



# The State Bar *of California*

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

**DATE:** March 29, 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 March 1, 2019, a total of 87.7% 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. However, at its last meeting, the CBLS approved an extension of time to May 31, 2019 for successful applicants to submit their applications.

A total of 45% of the candidates for certification who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications as of March 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 March 1, 2019, 485 of 553 (87.7%) candidates who passed the 2015 LSX have filed their post-examination applications, which includes 40 from applicants who submitted since announcing the extended deadline. Attachment A details the breakdown of the remaining candidates who have not yet filed their post-examination applications. Of the remaining 68 applicants who did not submit their post examination application, two (0.4%) have withdrawn from consideration.

### **2017 Successful Examination Candidates**

As of March 1, 2019, 317 of 704 (45%) candidates who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications. Attachment B provides a breakdown of those candidates by specialty area. Notably, estate planning, trust & probate and family 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 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 March 1, 2019
- B.** 2017 Post-Examination Applications Filed by Specialty as of March 1, 2019