



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Legal Education and
Admissions to the Bar

COUNCIL DECISION

NOTICE OF CORRECTIVE ACTION STATEMENT

Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School

May 2022

At its May 2020 meeting, in accordance with Rule 11(a)(4) of the *ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools*, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (the “Council”) considered the status of Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (the “Law School”) and concluded that the Law School was not in compliance with Standard 316 for its 2017 graduating class, with respect to the requirement that at least 75 percent of a law school’s graduates in a calendar year who sat for a bar examination must have passed a bar examination administered within two years of their date of graduation. Pursuant to Rule 13(b), the Law School had two years from the date of the Council’s finding of noncompliance to demonstrate compliance with Standard 316.

The Law School appeared at the Council’s May 19-21, 2022, meeting and presented evidence concerning its compliance with Standard 316 and its request for a good cause extension of time to come into compliance with the Standard. After reviewing the evidence submitted by the Law School, the Council concluded that the Law School remained out of compliance with Standard 316. The Council granted the Law School’s request for an extension of time of up to three years conditioned upon the Law School demonstrating progress in carrying out its Reliable Plan to achieve compliance. The Law School is required to continue to carry out its Reliable Plan by taking all steps necessary to come into compliance, including, at a minimum, to:

- (1) Adhere to its revised admissions policy that, beginning with the fall 2020 entering class, has resulted in entering classes with stronger predictors of success in graduating and passing a bar examination;
- (2) Work with faculty in improving teaching and learning at the Law School;
- (3) Assess the efforts of its Bar Exam Task Force to evaluate and assess student achievement and bar examination performance;
- (4) Work with its bar exam preparation provider to provide bar review course assistance, including subsidies, for new and current students, as well as for repeat bar examination takers;

Notice of Corrective Action Statement
Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School
May 2022

- (5) Review its enhanced academic support and program assessment, making any necessary changes;
- (6) Assess the effects of its more rigorous grading policies;
- (7) Assess its coordinated faculty bar examination advising policy; and
- (8) Make the significant financial investment it has pledged to implement in its Reliable Plan, notwithstanding whether such investment results in deficit spending from the Law School's reserves, while continuing to comply with the requirement that the Law School have current and anticipated financial resources sufficient to operate in compliance with the Standards and to carry out its program of legal education [Standard 202(a)].

The Law School is required to annually report to the Council on its progress with the above plan, any new programming or policies, and the graduation and bar examination outcomes of its students. The Council may terminate the extension of time to come into compliance at any point if the Law School does not demonstrate sufficient progress towards compliance.

The Law School shall post this Notice of Corrective Action Statement on the Law School's website in a form and place acceptable to the Managing Director's Office. The statement shall also be published on the website of the Section of the Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.