

Summary of Council Actions Related to its March 2017 meeting

The ABA [Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar](#) met March 9-11, in Santa Monica, California. In open and closed [sessions](#) consistent with its Rules of Procedure, the Council considered a number of matters, including proposals related to changes to the ABA [Standards for Approval of Law School and Rules of Procedure](#).

The Council also received a report on the actions taken by the ABA House of Delegates on [Resolutions 110A and 110B](#) at the ABA Midyear meeting in February on changes to the Standards that had been referred to it for concurrence. The House concurred in all matters, except new Standard 316 regarding bar passage outcomes that a school must meet to remain in compliance with the Standards. The Council discussed the matter in open session, but took no action on how to proceed other than to place Standard 316 on the Council's June agenda for further consideration.

The Council took initial action to approve potential changes in the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools by requesting "Notice and Comment" for these proposals:

- To modify Standard 403 to require that only the first third of a student's course must be substantially delivered by full-time faculty. Other Standards would continue to assure the quality of the education that a student will receive by requiring law schools to attract and retain a faculty competent to deliver the school's J.D. program and that the school effectively deliver its program
- To modify the Standards' requirement regarding law school admissions tests by establishing a method for the Council to certify admissions tests other than the LSAT as valid and reliable for law school admissions. The proposal, if adopted, will necessitate the establishment of a process for the Council to make that determination. Any changes would not be expected to be operational before the 2018-2019 admission cycle for new 1L students, who would begin study in the fall of 2019. Meanwhile, the provisions of current Interpretations 503-1 and 503-3 will continue to operate.

The Council also approved the Site Evaluation Questionnaire (SEQ) for the 2016-2017 academic year cycle. The SEQ, a portion of the school self-study required by Standard 204 as part of the periodic comprehensive review of an approved law school, is being refined and updated to continue the Section's efforts to bring the data gathering, site visit and decision letter documents into alignment to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of the law school accreditation process.

In closed session, the Council considered a number of school matters. The outcomes of those matters that are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of [Rules of Procedure 49-55](#) will be publicly reported after decisions are communicated by letter to the affected schools.

Media seeking further information, please contact Bill Choyke in the ABA Division of Communications and Media Relations at bill.choyke@americanbar.org or (202) 662-1864.