



# The State Bar *of California*

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## **OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM III.B. JUNE 2019**

**DATE:** June 10, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Report on Legal Specialist Examination Post-Examination Application Statuses

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### **SUMMARY**

As of June 1, 2019, a total of 88.6 percent of the candidates for certification who passed the 2015 Legal Specialist Examination (LSX) have filed their post-examination applications. The extended filing deadline of May 31, 2019 has passed.

A total of 65.2 percent of the candidates for certification who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications as of June 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.

### **DISCUSSION**

2015 Successful Examination Candidates

As of June 1, 2019, 490 of the 553 candidates who passed the 2015 LSX have filed their post-examination applications, which includes 45 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. The remaining 63 applicants who did not submit their post examination application will have to retake the LSX if they wish to continue the certification process.

#### 2017 Successful Examination Candidates

As of June 1, 2019, 459 of the 704 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, accounting for more than half of the total received applications.

Remaining candidates had until April 24, 2019 to submit their post-examination application, unless an extension of time to submit their application by January 31, 2021 had been granted. Of the 245 candidates pending filing of the post-examination application, 27 have not yet received an extension. 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 June 1, 2019
- B.** 2017 Post-Examination Applications Filed by Specialty as of June 1, 2019