



## LEGAL SPECIALIZATION APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION

### When is my application due?

The application is due on or before the end of your current certification term. Applications may be submitted in advance but no earlier than six months prior to the end of your term. You can find your current certification term by going to [Specialization Certifications](#) after successfully logging into the [Admissions Applicant Portal](#).

### Have I included the correct fee?

A \$350\* processing fee, payable either via check or credit card to the State Bar of California, is due with the application.

### What happens if I don't fill out my application correctly?

If your application is incomplete or if any information provided is insufficient, you will receive notice to correct the deficiency. If you fail to correct the deficiency within 60 days from the date of the notice, the application shall be deemed withdrawn without a refund of the fee. We may request additional or supplemental nonconfidential information in order to show compliance with recertification requirements.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

### APPLICATION FORM

#### Personal Information

Enter your official State Bar name and address of record. This is the information that appears in State Bar Licensee Records. Use the State Bar's [Attorney Search](#) to verify the information is current. If the information is not current, you must update your information pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6002.1, through [My State Bar Profile](#).

**Please be aware that all correspondence will be sent to you at your official address of record registered in the Applicant Portal.**

## Discipline

Section 3.113 of the Rules provides that the California Board of Legal Specialization may take the following into account in considering your application:

**Final disciplinary actions** imposed for professional misconduct by any court or body before whom you appear. Include: (1) title of disciplinary action; (2) action number; (3) nature of charge; (4) nature of sanction; (5) date sanction was imposed; and (6) date sanction was terminated. For nonattorney professional discipline (e.g., accountancy), provide information similar to above.

**Felony convictions.** Provide the case number, title, date of conviction, and where it was filed.

**Resignation** from any State Bar, court, or body before whom you appear. Provide the name of the entity, the effective resignation date, and the reason.

**Judgments of professional negligence.** Include only if there were three or more judgments against you during the certification term. Provide the case number, title, date judgment was rendered, and where it was filed.

**Sanctions.** Include only sanctions, other than discovery sanctions, of \$1,000 or more. Provide a copy of the order.

**Findings of contempt.** Provide a copy of the findings.

## ATTACHMENTS

### A. Task and Experience Requirement

Refer to the Standards for your specialty area for the specific requirements.

### B. Education Requirement

**Note that you do not need to submit any education with this application. Your Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education (LSCLE) is reported along with your MCLE Compliance Group, rather than as a part of this packet.** For additional information regarding LSCLE reporting, please review the [MCLE Requirements for Certified Specialists](#).

### C. References

When listing a reference, please include the attorney's bar number. Use the [Attorney Search](#) to find an attorney(s) or judge's bar number.

## CHECKLIST

Have you:

- Read the declaration?
- Provided all information requested on the application and attachments?
- Signed and dated the application?
- Attached additional sheets if you needed more space?
- Put your name on the top of all attachments?
- Made copies for your records?
- Enclosed a check/payment information for the appropriate recertification fee\*?

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### Mail to:

The State Bar of California  
Legal Specialization  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

### Fax to:

415-538-2180

## RESOURCES

- Please refer to the Standards for your specialty area as you complete the application and attachments.
- The Rules, Standards, and list of approved legal specialization education providers are available [online](#) at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/>.
- All California licensees already have an account on the Applicant Portal, which is separate from your login credentials for My State Bar Profile. You should not create or register a new applicant portal account. Please see our [Applicant Portal FAQs](#) or let us know by emailing us at [legalspec@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:legalspec@calbar.ca.gov) if you have any questions or need assistance logging in.

*All unsuccessful payments will be assessed and administrative fee equal to the amount charged by the State Bar's banking institution or \$20, whichever is greater*

*For credit card payments, a processing fee of 2.5 percent will be added to all charges. There is no processing fee associated with payments by check.*



**APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION  
Appellate Law Certified Specialist**

Filing Fee - \$350\*

*\*You may submit payment via check or credit card.*

*Note the recertification fee is separate from your Legal Specialization Program Annual Fee.*

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

It is your responsibility to inform the Legal Specialization Unit in the Division of Regulation of any address changes. All correspondence will be sent to the current information on file in the Admissions Applicant Portal. **We will update your email to the email provided below.** However, you may also change your address, email and/or telephone number on your own by logging into the [Admissions Applicant Portal](#) and updating your profile.

**NOTE:** The Applicant Portal is separate from your My State Bar Profile, and requires different login credentials. You should not create or register a new account. Please email Legal Specialization at [legalspec@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:legalspec@calbar.ca.gov) for assistance logging into your account.

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY**

At the time of applying for recertifying, I am an active licensee of the State Bar of California.

Yes     No    **IF NO, STOP HERE. YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.**

**PRACTICE REQUIREMENT**

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I have been engaged in the practice of appellate law for at least 25 percent of the time spent in my occupational endeavors during the previous five years.

Yes     No    **IF NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN ON A SEPARATE SHEET AND ATTACH TO THIS APPLICATION**

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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The following is a complete statement of my employment since my most recent application. List most recent employment first. **ATTACH SEPARATE SHEETS IF NECESSARY.**

Check here if additional sheets are attached.

Dates of Employment	Employer	Address	Nature of Employment (summarize nature of work performed)

## DISCIPLINE

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### Within the five years immediately preceding submission of this application:

Were you disbarred, suspended or disciplined by the State Bar of California or similar attorney disciplinary authority or any other authority that imposes professional discipline in California, or in another state or jurisdiction, including a foreign jurisdiction, or by any bankruptcy court, or do you have any discipline pending?  Yes  No

Do you have any discipline charges pending as described above?  Yes  No

Did you have any felony convictions?  Yes  No

Did you resign from any bar, court or body before whom you appear?  Yes  No

Were there three or more judgments of professional negligence against you? (If yes, please attach the relevant documents.)  Yes  No

Were any sanctions, other than discovery sanctions, entered against you by any court or body before whom you appear?  Yes  No

Were any findings of contempt been made against you by any court or body before whom you appear?  Yes  No

**IF YOU ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, YOU MUST PROVIDE FULL DETAILS ON A SEPARATE SHEET. A record of discipline or failure to disclose any of the information requested above may constitute grounds for denial of your application.**

## DECLARATION

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I hereby authorize all educational institutions, governmental agencies and instrumentalities (including bar associations and bar examiners of other jurisdictions), employers and business and professional associates (past and present), to release to the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) and/or its agents or advisors any nonprivileged information, files or records requested by them for the purpose of processing this application. The foregoing release does not apply to matters communicated by me in confidence to any lawyer, spouse, physician, psychotherapist or clergyperson for which I have privilege of nondisclosure under the provisions of Chapter 4, Division 8 of the California Evidence Code.

I further authorize the CBLS to conduct independent inquiry and review, including contacting the references I provide and other references within the discretion of the CBLS and agree that neither I nor my agents will seek to review the materials collected during the evaluation of my application.

I agree to pay all fees required by the CBLS, as described in the Rules of the State Bar, Appendix A: Schedule of Charges and Deadlines.

I agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the CBLs as amended from time to time and to furnish to the CBLs such information as it may require, to evaluate my application.

I am the applicant herein for certification as a specialist under the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists.

I fully understand that failure to make a truthful disclosure of any fact, item or information required may result in the denial of my application, revocation of my certificate of specialization, or disciplinary action by the State Bar of California.

I have carefully read and answered each question completely and truthfully in the foregoing application and any attachments hereto, and certify that the information therein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration is executed on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPELLATE LAW RECERTIFICATION  
Attachment A – Task and Experience Requirement**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

***The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization may require additional evidence of completion of the tasks and experience as indicated in this Attachment A.***

**Within the five years immediately preceding submission of this application**, please demonstrate that you have been substantially involved in the practice of appellate law as demonstrated by performance of the tasks listed below including, if necessary, the alternative category at the end of the list (*see section 2.0 of the Standards for a definition of “substantial involvement” – note that you must have performed the task personally*). Check all boxes that apply.

**You must submit a total of 63 points which were accumulated during the five years immediately preceding this application.**

**EACH TASK MAY BE COUNTED IN ONLY ONE CATEGORY**

- Briefing:** I have been substantially involved in appellate court matters and had substantial responsibility for most or all of the following activities: reviewing the record; researching the law; analyzing the issues; writing a procedural history, a statement of facts, and writing legal arguments.

**Please summarize the points you are claiming below. Then, for each section for which you are claiming points, please use a copy of Attachment A-1 to provide details about matter.**

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	# OF MATTERS	# OF POINTS CLAIMED
2.1.1.1	Handling an appeal or cross-appeal on behalf of an appellant including preparation of the opening brief – <b>5 POINTS EACH.</b>  <i>No more than three briefs under <u>People v. Wende</u> (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436 or <u>Anders v. California</u> (1976) 386 U.S. 738; 18 L.Ed.2d 493; 87 S.Ct. 1396 may be used in this section.</i>		
2.1.1.2	Handling appeals on behalf of a respondent or cross-respondent, which must include preparing the respondent's brief – <b>4 POINTS EACH.</b>		
2.1.1.3	Handling a petition for extraordinary writ or petition for writ of habeas corpus filed in an appellate court – <b>3 POINTS EACH.</b>  If heard on the merits after issuance of an order to show cause or an alternative writ – <b>AN ADDITIONAL 2 POINTS EACH.</b>		
2.1.1.4	Preparing preliminary opposition to petition for writ – <b>1 POINT EACH.</b>  If court issues alternative writ or order to show cause requiring answer and additional briefing – <b>AN ADDITIONAL 3 POINTS EACH.</b>		



SECTION	DESCRIPTION	# OF MATTERS	# OF POINTS CLAIMED
2.1.1.5	<p>Supervisory handling of an appeal or writ – <b>3 POINTS EACH.</b></p> <p><i>This requires supervision over issue selection, strategy decisions, organization and revision of drafts. Only <u>one</u> attorney may claim supervisory credit for each appeal or writ.</i></p>		
2.1.1.6	<p>Handling a matter in the California Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court:</p> <p>Preparing a petition for review or <i>certiorari</i> – <b>2 POINTS EACH.</b> If your initial substantial involvement in the appeal occurred after decision in the Court of Appeal – <b>AN ADDITIONAL 2 POINTS EACH.</b></p> <p>Preparing an answer to petition for review or <i>certiorari</i> – <b>1 POINT EACH.</b> If you're your initial substantial involvement in the appeal occurred decision in the Court of Appeal – <b>AN ADDITIONAL 2 POINTS EACH.</b></p> <p>Preparing brief on the merits after review or <i>certiorari</i> granted – <b>5 POINTS EACH.</b></p> <p>Preparing opposing brief on the merits – <b>4 POINTS EACH.</b></p>		
2.1.1.7	<p>Preparing substantive <i>amicus curiae</i> brief – <b>2 POINTS EACH.</b></p> <p>Reply to brief – <b>1 POINT EACH.</b></p>		
2.1.2	<p>Conducting or participating in a court supervised appellate settlement conference on an appeal – <b>1 POINT EACH.</b></p>		
2.1.3	<p>Oral argument in the CA or U.S. Supreme Court – <b>2 POINTS EACH.</b></p> <p>If your initial substantial involvement in the appeal occurred after decision in the Court of Appeal – <b>2 ADDITIONAL POINTS EACH.</b></p>		
2.1.4.1	<p>Employment as an appellate justice in any of the courts listed in section 1.0 of the Standards – <b>40 POINTS FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE.</b></p> <p><i>Complete the grid on the following page.</i></p>		
2.1.4.2	<p>Employment as a research attorney or judicial law clerk in any of the courts listed in section 1.0 of the Standards – <b>25 POINTS FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE UP TO A 3-YEAR MAXIMUM.</b></p> <p><i>Complete the grid on the following page.</i></p>		
<p><b>TOTAL</b> (minimum 63 points)</p>			

If you are claiming credit for employment as an appellate justice, please provide the following information:

YEAR(S) OF SERVICE AS AN APPELLATE JUSTICE	COURT(S)	DISTRICT

If you are claiming credit for employment as a research attorney or judicial law clerk, please provide the following information:

YEAR(S) OF SERVICE AS A RESEARCH ATTORNEY OR JUDICIAL LAW CLERK	COURT(S)	DISTRICT

**Other Experience**

If you are unable to meet any part of the requirement above, you must submit other experience demonstrating substantial compliance with the requirements.

- I am submitting alternative or additional forms of appellate practice for consideration in fulfilling the requirements of substantial involvement. **ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET**

*Alternative or additional forms of appellate practice or briefing or argument in complex or "JUMBO" case (involving an unusually large record or numerous or complex issues of major significance) may be called to the attention of the CBLs for consideration in fulfilling the requirements of substantial involvement or for increased credit. Please attach additional sheets detailing your involvement, the reasons why additional credit is being requested, and the number of units requested. Attach a copy of any brief for which more than the standard participatory units is being requested.*

**APPELLATE LAW RECERTIFICATION  
Attachment A-1 – Case Information**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this page to provide information for each section where you claimed points on Attachment A - Task and Experience Requirement.

Provide the requested information. Use common abbreviations in listing case titles, courts, etc. Indicate the amount of points claimed for each case/activity. Note that you may indicate the date the case was filed in the *Date Submitted to Jury/Verdict Reached* field.

<b>Case Name</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>**Activity</b>	<b>Date Filed</b>	<b>Points Requested</b>
<b>EXAMPLE</b> <i>People v. Smith</i>	<i>4DCA1</i>	<i>E017237</i>	<i>Appeal</i>	<i>04-01-99</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>** Activity = AOB, Appeal, Mediation, Petition for Review, RB, Writ, or Other</b>			<b>TOTAL POINTS FOR THIS PAGE</b>		

*Make as many copies of this attachment as necessary.*

**LEGAL SPECIALIST CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR RECERTIFICATION**  
**Attachment B – Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education (LSCLE) Compliance Reporting Schedule**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**LSCLE Compliance Reporting Schedule**

**Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education is no longer reported in the recertification application.** Specialists must report their LSCLE Compliance on the same three-year schedule as their general MCLE Compliance.

For additional information regarding LSCLE reporting, please review the [MCLE Requirements for Certified Specialists](#) page of the State Bar website.

**REFERENCE REQUIREMENT FOR RECERTIFICATION**  
**Attachment C – Independent Inquiry and Review**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit the names of a minimum of three attorneys or judges who have had an opportunity to observe your work and who can attest to your proficiency in the practice of the specialty area under the laws applicable to the specialty in California.

To expedite your application, please include the following among your references if possible: opposing counsel, attorneys from other firms, and judges, commissioners, or magistrates before whom you have appeared. References may include attorneys who are clients, partners, associates, employers, or employees. Note, however, that references will be asked to disclose any such relationship.

References will be contacted by the State Bar of California via electronic questionnaire. The information gathered shall be the property of the State Bar of California and shall not be revealed to you.

**Include each reference’s California bar number to ensure that reference forms are sent promptly and to the right individual. Bar numbers can be found online at [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov) under Attorney Search. If the reference does not have a California Bar number, is a judge, or licensed in another state, please provide a full address.**

NAME AND BAR NUMBER	ADDRESS
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

**LEGAL SPECIALIZATION APPLICATION**  
**Payment Authorization Form**

State Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION	FEE
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Specialization Post-Examination Application for Initial Certification Fee	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Specialization Application for Recertification Fee	\$350
<b>TOTAL*</b> _____	

*\*For credit card payments, a processing fee of 2.5 percent will be added to all charges. There is no processing fee associated with payments by check.*

*\*All unsuccessful payments will be assessed an administrative fee equal to the amount charged by the State Bar's banking institution or \$20, whichever is greater.*

This form may not be used to pay dues or other licensee fees; it may only be used to pay fees associated to the Legal Specialization program. **Please print legibly.**

**Personal/Cashier's Check or Money Order**  
*(Make checks payable to **The State Bar of California**)*

**Credit Card**

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type:     American Express     Discover     MasterCard     Visa

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*By my signature on this document, I/we authorize the State Bar of California to charge my/our credit card account for the amount listed in the 'Total' box above.*