



**Section of Legal Education  
and Admissions to the Bar**

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**COUNCIL DECISION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIFIC REMEDIAL ACTION**

**Ave Maria School of Law**

**August 2016**

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**Background**

At its June 3-4, 2016 meeting, the Council conducted a hearing pursuant to Rules of Procedure 2, 3, 16-18, 21(c), 22, 24, and 25 with respect to the compliance of the Ave Maria School of Law (the "Law School") with ABA Standard 501(a) and 501(b). This proceeding followed a hearing by and recommendation of the Accreditation Committee (the "Committee"), which hearing resulted from interim monitoring of the Law School, a process which began in the Spring of 2013, pursuant to ABA Rule of Procedure 6.

Following the hearing and based on the record, the Council affirmed the Committee's conclusions that the Law School is not in compliance with Standard 501(a) and 501(b). The Council has directed the Law School to take the following specific remedial actions, including, but not limited to, this public notice.

**Remedial Actions Required**

Pursuant to its authority under Rules 2(f) and 25(b), the Council has directed that the Ave Maria School of Law take the following specific remedial actions:

- a. Develop a written reliable plan for bringing the Law School into compliance with Standards 501(a) and 501(b), and submit that plan to the Managing Director by September 1, 2016.
- b. Supply to the Committee by September 1, 2016 its admissions data and admissions methodology, which includes the Law School's admissions practices and policies, for the fall 2016 entering class. Where factors other than grade point average and LSAT are used to support an admissions decision, report those factors and state why they were sufficient to overcome concerns inherent in the applicant's academic qualifications and LSAT score.

- c. Within five business days of the date of the Decision Letter reporting the Council's decision, provide to all admitted students and publish on its website along with other ABA disclosures a statement of the specific remedial action the Law School is required to take. This statement, or a link to the statement on the Law School's website, shall also be published on the website of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.
- d. Advise each Law School student, in writing within 30 days of the completion of the assignment and distribution of semester grades for the Law School's students, of the following, in the same communication: (a) the Florida first-time bar examination passage rates, by class quartiles, for Law School graduates sitting for the Florida bar examinations over the six administrations preceding the semester, and (b) the class quartile in which the student then falls. This remedial action shall continue so long as the Law School is required to provide reports to the ABA pursuant to the Decision Letter it received. The Law School shall provide evidence to the Managing Director's office, within five days of its distribution to students, that the required information has been appropriately and timely communicated.

Further and pursuant to Rules 2(f), 9, and 25(b)(2), the Managing Director shall appoint a fact finder to visit the Law School by October 1, 2016, to review the admissions policies and practices implemented by the Law School along with other data related and relevant to these policies and practices as well as to relevant graduate outcomes. The Accreditation Committee and the Council will then subsequently evaluate the Law School's compliance with Standards 501(a) and 501(b) in light of that report. Based on that review, the Committee and the Council may take any appropriate action pursuant to Rules of Procedure 12(b) and 16-18.

Further and pursuant to Rule 53(c)(4), the Managing Director is required and is directed to provide public notification of this Decision of the Council to impose specific remedial action on the Law School.