

3.2 Report on Administrative Updates Regarding Law Schools



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

3.2 JUNE 2025

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: June 20, 2025

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: Report on Administrative Updates Regarding Law Schools

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is provided at each meeting and contains administrative updates regarding law schools accredited by the State Bar of California ("State Bar"), unaccredited law schools registered with the State Bar, and law schools approved by the American Bar Association's Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (ABA-approved), as well as updates regarding law school accreditation that may be of interest to the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the CBE receive and file the Report on Administrative Updates Regarding Law Schools.

DISCUSSION

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 CBE.

- Empire College School of Law, an accredited law school located in Santa Rosa, has named a new dean, Fiona Hall effective June 1, 2025.
- Pacific Coast University School of Law, a registered, unaccredited distance law school located in Long Beach, has agreed to be inspected in summer 2025 on July 17 and 21, moved up from the original fall 2025 timing, based on the law school's changed circumstances, including its decision not to recruit a fall 2025 class.
- St. Francis Law School, an accredited law school located in Newport Beach, has named a new interim dean, Charles Katz, effective July 1, 2025, upon the retirement and return to the faculty of Dean Karen Travis. Dean Katz is a longtime faculty member.
- The Colleges of Law, an accredited law school located in Santa Barbara and Ventura, California, has named an interim dean, Brandy Price, effective June 10, 2025 upon the retirement of Dean Jackie Gardina. Interim Dean Price currently serves as a dean in the law school's Hybrid LD Program, and has extensive experience in education.
- Thomas Jefferson School of Law, an accredited law school located in San Diego, California, has named interim co-deans Karin Sherr (former President) and Linda Keller (former Dean) as interim deans as of May 2025.
- CSBARS welcomes new member Dean John Patrick Dolan, dean of California Desert Trial Academy, a fixed facility law school located in Indio. The CBE Chair and Vice Chair appointed Dean Dolan to fill the unexpired portion of a term the term through September 2025 for a dean of an unaccredited law school, created when Dean Jason Amezcua voluntarily resigned after Lincoln Law School of San Jose earned accreditation in March 2025.

UPDATES REGARDING ABA-APPROVED LAW SCHOOLS

- California Western School of Law has named a new dean, Miriam Baer, effective July 2025, upon the retirement of Dean Sean Scott.
- The American Bar Association's Counsel of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar voted on May 9, 2025 to extend the suspension of [Standard 206 Diversity and Inclusion](#), originally imposed in February 2025, through August 2026. See further information in this [update](#).

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

None

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

None – core business operations

RESOLUTIONS

Should the Committee of Bar Examiners concur, it is:

RESOLVED, that the Committee of Bar Examiners receive and file the Report on Updates Regarding Law Schools.

ATTACHMENT LIST

None