

February 27, 2026

Ms. Sandra Brooks
President and Dean
Cal Northern School of Law
1395 Ridgewood Drive Suite 100
Chico, CA 9573

Dear Ms. Brooks,

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Cal Northern School of Law (CNSL) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting February 13, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to CNSL September 10 - 12, 2025 using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by CNSL prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), and the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you. 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.

Actions

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of eight years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in spring 2033 and the Accreditation Visit in fall 2033.
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by March 1, 2028 to address areas for development 1, 3 and 4 below.

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for:

1. Fulfilling its mission by preparing students who otherwise might not attend law school and providing legal services to the community.
2. High pass rates on the California Bar Exam coupled with a solid professional reputation.
3. The strong sense of community and support that exists between students, faculty, and administrators.
4. Effective investment in the growth of its legal programs leading to increased financial stability.

Areas for Development

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

1. Refine and implement the enrollment management plan, including marketing strategies. (CFR 3.4)
2. Develop additional revenue streams and consider fundraising strategies. (CFR 3.4)
3. Explore lines of insurance to support effective risk management. (CFR 3.11)
4. Establish a clear understanding between the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees that clarifies the priority of expenditures in a way that protects the mission of the law school with, for example, a memorandum of understanding. (CFRs 1.1, 4.8)
5. Continue to develop and maintain technological support as the school looks to extend online teaching and learning. (CFR 3.6)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that CNSL successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, CNSL 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.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of CNSL's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the CNSL 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 CNSL 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 handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...', written in a cursive style.

A. Maria Toyoda
President

AMT/lp

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Michael McCrady, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit Team
Linda Petersen, Vice President