

Statement of Barry Currier, managing director of ABA Accreditation and Legal Education, on behalf of the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar regarding the status of Arizona Summit Law School

Following the May 10, 2018, appearance of Arizona Summit Law School's representatives before the Council and the review of both the written materials submitted on behalf of the Law School and statements made at the Council hearing, the Council voted to remove the Law School from the ABA list of approved law schools.

This [action](#) is in accordance with provisions of the [ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools](#). Specifically, the Council adopted the Accreditation Committee's Findings of Fact and affirmed the Committee's conclusions with respect to the Law School's non-compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(b) and Interpretations 501-1 and 501-2. Further, the Council determined that the Law School has been out of compliance with these standards for more than two years. Accordingly, the Council concluded that approval would be withdrawn.

The ABA accreditation process provides meaningful opportunities for a law school to establish that it is operating in compliance with the accreditation standards. When the Council or the Accreditation Committee concludes that a law school is operating out of compliance with a standard, the school is given time to act and demonstrate that it is back in compliance. If a school does not demonstrate compliance, the Council and the Accreditation Committee follow an established process, which can lead to sanctions such as probation or the removal of approval.

These opportunities were afforded Arizona Summit Law School. In March 2017, the Council issued a [public notice](#) reporting its decision to place the Law School on probation and listed specific remedial action related to non-compliance with these standards.

The Law School may appeal the decision of the Council to the Appeals Panel, pursuant to Rules 4 and 36. The Law School has until July 9, 2018 to file an appeal. The removal of the Law School from the list of law schools approved by the American Bar Association will not be effective until the later of: (i) the expiration of the Law School's time to appeal this decision to the Appeals Panel; or (ii) if the Law School appeals this decision, the date on which the Appeals Panel decision on the Law School's appeal is transmitted to the Law School if the Council's decision is affirmed.

The decision also directs the Law School to file a teach-out plan within 10 business days from the date this decision is transmitted to it. If the Law School indicates its intention to appeal within that 10-day period, the requirement that a teach-out plan be filed will be stayed until the Law School receives further direction from the Managing Director.

Media inquiries should be directed to Bill Choyke in the ABA Media Relations and Strategic Communications Division at bill.choyke@americanbar.org or (202) 662-1864.