



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

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Legal Education and  
Admissions to the Bar

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COUNCIL DECISION

NOTICE OF PROBATION AND SPECIFIC REMEDIAL ACTION

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

November 2018 (updated May 2019)

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**Background**

At its November 15-17, 2018 meeting, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (the "Council") conducted a hearing pursuant to Rules 2, 13, 15 through 17, 19, and 20 of the Rules of Procedure to assist the Council in determining whether to impose sanctions upon Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (the "Law School") for non-compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), 501(a), and 501(b), and Interpretation 501-1.

Following the hearing and its consideration of the record in the matter, the Council concluded that the Law School is not in compliance Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a) and (b) and Interpretation 501-1. The Council further concluded, in accordance with Rule 15(a), that the issues of non-compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a) and (b) and Interpretation 501-1 are substantial and have been persistent. In accordance with Rules 2 and 15, the Council placed Atlanta's John Marshall Law School on probation, effective December 13, 2018.

At its May 16-18, 2019 meeting, the Council concluded that further information is necessary to determine if the Law School can meet the goals of its reliable plan and bring itself into compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a) and (b) and Interpretation 501-1.

**Probationary Status of Atlanta's John Marshall Law School**  
**and**  
**Remedial Actions Required**

Pursuant to Rules of Procedure 2 and 15, the Council placed Atlanta's John Marshall Law School on probation, effective December 13, 2018. Further, the Council directed the Law School to take the following specific remedial actions:

(1) Update the written reliable plan for bringing the Law School into compliance with Standards 301(a), 309(b), and 501(a) and (b) and Interpretations 501-1. The Law School shall submit the updated plan to the Managing Director by October 1, 2019.

(2) As part of the update on the reliable plan, provide the Law School's admission data and methodology for the fall 2019 class (applicants, acceptances, matriculants, and matriculants' UGPA and LSAT data) to the Managing Director by October 1, 2019. Where factors other than grade point average and LSAT were used to support an admissions decision, the Law School shall report those factors and state why it concluded that they were sufficient to overcome concerns inherent in the applicant's academic qualifications and LSAT score.

(3) So long as the Law School remains on probation, report within five days of receiving them, bar examination results for its graduates who sat for the bar examination in the State of Georgia, separately reporting the number of takers and number and percentage of passers for first-time takers, repeaters, and overall takers. Further, the Law School shall report any additional bar passage data for its graduates for all jurisdictions on the July 2019 bar examination, to the extent available, by November 1, 2019. The Law School shall make diligent efforts to obtain bar examination outcomes for graduates who sat for bar examinations outside the State of Georgia.

(4) Continue to provide to all newly-admitted students a letter reporting the fact that the Law School has been placed on probation and of the specific remedial actions the Law School is required to take, including a copy of this statement.

(5) Publish this statement or a link to this statement on the Law School's website in a form and place(s) acceptable to the Managing Director's Office including under "ABA Required Disclosures" and in the "About" tab under "Accreditation" on the websites of both the Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and the Law School's branch campus in Savannah. This statement shall also be published on the website of the Section of the Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

(6) So long as the Law School remains on probation, each semester, within 30 days of the completion of the assignment and distribution of semester grades for the Law School's students, advise each Law School student, in writing, of the following, in the same communication: (a) Georgia first-time bar examination passage rates, by class quartiles, for Law School graduates sitting for the Georgia bar examination over the six administrations preceding the semester; and (b) the class quartile into which the student then falls. 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.

(7) In accordance with Rule 17, the Council requests that the Dean of the Law School appear at a hearing before the Council at its November 21-23, 2019, meeting in Austin, Texas, at a time to be identified, to assist the Council in monitoring the Law School's compliance with the requirements for remedial action and to assist the Council in determining whether the Law School has come into compliance with the Standards and, if not, to determine whether to impose any further appropriate action pursuant to Rules 11(b) and 15-17, including withdrawal of approval of the Law School, in connection with the Law School's non-compliance with the Standards.