

# AGENDA ITEM

54-134 MAY 9 2014

**DATE:** April 25, 2014

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

**FROM:** Gayle Murphy, Senior Director, Admissions  
Natalie Leonard, Director, Admissions  
Bryan Hartnell, Chair, California Board of Legal Specialization

**SUBJECT:** Report and Filing with the California Supreme Court of the  
27<sup>th</sup> Legal Specialization Annual Report

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## 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 for calendar year 2013. 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 that were in effect in 2013. The Annual Report 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](mailto:gayle.murphy@calbar.ca.gov) or Natalie Leonard at (415) 538-2118; [natalie.leonard@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:natalie.leonard@calbar.ca.gov).

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## 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.

Note that effective January 1, 2014, after a period of public comment, new rules went into effect, and the new rules do not contain this requirement for future years.

## **ISSUE**

Whether the Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization, which covers the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, 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 27th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization, which covers the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, is attached 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 to be 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 this Annual Report during its April 2014 meeting for transmittal to the Board of Trustees for 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 this report to 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 27th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, 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 27th Annual Report of the California Board of Legal Specialization for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, 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*.