



# The State Bar of California

## 2019-2020 OPPORTUNITIES

Every year the State Bar of California offers opportunities to serve on the Board of Trustees of the State Bar, State Bar advisory committees, and external entities.

The Board of Trustees is the policy-making and oversight body for the State Bar of California. State Bar advisory committees provide support and advise the Board of Trustees in a number of areas to ensure that the State Bar is focused on its public protection mission. The Board of Trustees also makes appointments to external entities that work in furtherance of the State Bar of California's mission.

Access and inclusion are key parts of the State Bar's mission. People from a range of backgrounds representing the diversity of California are encouraged to apply for appointment. A description of the opportunities available in 2019-2020 is provided below. The State Bar complies with all applicable anti-discrimination laws in its appointment processes.

In 2019-2020 the following vacancies will be filled:

- Two vacancies on the Board of Trustees;
- Four vacancies on the California Board of Legal Specialization;
- Two vacancies on the Client Security Fund Commission;
- Eight vacancies on the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct;
- Five vacancies on the Council on Access & Fairness;
- Thirteen vacancies on the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission;
- Seven vacancies on the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission;
- One vacancy on the Review Committee of the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission;
- One vacancy on the Judicial Council.

Brief descriptions of the advisory committees and external entities with vacancies in 2019-2020, as listed above, can be found below. If you are interested in serving on one of the State Bar's advisory committees or on an external entity, please review carefully a more detailed description of its work, [here](#).

The application to become a member of a State Bar advisory committee or an external entity can be found [here](#).

The application to become a member of the Board of Trustees can be found [here](#).

Applications are accepted year-round. However, if you are interested in applying to become a member of the Board of Trustees or any of the State Bar advisory committees or external entities with vacancies listed above, please submit your application no later than **Friday, March 15, 2019**.

## [BOARD OF TRUSTEES](#)

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The Supreme Court of California appoints five lawyer members to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California. The Trustee Nominating Committee, created by the Supreme Court pursuant to [Rule 9.90](#) of California Rules of Court, is responsible for soliciting, receiving, screening and evaluating all applications for appointment or reappointment to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California and for making recommendations to the Supreme Court.

Trustees work collaboratively with other members of the Board and with Bar staff to: establish and monitor policies implementing the State Bar's public protection mission and strategic plan; establish and monitor programs and services that advance the State Bar's public protection mission and strategic plan; and adopt, evaluate and modify the State Bar's long-range plan to address both challenges and opportunities for the State Bar.

Trustees appointed by the Supreme Court must be active licensees of the State Bar of California, in good standing. In making appointments to the Board of Trustees, the Supreme Court is required by Business and Professions Code section 6013.1(d) to consider appointing lawyers who represent the following categories: legal services; small firm or solo practitioners; historically underrepresented groups; legal academics. The Supreme Court must also consider geographic distribution, years of practice, and participation in voluntary local or state bar activities. Trustee terms are four years. For more information, please visit the Supreme Court Appointment page [here](#).

***Expected 2019-2020 Vacancies: 2***

## **STATE BAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

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### [Legal Specialization: California Board of Legal Specialization](#)

The seven-member California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) administers the State Bar of California Program for Certifying Legal Specialists. The CBLS recommends program rules and provides policies and guidelines for certification of specialists; develops testing and legal education criteria for specialists; and advises the Board of Trustees on the creation of specialty fields.

*Time Commitment:* 6 meetings per year

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 4***

### [Client Security Fund Commission](#)

The five-member Client Security Fund (CSF) reimburses clients who have lost money or property due to theft or an equivalent dishonest act committed by a California lawyer acting in a professional capacity. CSF staff make Tentative Decisions on whether applications qualify for reimbursement under the fund's rules. The CSF Commission reviews those applications in which objections to the Tentative Decisions are filed, and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees on revisions to the Fund's rules.

*Time Commitment:* 6 meetings per year

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 2***

### [Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct](#)

The Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC) addresses matters involving professional ethics and fee arbitration and helps educate and provide guidance to attorneys, judges, and the public about the ethical duties of an attorney. COPRAC's work consists of drafting advisory opinions on issues of professional ethics, fee arbitration advisories providing guidance to fee arbitrators administering attorney-client fee disputes, and studying and recommending changes to the Rules of Professional Conduct.

*Time Commitment:* 8 meetings per year

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 3-4***

### [Council on Access & Fairness](#)

The ten-member Council on Access & Fairness (COAF) advises the Board of Trustees on advancing the State Bar's diversity strategies and goals to ensure that opportunities for entry and advancement in the legal profession are available for all Californians. The COAF consists of judges, lawyers and public members from diverse practice settings and constituencies.

*Time Commitment:* 4 in-person meetings per year, plus other calls as needed

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 5***

### [Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation](#)

The thirty-eight-member Judicial Nominees Evaluation (JNE) Commission, established pursuant to Government Code section 12011.5, evaluates all candidates who are under consideration for a judicial appointment by the governor. The JNE Commission is composed of lawyers in active practice, one or more retired judges, and non-lawyer, public members. Commissioners serve terms of approximately one year and may serve up to three consecutive terms. The State Bar seeks applications from individuals whose background, skills and experience would enable them to assess candidates for judicial appointment in a thorough, objective and professional manner and to provide timely and well-written reports, while maintaining a code of strict confidentiality.

*Time Commitment:* 6 meetings (2 days long) per year alternating between San Francisco and Los Angeles State Bar offices, in addition to a mandatory two-day Orientation meeting to be held January 17-18, 2020 and 40 hours of investigation/evaluation work per month

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 13***

### [Review Committee of the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission](#)

The five-member Review Committee of the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission (RJNE) is charged with reviewing requests from candidates who are seeking reconsideration of a "not qualified" rating by the JNE Commission. RJNE evaluates information pertaining to the investigation of the candidate and focuses on possible violations of rules or procedure. RJNE is composed of two members of the Board of Trustees (one lawyer and one public, non-lawyer member), one past member of the JNE Commission, and two at-large members.

*Time Commitment:* 4-5 meetings per year by conference call, plus 2-4 hours in preparation for each meeting and report writing

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 1***

### [Legal Services Trust Fund Commission](#)

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) is comprised of 21 voting members (15 lawyer and six non-lawyer, public members) and three non-voting bench officers. At least two of the public members must be eligible for services as "indigent persons" as defined by Business and Professions Code section 6213(d). The LSTFC administers grant programs that fund non-profit civil legal aid organizations, including Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grants and the Equal Access Fund.

*Time Commitment:* 4-6 meetings per year plus additional standing committee meetings.

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 7***

## **STATE BAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL ENTITIES**

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### [Judicial Council](#)

The Judicial Council is the constitutionally created policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial and accessible administration of justice. The Chief Justice serves as the chair of the council whose members include: fourteen judges appointed by the Chief Justice; four lawyer members appointed by the State Bar; one member from each

house of the California Legislature; and the Administrative Director of the Courts, who serves as secretary to the Council. Members receive no compensation for services but are reimbursed by the council for approved travel expenses. More information about how to apply for one of the Judicial Council positions appointed by the Board of Trustees can be found [here](#).

*Time Commitment:* 7 meetings (2 days long) per year, plus 10-20 internal committee meetings per year, 3-4 days per month on assignments, a mandatory orientation at the August 2019 meeting (300 hours per year)

***Expected 2019-2020 vacancies: 1***

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENT INFORMATION**

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***Application and Deadlines:*** All applicants are to file the State Bar Application for 2019 -2020 Appointments, [here](#).

**Unless otherwise published on the State Bar website or noted on the filing instruction page, the application filing deadline for the positions listed above is March 15, 2019.** Please note that the State Bar cannot guarantee the confidentiality of applications.

***Eligibility / Appointment Policies:*** Applicants may apply to a maximum of two committees per year but can be appointed to only one. Applicants must submit a separate application for each committee to which they apply. Once appointed, committee members may not serve on more than one committee at any time unless an exception is authorized by the Board of Trustees. In no case will the Board appoint an attorney who is subject to disciplinary probation. Factors that are weighed in the appointments process include: for lawyers, 1) whether there is a record of public discipline against the attorney; and 2) whether any other member of applicant's firm is on the committee; and for all applicants, 3) whether the applicant previously served on the committee. Due consideration will be given in the appointment process to the budget impact of any additional costs that may be incurred by the State Bar due to the service of out-of-state members. Specific requirements for the individual committees are noted on the committee pages of the State Bar website.

***Appointment Term:*** The terms of appointments vary depending on the committee, commission, or board.

***Time Commitment and Committee Service:*** Committees differ in the number of meetings scheduled in a year, but a typical meeting requires two to four hours of preparation and at least four to six hours of attendance. The meeting locations alternate between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and some meetings may be conducted by conference call. An additional time commitment may be required for special tasks and projects. Committee members take an oath of office and receive no compensation for services. Committee members may be reimbursed for approved travel expenses in accordance with the State Bar's policies.

***Application Review and Board Appointments:*** The Board of Trustees' Executive Committee reviews and considers applications for appointment and forwards its recommendations to the full Board of Trustees for consideration. The ultimate authority to make appointments to advisory committees rests with the Board of Trustees.

**Questions:** Please contact [appointments@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:appointments@calbar.ca.gov).