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Lee Gore Out as General Counsel at UWF

Pensacola – usmnews.net has confirmed that [Lee Gore no longer appears as General Counsel](#) or “Special Assistant to the President” within the General Counsel’s office at the University of West Florida. According to [Jesse Farthing](#), reporter for Rick’s Blog, “Lee Gore, who was heading up the University of West Florida Office of the General Counsel, has been terminated from that position, as of Oct. 31, for failing to become a member of the Florida Bar before his contractual deadline for doing so was up.” Farthing reports that Gore is now assistant to the provost, effective 1-Nov 2013.

As previously reported, the Florida Bar [began an investigation of Gore](#) in the wake of allegations he had been practicing law in the state without benefit of a license. According to Farthing, even though there is an ongoing investigation, Gore served in the Office of the General Counsel until last week under the title “Special Assistant to the President.” The Bar Association may find it troubling, if as claimed by Farthing, Gore’s duties remained unchanged throughout his time in the General Counsel’s office.

Curiously, Farthing’s article claims that “UWF maintains that Gore passed the Florida Bar exam in February, as previously reported, and the Florida Bar is still under the process of application review.”

Sources advise usmnews.net that UWF’s position that Gore passed the bar exam and is still under the process of application review simply makes no sense. According to [rules relating to admission](#), an application must be filed before sitting for the bar examination. As previously reported, a letter dated **April 15, 2013** from the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, Administrative Board of the Supreme Court of Florida states

The Florida Board of Bar Examiners, through its Chair, the Honorable Gail E. Sasnett of Gainesville, Florida, has announced that the grades from the **February 2013** General Bar Examination have been approved for release by the Supreme Court of Florida. [Emphasis added.]

On February 26-27, 2013, 1,587 applicants took the Bar Examination in Tampa, Florida. The Supreme Court posted the pass/fail results for each applicant on its website **and score reports were mailed to each applicant today.**

The Court approved 632 candidates for admission to The Florida Bar on April 15, 2013, and Chief Justice Ricky Polston has announced that they may be sworn in as members of The Florida Bar. **Formal induction ceremonies to swear in the new attorneys will be held at the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth District Courts of Appeal on Monday, May 6, 2013.**

(Emphasis added.)

April 15, 2013 (the date on which score reports were announced by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners) and May 6, 2013 (the date on which lawyers who had recently passed the bar examination were formally inducted into the Florida Bar Association) predate the initiation of the investigation of Gore for practicing without a Florida license (June 25, 2013). If Gore did indeed pass the February 2013 bar exam, he should have been admitted more than a month earlier.

On July 25, 2013 -- more than a month after the formal admission ceremonies for those passing the February 2013 bar examination -- Mr. Gore was served with formal notice of investigation: "As I understand, you serve as General Counsel at the University of West Florida. Our records indicate that you are not a member of The Florida Bar and you are not certified as an Authorized House Counsel in the State of Florida."

Although UWF claims Gore passed the bar exam in February 2013, applicants who took and passed the bar examination at the same time have been practicing law since May 6, 2013. Nine months later, what could the Florida Bar Association still be reviewing?

According to sources, stand by for more on this story.