



# The State Bar *of California*

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## **OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM IV.E. MARCH 2020**

**DATE:** March 9, 2020

**TO:** Members, California Board of Legal Specialization

**FROM:** Amy C. Nuñez, Director, Office of Admissions

**SUBJECT:** Discuss and Approve Standards for Determining the Creation of a New Specialty

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### **SUMMARY**

Staff provide the attached recommendations of the CBLS to update the Standards for Determining the Creation of a New Specialty (Attachment A).

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### **BACKGROUND**

The California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) is authorized to certify legal specialists, and may also recommend that the Board of Trustees approve other certifying organizations to certify specialists. In 2007, the State Bar approved a new specialty area through one of its approved certifying organizations. In 2008, the State Bar approved, and added, two new specialty areas to its Legal Specialization Program. In 2009, the CBLS then adopted the Standards for Determining the Creation of a New Specialty (Standards) as a tool to assist when considering new specialty areas.

### **DISCUSSION**

In 2019, the State Bar received interest for new specialty areas by certifying organizations. The CBLS utilized the Standards to review those applications, and at the February 5, 2020 teleconference, the CBLS recommended changes to update the Standards. Those changes to the Standards are attached as Attachment A.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**It is recommended that the California Board of Legal Specialization approve the following motion:**

**MOVE**, that changes to the Standards for Determining the Creation of a New Specialty, summarized on Attachment A, be approved and adopted effective immediately.

## **ATTACHMENT (S) LIST**

- A.** Redline Standards for Determining the Creation of a New Specialty (adopted by the CBLS on 9/10/2009)