Rule 29: Application for Acquiescence in Major Change

(a) Major changes requiring application for acquiescence include:

1. Acquiring another law school, program, or educational institution;
2. Acquiring or merging with another university by the parent university where it appears that there may be substantial impact on the operation of the law school;
3. Transferring all, or substantially all, of the program of legal education or assets of the approved law school to another law school or university;
4. Merging or affiliating with one or more approved or unapproved law schools;
5. Merging or affiliating with one or more universities;
6. Materially modifying the law school’s legal status or institutional relationship with a parent institution;
7. A change in control of the law school resulting from a change in ownership of the law school or a contractual arrangement;
8. A change in the location of the law school that could result in substantial changes in the faculty, administration, student body, or management of the law school;
9. Establishing a branch campus;
10. Establishing a separate location other than a branch campus;
11. A significant change in the mission or objectives of the law school;
12. The addition of courses or programs that represent a significant departure from existing offerings or method of delivery since the most recent accreditation period including combined undergraduate and J.D. programs, such as 2/4, 4/2 programs, and programs leading to a J.D. and a first-degree program at foreign institution; instituting a new full-time or part-time program; or changing from a full-time to a part-time program or from a part-time to a full-time program;
13. The addition of a permanent location at which the law school is conducting a teach-out for students at another law school that has ceased operating before all students have completed their program of study;
14. Contracting with an educational entity that is not certified to participate in Title IV, HEA programs, that would permit a student to earn 25 percent or more of the course credits required for graduation from the approved law school;
15. Establishing a new or different program leading to a degree other than the J.D. degree;
16. A change in program length measurement from clock hours to credit hours; and
17. A substantial increase in the number of clock or credit hours required for graduation.
(b) An application for acquiescence in a major change shall consist of the following:

1. All completed forms and questionnaires, as adopted by the Council;
2. A letter from the dean certifying that the law school has completed all of the requirements for requesting acquiescence in a major change and that the law school has obtained the concurrence of the president in the application;
3. A copy of the law school’s most recent self-study or an updated self-study if the most recent self-study is more than three years old where the application is for acquiescence in a major change described in Rule 29(a)(1) through 29(a)(13);
4. A description of the proposed change and a detailed analysis of the effect of the proposed change on the law school’s compliance with the Standards;
5. Payment to the Section of the application fee.

(c) The Managing Director shall appoint a fact finder in connection with an application for acquiescence in a major change, except that no fact finder is required if the Managing Director and the Chair of the Accreditation Committee determine that the application does not require additional information to assist Accreditation Committee and Council determination of the question of acquiescence.

(d) In recommending or granting acquiescence in a major change, the Committee or Council may appoint a fact finder subsequent to the effective date of acquiescence, for purposes of determining whether the law school remains in compliance with the Standards.

(e) A law school’s approval status remains unchanged following acquiescence in any major change.

**Rule 30: Major Changes Requiring a Reliable Plan**

(a) In addition to satisfying the requirements of Rule 29(b), an application for acquiescence under 29(a)(1) through Rule 29(a)(9) shall include a reliable plan.

(b) The reliable plan in connection with the establishment of a branch campus under Rule 29(a)(9) shall contain information sufficient to allow the Accreditation Committee and the Council to determine that:

1. The proposed branch campus has achieved substantial compliance with the Standards and is reasonably likely to achieve full compliance with each of the Standards within three years of the effective date of acquiescence;
2. The proposed branch campus will meet the requirements of Standard 106 applicable to separate locations and branch campuses.

(c) The reliable plan regarding a matter involving a substantial change in ownership, governance, control, assets, or finances of the law school, under Rule 29(a)(1) through 29(a)(7) shall contain information sufficient to allow the Accreditation Committee and the Council to determine whether the law school is reasonably likely to be in full compliance with each of the Standards as of the effective date of acquiescence.

(d) The reliable plan regarding a change in location of the law school that could result in substantial changes in the faculty, administration, student body, or management of the law school under Rule 29(a)(8) shall contain information sufficient to allow the Accreditation Committee and the
Council to determine whether the law school is reasonably likely to be in full compliance with each of the Standards within one year of the effective date of acquiescence.

(e) In a case where the Council has acquiesced in a major change subject to (a), the Council shall appoint a fact finder subsequent to the effective date of acquiescence, as provided in (f), (h), or (i).

(f) In the case of the establishment of a branch campus under Rule 29(a)(9), the fact finder required in accordance with (e) shall be appointed within six months of the effective date of acquiescence to verify that the branch campus satisfies the requisites of (b)(2).

(g) In a case involving a substantial change in ownership, control, assets, or finances of the law school under Rule 29(a)(1) through 29(a)(7), the fact finder required in accordance with (e) shall be appointed within six months of the effective date of acquiescence to verify that the law school is in compliance with the Standards.

(h) In a case involving a substantial change in location of the law school that could result in substantial changes in the faculty, administration, student body, or management of the law school, under Rule 29(a)(8), the fact finder required in accordance with (e) shall be appointed within one year of acquiescence to verify that the law school is in compliance with the Standards.

Rule 31: Reapplication for Acquiescence in Major Change

(a) If the Committee or Council denies an application for acquiescence in a major change, or if an application for acquiescence in a major change is withdrawn by a law school, a law school shall not reapply until it is able to certify in its application that it has addressed the reasons for the denial or withdrawal, explains how it has done so, and is able to demonstrate that it is operating in compliance with the Standards.

(b) Any new application must be filed in accordance with Rule 29.