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September 15, 2016

Ms. Sally Evans Lockwood, Director  
Office of Bar Admissions  
244 Washington Street SW  
Suite 440  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Educational Waiver Application of Beau Morgan Murrah

Dear Ms. Lockwood:

In accordance with the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia, Part B, Section 4, I am writing as the designee of Steven Kaminshine, Dean of the Georgia State University College of Law, to confirm that in my assessment Beau Morgan Murrah's legal education at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, was comparable to that of an ABA-approved law school in the United States. A letter from Dean Kaminshine authorizing me to submit this letter is attached.

I am a graduate of Yale Law School and have been a member of the Georgia Bar since 1987. Since 1994, I have been on the faculty at Georgia State's College of Law, where I teach Professional Responsibility, Public International Law, International Human Rights, and related seminars. I have not formally served in an administrative capacity but, among other administrative duties, I have co-chaired our Promotion and Tenure Committee for several years. (A more detailed bio is available at [http://law.gsu.edu/profile/natsu-taylor-saito/.](http://law.gsu.edu/profile/natsu-taylor-saito/))

Beau Morgan Murrah has provided me with (1) information regarding his legal education, (2) his academic transcripts, (3) background information on the program, (4) a letter from the dean of the University of Otago confirming that Mr. Murrah received a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) and documenting the hours of legal education he completed, and (5) a credential evaluation report from World Education Service (WES). My assessment is based on this information, as well as the ABA Standards on the Program of Legal Education and some basic research about the University of Otago and its law program.

The University of Otago, and its Law Faculty in particular, has a strong national and international reputation. Established in 1869, the University has offered law courses since 1873, and is one of six law schools qualified and approved by the New Zealand Council of Legal Education. In 2012 the University was ranked first in the

country for its research in the field of law, and its Law Faculty has produced more Rhodes Scholars than any discipline in any New Zealand university. The law program is currently ranked in the 51-100 category by QS World University Rankings, along with U.S. law schools at, for example, American University, Northwestern University, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

The Otago University Faculty of Law has the equivalent of 700 fulltime students and about 30 fulltime teachers. It publishes a Law Review that, like its U.S. equivalents, is run by law students. Admission to the LL.B. program is selective, and requires passing a full-year introductory law course. The law library is integrated into the main university library, but is estimated to hold approximately 30,000 monographs and 50,000 serials, focusing on common law jurisdictions and international law. It also provides online access to legal databases commonly used in U.S. law schools, such as Westlaw, Lexis, and HeinOnline.

Mr. Murrah completed a dual degree program in 2013, receiving an LL.B. degree as well as a B.A. in Classics, with a minor in English. For the reasons described below, his legal education appears to readily meet the State Bar's requirement of substantial equivalency to an education at an ABA accredited law school.

For ABA accreditation, U.S. law schools must require a minimum of 83 credit hours, 64 of which must be in courses requiring attendance in regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction (Standard 310). In fulfilling his LL.B. requirements, Mr. Murrah completed 22 law-related courses, for the equivalent (per WES) of 89 credit hours. He had an overall GPA of 2.95, and a GPA of 3.0 in his law courses.

New Zealand is a common law country with a legal system substantially similar to that of the United States. The LL.B. program completed by Mr. Murrah included broad coverage of core subjects including Contracts, Property, Torts, Criminal Law, Company Law, Labour Law, Taxation, Public Law, and Jurisprudence. Pass/fail courses in Legal Research and Writing and Advocacy Skills were also required. In addition to the basic courses taken by Mr. Murrah, U.S. law schools typically require students to take Evidence, Civil Procedure, and Constitutional Law, but these involve rules and precedent specific to U.S. jurisdictions and, therefore, would have to be learned anew by any "foreign" lawyer.

The University of Otago's curriculum also included a course in Legal Ethics, fulfilling ABA Standard 303(1), and required five substantive research and writing assignments assessed in accordance with the New Zealand Legal Style Guide, thus

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<sup>1</sup> The rankings are available at [http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2016/law-legal-studies#sorting=rank+region="+country="+faculty="+stars=false+search=](http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2016/law-legal-studies#sorting=rank+region=). Schools are not given a specific ranking within in the 51-100 category.

apparently exceeding Standard 303(2)'s requirement of two writing experiences. While I assume the ABA's newly added standards concerning experiential education (Standard 303(3)) do not apply to a 2013 graduate, Mr. Murrah did obtain substantial practical experience through Otago University's mooting and clinical legal skills programs which, among other things, involved a mock plea of mitigation at a local criminal court. He has obtained additional practical experience by serving as a law clerk and a volunteer legal adviser.

Upon completing his law degree, Mr. Murrah successfully completed the Professional Legal Studies Course, which involved another six-weeks of fulltime study and functions similarly to a bar examination. This course was practice-oriented, with segments on civil litigation, commercial and corporate practice, and property practice, professional responsibility, writing and drafting, problem solving and work management, client interviewing, negotiation and dispute resolution, representing clients in court, and trust and office accounting.

Based on successful completion of these programs, and being found fit to practice, Mr. Murrah was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the High court of New Zealand in 2015. He is not an active member of the bar, as that requires meeting additional conditions similar to our CLE requirements, but is considered an officer of the court.

For the reasons detailed above, I believe that Mr. Murrah's legal education at the University of Otago is substantially equivalent to that of an ABA-accredited law school. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at [nsaito@gsu.edu](mailto:nsaito@gsu.edu) or 720-839-6300 (cell).

Sincerely,



Natsu Taylor Saito  
Distinguished University Professor

cc: Dean Steven Kaminshine  
Beau Morgan Murrah

Enclosure

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September 15, 2016

Ms. Sally Evans Lockwood, Director  
Office of Bar Admissions  
244 Washington Street SW  
Suite 440  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Authorization of Professor Natsu Saito as Dean's Designee

Dear Ms. Lockwood:

In accordance with the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia, I am writing to confirm that I have authorized Professor Natsu Taylor Saito, a member of the faculty at the College of Law, to provide you with her assessment of the legal education received by Beau Morgan Murrah at the University of Otago in New Zealand, to be submitted in conjunction with Mr. Murrah's application for a waiver of educational eligibility requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Kaminshine".

Steven Kaminshine  
Dean and Professor of Law