



# The State Bar *of California*

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## **OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM IV.B. MARCH 2020**

**DATE:** March 9, 2020

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Report on Eligible Applicant Initial Certification Application Statuses

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### **SUMMARY**

A total of 73.3 percent of the applicants who passed the 2017 LSX have filed their initial certification application as of March 1, 2020. The remaining eligible applicants must do so by January 31, 2021.

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### **BACKGROUND**

To receive initial certification as a specialist is a two-part process. Applicants must first pass the Legal Specialist Examination. Only then do they become eligible to 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 amount of time has lapsed, applicants who fail to file their initial certification applications by the extension deadline must take and pass the examination again in order to continue with their eligibility for certification.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **2017 Successful Examination Applicants**

As of March 1, 2020, 516 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 initial certification applications from 2017 LSX eligible applicants, 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 188 candidates pending filing of the post-examination application, 23 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 March 1, 2020**