



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

IV.E. SEPTEMBER 2020

DATE: September 14, 2020

TO: Members, California Board of Legal Specialization

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

SUBJECT: Approval of Annual Certification Revocations for Failure to Pay the 2020 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee

SUMMARY

Staff provide the attached recommendations for revocation of certification for failure to pay the 2020 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee (Attachment A).

BACKGROUND

Program rules require certified specialists to make timely payments of required fees, and failure to pay may result in suspension of certification.

The State Bar program for certifying legal specialists is entirely self-funded, and all fees support the testing, review, and public protection functions for consumers. Program fees include the legal specialization annual fee, which is due at the same time as general State Bar dues, February 1 of each year. Specialists who fail to pay their annual dues (general or legal specialization) by February 1, become subject to a late fee. Attorneys, and specialists, who fail to pay their general bar dues by the final payment deadline of July 1 have their licenses suspended administratively for failure to pay dues.

Reminders have been sent to specialists via email prior to the original and final deadline. As of September 1, 2020, 67 certified specialists still have a remaining balance related to their legal specialization program annual dues.

DISCUSSION

Due to the changing closures and restrictions related to COVID-19, the July 1, 2020 deadline was extended to September 30, 2020. Attachment A lists certified specialists who were due to remit payment of the 2020 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee as of September 1, 2020, but still have a balance remaining and did not otherwise respond to any of Staff's communications. The following table provides a breakdown of those specialists by specialty area.

Specialty Area	# of Specialists Pending 2020 Legal Specialization Annual Fee
Admiralty & Maritime Law	-
Appellate Law	4
Bankruptcy Law	2
Criminal Law	9
Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law	13
Family Law	15
Franchise & Distribution Law	-
Immigration & Nationality Law	1
Legal Malpractice Law	9
Taxation Law	3
Workers' Compensation Law	11

Staff requests permission to send a final notice (via email and by mail) after the extended deadline, informing these certified specialists that if they do not remit payment of their balance, their certificate of specialization will be revoked. This would be consistent with past CBLS action taken with certified specialists who failed to pay the program annual dues.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the California Board of Legal Specialization approve the following motion:

MOVE, that those certified specialists listed on Attachment A are revoked for failure to pay legal specialization annual dues if no response to a final communication is received within thirty days.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. List of certified specialists who did not pay the 2020 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee as of September 1, 2020