



The State Bar of California

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Future Attorney:

Congratulations! I commend you for your hard work and achievement in passing the California Bar Exam and satisfying all the requirements for admission to the State Bar. The State Bar looks forward to welcoming you to the ranks of California licensed attorneys. You will soon have the opportunity and the tools to make an enormous difference in the lives of your clients, the legal profession, and your community.

The State Bar's primary mission is to protect the public through licensing, regulating, and disciplining attorneys; advancing ethical and competent practice of law; and supporting efforts to promote greater access to and inclusion in the legal system. The State Bar works every day to support this mission by carrying out the goals and objectives set forth in our [2022–2027 Strategic Plan](#).

After you take the oath to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of California and forward your completed registration card to the State Bar, you will become an officer of the court and licensed to practice law in California. With this responsibility comes the expectation that you will adhere to ethical standards and conduct yourself with dignity, courtesy, and integrity. If you make the most of this opportunity, you will find that the law is an especially rewarding and satisfying career.

Too many Californians cannot afford essential legal help. Whatever path you choose to apply your legal skills, I encourage you to devote time to [pro bono service](#) for those in need. If you are unable to contribute your time, please consider supporting vital legal services organizations in our state by donating to the State Bar's [Greg E. Knoll Justice Gap Fund](#).

The State Bar is here to support you. We are committed to establishing a positive, long-term partnership with you as you embark on this exciting new chapter in your career. Our [website](#) is a hub for information about your professional obligations and for regulatory information. Please carefully review the New Attorney Training Program in your virtual oath packet. This training is a great tool for avoiding common pitfalls and you are required to complete it within your first 12 months of being licensed.

If you have an ethics question, follow the instructions on the State Bar's [Ethics webpage](#) to contact the confidential Ethics Hotline. For questions about your license, attorney record, or compliance requirements, inquire with the State Bar's Division of Regulation by submitting a [Licensee Records and Compliance Inquiry Form](#) or calling the Contact Center at 800-843-9053.

Again, I congratulate you on your accomplishments and welcome you to the legal profession.

Best Regards,

José Cisneros
Chair, Board of Trustees