Managing Director’s Guidance Memo

Standards 102(e), 102(f), 509(e)

August 2015

Standard 102. PROVISIONAL APPROVAL

(e) A provisionally approved law school shall state that it is provisionally approved in all of its printed and electronic materials describing the school and its program and in any other publication that references the law school’s approval by the Council.

(f) A law school seeking provisional approval shall make its status clear in any printed and electronic materials describing the law school and its program and in any other publication that references the law school’s approval status. At a minimum the law school shall state the following in all such communications:

The law school is not currently approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association and makes no representation to any applicant that it will receive approval from the Council before the graduation of any matriculating student.

Standard 509. REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

(e) If a law school makes a public disclosure of its status as a law school approved by the Council, it shall do so accurately and shall include the name and contact information of the Council.

Background

This memo provides guidance on compliance with Standards 102(e), 102(f), and 509(e), which cover a law school’s disclosure of its accreditation status.
Statement of Disclosure of Accreditation Status for a Fully Approved Law School

A fully approved law school is not required to disclose its accreditation status, but if it chooses to do so, the following statement is acceptable:

[Name of Law School] is approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654, 312-988-6738.

Statement of Disclosure of Accreditation Status for a Provisionally Approved Law School

A provisionally approved law school is required to disclose its accreditation status, and the following statement is acceptable:

[Name of Law School] is provisionally approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654, 312-988-6738.

Statement of Disclosure of Accreditation Status for a Law School Seeking Provisional Approval

A law school seeking provisional approval is required to make its accreditation status clear in any printed and electronic materials or other publication that references the law school’s approval status. At a minimum, the law school must state the following:

The law school is not currently approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association and makes no representation to any applicant that it will receive approval from the Council before the graduation of any matriculating student.

Including the Statement with any Disclosure

The statements made under Standards 102(e), 102(f), and 509(e) must be included with any disclosure of accreditation status, including any printed or electronic materials that reference the law school’s approval by the Council. This includes applications, newsletters, brochures, marketing materials, and other publications. A specific location is not required but it must be posted conspicuously and in a readily accessible location if posted electronically.

The Managing Director’s Office will issue Guidance memoranda from time-to-time when new Standards or Interpretations have been adopted or when, in the course of the Office’s dealings with schools about compliance with the Standards, a number of schools are asking for clarification or direction regarding a particular Standard, Interpretation or reporting requirement. The Office does its best to provide helpful guidance, but we remind schools that we do not have the authority to bind either the Council or the Accreditation Committee. That said, the Council and the Accreditation Committee understand the necessity of providing guidance and will take that guidance into account in any determination about a school’s operating in compliance with the Standards.