

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Search

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Jayplay](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Tongue in Beak](#)
- [Photo Galleries](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [kansanApartments](#)
- [Campus Coupons](#)
- [Shop Local](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Feeds](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Search](#)

Test company tests students' patience

By [John Jordan](#)

Published: Wednesday, November 30, 2005

Students signing up for practice LSAT courses should be aware of who they are signing up with.

Seventeen students filed a complaint with the New York Consumer Protection Board about a company misusing a name to steal their business.

The students thought they were taking courses with TestMasters, a Santa Monica, Calif., company, but a man who had the world record with 12 perfect LSAT scores. Actually, they signed up with the Houston based Test Masters — with a space between the words.

The confusion comes from the companies' Web sites. The company the students wanted, Santa Monica based TestMasters Web site was www.testmasters.net or www.testmasters180.com. Houston based Test Masters has www.testmasters.com, a domain the company got to keep in the state of Texas after a lawsuit in 2003. The Santa Monica company has the rights in the 49 other states.

The students accuse the Houston-based company of canceling classes at the last minute, having unqualified instructors and not refunding their money after they realized they were in a different course.

Sharron Kaim, in-house legal counsel for Santa Monica's TestMasters, called the Houston based company's practice "the greatest scam in the world."

The University of Kansas' pre-law advising office has not heard any complaints about the company, said Wendy Rohleder-Sook, assistant director of the advising center and pre-law coordinator.

Houston based Test Masters is planning on a course in Manhattan on Dec. 18 and 19. The company could not confirm whether the class would happen. No students have signed up.

Dineil Diaz, a senior at Pace University in New York City, heard good things about the California based company. She went to www.testmasters.com and inadvertently signed up with Houston based Test Masters.

Diaz said during the third day of class, there was a "mutiny" when a student came into class and said all of them had been "duped." Twenty students dropped and enrolled with the Santa Monica company. Diaz said she couldn't change course because she had spent more than \$1,000 and couldn't afford to switch.

The Houston-based company also made Diaz sign a waiver saying she couldn't get a refund. After the course, she got the same score as when she took the diagnostic LSAT without the help of a

advertisement

Home	said she had not been able to get a refund or another course.
News	The waiver said there were other companies with similar names, but did not mention the Santa Monica company by TestMasters. The company has now changed the waiver to include the name.
Sports	
Opinion	"It's ridiculous," Diaz said. "I just got ripped off \$1,100. I wasted all that time."
Jayplay	
Features	She said she must take the LSAT later, and because of this she will miss the application deadline at schools.
Tongue in Beak	
Photo Galleries	These complaints are unfounded because students sign a waiver that acknowledges there are two companies operating under the name, said Jordan Brient a spokeswoman from the Houston-based company.
Videos	"They lost twice in court, and now they're trying to try it in the press," said Brient.
Archive	
Classifieds	Instructors from the Santa Monica-based company do not have to take an actual LSAT course, but the test administered by the company.
kansanApartments	
Campus Coupons	"These two companies should keep the best interests of these students in mind as they wait for them to resolve the question of who owns the 'Test Masters' name," said CPB Chairperson Teresa A. San Juan in a press release.
Shop Local	
Advertise	<i>Edited by Kellis Robinett</i>
Feeds	
Contact	
Search	

