

5.1 Approval of February 5, 2025, Law School Council Open Session Minutes



The State Bar of California

Law School Council Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Wednesday, February 5, 2024
1:00 p.m. – 3:03 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Law School Council meeting commenced in open session at 1:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 3:03 p.m.

Chair: Christopher Ide-Don

Committee Coordinator: Natalie Leonard

Members Present: Susan Bakhshian; Mary Basick; Christopher Ide-Don; Devin Kinyon; Carly Sassi

Members Absent: Tiffany Gabrielson; Mary-Beth Moylan

Staff Present: Anik Banerjee; Lisa Chavez; Audrey Ching; Cody Hounanian; Natalie Leonard; Theresa Solenski

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order
The LSC was called to order by Chair Ide-Don.
2. Roll Call
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
3. Call for Public Comment
Chair Ide-Don called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item.

There were no verbal public comments.

No written public comments were received.

4. Chair Report
Chair Ide-Don welcomed the Law School Council to its first meeting in 2025 and introduced committee members. The next meeting will be on June 11, 2025.

Chair Ide-Don also announced that applications to serve on the Law School Council will be opening shortly to Administrators and ABA approved law schools in California.

He also reminded members and the public that they are encouraged to submit topics and questions for law School Council Meeting meetings, as well as the annual State Bar Day for students, Law School Assembly for California Law School Administrators, and Registrars' Meeting for California Law School Registrars. Topics can be submitted through lsc@calbar.ca.gov, to the chair, or to the committee coordinator, Natalie Leonard.

5. Director Report

Cody Hounanian provided an oral report on the resources available to those affected by the recent wildfires in Los Angeles. These include:

1. Signing up through the State Bar Pro Bono Portal for wildfire related opportunities
2. Accessing two free counseling sessions from local therapists through the lawyer assistance program
3. The Board of Trustees approved a one-time refund policy for those specifically and significantly impacted by the wildfires and other disasters, the policy posted on the State Bar's website.
4. Extension of MCLE deadline is extend on a one-time basis to March 29 for this year's reporting attorneys who had last names beginning with A-G at the time of licensure

6. Staff Report

State Bar Mindset and Exam Preparation Programs: Natalie Leonard provided a reminder as to State Bar programs available to assist law students and applicants including the webinar series for those who have ADHD or ADHD like behaviors, the on-demand imposter Syndrome Toolkit, and the Bar Strategies and Stories programs for all bar applicants and Retaker Support Group for bar exam retakers. The State Bar is funding these programs this year and can therefore offer them in 2025 at no charge. Administrators are strongly encouraged to announce these programs.

State Bar Exam Pass Lists: These pass lists are sent via email to the dean of the law school by the Wednesday following results release. Additional requests from schools will be referred to the law school dean. Please retain these pass lists to allow for future calculation of the law school's ultimate pass list for reporting to the American Bar Association.

Law School Contact Information: Natalie Leonard reminded law schools to provide updates as to new law school deans or registrars, and to invite those individuals to sign up for committee updates on the State Bar website committee pages and for the Friday bar-exam countdown email blasts via sending an email to lsc@calbar.ca.gov or admisisions@calbar.ca.gov.

First-Year Law Students' Exam: Cody Hounanian reminded administrators that the First-Year Law Students' Exam transitioned to all multiple-choice format effective with the June 2024 exam and provided an update from the post-exam surveys given after the exams.

Demographic Data Category Updates at the State Bar: Dr. Lisa Chavez from the State Bar's Office of Research and Statistics described the process that the State Bar used to examine census data categories before updating its data collection categories for attorneys last year. Action item: All attorneys are encouraged to log on to the State Bar profile to update their demographic profile using these new categories, even if there is no change. Attorneys may do this at any time by logging on to their My State Bar Profile even if their dues are paid for by an employer. Some of these categories may be applied to law school regulation in the future.

February 2025 Bar Exam: Cody Hounanian provided updates about the February 2025 bar exam and responded to member questions, advising administrators and applicants to continue to review the FAQ, safelist meazurelearning.com and calbar.ca.gov, and review materials from the State Bar and Meazure Learning including Friday reminder emails that will be sent until the exam takes place. Deans and law school administrators are automatically added to the Friday email list and other law school administrators can add themselves by sending a request to admissions@calbar.ca.gov or the lsc@calbar.ca.gov public comment email.

7. Approval of Open Session Minutes: August 6, 2024

Moved by Basick seconded by Bakhshian

Ayes – (4) Bakhshian, Basick, Kinyon, Sassi

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (1) Ide-Don

Absent – (2) Gabrielson, Moylan

Motion carries.

8. Business

Cody Hounanian led a discussion on the California Supreme Court order related to future bar exam modifications. Currently, the State Bar is finalizing the composition of the roles for a steering committee and a community of interest, and applications will be requested soon.

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