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Executive Committee of the Order of the Coif that some schools may not be aware of the provisions that determine whether transfer students can be eligible for membership in the Order of the Coif. .

Membership in the Order of the Coif is governed by the Coif Constitution. Section 5.1.a. of that Constitution provides:

Eligibility of Law Students. For each academic year, measured from July 1 to June 30, or any other twelve-month period designated by a member school, a Chapter may elect to membership in The Order any graduating senior (1) who has completed at least 75 percent of his or her law studies in graded courses and (2) whose grade record ranks in the top 10 percent of all the graduating seniors of the school. "Graded courses" are those for which academic accomplishment is recorded on the basis of educational measurement involving four or more discriminators.

As we understand the practices of most schools, this provision means that transfer students will not be eligible for Coif membership. Because 75% of a student's law school work must be in graded courses, it is unlikely that a transfer student can qualify.

Dear Dean:

Unfortunately, it has come to the attention of the

The second school is free to determine what transferred credits will be treated as graded courses at that school, but if it accepts only credits and not grades from a transfer student's initial school, then the only way that student can qualify for Coif membership is to take enough courses at the second school to meet the requirement of 75% of course work in graded course. Otherwise, transfer students are ineligible for Coif membership.

Most schools include this information on their websites so that transfer students know up front that they are unlikely to qualify for Coif. The Executive Committee strongly recommends that all Coif schools which have not previously done so add this information to websites and any other materials provided to potential transfer students.

Sincerely yours,

Laura N. Gasaway

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