

**SECTION OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

Memorandum

To: Council
From: Jeff Lewis
Re: Reorganization of the Structure of the Accreditation Project

At the June 2017 meeting the Council discussed reorganization of the Accreditation Project to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The merger of the Accreditation Committee (AC) and the Standards Review Committee (SRC) into the Council was one of several reorganization models discussed.

In July Chair Greg Murphy and Chair-Elect Maureen O'Rourke appointed an ad hoc working group to consider the reorganization proposals. The ad hoc working group consisted of Scott Bales, Diane Bosse, Jeff Lewis, Pam Lysaght, and Greg Murphy, with Barry Currier serving in an ex officio capacity. Lewis was designated chair.

The ad hoc working group met over the summer by conference calls and in person at the New York Council meeting in August. Guided by the goals of greater effectiveness, transparency, efficiency and quality in decision-making, the working group settled on the "merger" option and proceeded to consider the changes in the Rules of Procedure, Bylaws and Standards needed to accomplish the "merger. A report was made to the Council at the August meeting and the Council voted to support the idea of the full merger.

The working group proceeded with its work. The materials for the November 2017 Council meeting include the proposed revised Standards and Rules of Procedure needed to implement the merger. The proposed changes in the Standards are minimal; references to the AC in the definition section and Standards 104 and 107 were eliminated. The proposed changes in the Rules are substantial and procedural in nature; they are designed to accomplish "merger" of all accreditation functions in the Council, with an Appeals Committee as required by the DOE. This proposal also includes a few changes considered by the SRC which accomplish further needed conformance with DOE regulations.

In addition, the working group will recommend several changes in the Bylaws at the Council's February meeting. The changes will include the addition of language to

Article VI, Section 2 that will permit the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Council in certain very limited circumstances.

The working group offers this restructuring proposal for Council discussion and recommends that the Council send out the proposal (concept and specifics) for notice and comment.