

# COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** June 2016 – O-406

**DATE:** June 17, 2016

**TO:** Subcommittee on Educational Standards

**FROM:** George Leal, Director, Educational Standards

**SUBJECT:** **Lady Justice Law School – Application for Registration  
Inspection Report**

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## BACKGROUND

Attached for your review and consideration is the Report of Inspection prepared in connection with the pending application of Lady Justice Law School (“LJLS”). LJLS has been formed to operate as a for-profit, unaccredited, fixed-facility law school that hopes to begin recruiting and enrolling students in Bakersfield this fall.

To be found eligible for registration by the Committee of Bar Examiners (“Committee”), a new, unaccredited law school must follow the process set out in the *Unaccredited Law School Rules*. As provided by Rule 4.221, to be registered:

A law school that meets the stand set forth in rule 4.240 may apply for registration by:

- (A) completing and submitting the Application for Registration using the form prescribed by the Committee with the fee set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines; and
- (B) agreeing to allow the Committee to make any inspection it deems necessary and promptly pay all expenses of the inspection.”

At its meeting on March 18, 2016, the Committee directed that an inspection of LJLS be conducted within 60 days so that a report on its compliance with the *Unaccredited Law School Rules* (Rules) and the *Guidelines for Unaccredited Law School Rules* (Guidelines) could be prepared, submitted and considered. I conducted a one-day inspection on April 4, 2016, during which the law school’s classroom, library and administrative office facilities were inspected. I also met with the law school’s dean, its registrar, a member of the faculty and its two founders and financial backers.

As confirmed during the inspection and as described in the Report, LJLS’s curriculum will offer a qualitatively and quantitatively compliant program of legal education, to be

taught to students who live and work in Bakersfield metropolitan area. LJLS Dean Stan Blyth, who will also be the law school's part-time administrator, is a practicing attorney in Bakersfield with over twenty two years of experience. He is a 1993 graduate of King Hall, the law school at U.C. Davis; he also holds a LL.M degree in taxation from Golden Gate University School of Law. Registrar Molly Brown, one of the founders of the law school, will also assist in the law school's administration and admissions process.

LJLS expects to "provide an affordable, quality education for working adults, and others, in the community . . . [and] to give students the opportunity they not otherwise have to further their education, and to make a change in their career and lives." To achieve that goal, the law school will have a qualified faculty comprised of local attorneys, each of whom has significant practical experience and legal expertise, As currently projected, the total expense of earning a Juris Doctor degree at LJLS will be \$30,000.

The law school will operate from leased commercial office space, which is adequate and properly furnished for use as classrooms, a law library and administrative offices. LJLS has signed contract with various legal publishers for delivery of all required, hardcopy text books, annotated statutes and legal authorities required by the Guidelines and it has also contacted with LexisNexis to offer its students compliant online research.

Based upon these and the other findings confirmed by the inspection, it appears that LJLS will operate compliantly with each registration standard found in the Rules and all operational policies, procedures and academic standards required by the Guidelines.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that, pursuant to Rule 4.223(C), the application of Lady Justice Law School for registration as an unaccredited, fixed-facility law school be granted, subject to an interim inspection of the law school within two years of the date that it enrolls and begins instructing its first student.

#### **PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE MOTION:**

Should the Subcommittee accept this recommendation, the following motion to the full Committee is suggested:

Move that the Report of Inspection in connection with the Application for Registration submitted by Lady Justice Law School, as a fixed-facility California unaccredited, law school be received and filed; that, pursuant to Rule 4.223(C), the law school be registered for two years, subject to a visitation of the law school to be scheduled within six months prior to the expiration of that time to confirm its continued compliance with the *Unaccredited Law School Rules and Guidelines for Unaccredited Law School Rules*.