

AGENDA ITEM

54-134 MAY 2013

DATE: April 22, 2013

TO: Members, Member Oversight Committee
Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: David E. Holmes, Chair, California Board of Legal Specialization
Gayle Murphy, Senior Director, Admissions
Natalie Leonard, Director, Legal Specialization

SUBJECT: California Board of Legal Specialization Annual Report – Report and Filing with the California Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Rule 9.35, California Rules of Court, the State Bar of California is charged with administering a program for certifying legal specialists under rules adopted by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California. The Annual Report provides an overview of the program, defines program activities and identifies problem areas. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the Annual Report is submitted to the California Supreme Court in compliance with section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists* and is intended to aid the Court in its continued review of the Legal Specialization Program.

Board members with questions regarding this item may contact Gayle Murphy at (415)538-2322; gayle.murphy@calbar.ca.gov or Natalie Leonard at (415) 538-2118; natalie.leonard@calbar.ca.gov.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Rule 9.35, California Rules of Court, the State Bar of California is charged with administering a program for certifying legal specialists under rules adopted by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California. The Annual Report provides an overview of the program, defines program activities and identifies problem areas. It is submitted to the California Supreme Court in compliance with section 21.0 of the Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists and is intended to aid the Court in its continued review of the Legal Specialization Program.

ISSUE

Whether the Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization, which covers the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, should be approved by the Board of Trustees for transmittal to the California Supreme Court.

CONCLUSION

The California Board of Legal Specialization recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the report for transmittal to the Supreme Court.

DISCUSSION

The 26th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization, which covers the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, is an attachment to this agenda item. Pursuant to Rule 9.35, California Rules of Court, the State Bar of California is charged with administering a program for certifying legal specialists under rules adopted by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California. The Annual Report provides an overview of the program, defines program activities and identifies problem areas. It is submitted to the California Supreme Court in compliance with section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists* and is intended to aid the Court in its continued review of the Legal Specialization Program.

The California Board of Legal Specialization approved the report during its February 2013 meeting for transmittal to the Board of Trustees and its approval. If approved, the State Bar of California's Office of General Counsel will file it with the California Supreme Court.

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

None

RULE AMENDMENTS:

None

BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION

In order that the report may be sent to the California Supreme Court as required, it is recommended that the Board Committee on Member Oversight recommend approval of

the report by the Board of Trustees.

PROPOSED BOARD COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Should the Member Oversight Committee agree with the above recommendation, the following resolution would be appropriate:

RESOLVED, that the Member Oversight Committee recommends that the Board approve the 25th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, and that the report be transmitted to the California Supreme Court as required by section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists*.

PROPOSED BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION:

Should the Board concur with the Member Oversight Committee's recommendation, the following resolution would be in order:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Member Oversight Committee, the Board hereby approves the 25th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, and directs that the report be transmitted to the California Supreme Court as required by section 21.0 of the *Rules Governing the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists*.