



# The State Bar of California

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## CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION OPEN MEETING MINUTES

**The State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105  
Friday, September 18, 2020, 10:08 a.m. – 11:54 a.m.**

A meeting of the California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLs) was convened on Friday, September 18, 2020 at 10:08 a.m. in open session with Chair Aurelio Torre presiding.

The following members of the CBLs were present: Norma L. Acosta, Jeffrey T. Hammerschmidt, Robert Hershenson, Mark A. Lester, Avi Levy, Aurelio Torre, and Natalie P. Vance.

The following State Bar staff members were present: Amy C. Nuñez, Director; Audrey Ching, Assistant Director; Kenneth Holloway, Attorney; Adrian Galang, Program Analyst; Janelle Delacruz, Program Specialist; Ana Moreno, Program Specialist; and Patricia Salazar, Program Specialist.

### **I. INFORMATION**

1. Chair Torre welcomed CBLs and staff. Chair Torre also welcomed member of the public, Jake Yoon, who was recently appointed to the CBLs and will be joining in the 2020-2021 State Bar year.
2. Audrey Ching gave reports on the status of:
  - a. several pending State Bar activities, including updates in response to COVID-19 on:
    - the State Bar operations; and
    - updates to the June First Year Law Student's Examination and July California Bar Examination; and
  - b. several legal specialization program key indicators, including updates on:
    - the Legal Specialization budget and staffing changes; and

- program participant compliance with the program requirements.
- 3. Adrian Galang gave reports on the status of:
  - a. progress on several CBLS 2020 Work Plan Initiatives;
  - b. planning for a Legal Specialist Examination item banking solution; and
  - c. the number of applicants that passed the 2017 and 2019 Legal Specialist Examinations that have not yet applied for initial certification.
- 4. Ana Moreno gave a report on the status of creating a procedure to ensure past specialists do not misrepresent themselves as current or active specialists.

## II. CONSENT

1. **Action taken:** Upon motion made, seconded and adopted, the June 5, 2020 CBLS open meeting minutes was approved.

Moved by Lester, Seconded by Hammerschmidt

Yes – Hammerschmidt, Hershenson, Lester, Levy, Torre, Vance

No – N/A

Abstain – Acosta

Motion passes.

## III. ACTION

1. **Action taken:** Upon motion made, seconded and adopted, the recommendation of staff regarding the certification of certified specialists was denied.

Moved by Vance, Seconded by Torre

Yes – N/A

No – Acosta, Hammerschmidt, Hershenson, Lester, Levy, Torre, Vance

Abstain – N/A

Motion is lost.

2. **Action taken:** Upon motion made, seconded and adopted, the denial of certifications failure to comply with a material requirement of the Legal Specialization Rules or any relevant standard was approved.

Moved by Torre, Seconded by Hammerschmidt

Yes – Acosta, Lester, Levy, Torre, Vance

No – Hammerschmidt and Hershenson

Abstain – N/A

Motion passes.

3. **Action taken:** Upon motion made, seconded and adopted, that State Bar staff update the (1) Legal Specialization website and (2) the internal process for specialists up for revocation was approved.

Moved by Lester, Seconded by Acosta

Yes – Acosta, Hammerschmidt, Hershenson, Lester, Levy, Torre, Vance

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Motion passes.

4. **Action taken:** Upon joint motion made, seconded and adopted, the recommendation of staff regarding (1) the annual revocation of specialists who have not paid their 2020 Legal Specialization Annual Fee and (2) the annual revocation of CLE Group 3 specialists who have not complied with the 2020 LSCLE reporting requirement were denied.

Moved by Lester, Seconded by Acosta

Yes – N/A

No – Acosta, Hammerschmidt, Hershenson, Lester, Levy, Torre, Vance

Abstain – N/A

Motion is lost.

Seeing no other business, Chair Torre called the open session meeting to a close at 11:54 a.m. and the group convened into closed session.

At the conclusion of closed session, the group reconvened into open session, and the meeting was immediately adjourned at 12:20 p.m.