



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM IV.A. MARCH 2021

DATE: March 1, 2021

TO: Members, California Board of Legal Specialization

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

SUBJECT: Report on Financial and Operational Key Indicators

SUMMARY

A report on financial and operational key indicators is attached for consideration during the March 2021 California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) meeting.

BACKGROUND

The CBLS is provided with key operational indicators at each meeting to assist with program oversight.

DISCUSSION

Year-to-Date Financial Report

The 2021 State Bar-wide budget indicates that expenditures are in line with projections (Attachment A). The Legal Specialization budget for 2021 demonstrates a slight revenue increase (0.3 percent) when compared to the 2020 projected budget (the State Bar has not yet closed the 2020 Budget). Nonetheless, based on budgeted 2021 revenue compared to expenses, there is an expected overall \$1,053,597 negative change in current net position.

Total Number of Certified Specialists

As of March 1, 2021, there are 5,008 current certified specialists, a decrease of 4 certified specialists versus the same time last year (Attachment B). Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law

and Family Law saw the largest increases, with an increase of 31 new specialists between the two areas. Six areas saw decreases, but Workers' Compensation Law had the only double-digit decrease, with a decrease of 14 total specialists in the last year.

Total Number of Resignations by Reason

There have been 66 resignations of certificates of specialization through March 1, 2021 versus 136 in totality last year, and 160 in 2019 (Attachment C). Nearly half of the 2021 resignations are due to specialists retiring (33), and staff anticipate this number to increase throughout the year. However, the total number of resignations seems to be comparable to the previous two years.

Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education (LSCLE) Compliance Reporting

When 2020 Compliance Group 3 reporting opened, there were a total 1,949 specialists (including dual specialists) with outstanding LSCLE compliance (Attachment D). The reporting period for Compliance Group 3 ended on February 1, 2020, however, at its December meeting the CBLS did not approve annual LSCLE revocations for 2020 and directed Staff to call pending specialists. As of March 1, 2021, 62 (3.2 percent) of those specialists remain outstanding on their LSCLE compliance. Compliance statistics by specialty area are noted in the attachment.

Staff provides a recommendation of annual revocations for failure to comply with the LSCLE requirement, to be discussed for approval as a part of Open Session Item IV.E.

2021 Compliance Group 2 reporting opened on December 1, 2020, and there were a total of 1,397 specialists (including dual specialists) who were due to report LSCLE compliance by February 1, 2021 (Attachment E). The MCLE/LSCLE deadline has now been extended to June 30, 2021. As of March 1, 2021, there are 643 specialists (46.0 percent) in Compliance Group 2 still pending LSCLE Compliance reporting. Staff will be sending a reminder to those specialists notifying them of the extension date.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. 2021 State Bar Budget
- B. Total Number of Certified Specialists as of March 1, 2021
- C. Total Number of Resignations by Reason, 2019 and 2020 Annual v 2021 Year to Date
- D. Total Number of Certified Specialists in Compliance Group 3
- E. Total Number of Certified Specialists in Compliance Group 2