Working to Protect All Californians

Attorney Discipline: *Holding Attorneys Accountable for Misconduct*

- Reviews complaints regarding attorney misconduct.
- Issues discipline including reprimand, suspension, disbarment.
- Supervises a probation population to support successful rehabilitation.
- Provides substance abuse assessment services and treatment to address high rates of attorney substance abuse, which can result in misconduct.
- Provides victim restitution payments through the Client Security Fund.

Unauthorized Practice of Law: *Protecting the Public from Notarios and Other Unlicensed Legal Providers*

- Reviews complaints about non-attorneys posing as attorneys.
- Assumes responsibility for non-attorney offices and practices.
- Pursues other remedies through partnerships with local law enforcement and superior court action.
- Conducts informational outreach to immigrant communities on how to avoid and report the unauthorized practice of law.

Access & Inclusion: *Working to Ensure All Californians Have Access to Justice and a Legal Profession that Reflects the Diversity of the State*

- Distributes over $62 million annually to legal aid organizations providing services to immigrants, disabled people, veterans, and other low-income Californians.
- Provides training for attorneys providing pro bono legal services.
- Engages in efforts to diversify the attorney population.

Admissions & Attorney Regulation: *Ensuring that Attorneys Licensed in California are Qualified and Comply With Licensing Regulations*

- Administers the California Bar Exam twice each year, to more than over 13,000 applicants.
- Reviews applicants for moral character prior to admission.
- Accredits and/or registers non-ABA California law schools.
- Promulgates and updates the California Rules of Professional Conduct.
- Maintains an ethics hotline to help attorneys ensure they are following ethics rules.
- Collects discipline and other costs owed by attorneys.

Snapshot of the State Bar's annual public protection impact:

- Reviews over 15,000 attorney discipline complaints.
- Disciplines approximately 300 attorneys who take advantage of vulnerable clients, along with other violations of the rules for California attorneys.
- Maintains an Unauthorized Practice of Law unit that focuses on addressing the problem of UPL and legal fraud targeting immigrants.
- Distributes approximately $62 million to legal aid organizations around California that provide free or low cost legal services to low-income Californians, including immigrants, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.
- Obtains court orders to protect clients from the unauthorized practice of law. In 2017, the State Bar obtained a court order to assist approximately 2,000 clients who had paid for legal advice from a Los Angeles immigration practice that was operating without proper authority.
- Provides online legal resources and complaint information in the top 6 languages used in California (English, Spanish, written Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Russian) and live interpretation in over 200 languages.
- Maintains the California Rules of Professional Conduct, the ethics rules for California licesned attorneys. Submitted comprehensive revisions to those rules in 2017, for the first time in nearly 30 years.
- Coordinates disaster relief legal resources. In 2017 these efforts focused on people impacted by the fires in Northern and Southern California and included multilingual resources and specific information for immigrants.
- Studies the California Bar Exam. In 2017 the State Bar completed the first comprehensive study of the appropriate passing score in 30 years.
- Administers the California Bar Exam to approximately 14,000 applicants.

The State Bar of California's mission is to protect the public and includes the primary functions of licensing, regulation and discipline of attorneys; the advancement of the ethical and competent practice of law; and support of efforts for greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system.

The numbers above are estimates based on data from previous years.