

July 11, 2025

Mr. Mitchell Winick  
President and Dean  
Monterey College of Law  
100 Colonel Durham Street  
Seaside, CA 93955

Dear President Winick:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Monterey College of Law (MCL) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 27, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 to Monterey College of Law April 9 – 11, 2025 using the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Monterey College of Law prior to the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 and the institution's June 2, 2025 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Barry Currier, Board of Trustees Chair Elect. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

### **Procedural History**

Monterey College of Law completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Areas of development are cited under the 2023 Standards.

### **Actions**

1. Receive the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team report
2. Grant Initial Accreditation for a period of six years
3. Allow the date of Initial Accreditation to be applied retroactively to May 10, 2025
4. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2031
5. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by November 1, 2027 to address all requirements listed below

## **Commendations**

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Its dedication to the advancement of the mission embraced by the entire MCL community.
2. Defining and distinguishing program learning outcomes for each of the three degrees offered and the involvement of faculty in the development of, and training in, these outcomes.
3. Developing and refining assessment tools and formalizing data collection processes to support the needs of students using aggregated and disaggregated data in both academic and student support services.
4. Developing a data-informed financial model that allows the board and administration to analyze financial scenarios to evaluate, plan, and implement strategies to advance MCL's financial sustainability.

## **Areas for Development**

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Continue to strengthen the Board of Trustees to advance the strategic plan, development, and support of new leadership. (CFRs 3.7, 4.7)
2. Refine the plan for fundraising and advancement to reflect the current funding landscape and ongoing MCL priorities. (CFR 3.5)

In taking this action to grant Initial Accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Monterey College of Law completed the institutional review process for Initial Accreditation conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Monterey College of Law should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

Monterey College of Law must use the following statement if it wishes to describe its accreditation status publicly:

*Monterey College of Law is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.*

Federal law requires that the WSCUC address and phone number appear in your catalog.

The accredited status of a program should not be misrepresented. The accreditation granted by WSCUC refers to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program

at the institution, statements such as “this program is accredited” or “this degree is accredited” are incorrect and misleading. The phrase “fully accredited” is also to be avoided, since no partial accreditation is possible.

The Commission stipulated that this action encompassed the degrees offered by Monterey College of Law at the time of this action, as listed at the end of this letter as the Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees. Any proposed new degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership require review and approval through the Substantive Change process. Degree programs reviewed and included under this action may be extended to other currently approved campuses of the institution without prior Substantive Change action. Offerings at new locations may need to go through Substantive Change approval, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Substantive Change manual.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Monterey College of Law governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Monterey College of Law website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that Monterey College of Law undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



A. Maria Toyoda  
President

AMT/lp

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair  
Greg Brandes, ALO  
Liza Horvath, Board Chair  
Members of the Seeking Accreditation Visit 2 team  
Linda Petersen, Vice President

Attachment: Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees

## Consolidated List of Currently Offered Degrees by Modality

### Onsite

#### **Masters**

Master of Legal Studies (MLS)

#### **Professional**

Master of Laws (LLM)

#### **Professional Doctorate**

Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD)

### Distance Education

#### **Masters**

Master of Legal Studies (MLS)

#### **Professional**

Master of Laws (LLM)

#### **Professional Doctorate**

Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD)

### Off-Campus Locations

#### **San Luis Obispo College of Law (all onsite degrees listed above)**

4119 Broad Street

#200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

#### **Kern County College of Law (all onsite degrees listed above)**

1731 Chester Avenue

#200

Bakersfield, CA 93301

#### **Empire College of Law (all onsite degrees listed above)**

3035 Cleveland Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95403