



COUNCIL DECISION

NOTICE OF PROBATION AND SPECIFIC REMEDIAL ACTION

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

November 2018

Background

At its November 15-17, 2018 meeting, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (the "Council") conducted a hearing pursuant to Rules 2, 13, 15 through 17, 19, and 20 of the Rules of Procedure to assist the Council in determining whether to impose sanctions upon Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (the "Law School") for non-compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), 501(a), and 501(b), and Interpretation 501-1.

Following the hearing and its consideration of the record in the matter, the Council concluded that the Law School is not in compliance Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a) and (b) and Interpretation 501-1. The Council further concluded, in accordance with Rule 15(a), that the issues of non-compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a) and (b) and Interpretation 501-1 are substantial and have been persistent. In accordance with Rules 2 and 15, the Council placed Atlanta's John Marshall Law School on probation, effective December 13, 2018.

Probationary Status of Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
and
Remedial Actions Required

Pursuant to Rules of Procedure 2 and 15, the Council placed Atlanta's John Marshall Law School on probation, effective December 13, 2018. Further, the Council directed the Law School to take the following specific remedial actions:

(1) Develop a written reliable plan for bringing the Law School into compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a) and (b) and Interpretations 501-1. In developing its plan, the Law School must address each of the factors identified in Interpretation 501-1 and demonstrate that the actions described in the plan have and will positively affect those factors. The Law School shall submit that plan to the Managing Director by February 1, 2019.

(2) Provide its admissions data and methodology for the fall 2019 class (applicants, acceptances, matriculants, and matriculants' UGPA and LSAT data) to the Managing Director by August 15, 2019. Where factors other than grade point average and LSAT were used to support an admissions decision, the Law School shall report those factors and state why it concluded that they were sufficient to overcome concerns inherent in the applicant's academic qualifications and LSAT score.

(3) So long as the Law School remains on probation, report within five days of receiving them, bar examination results for its graduates who sat for the bar examination in the State of Georgia, separately reporting the number of takers and number and percentage of passers for first-time takers, repeaters, and overall takers. Further, the Law School shall report any additional bar passage data for its graduates for all jurisdictions on the February 2019 bar examination by May 15, 2019, and July 2019 bar examination, to the extent available, by November 1, 2019. The Law School shall make diligent efforts to obtain bar examination outcomes for graduates who sat for bar examinations outside the State of Georgia.

(4) Within five business days of the date of the letter transmitting the Council's decision, provide to all admitted students a letter reporting the fact that the Law School has been placed on probation and of the specific remedial actions the Law School is required to take, including a copy of this statement.

(5) Publish this statement or a link to this statement on the Law School's website in a form and place(s) acceptable to the Managing Director's Office including under "ABA Required Disclosures" and in the "About" tab under "Accreditation" on the websites of both the Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and the Law School's branch campus in Savannah. This statement shall also be published on the website of the Section of the Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

(6) So long as the Law School remains on probation, each semester, within 30 days of the completion of the assignment and distribution of semester grades for the Law School's students, advise each Law School student, in writing, of the following, in the same communication: (a) Georgia first-time bar examination passage rates, by class quartiles, for Law School graduates

sitting for the Georgia bar examination over the six administrations preceding the semester; and (b) the class quartile into which the student then falls. The Law School shall provide evidence to the Managing Director's office, within five days of its distribution to students, that the required information has been appropriately and timely communicated.

(7) The Managing Director shall appoint a fact finder to visit the Law School to review the admissions data and admissions methodology provided by the Law School, as well as the overall rigor of its program of legal education. Pursuant to Rule 8 and Rule 11(b), the fact finder shall submit a report regarding the above matters to the Managing Director. The report will be delivered to the Law School, which shall have 30 days to submit a response. In advance of the visit by the fact finder, the Law School shall:

- (i) Submit any plan or program not discussed in the reliable plan that the Law School has adopted to prepare its students to be admitted to the bar and become responsible members of the legal profession;
- (ii) Provide a report on the finances of the Law School, including the budget for the 2019-2020 academic year, projected budget for the 2020-2021 year, and information on the amount of tuition discount and the range of net tuition paid by class quartile for the fall 2017 and fall 2018 entering classes.
- (iii) Report the Law School's admissions policies and plans for the 2019-2020 academic year, including class size, credential ranges and targets, and tuition discounting targets.

(8) In accordance with Rule 17, the Council requests that the Dean of the Law School appear at a hearing before the Council at its May 16-18, 2019, meeting in Chicago, Illinois, at a time to be identified, to assist the Council in monitoring the Law School's compliance with the requirements for remedial action and to assist the Council in determining whether the Law School has come into compliance with the Standards and, if not, to determine whether to impose any further appropriate action pursuant to Rules 11(b) and 15-17 in connection with the Law School's non-compliance with the Standards.