Rule 29

Subsequent to the adoption of the revised Rules of Procedure, it came to the attention of the Standards Review Committee that newly adopted Rule 29, which addresses Major Changes, does not include language that is required by the Department of Education. That language, which was former Rule 20(d), was inadvertently omitted during the drafting of Rule 29. The Committee recommended reinsertion of the language in Rule 29 as new section Rule 29(f).

Rule 29: Application for Acquiescence in Major Change

(a) Major changes requiring application for acquiescence include:

(1) Acquiring another law school, program, or educational institution;

(2) Acquiring or merging with another university by the parent university where it appears that there may be substantial impact on the operation of the law school;

(3) Transferring all, or substantially all, of the program of legal education or assets of the approved law school to another law school or university;

(4) Merging or affiliating with one or more approved or unapproved law schools;

(5) Merging or affiliating with one or more universities;

(6) Materially modifying the law school’s legal status or institutional relationship with a parent institution;

(7) A change in control of the law school resulting from a change in ownership of the law school or a contractual arrangement;

(8) A change in the location of the law school that could result in substantial changes in the faculty, administration, student body, or management of the law school;

(9) Establishing a branch campus;

(10) Establishing a separate location other than a branch campus;

(11) A significant change in the mission or objectives of the law school;

(12) The addition of courses or programs that represent a significant departure from existing offerings or method of delivery since the most recent accreditation period including combined undergraduate and J.D. programs, such as 2/4, 4/2 programs, and programs leading to a J.D. and a first-degree program at foreign institution; instituting a new full-time or part-time program; or changing from a full-time to a part-time program or from a part-time to a full-time program;
The addition of a permanent location at which the law school is conducting a teach-out for students at another law school that has ceased operating before all students have completed their program of study;

Contracting with an educational entity that is not certified to participate in Title IV, HEA programs, that would permit a student to earn 25 percent or more of the course credits required for graduation from the approved law school;

Establishing a new or different program leading to a degree other than the J.D. degree;

A change in program length measurement from clock hours to credit hours; and

A substantial increase in the number of clock or credit hours required for graduation.

An application for acquiescence in a major change shall consist of the following:

All completed forms and questionnaires, as adopted by the Council;

A letter from the dean certifying that the law school has completed all of the requirements for requesting acquiescence in a major change and that the law school has obtained the concurrence of the president in the application;

A copy of the law school’s most recent self-study or an updated self-study if the most recent self-study is more than three years old where the application is for acquiescence in a major change described in Rule 29(a)(1) through 29(a)(13);

A description of the proposed change and a detailed analysis of the effect of the proposed change on the law school’s compliance with the Standards;

Payment to the Section of the application fee.

The Managing Director shall appoint a fact finder in connection with an application for acquiescence in a major change, except that no fact finder is required if the Managing Director and the Chair of the Accreditation Committee determine that the application does not require additional information to assist Accreditation Committee and Council determination of the question of acquiescence.

In recommending or granting acquiescence in a major change, the Committee or Council may appoint a fact finder subsequent to the effective date of acquiescence, for purposes of determining whether the law school remains in compliance with the Standards.

A law school’s approval status remains unchanged following acquiescence in any major change.
(f) A law school’s request for acquiescence in the proposed major change in organizational structure shall be considered under the provisions of Rule 30, and will become effective upon the decision of the Council. The decision of the Council may not be retroactive.