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California Massage Schools Association

Request for Legislative Audit of CAMTC's Governance, Investigative Practices, Enforcement Procedures, and Regulatory Authority

For over three years, A2Z Health Massage School has been engaged in litigation with the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC), a private nonprofit organization that exercises extraordinary practical authority over California's massage therapy profession.
During this litigation, A2Z obtained multiple court injunctions against CAMTC. In June 2026, following a three-day contempt proceeding, the Sacramento Superior Court found **CAMTC in contempt of court beyond a reasonable doubt** for violating an injunction concerning A2Z graduates.

Yet despite these judicial findings, CAMTC revoked A2Z's school approval in April 2026, devastating a nearly 30-year educational institution. Hundreds of graduates have been affected, and many continue to face uncertainty about their professional futures.

How many court orders, affected graduates, and allegations of unequal treatment must accumulate before California legislators demand an independent examination of CAMTC?

Calling upon members of the California Legislature to request an independent audit through the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC).
Over a series of emails, we will examine specific aspects of CAMTC's conduct, its governance, its investigative and disciplinary procedures, and the absence of meaningful independent accountability. We invite legislators and stakeholders to examine the evidence and determine whether the safeguards promised to California's massage profession actually exist in practice.

THE A2Z INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE EXAMINED AS A CASE STUDY OF CAMTC'S REGULATORY PROCESS
CAMTC's investigation and revocation of A2Z be examined as a case study of its broader investigative and enforcement practices and whether the regulatory structure created by the Legislature contains adequate safeguards against unsupported findings, inconsistent procedures, discriminatory treatment, institutional bias, mismanagement, and failures of internal accountability.
The A2Z matter provides a documented record through which these safeguards can be meaningfully tested. The audit should examine whether CAMTC followed established procedures; whether its findings were supported by adequate and reliable evidence; whether material contrary evidence was provided to and considered by the hearing officers; whether investigative, enforcement, and adjudicative functions operated with appropriate independence; and whether CAMTC's governance structure provides meaningful oversight, accountability, and due-process protections for schools and applicants.

PART 1: ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT

The need for independent examination is further demonstrated by serious allegations that CAMTC's practices have disproportionately affected Asian and English-as-a-Second-Language applicants.

In 2024, **Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California**(AJSOCAL) filed litigation on behalf of Chinese and Thai massage therapy students alleging discriminatory treatment by CAMTC. The allegations included claims that Asian students were denied certification based upon perceived English-language deficiencies and were subjected to additional procedures.

Public criticism has continued. In July 2026, the Santa Barbara Independent published an opinion entitled **"Massage Therapist Certification Has an Anti-Asian Problem**," discussing allegations of discriminatory treatment and questioning whether an organization possessing CAMTC's practical gatekeeping authority has adequate transparency and checks upon its power.

Concerns about potential discriminatory treatment extend beyond certification applicants to CAMTC's own governance. Hanley Chan, a veteran and former law enforcement officer, publicly described his unsuccessful nomination to CAMTC's Board of Directors in an **article published by The Voice of San Francisco**, raising additional questions about transparency and fairness in CAMTC's Board selection process. According to Chan, he was the only Asian American nominee, was never interviewed, and was given no opportunity to present his qualifications before the Board selected a former member without public discussion. These allegations raise another important question for legislators: Does CAMTC apply transparent, objective, and equitable standards not only to the professionals it certifies, but also to the individuals seeking to participate in its governance?

We ask the Legislature to recognize that allegations extending beyond one school, involving a vulnerable and significant segment of the profession, are precisely the type of issue that warrants independent examination rather than internal self-review. **An audit should therefore examine CAMTC data concerning applicant interviews, education hearings, additional education requirements, application delays, denials, investigations, and certification outcomes to determine whether statistically significant disparities exist based on school, national origin, primary language, or other relevant demographic factors. The audit should also examine final denial letters issued to ESL applicants and evaluate whether the stated grounds for denial constitute legitimate, objective, and consistently applied bases for denying certification.**

THE TIME FOR INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT IS NOW

A2Z is not asking legislators to accept A2Z allegations without examination. A2Z is asking them to investigate. Examine A2Z records, CAMTC's records, the court proceedings, the disciplinary decisions, and the experiences of other affected applicants.

We respectfully urge California legislators to sponsor and submit a request to JLAC for an independent audit of CAMTC's governance, investigative practices, certification decisions, and treatment of schools and applicants.

The Legislature should not wait until another school is destroyed or another graduate spends years fighting for the opportunity to enter the profession.

COMING NEXT — PART 2: CAMTC'S HEARING PROCEDURES

Who investigates, who presents the accusations, who evaluates the evidence, and who makes the final decision? What happens when the hearing officers are

employees of the same organization pursuing the disciplinary action?
We will examine whether CAMTC's disciplinary process provides genuine independence, meaningful due process, and accountability.

Timeline of Key Events

• January 4, 2023 – CAMTC asked A2ZHealth to identify ESL graduates for interviews and hearings.
• September 7, 2023 – Superior Court granted a Preliminary Injunction prohibiting CAMTC from requiring A2ZHealth graduates to undergo education hearings or informal interviews as a condition of certification.
• September 21, 2023 – CAMTC placed A2ZHealth under investigation and ceased processing certification applications submitted by its graduates.
• October 22, 2024 – Superior Court granted a second Preliminary Injunction ordering CAMTC to end its investigation into A2ZHealth and resume processing graduates' certification applications.
• January 23, 2025 – CAMTC issued a Notice of investigation and notice of Proposed Revocation on the same day.
• April 24, 2026 – CAMTC issued its decision revoking A2ZHealth's school approval.
• April 27, 2026 – Superior Court conducted the three-day civil contempt trial.
• June 25, 2026 – Superior Court found CAMTC in contempt **beyond a reasonable doubt**

Supporting Court Documents

October 22, 2024 court Injunction
June 25, 2026 contempt ruling
Here are additional resources for your review:
AJSOCAL PRESS RELEASE
Article published by Santa Barbara Independent
AMTA Advocacy- State License
Healwell Podcast
Who Watches CAMTC?

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