

# THE REBEL YELL

Issue: 11/03/2005

Section: News

[Print This](#) | [Close This](#)

## LSAT scam takes students' money

By: **Ryan Orr**

A Houston-based test preparation company is swindling law students into thinking that they are a more reputable LSAT preparation company based out of Santa Monica, Calif. with the same name.

TestMasters is a world-renowned company based out of Santa Monica that provides 80 hours of instruction, multiple textbooks, a toll-free helpline and instructors who have all scored in the top 1 percent of the Law School Admission Test. CEO Robin Singh, who created the company in 1991, has set a world record by receiving 12 perfect scores on the official LSAT.

But Test Masters, the Houston-based company, has been scheduling LSAT prep courses and canceling them at the last minute, leaving some students in an awkward position and often without a refund.

UNLV has been no exception.

On the Houston-based company's Web site, UNLV is listed as a destination for one of their classes. The first class was set to be 48 hours over four weekends starting Oct. 29 and ending Nov. 20.

Asmita, a receptionist from the Houston-based company who refused to give her last name, said that the UNLV class had been canceled because of lack of registration but they notified all students a week ahead of time.

Officials at the company did not return phone calls.

But she said the company was legitimate, having improved SAT scores since 1991.

The mix-up prompted the New York State Consumer Protection Board to issue a release Oct. 25 warning students about Test Masters. The board also requested the company refund the fees of 17 students in New York who mistakenly paid for the classes.

The real deception for the students who do sign up for the Houston LSAT prep courses, however, is the agreement that they sign.

The agreement states, "I am aware that there are other companies that have a name similar to Test Masters and that these other companies have no affiliation with us."

According to The New York State press release, Reeha Sinha, a 2005 graduate of Rutgers University who enrolled in the Test Masters course, said the agreement was used to make her waive her right to a refund.

The company charges \$1,299 for its regular classroom course.

The confusion between the two companies has been mainly caused by the Web site domain name.

The Houston-based company also started in 1991 and was able to secure testmasters.com before the California-based company, whose website is testmasters.net and testmasters180.com. The actual only difference in their formal titles is that the California-based company is TestMasters as one word and the Houston-based company in question is Test Masters with two words.

Also in the Consumer Protection Board press release, Pace University student Lorenzo Bologna said, "I saved all summer to pay for this. Basically I gave up everything I had and then found out I wasn't in the right class. I was kind of upset about that."

Test Masters been offering LSAT prep courses only since 2003.

Sharon Naim, the in-house council for the more reputable company said, she has received many complaints and testimonials from students who have been duped.

Naim said one student in New York who stayed in the Test Masters class said she got a lower score on her second LSAT that on her first.

"That rarely happens in our business," Naim said.

In another case in Washington D.C., Naim said the instructor who taught a class actually told the class that he had never taken the LSAT.

[[[Steven Savoy, the instructor in question, is listed on the Houston-based Web site as getting one of the highest scores on the SAT after attending their prep course, It also lists only his high school. It still does not explain why he was instructing an LSAT prep course.]]]

There is also a lawsuit pending that was filed by students in Washington D.C, after finding out the truth about the company that they had mistakenly signed up with.

There is another class listed on the Test Masters Web site that is supposedly going to take place at UNLV starting on Jan. 6.

Ebony Sullivan, a Boyd Law School receptionist, said he has never heard of or from the company. Companies that want to set up test preparation courses here have to rent out the rooms, and he said the only one that has done so through the UNLV law school is Kaplan.