, and has held, individual counseling with each of the 19 students, including a personalized explanation of the requirements under Business & Professions Code § 6060, with emphasis on the requirements under subsection (e)(2)(A) thereof, and a plan to end the student's study at the law school upon the end of the respective student's academic year, as well as the Law School's intent to assist with the student's transfer to another law school.

We are taking steps to update the Law School's website to indicate that applications are no longer being accepted and that no further students are being enrolled.

Should the Committee or state bar staff have any questions, please direct them to the law school's dean.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Schoonover', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua Schoonover
Dean
dean@wslawschool.com