



The State Bar
of California

**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION
2021 WORK PLAN**

Charge:

The California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) is comprised 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
<p>Goal 1, Successfully transition to the “new State Bar”—an agency focused on public protection, regulating the legal profession, and promoting access to justice.</p> <p>Goal 4, Objective b: Study and implement improved programmatic approaches to increasing access to justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reexamine 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. • Determine need for CBLS New Specialty Area Liaisons. 	Ongoing/ Constant Review	Yes
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Exam development. 	Ongoing	Yes
<p>Goal 1, Objective b: Implement and pursue governance, composition, and operations reforms needed to ensure that the Board's structure and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create procedure to ensure that specialists who no longer hold certification have removed the designation from their materials. 	Ongoing	Yes

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processes optimally align with the State Bar's public protection mission.	Draft updated Standards to include enforcement and consequence for failure to appropriately remove designation/references to specialization.		
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.	<p>Establish contingency plan to administer the 2021 Legal Specialist Examination (LSX) in largely remote format.</p> <p>Research outreach opportunities to promote the LSX and encourage registration(s).</p>	September 2021	Yes
Goal 5: Proactively inform and educate all stakeholders, but particularly the public, about the State Bar's responsibilities, initiatives, and resources.	<p>Explore marketing opportunities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide information to/educate the public to increase awareness and the importance of the legal specialization program; and 2. prospective licensees to join the program 	Ongoing	No