

2011-2012

Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools

**American Bar Association
Section of Legal Education
and Admissions to the Bar**



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and Admissions to the Bar**

particular issues which need to be reviewed at the school, and the need for multi-level diversity in the make-up of the teams.

(c) Evaluation - The Consultant should seek to evaluate the quality of work done by individual site evaluators. This may be accomplished by corresponding with the chair of the team and the dean of the school visited. The objective of this process should be the development of a pool of well- experienced site evaluators.

(d) Training - The Consultant shall conduct, each year, workshops to train evaluators (particularly new or relatively new ones), and chairpersons of site evaluation teams. These workshops should cover the Standards, Interpretations and Rules of Procedure; current matters of accreditation policy, process considerations for the conduct of an on-site inspection, and the drafting of the site team report. Current instructions concerning the conduct of a site evaluation visit and the content of a site evaluation report should be supplied to each site evaluator.

4. Notice of Schools and Programs to be Accredited, and Preparation of Schools for Site Evaluation Visits

(a) The Consultant shall publish on the Section website a list of all law schools which are scheduled to be visited during the upcoming academic year for sabbatical, provisional or full approval site evaluation visits, or a visit in connection with an application for acquiescence in a major change of organizational structure. The notice should also state that interested persons may submit written comments regarding the school by a date certain determined by the Consultant. The Consultant may also publish such information in other media or formats as deemed appropriate.

(b) The Consultant shall conduct, each year, one or more workshops to prepare schools for undergoing site evaluation visits. Such workshops may be, but need not be, held in conjunction with the workshops for training new site evaluators. These workshops should cover the Standards, Interpretations and Rules of Procedure, current matters of accreditation policy, preparation for a site evaluation visit, the conduct of a site evaluation visit, and the expected content of a site evaluation report. Current instructions concerning the conduct of a site evaluation visit and the expected content of a site evaluation report should be provided to each school well in advance of the scheduled site evaluation visit.

5. Notification of Council Decisions

In accordance with Council policy, the Consultant shall:

(a) Provide written notification to the Secretary of the Department of Education, the appropriate state licensing agency, and the appropriate accrediting agency, at the same time the Consultant notifies the law school in writing of any decision to deny, withdraw, suspend or remove the approval or provisional approval of the law school, or to place a law

school on probation, but no later than thirty (30) days after the Council reaches the decision.

(b) Provide written notification to the Secretary of the Department of Education, the appropriate state licensing agency, the appropriate accrediting agency, and the public, within thirty (30) days, of:

(i) a decision to grant provisional approval or full approval to a law school;

(ii) a decision by an approved or provisionally approved law school to withdraw from approved or provisionally approved status; and

(iii) a decision by a law school to allow its approval or provisional approval to lapse

(c) Provide written notification to the public within twenty-four (24) hours of the time the Consultant notifies the law school in writing of any decision to deny, withdraw, suspend or remove the approval or provisional approval of the law school, or to place a law school on probation.

(d) Make available to the Secretary of the Department of Education, the appropriate state licensing agency, the appropriate accrediting agency, and the public within sixty (60) days after final decision, a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the decision to deny, withdraw, suspend or remove the approval or provisional approval of a law school, and the comments, if any, which the affected law school may wish to make with regard to that decision or evidence that the law school was offered but declined to provide any comments.

6. Due Regard for Decisions of Other Accrediting Agencies

(a) The Council approves only those institutions that are legally authorized under applicable State law to provide a program of education beyond the secondary level.

(b) The Council does not usually renew the approval or provisional approval of a law school or a law school program during a period in which the school or its parent institution:

(i) is the subject of an interim action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation;

(ii) is the subject of an interim action by a State agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of the law school's or the parent institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education;