



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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April 5, 2023

By Email

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Tom Murphy, Esq., tmurphy@cmdhlaw.com
James Healy, Esq., jhealy@cmdhlaw.com

Re: *Deficiencies in Stone Academy's Response to the Civil Investigative Demand*

Dear Counsel:

This letter concerns Career Training Specialists, LLC d/b/a Stone Academy's ("Stone") compliance with the Civil Investigative Demand ("CID") issued to Stone on February 22, 2023. We believe that Stone's responses do not fully comply with the company's obligations under the CID in that many of the responses are incomplete, fail to respond adequately to all requests, and/or fail to identify and provide responsive documents (the "Deficiencies"). An initial list of Deficiencies is set forth below. Be advised, however, that our review is ongoing, and we reserve the right to identify additional Deficiencies where appropriate.

- 1) **Instructions:** The CID requires, *inter alia*, that Stone consult with our office concerning the selection of Custodians¹ for document searches, the use of search term filters, predictive coding or other forms of technology-assisted review, as well as that Stone disclose its production instructions. (CID Instructions, Subsections H and L). Please provide a list of Custodians, search terms, and date range(s) searched, as well as a copy of the production instructions.
- 2) **Business Information- CID Section 2(a):** Provide all iterations of Stone's organizational chart within the Relevant Period (only one version was produced).
- 3) **Accreditation- CID Section 4:** Provide copies of all Program Effectiveness Plans in connection with the Practical Nursing Program during the Relevant Period.
- 4) **Advertising Practices**
CID Section 5(a): Identify all Stone employees, agents, contractors, or representatives who created or assisted in the creation of content for Stone's advertising campaigns, including each person's title and professional affiliation.
CID Section 5(b): Provide an exemplar of Stone's 2021 Catalog.

¹ All capitalized terms utilized herein have the same meaning as in the CID.

5) **Operations- CID Section 6:**

Communications: Our office has reason to believe that Stone failed to produce many Communications responsive to this request. Responsive Communications include, without limitation, all Communications Referring or Relating To Stone (whether by e-mail, text, instant message, or other means) that are to, from, or copied to Joseph Bierbaum, Mark Scheinberg, and/or any other employees or representatives of Paier College, Goodwin University, or University of Bridgeport, regardless of whether a “stone.edu” account was utilized.

Meeting Minutes: Produce minutes from all Stone management, leadership, admissions, education, curriculum, and career services meetings conducted during the Relevant Period. While Stone’s response to the CID included a limited selection of meeting minutes, they are predominantly from March through May of 2021. Additional minutes from meetings conducted within the Relevant Period should exist and are responsive to the CID.

6) **Complaints- CID Section 9:** Stone is required to produce all complaints and responses thereto, including, without limitation, complaints made to the Better Business Bureau and equivalent organizations, complaints posted on higher education and employment message boards (such as Niche.com, Indeed.com, and Glassdoor.com), complaints posted to Stone’s social media platforms, and responses to Stone’s internal student and faculty surveys.

7) **Privilege Log:** As expressed in our prior correspondence, Stone must produce a privilege log. A privilege log was due with Stone’s compliance on March 10, 2023. Our March 23, 2023 letter specifically requested one by March 30, 2023. To date, we have not received a privilege log.

Please provide full and complete responses to correct each of the Deficiencies in full by April 17, 2023. Stone’s full and immediate compliance may forestall the need to take more formal measures to compel full compliance.

Very truly yours,

Katherine Hagmann-Borenstein

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KHH/

cc: Joseph E. Gasser