

The Real Property Law Section

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/rpsection>

STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

MEMBER ALERT

REAL ESTATE LAW SPECIALIZATION PROPOSAL

The State Bar's Board of Legal Specialization (BLS) is advancing a proposal to establish certified specialization in Real Estate Law. The Board of Governors has approved draft standards for public comment through **August 16, 2005**. Specialization in Real Estate law is **not** an initiative of the Real Property Law Section (RPLS), and the RPLS Executive Committee has not taken a position for or against it. The Executive Committee does want to be sure, however, (i) that RPLS members are aware of the proposal and have a chance to evaluate and comment upon it, and (ii) that if the Real Estate law specialization proposal is ultimately adopted by the Board of Governors, RPLS members will have ample opportunity to adapt to and possibly benefit from the program. This special newsletter is devoted to the Real Estate Law specialization proposal, including pro and con opinion pieces written by former chairs and advisors of the Executive Committee. Also,

- you can find links to the draft standards on the RPLS website at www.calbar.ca.gov/rpsection,
- you can use the attached postcard addressed to the BLS to make a comment,
- you can join a discussion forum in the RPLS members-only area of the website where more substantive pro and con articles are included, and
- you can review a copy of a similar BLS specialization proposal and member survey response that appears in the Fall, 1997 California Real Property Journal on the RPLS website.

We encourage you to make your thoughts known during the comment period and look forward to further dialogue regarding this proposal.

PROPOSAL INTRODUCTION

BLS proposes adding Real Estate Law to the eight existing specialization areas. The BLS's draft Standards for Certification and Recertification in Real Estate Law ("Standards"), available through the Real Property Law Section's website at www.calbar.ca.gov/rpsection,

identify 13 designated practice areas within the overall field of Real Estate Law. Certification is a two-step process. The first step involves passing a written examination prepared and administered by BLS. After passing the exam, an applicant for certification must complete an application demonstrating: (i) substantial involvement in the practice of real estate law, as evidenced by 2000 hours of performing tasks in the designated practice areas, with at least 300 hours in each of two practice areas, (ii) completion of at least 45 hours of educational activities specifically approved for real estate law, and (iii) an independent peer review process. Certification lasts for a period of five years.

The Draft Standards are available for public comment through August 16, 2005. The Executive Committee of the Real Property Law Section ("RPLS") has not taken a position on whether a Real Estate Law certified specialist program should be adopted. We recognize that this will be a matter of great interest to many RPLS members, and are encouraging members to provide comments on the Draft Standards. Toward that end, attached to this newsletter is a postcard addressed to the BLS that you may use to express your own thoughts. In addition, we have initiated a discussion forum on the Members Only section of the RPLS website, and offer two opposing viewpoints on the idea of Real Estate Law specialization, which follow as the balance of this newsletter.

Comment Card Due
by **August 16, 2005**

**Make
your
views
known
today!**



Place
Stamp
Here

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

