



# The University of North Carolina

General Administration  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Thomas W. Ross

DATE: March 22, 2013

SUBJECT: Licensure of Charlotte School of Law

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is charged under North Carolina General Statute Section 116-15 with responsibility for licensing nonpublic educational institutions to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina. In November 2004, the Board of Governors approved revisions to the document, *Rules and Standards for Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina*. This document provides the guidelines for interpreting the standards, and the rules, regulations, and procedures under which the Board issues licenses to institutions to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina.

Charlotte School of Law has applied for a regular license to offer the LL.M. in American Legal Studies degree program in Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if Charlotte School of Law complied with the licensure standards outlined in the *Rules and Standards*. On February 12, 2013, the team of examiners visited the Charlotte School of Law campus in Charlotte, NC. Following the visit, the team of examiners issued its report. For more details on the degree program and report, please review the summary.

Thus, I recommend to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs of the UNC Board of Governors that a regular license be issued to Charlotte School of Law to offer the above-named degree program in Charlotte, NC, subject to annual reports and review at any time. The program will be reviewed within two calendar years of the initiation in North Carolina to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

## **SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR CHARLOTTE SCHOOL OF LAW**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Charlotte School of Law LLC, a private for-profit law school located in Charlotte, was founded in 2004 as a member institution of InfiLaw Holding, LLC, a consortium of three independent law schools. In 2005, Charlotte School of Law was granted a license by the Board of Governors to operate and offer the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree program. The School opened its doors in 2006, and since that time has been conducting post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina.

On June 10, 2011, Charlotte School of Law was granted full approval by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA).

### **THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT**

The Charlotte School of Law has applied for licensure to offer the following new degree program on-site at its Charlotte Campus:

- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in American Legal Studies

Dr. Frank T. Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs of The University of North Carolina General Administration, appointed a team of examiners to evaluate the compliance of Charlotte School of Law with the licensure Standards contained in The University of North Carolina Board of Governors' *Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina*. The site visit to the Charlotte School of Law took place on February 12, 2013.

The team of examiners with expertise in the specific discipline relating to the application was comprised of:

- James P. White (Chair), Professor Emeritus, Indiana University School of Law Indianapolis and Consultant Emeritus on Legal Education to the American Bar Association
- Steven R. Smith, Dean Emeritus, California Western School of Law
- Richard A. Danner, Senior Associate Dean for Information Services, Duke University School of Law
- Frank T. Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, *Ex Officio*

The team's task was to review the application and accompanying exhibits and to participate in the site visit to determine if the institution demonstrated compliance with licensure standards. Either prior to the visit or during the visit, many additional items of documentation were reviewed by the team including curricula for the proposed degree program, course syllabi, curriculum vitae for full-time and part-time faculty members, library and electronic resources, computer resources, enrollment data, instructional resources, budget data, audited financial

statements, the Charlotte School of Law website, Charlotte School of Law *Faculty Handbook*, and Charlotte School of Law *Staff Handbook*.

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of the Charlotte School of Law.

## **PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM**

### Master of Laws (LL.M.) in American Legal Studies

The program is designed for foreign attorneys and other persons with a first degree in law from foreign universities who seek to gain an understanding of American law; applicants must hold a first degree in law from an accredited institution outside the United States. The program is designed to be a one-year course of study (a total of 24 semester credit hours) and offers two tracks: a New York Track and a Flexible Track. The New York Track is designed to qualify its graduates for admission to practice in the state of New York, while the Flexible Track offers a general understanding of American law. The large majority of the LL.M. coursework will be taken as existing J.D. courses.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

After the site visit, the *Preliminary Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Licensure Visit to Review the Master of Laws in American Legal Studies Degree Program Proposed by the Charlotte School of Law* was submitted. The report contained no suggestions and no recommendations pertaining to compliance issues with the degree program reviewed.

The team of examiners concludes its report by stating that it recommends that the Charlotte School of Law be licensed to offer the new degree program requested.

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendation. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the following proposed degree program, to be offered on-site by the Charlotte School of Law:

- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in American Legal Studies

A site visit to the Charlotte School of Law will be performed within two calendar years of the initiation of this new degree program, by a team of examiners with expertise in the field, to ascertain the institution's compliance with the *Rules and Standards*.