



# The State Bar *of California*

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**OPEN SESSION  
AGENDA ITEM  
III.B. FEBRUARY 2019**

**DATE:** February 11, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT:** LEGAL SPECIALIST EXAMINATION SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT POST-EXAMINATION STATUS METRICS

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## **SUMMARY**

As of February 1, 2019, a total of 80.1% of the candidates for certification who passed the 2015 Legal Specialist Examination (LSX) have filed their post-examination applications. The final filing deadline of January 31, 2019 has passed.

A total of 43.2% of the candidates for certification who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications as of February 1, 2019. The remaining candidates must do so by January 31, 2021.

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## **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.

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## DISCUSSION

### 2015 Successful Examination Candidates

As of the final filing deadline of January 31, 2019, 445 of 553 (80.1%) 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. Of the remaining 108 applicants who did not submit their post examination application, two (0.4%) have withdrawn from consideration.

Although the January 31 filing deadline has passed, it is recommended that the remaining candidates be granted a one-time extension to March 31, 2019 to file their post-examination application. This recommendation is pursuant to Rule 3.118(A) of the Legal Specialization rules which states, "The Board may waive or permit modification of a certification requirement."

### 2017 Successful Examination Candidates

As of February 1, 2019, 304 of 704 (43.2%) 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 workers' compensation 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.

## RECOMMENDATION

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

**MOVE**, that an extension of time until March 31, 2019 be granted to those candidates who passed the 2015 Legal Specialist Examination who have not yet filed their post-examination applications; and

**FURTHER MOVE**, 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 February 1, 2019
- B.** 2017 Post-Examination Applications Filed by Specialty as of February 1, 2019