

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: December 2016 - O-405

DATE: November 16, 2016

TO: Subcommittee on Educational Standards

FROM: George C. Leal, Director for Educational Standards

SUBJECT: **Oak Brook College of Law – Request for Approval of a Major Change re Relocation of Administrative Offices**

BACKGROUND

Attachment A is a request submitted by Oak Brook College of Law (OBCOL) seeking approval by the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) of a major change regarding the proposed relocation of its administrative offices. As required by Rule 4.245 of the *Unaccredited Law School Rules (Rules)*, a “registered law school contemplating a major change must notify the Committee and obtain its prior approval before making the change.” As defined by Rule 4.246(B), a change in “the location of the school’s administrative office” constitutes a major change requiring prior Committee approval.

In its request dated October 26, 2016, submitted by Associate Dean Robert Barth, OBCOL has notified the Committee of its desire to move its administrative offices in Fresno from its current location at 7750 N. Fresno Street, Suite 104 to 7650 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 101B. Pending the prior approval of the Committee, OBCOL hopes to make the move during the latter half of December.

OBCOL is a registered, correspondence law school that offers its unique program of legal education through a combination of asynchronous, online content and an annual meeting of students and faculty in fixed-facility classrooms. The law school has, for years, maintained its administrative offices next to the law offices of Peter Fear, the law school’s part-time administrator. The law school was most recently inspected in May of 2014 and was found to be operating compliantly; its next periodic inspection is scheduled for the fall of 2019.

DISCUSSION

The proposed relocation of the law school’s administrative offices appears to be in its best interest. As explained by Associate Dean Barth, the new offices will remain in close proximity to Mr. Fear’s offices and, as such, it will give him convenient access to continue to oversee OBCOL’s day-to-day operations. The new office suite will also

occupy less space, which will result in a cost savings for OBCOL. The move itself will not result in any disruption to the law school's students, or in its ability to operate its computer servers. which are used by the law students to continue their online law studies. The new space appears adequate for the administrative needs of the law school.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the timing and necessity of the planned relocation, it is recommended that the Committee approve the major change request of OBCOL and allow it to relocate its administrative offices to 7650 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 101B, Fresno, California.

PROPOSED MOTION

Should the Subcommittee agree with this recommendation, the following motion is suggested:

Move, that the request for the approval of a major change submitted by Oak Brook College of Law, pursuant to Rule 4.246(B) of the *Unaccredited Law School Rules*, which will allow the law school to relocate its administrative offices to 7650 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 101B, Fresno, California, be received and filed; and that the request be granted.