

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

IV.B. NOVEMBER 2018

DATE: November 30, 2018

TO: Members, California Board of Legal Specialization

FROM: Amy C. Nuñez, Director, Admissions

**SUBJECT: UPDATE OF 2015 AND 2017 LEGAL SPECIALIST EXAMINATIONS
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT POST-EXAMINATION STATUS METRICS**

SUMMARY

As of November 1, 2018, a total of 78.5% of the candidates for certification who passed the 2015 Legal Specialist Examination (LSX) have filed their post-examination applications. The remaining candidates must do so by January 31, 2019.

A total of 38.4% of the candidates for certification who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications as of November 1, 2018, after being notified of their pass status on or about March 15, 2018. The remaining candidates must do so by January 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND

Certification as a specialist is a two-part process. Candidates begin the certification process by successfully passing the Legal Specialist Examination. Next, candidates must file a post-examination application for initial certification documenting experience, education and references, and they must do so within three years and three months of the original examination date.

Because examination results expire after that date, candidates who fail to file their post-examination applications by the extension deadline must take and pass the examination again in order to continue with their candidacy for certification.

DISCUSSION

2015 Successful Examination Candidates

As of November 1, 2018, 434 of 553 (78.5%) candidates who passed the 2015 LSX have filed their post-examination applications. Attachment A details the breakdown of the remaining candidates who have not yet filed their post-examination applications.

2017 Successful Examination Candidates

Results letters for the 2017 Legal Specialist Examination were mailed March 15, 2018.

As of November 1, 2018, 270 of 704 (38.4%) candidates who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications. Attachment B provides a breakdown of those candidates by specialty area. Notably, family and estate have received the most post-examination applications from 2017 LSX candidates.

Remaining candidates must file their post-examination application by April 24, 2019, or they may request an extension of time to submit their application by January 31, 2021. The most common reason requested for an extension is to accumulate the minimum five years' time in practice required to become a certified specialist. Candidates are allowed to submit their applications before they meet the five year time-in-practice requirement so that other portions of the application can be evaluated until that requirement is met.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLVED, that the report regarding the 2015 and 2017 Legal Specialist Examinations Successful Applicant Post-Examination Status Metrics is received and filed.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. 2015 Post-Examination Applications Filed by Specialty as of November 1, 2018
- B. 2017 Post-Examination Applications Filed by Specialty as of November 1, 2018

Status of 2015 Post-Examination Applications as of November 1, 2018

				"Have Not Filed" Breakdown		
<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Total 2015</u>	<u>Filed Post-Exam</u>	<u>Have Not Filed</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Do not</u>
	<u>Candidates Who</u>		<u>Post-Examination</u>	<u>Extension to</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Intend to</u>
	<u>Passed</u>					
	<u>Examination</u>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Application</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Extension to</u>	<u>Continue</u>
Admiralty & Maritime Law	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appellate Law	50	32	18	17	0	1
Bankruptcy Law	20	18	2	2	0	0
Criminal Law	38	26	12	12	0	0
Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law	108	97	11	8	2	1
Family Law	153	119	34	34	0	0
Franchise & Distribution Law	3	3	0	0	0	0
Immigration & Nationality Law	30	21	9	9	0	0
Legal Malpractice Law	19	15	4	4	0	0
Taxation Law	24	19	5	5	0	0
Workers' Compensation Law	108	84	24	20	4	0
Total	553	434	119	111	6	2

*Note that the deadline to request an extension was April 2017. Staff continues to contact these applicants over time.

Status of 2017 Post-Examination Applications as of November 1, 2018

				"Have Not Filed" Breakdown		
<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Total 2017 Candidates Who Passed Examination</u>	<u>Filed Post-Exam Application</u>	<u>Have Not Filed Post-Examination Application</u>	<u>Approved Extension to File</u>	<u>No Approved Extension to File (Due April 2019)</u>	<u>Do not Intend to Continue</u>
Admiralty & Maritime Law	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appellate Law	40	10	30	0	30	0
Bankruptcy Law	20	6	14	0	14	0
Criminal Law	47	15	32	0	32	0
Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law	145	73	72	1	71	0
Family Law	201	93	108	6	102	0
Franchise & Distribution Law	5	1	4	0	4	0
Immigration & Nationality Law	42	14	28	1	27	0
Legal Malpractice Law	22	13	9	0	9	0
Taxation Law	30	12	18	0	18	0
Workers' Compensation Law	152	33	119	1	118	0
Total	704	270	434	9	425	0

*Note that no extension is needed until April 2019. Staff will contact these applicants over time.