MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans of ABA-Approved Law Schools
University Presidents
Chief Justices of State Supreme Courts
Bar Admission Authorities
Western State Association of Colleges and Schools
Licensing Agency for the State of California:
Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
U. S. Department of Education
Deans of Unapproved Law Schools
Leaders of Organizations Interested in Legal Education
Student Bar Association Presidents
ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar –
Website Posting

FROM: Hulett H. Askew, Consultant on Legal Education
to the American Bar Association

SUBJECT: University of La Verne College of Law

In a public memorandum issued by the Office of the ABA Consultant on Legal Education, dated June 14, 2011, notification was provided, in accordance with Internal Operating Practice 5 of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, that the Council of the Section determined not to grant full ABA approval to the University of La Verne College of Law, located in Ontario, California.

The University of La Verne College of Law was notified in writing of the Council’s decision not to grant full approval on June 14, 2011. The School chose not to avail itself of the opportunity to file a written appeal of the Council’s June 2011 decision, as provided in Rule 10 of the ABA Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools. Therefore, in accordance with ABA Standard 102(b), the provisional ABA approval of the University of La Verne College of Law lapsed on July 14, 2011, and the School was automatically removed from the list of law schools approved by the American Bar Association on that date.

On June 15, 2011, in response to a request received from the University of La Verne College of Law, the Chair of the Council of the Section waived the ten-
month waiting period of Rule 11(b) of the ABA Rules of Procedure, for good cause shown, and authorized the University of La Verne College of Law to file an early reapplication for provisional ABA approval. The School intends to reapply for provisional ABA approval in early fall 2011.

This public memorandum is being issued within 60 days of the date the School was notified of the Council’s decision, pursuant to ABA Internal Operating Practice 5(d). The Council’s June 2011 decision not to grant full ABA approval to the University of La Verne College of Law was a result of the Council’s conclusion that the School had failed to establish full compliance with ABA Standard 301(a) and Interpretation 301-3, and with ABA Standard 303 and Interpretation 303-3, which require the following:

**Standard 301(a):** A law school shall maintain an educational program that prepares its students for admission to the bar, and effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.

**Interpretation 301-3:** Among the factors to be considered in assessing the extent to which a law school complies with this Standard are the rigor of its academic program, including its assessment of student performance, and the bar passage rates of its graduates.

**Standard 303:**

(a) A law school shall have and adhere to sound academic standards, including clearly defined standards for good standing and graduation.

(b) A law school shall monitor students’ academic progress and achievement from the beginning of and periodically throughout their studies.

(c) A law school shall not continue the enrollment of a student whose inability to do satisfactory work is sufficiently manifest so that the student’s continuation in school would inculcate false hopes, constitute economic exploitation, or detrimentally affect the education of other students.

**Interpretation 303-3:** A law school shall provide the academic support necessary to assure each student a satisfactory opportunity to complete the program, graduate, and become a member of the legal profession. This obligation may require a school to create and maintain a formal academic support program.

In accordance with Internal Operating Practice 5(d), the School was invited, at the time of transmittal of the Council’s June 2011 decision, to submit written comments in response to the decision. The School declined to submit any
official written comments. Evidence, as required by Internal Operating Practice 5(d), that the School was offered but declined to provide written comments is attached.

Attachment

cc: Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar Accreditation Committee
    Dean Allen K. Easley