



# The State Bar *of California*

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## **OPEN SESSION**

## **AGENDA ITEM**

## **IV.D. DECEMBER 2020**

**DATE:** December 7, 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

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## **SUMMARY**

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

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## **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, and a final 30-day notice was sent October 20, 2020. As of December 1, 2020, 15 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, and as of December 1, 2020 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	2
Bankruptcy Law	-
Criminal Law	3
Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law	1
Family Law	4
Franchise & Distribution Law	-
Immigration & Nationality Law	-
Legal Malpractice Law	1
Taxation Law	1
Workers' Compensation Law	3

All specialists above have been sent a final 30-day notice by both electronic and physical mailing to submit payment. Staff requests permission to close these certification records and send notice (again by email and by physical letter) informing these specialists that their certificate of specialization will now 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.

## ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

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