

# AGENDA ITEM

**54-131 MAY 12 2016**

**DATE:** April 22, 2016

**TO:** Members, Admissions and Education Committee  
Members, Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Ricardo Goñi, Chair, Board of Legal Specialization  
Gayle Murphy, Senior Director  
Natalie Leonard, Director, Legal Specialization

**SUBJECT:** Report and Filing of the 2015 Annual Report – California Board of Legal Specialization

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached is a copy of the California Board of Legal Specialization's 2015 Annual Report. It would be appropriate for the Board of Trustees to receive and file the report.

---

## BACKGROUND

The California Board of Legal Specialization oversees the day-to-day operations of the program for certifying legal specialists. This program was authorized under California Rule of Court 9.35, and operates under rules adopted by the Board of Trustees.

The attached Annual Report is produced to inform the Board of Trustees, attorneys, and the public about the status of the program and the option of choosing a certified specialist.

## DISCUSSION

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization, covering Calendar 2015, is attached. It describes the statistics and accomplishments for the program achieved in Calendar 2015.

The program directly oversees the certification of specialists in eleven areas of law, and certifies attorneys in eleven additional areas of law through approved partners.

The Annual Report details the progress of each specialty, and sends appreciation to over one hundred subject matter expert attorney volunteers who work hard to administer the program throughout the year.

A number of highlights are included in the report including the successful implementation of a new reporting schedule for certified specialists that coincides with MCLE reporting, decreasing recordkeeping for both certified specialists and providers, and information concerning the

examination, which is administered every other year, was administered successfully in October of 2015. The pass rate for the examination rose 2.7 points to 75% this year.

The next examination is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2017.

The 2015 Annual Report will be placed on the State Bar's website for members of the public, current certified specialists, and future certified specialist candidates to learn more about the program.

**FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT**

None

**RULE AMENDMENTS**

None

**BOARD BOOK IMPACT**

None

**BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Admissions and Education Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees receive and accept the 2015 Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization.

**ATTACHMENT(S) LIST**

- A. 2015 Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization