At its May 14-15, 2020, meeting, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (the “Council”) considered the status of the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (the “Law School”) and concluded that the Law School is not in compliance with Standard 316.

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations (34 C.F.R. § 602.26) applicable to recognized accrediting agencies, the Council is required to post a notice describing the basis for an action when it finds significant noncompliance with one or more of ABA Standards pursuant to Rule 11(a)(4). The Council considers any finding of noncompliance with Standard 316 to be such a finding. Consequently, pursuant to ABA Internal Operating Practice 5 of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, this public memorandum is being issued within 24 hours of the time the Law School was notified of the Council’s decision.

The Law School has been asked to submit a report by February 1, 2021, and to appear before the Council at its May 13-15, 2021, meeting. The Council will consider the written report at its February 18-20, 2021, meeting. If the information provided in the written report demonstrates compliance with the Standard listed above, then the Council will find the Law School to be in compliance with the Standards and cancel the hearing.

This notice will be posted on our website (www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/accreditation_notices/) to comply with the U.S. Department of Education regulations until the matter is resolved.

A law school that is approved by the American Bar Association continues in that status pending final action by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

cc: United States Department of Education  
    Higher Learning Commission  
    State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing Bureau  
    Michigan Board of Law Examiners