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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
10 **FOR THE BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1006580

13 **COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE,**
14 **INC. (MAX CHEN - CEO, CFO, DIRECTOR)**
15 **DBA COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL**
16 **COLLEGE**
6303 Owensmouth Avenue, 10th Floor, Suite 996
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

ACCUSATION

17 **Approval to Operate Institution Code**
18 **No. 42058873**

Respondent.

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21
22 **PARTIES**

23 1. Deborah Cochrane (“Complainant”) brings this Accusation solely in her official
24 capacity as the Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (“Bureau”), Department
25 of Consumer Affairs.

26 2. On or about October 27, 2011, the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education issued
27 Approval to Operate Institution Code Number 42058873 to Columbia International College, Inc.
28 (“Respondent”), doing business as Columbia International College, of which Max Chen is the

1 CEO, CFO, and Director. Columbia International College was approved to offer degree programs
2 in Business Administration. The Approval to Operate was in full force and effect at all times
3 relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 19, 2023, unless renewed.

4 **JURISDICTION**

5 3. This Accusation is brought before the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs
6 (“Director”) for the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, under the authority of the
7 following laws. All section references are to the Education Code unless otherwise indicated.

8 4. Business and Professions Code section 118, subdivision (b), provides that the
9 suspension, expiration, surrender, or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Director of
10 jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may
11 be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.

12 5. Section 94875 provides that the Bureau shall regulate private postsecondary
13 educational institutions.

14 6. Section 94877 provides, in relevant part, that:

15 (a) The bureau shall adopt and shall enforce regulations to implement
16 this chapter pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5
17 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the
Government Code).

18 (b) The bureau shall develop and implement an enforcement program,
19 pursuant to Article 18 (commencing with Section 94932) to implement
this chapter. . . .

20 **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

21 7. California Code of Regulation, title 5, Division 7.5, section 75050, subdivision (b),
22 states, “Failure of an applicant or institution issued an approval to operate to abate the violation or
23 to pay the fine within the time allowed is a ground for denial or discipline of an approval to
24 operate.”

25 **COST RECOVERY**

26 8. Section 94937, subdivision (c), provides that the Bureau may seek reimbursement
27 costs of investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3.

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1 c. On or around August 2, 2020, the Bureau issued an Order Suspending Approval
2 to Operate Degree Granting Programs, case number 1006207, to Respondent with an effective date
3 of August 12, 2020. Respondent failed to cease advertising and offering degree programs.

4 d. On March 4, 2021, the Bureau issued Citation 2021201 for failure to cease
5 advertising and offering degree programs in violation of the Suspension Order and failure to pay
6 its 2020 Annual Fee and late payment penalty fees. Pursuant to the Order of Abatement in Citation
7 2021201, Respondent was required to abide by the Suspension Order, submit documentation and
8 information as outlined in the Suspension Order, and submit its 2020 Annual Fees and late
9 payment penalty fees. Citation 2021201 also required payment of an administrative fine in the
10 amount of \$50,000.00. To date, the Bureau has not received the payment of the administrative fine
11 or evidence of compliance with the Order of Abatement.

12 **PRAYER**

13 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
14 and that following the hearing, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs issue a
15 decision:

- 16 1. Revoking Approval to Operate Institution Code Number 42058873, issued to
17 Columbia International College, Inc.;
- 18 2. Ordering Columbia International College, Inc. to pay the Bureau for Private
19 Postsecondary Education the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case,
20 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,
- 21 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
- 22

23 "10/19/2021"
24 DATED: _____

23 "Original signature on file"
24 _____
25 DEBORAH COCHRANE
26 Chief
27 Bureau for Private Postsecondary
28 Education
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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