



The State Bar
of California

California Board of Legal Specialization ~~2020-2021~~ Work Plan

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"> • recommendations to Staff regarding certification and recertification applications; and • the final review of the Legal Specialist Examination. 	Ongoing	Yes
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. <u>Determine need for CBLS New Specialty Area Liaisons.</u>	Ongoing/ <u>Constant Review</u>	Yes
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.	Work with Psychometrician in reviewing data from grading pilot program, and providing analyses to assist in development of future grading processes. Procure examination item banking solution to increase the security and efficiency of Legal Specialist Examination development.	Ongoing	Yes
Goal 1, Objective b: Implement and pursue governance, composition, and operations reforms needed to ensure that the Board's structure and	Create procedure to ensure that specialists who no longer hold certification have removed the designation from their materials.	Ongoing	No <u>Yes</u>

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processes optimally align with the State Bar's public protection mission.	<u>Draft updated Standards to include enforcement and consequence for failure to appropriately remove designation/references to specialization.</u>		
<u>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.</u>	<u>Establish contingency plan to administer the 2021 Legal Specialist Examination in largely remote format.</u> <u>Research outreach opportunities to promote the LSX and encourage registration(s).</u>	<u>September 2021</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Goal 5: Proactively inform and educate all stakeholders, but particularly the public, about the State Bar's responsibilities, initiatives, and resources.</u>	<u>Explore marketing opportunities to:</u> <u>1. provide information to/educate the public to increase awareness and the importance of the legal specialization program; and</u> <u>2. prospective licensees to join the program.</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>No</u>

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