



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

IV.E. DECEMBER 2021

DATE: December 17, 2021

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 2021 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee

SUMMARY

Staff provide the attached recommendations for revocation of certification for failure to pay the 2021 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee (Attachment A).

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. At the September meeting, the CBLS continued annual revocations. Staff has since sent an electronic letter, physical letter, and called all pending specialists. As of December 1, 2021, 29 certified

specialists still have a remaining balance related to their legal specialization program annual dues.

DISCUSSION

Attachment A lists certified specialists who were due to remit payment of the 2021 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee, and as of December 1, 2021 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 2021 Legal Specialization Annual Fee
Admiralty & Maritime Law	1
Appellate Law	4
Bankruptcy Law	2
Criminal Law	1
Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law	1
Family Law	5
Franchise & Distribution Law	2
Immigration & Nationality Law	1
Legal Malpractice Law	1
Taxation Law	3
Workers' Compensation Law	8

Staff requests permission to close these certification records and send notice (by email and by physical letter) informing these specialists that their certificate of specialization will be revoked if payment is not received within 30 days of the letter. 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 2021 legal specialization annual dues.

ATTACHMENT LIST

- A. List of certified specialists who did not pay the 2021 Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee as of December 1, 2021