

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: December 2016 - O-404

DATE: November 29, 2016

TO: Subcommittee on Educational Standards

FROM: George C. Leal, Director for Educational Standards

SUBJECT: **Pinnacles School of Law – Request for Approval of a Major Change re Relocation of Administrative Offices**

BACKGROUND

Attachment A is a request submitted by Pinnacles School of Law (PSOL) for approval by the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) of a major change regarding the proposed relocation of its classroom facilities and 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” is a major change requiring prior Committee approval.

In its request dated October 28, 2016, submitted by PSOL Administrator Barry Sherman, the law school has timely notified the Committee of its desire to move from its current location of 912-A, W. Perdew Street to nearby 710 Inyokern Road, Suite C in Ridgecrest, a small community located in the north Mojave desert.

PSOL is a registered, fixed-facility law school that was registered by the Committee in 2011. It is owned and operated as a general partnership consisting of its Dean, Leslie Anderson, and its administrator, Barry Sherman, each of whom is a licensed California attorney practicing in Ridgecrest. Given its relatively small enrollment (it currently has three students), the law school has operated in a small commercial space that contains a single classroom, its library and administrative office. The law school was subject to an interim inspection in October 2014 and was found operating compliantly; its first periodic inspection is currently scheduled for the fall of 2017.

DISCUSSION

The proposed relocation of PSOL’s classrooms and administrative office appears to be in the best interest of both the law school and its students. As explained by Mr. Sherman, the law school intends to move into a suite of offices located in a commercial building that he recently purchased. If permitted to move, the new location will offer the

law school twice the amount of space to accommodate a future, larger enrollment at a below-market commercial rent. It will also provide students an additional classroom and other amenities such as a kitchen facility. Since he will be the law school's landlord, Mr. Sherman has also represented that, if approved, moving the law school into space he owns will allow it to avoid anticipated, future rent increases from its current landlord. Finally, given the small scale of the law school's current facility, a move into the proposed new building is not expected in any disruption to the law school's students.

As described, the new location appears adequate for the continued compliant operational and administrative needs of the law school.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee approve the major change request of PSOL and allow it to relocate its administrative offices to 710 Inyokern Rd., Suite C, in Ridgecrest, California.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

Move, that the request for approval of a major change submitted by the Pinnacles School of Law, pursuant to Rule 4.246(B) of the *Unaccredited Law School Rules*, which will allow the law school to relocate its classroom and administrative facilities to 710 Inyokern Rd., Suite C, in Ridgecrest, California, be received and filed; and that the request be granted.