

CHRONOLOGY OF Proposed *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*

The Educational Standards Subcommittee's 2007-2008 goals statement included revising the *Rules Regulating Accreditation of Law Schools in California (Rules)* and the *Factors and Comments Governing the Interpretation and Application of the Standards and Library Content Appendix (Factors)*.

The Office of Admissions held a meeting on August 17, 2007 to obtain input from the accredited law school deans regarding their suggestions for changes to the *Factors*.

An initial draft of proposed *Guidelines* to replace the *Factors* was released to interested parties for comment in late March 2008. Staff met with interested parties for two hours to obtain input on that draft on April 17, 2008. Comments were received from interested parties on this draft.

A second draft of the proposed *Guidelines* was released to interested parties in May 2008. Staff met a second time with interested parties for two hours to obtain input on the second draft on June 3, 2008. Comments were received from interested parties on this draft.

A third draft (dated June 19, 2008) was considered by the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) at its June 27 and 28, 2008 meeting. Comments were received from interested parties on this draft and the CALS Deans made a presentation to the Educational Standards Subcommittee and Committee. The Committee approved releasing the proposed *Guidelines* for a 60-day public comment period. The public comment period ended on September 19, 2008.

During the public comment period the Committee held a two-hour public hearing on the proposed *Guidelines* on August 22, 2008.

Following the close of the public comment period, the Committee decided at its meeting on October 3-4, 2008 to hold another meeting with interested parties to obtain input on the proposed *Guidelines*. This two-hour meeting was held on November 3, 2008.

The Committee considered and approved at its meeting on October 3-4, 2008 the release of an eventual bar examination pass rate study prepared by GANSK & Associates. The study was sent to all California law schools in October 2008.

For and prior to the November 3, 2008 meeting, staff distributed to all law schools a summary of 103 comments received on the proposed *Guidelines* during the public comment period, a copy of each comment, and a summary of the comments on specific proposed *Guidelines* and staff's response to each substantive comment. One additional substantive comment was received after the foregoing material was sent out and was also sent to all law schools.

APPENDIX B

The interested parties attending the November 3, 2008 meeting were advised that another draft of the proposed *Guidelines* would be prepared and submitted to the Committee for consideration at its December 5-6, 2008 meeting. At that meeting the Committee approved in principle a revised set of proposed *Guidelines* dated December 1, 2008 and directed that the revised *Guidelines* be circulated for a second sixty-day public comment period, ending February 16, 2009. The revised *Guidelines* were sent to all California law school deans and registers in December 2008.

The Committee scheduled time during the January 30, 2009 meeting of its Educational Standards Subcommittee to receive further comments on the revised *Guidelines* from interested parties. An email inviting the deans was sent to them on January 21, 2009. Although one dean indicated initially she planned to attend, none of the accredited law school deans appeared at this meeting.

Public comment on the most current version of the proposed *Guidelines* concluded on February 16, 2009. Since that was a holiday, any comments received February 17, 2009 were accepted. A summary of the comments received will be prepared by staff, and that summary, every comment, and a cover memorandum will be forwarded to the Committee of Bar Examiners for further consideration at its March 20-21, 2009 meeting. Only after considering the comments received during the second public comment period will the Committee decide whether to adopt *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules* to replace the existing *Factors*. If the proposed *Guidelines* are adopted, also at the meeting, the Committee will consider when they would go into effect and related transition issues.

The following recaps the process used in considering proposed *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*:

1. A meeting was held with the CALS Deans on August 17, 2007 to receive suggestions regarding revision of the *Factors*.
2. A meeting was held with the CALS Deans to discuss an initial draft of proposed *Guidelines* on April 17, 2008.
3. A meeting was held with CALS Deans to discuss a second draft of proposed *Guidelines* on June 3, 2008.
4. The Committee considered a third draft of proposed *Guidelines* at its meeting on June 27 and 28, 2008. The Committee approved circulating the proposed *Guidelines* dated June 19, 2008 for a sixty-day public comment period.
5. The proposed *Guidelines* dated June 19, 2008 were circulated for a sixty-day public comment period which ended on September 19, 2008.
6. The Committee held a hearing on the proposed *Guidelines* on August 22, 2008.
7. The Committee held a further meeting on the proposed *Guidelines* on November 3, 2008.
8. The Committee considered comments on the proposed *Guidelines* dated June 15, 2008 and revised *Guidelines* dated December 1, 2008 at its meeting on December 5-6, 2008. The Committee approved circulating the revised *Guidelines* for another sixty-day public comment period.

9. The revised *Guidelines* dated December 1, 2008 were circulated for sixty-day public comment, which ends on February 16, 2009.
10. The Committee's Educational Standards Subcommittee reserved time on its January 30, 2009 meeting agenda to receive further comments on the revised *Guidelines*. None of the accredited law school deans attended this meeting.
11. The Committee will consider the comments received during the second sixty-day public comment period and the revised *Guidelines* at its March 20 and 21, 2009 meeting.