



**Informational Letter for
Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education (LSCLE)
Compliance Group 1 (A-G)**

Reporting Deadline: February 1, 2019

Please file your LSCLE Compliance Card(s) using the attached form by February 1, 2019.

Under rules adopted effective January 1, 2014, you, and all certified specialists in MCLE Compliance Group 1, will now report your LSCLE compliance at the same time that you report your MCLE compliance, which will be by February 1, 2019 for this reporting cycle.

While you report MCLE compliance online, in contrast, you will report LSCLE compliance using a paper form.

There is no charge to file your LSCLE Compliance Card, and copies of the form are available at www.californiaspecialist.org under the Forms tab.

You are required to complete at least 36 hours of LSCLE-approved education or an equivalent and report this compliance on the attached paper form by your MCLE Compliance Group 1 deadline of February 1, 2019.

The following information summarizes equivalents that may assist you in fulfilling your LSCLE requirement.

1. Include MCLE-approved education in your specialty area.

MCLE-approved education may be counted toward your LSCLE requirement if the subject of the course is specifically related to your specialty area of law. Note that the California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) retains the final discretion to determine whether a course qualifies as an equivalent. As in the past, please be sure to keep documentation for at least a year after the compliance reporting deadline to demonstrate that the course is substantively relevant to your specialty area of law if asked to provide further information by the CBLS.

2. Claim up to 18 hours of credit for using self-study alternatives.

As in previous years, time spent on scholarly writing in the specialty area can be used to satisfy up to 18 hours (i.e. half) of your total requirement. In addition, for first-time presentations at an approved and qualified MCLE and/or LSCLE activity, you may claim four hours of credit for every hour of actual presentation time.

3. *Note that subfield requirements for applicable specialties have been waived.*

For this reporting cycle, the subfield requirement for certified specialists in Appellate Law, Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law, Family Law, and Immigration & Nationality Law will be waived. All certified specialists are still encouraged to take a range of educational courses to maintain a broad base of expertise in the specialty.

Note that these subfields are different from the subfields required for your MCLE reporting; when you report your MCLE compliance on your My State Bar Profile, you will still need to comply with those subfield requirements for Legal Ethics (four hours minimum), Competence Issues (one hour minimum), and Recognition and Elimination of Bias (one hour minimum).

4. *Certified specialists who were initially certified after February 1, 2016 have a reduced and proportional requirement.*

For first-time certified specialists who were certified after February 1, 2016, the educational requirement is pro-rated. For example, a certified specialist who was certified for the first-time for half of the 36-month compliance period would need to report half of the 36-hour educational requirement, or 18 hours, of legal specialist education. Conveniently, since there are 36 months in a compliance period, and the educational reporting requirement for the period is 36 hours, the pro-rated total will be equal to one hour for each month that you have been a certified specialist.

If you have been a certified specialist since February 1, 2016 or earlier, do not pro-rate your education, regardless of your recertification date.

Frequently asked questions for special situations.

Dual specialists will need to submit two compliance forms.

Certified specialists who hold more than one certificate of specialization must submit one compliance form per specialty area by the same reporting deadline.