

March 4, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Camille Davidson
President and Dean
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
875 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear President Davidson:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Mitchell Hamline School of Law (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, February 27, 2025. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent comprehensive evaluation for Early Initial Accreditation, including, but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the Institution submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Hearing Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

Summary of the Action: The Institution has been granted initial accreditation.

The Institution is approved at the following program level(s): Master’s, Doctoral. The Institution is not approved at the following program level(s): Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Specialist. The Institution is limited to offer the following program(s) within the approved program levels: Master of Laws and Juris Doctor.

Board Rationale

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution as well as the entire record before the Board:

Mitchell Hamline School of Law (“the Institution”) meets the Eligibility Requirements, Federal Compliance Requirements, Assumed Practices, and Criteria for Accreditation, including all Core Components, without any concerns.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and evidence in the record that the Institution has demonstrated that it meets the requirements for Early Initial Accreditation.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution is assigned to the Standard Pathway for its initial ten-year cycle. An institution in its first cycle of accreditation undergoes a comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in Year 4 of the ten-year cycle. If reaffirmation of accreditation is granted in Year 4, the Institution moves to Year 5 and continues on the Standard Pathway until it completes the ten-year cycle.¹ The Institution will host its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2028-29.²

HLC Disclosure Obligations

The Board action resulted in changes that will be reflected in the Institution's Statement of Accreditation Status as well as the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. The Statement of Accreditation Status, including the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

HLC policy³ requires that a summary of Board actions be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. It also will be published on HLC's website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Andrew Lootens-White.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Christine Szaj, Vice President of Institutional Management, Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Chair

¹ INST.C.10.010, Substantive Requirements for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

² Please note: Revisions to HLC's Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices will go into effect on September 1, 2025. Institutions will be evaluated against these revised HLC requirements for all reviews conducted after that date, including reviews related to previously assigned monitoring. Institutional reports submitted on or after September 1, 2025, or institutional reports or Assurance Arguments for visits that will take place on or after September 1, 2025, should be written to the revised version of the Criteria or Assumed Practices as applicable. More information, including a crosswalk between the current and revised versions of the Criteria, is available on HLC's website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/policies/criteria/>.

³ COMM.A.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

Andrew Lootens-White, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission

Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission

Dennis Olson, Commissioner, Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Elizabeth Daggett, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education,
U.S. Department of Education