



The State Bar  
*of California*

## California Board of Legal Specialization 2020 Work Plan

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### Charge:

**The California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) is composed of seven members appointed by the Board of Trustees. The charge of the CBLS is as follows:**

- Establish a program to encourage attorney competence by certifying as legal specialists attorneys who have demonstrated proficiency in specified areas of law.
- Develop testing and legal education criteria for specialists.
- Recommend program rules and provide policies and guidelines for certification of specialists.
- Recommend approval of additional areas of legal specialization and their related certification standards.
- Recommend other entities to grant certification.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL & OBJECTIVE	WORK PLAN	DEADLINE	TO BOARD COMMITTEE (Y/N) / DATE
Goal 1, Objective b: Implement and pursue governance, composition, and operations reforms needed to ensure that the Board's structure and processes optimally align with the State Bar's public protection mission.	Create Legal Specialization Working Groups to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recommendations to Staff regarding certification and recertification applications; and</li> <li>• the final review of the Legal Specialist Examination.</li> </ul>	Ongoing - February 2020	
Goal 1, Successfully transition to the "new State Bar"-an agency focused on public protection, regulating the legal profession, and promoting access to justice.  Goal 4, Objective b: Study and implement improved programmatic approaches to increasing access to justice.	Re-examine guidelines applied when evaluating proposals for expanding certification areas, outside of the State Bar's current offerings, with a focus on public protection, regulating the legal profession and promoting access to justice.	Ongoing	
Goal 4, Objective i: No later than December 31, 2019, identify ways that diversity and inclusion principles can be institutionalized in Bar exam development and grading analyses and implement these practices no later than December 31, 2020.	Finish grading of the 2019 Legal Specialist Examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send results to the 526 applicants.</li> <li>• Work with Psychometrician in reviewing data from grading pilot program, and providing analyses to assist in development of future grading processes.</li> </ul> Procure examination item banking solution to increase the security and efficiency of Legal Specialist Examination development.	March 2020 September 2020	

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Goal 1, Objective b: Implement and pursue governance, composition, and operations reforms needed to ensure that the Board's structure and processes optimally align with the State Bar's public protection mission.	Create procedure to ensure that specialists who no longer hold certification have removed the designation from their materials.	Ongoing	