



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

IV.B. DECEMBER 2019

DATE: December 9, 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

SUMMARY

A total of 71.2 percent of the candidates for certification who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications as of December 1, 2019. 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

2017 Successful Examination Candidates

As of December 1, 2019, 501 of the 704 candidates who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their post-examination applications. Attachment A provides a breakdown of those candidates by specialty area. Notably, Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law and Family Law 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 203 candidates pending filing of the post-examination application, 20 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.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

A. 2017 Post-Examination Applications Filed by Specialty as of December 1, 2019