



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

**180 Howard Street • San Francisco, CA 94105-1639 • (415) 538-2300
845 S. Figueroa Street • Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515 • (213) 765-1500**

**FORM H
TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS – VISUAL DISABILITY
VERIFICATION**

All original documents must be filed with the Office of Admissions' San Francisco Office.
(Please type or print; must be legible)

NOTICE TO APPLICANT: This section of this form is to be completed by you. The remainder of the form is to be completed by the qualified professional who is recommending testing accommodations for the Legal Specialist Examination for you on the basis of a visual disability. Please read, complete, and sign below before submitting this form to the qualified professional for completion of the remainder of this form.

Applicant's Full Name: _____

File Number: _____

I give permission to the qualified professional completing this form to release the information requested on the form, and I request the release of any additional information regarding my disability or accommodations previously granted that may be requested by the California Board of Legal Specialization or consultant(s) of the California Board of Legal Specialization.

Signature of Applicant

Date

NOTICE TO QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL:

The above-named person is requesting accommodations for the Legal Specialist Examination. All such requests must be supported by a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation by the qualified professional who conducted an individualized assessment of the applicant and is recommending accommodations for an examination administered by the California Board of Legal Specialization on the basis of a visual disability. The California Board of Legal Specialization also requires the qualified professional to complete all questions on this form that pertain to the applicant's visual impairment. Reference specific tests or other objective data and clinical observations, and **attach copies of test results**, if relevant. Please also attach a copy of any evaluation report and/or other records on which you relied in making the diagnosis and recommending accommodations. Your assistance is appreciated.

The California Board of Legal Specialization may forward this information to one or more qualified professionals for an independent review of the applicant's request. Print or type your responses to the items below. **Return the original of this completed form, the comprehensive evaluation report, and relevant records to the applicant for submission to the California Board of Legal Specialization.**

I. EVALUATOR/TREATING PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name of professional completing this form: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Occupation, title, and specialty: _____

License Number/Certification/State: _____

Describe your qualifications and experience to diagnose and/or verify the applicant's condition or impairment and to recommend accommodations

II. DIAGNOSIS

1. What is the applicant's current diagnosis? Include a statement as to whether the condition is stable or progressive.

2. Please state the applicant's best corrected visual acuities for distance and near vision.

3. When was the applicant's visual disability first diagnosed? _____

4. Did you make the initial diagnosis? YES NO

5. Provide the date of your last complete evaluation of the applicant: _____

6. Is this a permanent condition/impairment? YES NO

If no, when is it likely to abate?

7. Does the severity of the condition/impairment fluctuate? YES NO

If yes, describe the settings and/or circumstances affecting severity that are relevant to taking the Legal Specialist Examination.

III. DIAGNOSIS-SPECIFIC FINDINGS; ONLY ADDRESS RELEVANT AREAS

1. Please describe the applicant's eye health (both external and internal evaluations).

2. Visual Field: threshold field, not confrontation (provide measurements and copies of reports)

3. Binocular Evaluation: eye deviation (provide measurements), diplopia, suppression, depth perception, convergence, etc. Specify whether difficulty with distance, near point, or both.

4. Accommodative Skills: at near point, with and without lenses (provide measurements)

5. Oculomotor Skills: saccades, pursuits, tracking

IV. FUNCTIONAL LIMITATIONS

- 1. Describe the functional impact, if any, of the applicant’s visual condition on the applicant’s reading ability.

- 2. Describe the applicant’s current functional limitations and explain how the limitations restrict the condition, manner, or duration under which the applicant can take the Legal Specialist Examination.

- 3. Briefly describe any treatment, including any prescribed medications, and the effectiveness of treatment in reducing or ameliorating the applicant’s functional limitations.

**V. ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTED FOR THE LEGAL SPECIALIST EXAMINATION
(check all that apply)**

FORMAT

The Legal Specialist Examination is a timed written examination administered in two sessions. The first session begins at 7:30 a.m. and consists of a 4-hour testing session, plus time for announcements. Next, there is a lunch break of approximately 90 minutes from approximately noon to 1:30 p.m. The second session takes place after the lunch period and consists of a 2½-hour testing period plus time for announcements.

The morning session consists of eight essays. The written portions of the examination are designed to assess, among other things, the applicant’s ability to communicate his/her analysis effectively in writing. Applicants may use their personal laptop computers to type their answers, or they may handwrite their answers. The afternoon session consists of 75 multiple-choice questions. Applicants record their answers by darkening circles using a Number 2 pencil on an answer sheet that is scanned by a computer to grade the examination.

SETTING

Applicants are assigned seats, two per six-foot table, in a room set for 100 to 600

applicants. Applicants are not allowed to bring food, beverages, or other items into the testing room unless approved as an accommodation. All applicants may bring medication. The examination is administered in a quiet environment, and applicants are allowed to use small foam earplugs. They may leave the examination room only to use the restroom or drinking fountain, within the time allotted for the test session.

Taking into consideration this description of the examination and the functional limitations currently experienced by the applicant, what test accommodation (or accommodations, if more than one would be appropriate) do you recommend?

Alternative Formats

- Braille version of the examination
- Audio CD version of the examination
- Electronic version of the Essay questions in Microsoft Word format on CDs for use with screen-reading software
- Large print / **18-point font**
- Large print / **24-point font**

Personal Assistance

- Reader
- Dictate to a typist/transcriber (for written session)
- Dictate answers to proctor/scribe (Scantron answer sheet - multiple-choice session)

Equipment or Facility Requirements

- Computer as *an accommodation* (must have direct nexus to the effects of the disability)
 - with SofTest installed
 - with voice-recognition software (e.g., Dragon Naturally Speaking) installed

with screen-reading software (e.g., JAWS) installed

with other (specify): _____

Special equipment (specify): _____

Private room

Semi-private room

Other

Other arrangements (e.g., elevated table, limited testing time per day, lamp, etc.). Describe the recommended arrangements and explain why each is necessary.

Extra Time

Extra testing time

Specify the amount of **extra time** recommended for each session of the examination. Indicate why the specified extra time is needed (based on the diagnostic evaluation), provide the rationale for recommending the amount of time for each test format of the examination, and explain how you arrived at the specific amount of extra time recommended. If either the amount of time or your rationale is different for different portions of the examination, please explain. If relevant, address why extra breaks or longer breaks are insufficient to accommodate the applicant's functional limitations. **All recommendations for extra time must specify the exact amount of extra time. It is important to keep in mind that breaks are included in the timed portion of the examination. No accommodation of unlimited time will be granted. If extra testing time is requested, but the specific amount of extra time is not indicated, the form will be returned as incomplete.**

Legal Specialist Examination: Essay Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 (standard session is 4 hours): Specify the amount of extra test time needed for this session and provide the rationale:

Legal Specialist Examination: Multiple-Choice Questions 1-75 (standard session is 2 hours and 30 minutes): Specify the amount of extra test time needed for this session and provide the rationale:

Explanations: (attach additional sheets if necessary)

VI. CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality policies of the California Board of Legal Specialization/Office of Admissions of the State Bar of California will be followed regarding its responsibility to maintain confidentiality of this form and any documents submitted with it. No part of the form or the accompanying medical documentation will be released without the applicant's written consent or under the compulsion of legal process.

VII. PROFESSIONAL'S SIGNATURE

I am submitting the **original** of this form and have attached copies of all evaluation reports, test results, medical records, and/or other documents that I relied upon in making this diagnosis of the applicant's condition/disability and completing this form. I understand that all original documents submitted become the property of the California Board of Legal Specialization.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above information is true and correct.

(Signature of Licensed Professional)

(Date)

The California Board of Legal Specialization reserves the right to make final judgment concerning testing accommodations and may have all documentation related to this matter reviewed by an individual professional consultant or a panel of professional consultants if deemed necessary.