Every year the State Bar of California offers opportunities for volunteers to serve on a number of committees that support the work of the State Bar. People from all backgrounds, representing different legal specialties, professional experience, and California’s multicultural population, are encouraged to apply for appointment. The State Bar complies with all applicable anti-discrimination laws in its appointment processes.

In 2020-2021 the following vacancies will be filled:

- Two vacancies on the California Board of Legal Specialization
- Three vacancies on the Client Security Fund Commission
- Three vacancies on the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct
- Six vacancies on the Council on Access and Fairness
- Eleven vacancies on the 2021 Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation
- Two vacancies on the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

Brief descriptions of the State Bar committees that will be filling vacancies can be found below. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please review the detailed description of its work here.

An application to become a member of a State Bar committee can be found here.

Applications are accepted year-round. However, if you wish to be considered to fill a vacancy on any of the committees listed above, please submit your application by Friday, March 13, 2020.

**STATE BAR COMMITTEES**

**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 2020-2021 Vacancies: 2*
**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 2020-2021 Vacancies:* 3

**Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct**
The twelve-member 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 attorneys. 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 2020-2021 Vacancies:* 3

**Council on Access and Fairness**
The ten-member Council on Access and 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 2020-2021 Vacancies:* 6

**2021 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 15-16, 2021, and 40 hours of investigation/evaluation work per month
*Expected 2021 JNE Commission Vacancies:* 11
Legal Services Trust Fund Commission
The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) is comprised of 21 voting members (15 lawyer members and six nonlawyer, public members) and three nonvoting bench officers. At least two of the public members must be eligible for legal services as “indigent persons” as defined by Business and Professions Code section 6213(d). The LSTFC administers grant programs that fund nonprofit civil legal aid organizations, including Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program and the Equal Access Fund program. 
Time Commitment: 4-6 meetings per year plus additional standing committee meetings

Expected 2020-2021 Vacancies: 2

STATE BAR COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

Application: All applicants must file the State Bar Application for Appointments, here. Please note that the State Bar cannot guarantee the confidentiality of applications.

Deadline: Unless otherwise published on the State Bar website, the deadline for filing an application to be appointed to any of the vacant positions noted above is Friday, March 13, 2020.

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 term of appointments is four years, except for the JNE Commission. Members of the JNE Commission may serve three consecutive one-year terms; members’ reappointment after the first and second year is contingent on demonstration of the ability to successfully handle the workload and make the necessary time commitment.

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, with the exception of the JNE Commission, which as previously noted requires a more substantial time commitment. 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 State Bar committees rests with the Board of Trustees.

**Questions**: Please contact the Appointments office by email at appointments@calbar.ca.gov or by telephone at 415-538-2370.